



Noticias de Fuente Nueva


2011 / 2012

semana 21

8 de febrero

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Fechas próximas para recordar:

FNCC Meeting Wed., 2/15	6:00-9:00
No School 2/20 — 2/24	All Week
Hora de café con Directora Beth  Tues., 2/28	8:15-9:15
Science Night Wed., 2/29	6:00-7:45
Parent Information Night Wed., 3/7	6:00-7:30
FN PTO Meeting Wed., 3/8	6:00-7:00

The Fuente Nueva Charter School Mission is to empower K.–6th grade students to become engaged world citizens through a challenging and creative Spanish immersion program that emphasizes academic excellence, the arts, community involvement, and social responsibility.

We value...

- A supportive and stimulating academic environment that
- nurtures the whole child;
- Multilingual communication abilities and appreciation;
- Empathy, compassion, and respect for cultural and ecological diversity;
- A lifelong love of learning;
- Collaboration and team work among community members.

School Finances: A Message from Directora Beth

It is widely known that the struggling economy has affected school funding dramatically. In addition to revenue cuts we have also received “hidden cuts” through cash flow changes called deferrals. The net effect of the deferrals for FNCS is that we receive 38.4% of our annual fiscal budget in the following fiscal year. The legislature is unlikely to remove these deferrals for several years so they are essentially cuts to our budget because we must maintain a positive cash flow in order to stay current with payroll and other important bills.

The California Department of Education suggests that schools retain a reserve of approximately 4-5% of your annual budget. This year FNCS is being asked to build our reserve to over 20% of our annual budget in order to have enough cash to remain positive. Remember, we are just speaking about cash here, not budget. Over the last 7 years of operation we have added to our reserve every year and are NOT deficit spending. This means that FNCS is fiscally responsible and viable.

This year the projected revenue for schools falls well below the funding levels of 2005-2006. Clearly our costs have risen above what was in place at that time.

I hope that I am painting a picture for you here that shows why we need your support as voters, fundraisers, volunteers, and donors. It is because of this support that we have not yet made major changes to our program offerings and staffing. We are one of the few schools that has not made major changes, and for that we are fortunate.

The purpose of sharing this with you is not to create panic but to encourage you to get involved. There are lots of ways that you can support FNCS and all the schools around the state. How? Read the list below for ideas on how we can all help:

1. Educate yourself about the November ballot initiatives that will provide an opportunity for voters to raise taxes in order to directly benefit the schools. We will receive a further reduction in funds if these ballot initiatives don't pass.
2. Join the FNCC or simply attend the meetings when we begin to craft the 2012-2013 budget (March, April, May, June meetings).
3. Get involved in fundraising efforts, make a donation, or volunteer at Fuente Nueva.

Character Education Winners !

Self-Confidence (Jan. 13)

1st –Jaydon Gerarden
2nd –Tobias Forth
3rd/4th –Darby Baskin-Green
5th/6th –Ruby Gustafson

Initiative (Jan. 20)

1st –Eva Devoe
2nd – Anthony Thompson
3rd/4th –Eva Phelan
5th/6th – Ezra Jones

Flexibility (Jan. 27)

K – Dominic Previde
1st – Cedar Birdsall
2nd – Luna Weiss-Wynne
3rd/4th – Bianca Barajas
5th/6th –Emerald Van B-W

Self-Reliance (Feb. 2)

K – Malia Monk
1st – Cove Bavin
2nd – Elky Pantoja-Garcia
3rd/4th – Jannai Whyte
5th/6th – Donovan Young

2/10 Acceptance | 2/17 Forgiveness | 3/2 Cooperation

FNCC News

Fuente Nueva Charter Council is hard at work on developing our Transitional Kindergarten Policy, updating the Personnel Policy and other routine roles of the charter council. As a board of directors we are in the process of seeking governance training to sharpen our skills to promote comprehensive oversight of the school.

The FNCC meets on the second Wednesday of every month. Agendas for the meeting are posted on the office window the Monday before the meeting. We encourage all parents to join us for a meeting to find out more about how your child's school is governed.

At the moment we have a position open and are actively seeking someone to appoint as our secretary. The monthly commitment is one meeting and about 2-6 additional hours typing minutes and preparing for meetings. If you are interested, please speak to one of our charter council members:

Nora Wynne — President
Traci Zelles — Vice President
Stassia Samuels — Treasurer
Karen Reiss — Compliance Officer
Abe Crow — Parent Liaison
Agustín Amaro — Teacher Rep.
Beth Wylie — Director

PTO Corner

On February 1, the PTO, teachers, and community members got together to discuss creating a non-profit organization to allow Fuente Nueva greater fundraising options, including applying for grants. A collective decision was made to create the non-profit Amigos de Fuente Nueva . . . but the process is only just beginning!

Please join us for another community meeting, **Thursday, March 8th at 6 pm** in Room 16. At this meeting we will be discussing *how* we want our non-profit structured, including how the by-laws are to be written. Topics will include election procedures, terms of service, goals of the non-profit, and how to preserve the role that the PTO currently has in the school. We would greatly welcome ideas and input from all of you!

Extended Day News

Hola familias de Extended Day! I hope you are enjoying this half of the school year as much as we are. February has found us joyfully busy: decorating for the Fiesta Ball, welcoming **New Games** back every **Monday 2:30-3:30**, restructuring our staff, with some awesome (and slimy!) surprises on the way.

January bills are out. They can be found on the wall near the door or in your child's Committed Care folder, unless you've requested that I mail it to you. If anything needs to change regarding how you receive your bill, please contact me.

2011 year-end tax information is available upon request. Please email me at lfukunaga@humboldt.k12.ca.us, and I will email you a .PDF file directly.

A safety request regarding after-school playground supervision: if you are on campus after school for a meeting, or otherwise can't be keeping an eye on your child, it is very important to inform the Aftercare staff of your plan so that we can not only provide safety supervision for your child, but also enforce consistent playground and school rules. Thank you for your understanding and participation in this matter!



Fuente Nueva is the Home of the Phoenix

Like us on Facebook



Fundraising and the Classroom

If you would like to know more about how fundraising proceeds are used at Fuente Nueva, please see the heartfelt words of Maestro Amaro in letter on pages 4 and 5.

This year's profits from the Fiesta Ball will be used for technology for the classroom, field-trips, cultural events, and to support the additional efforts of the PTO. The decision of how to best use the funds was made with input from parents, teachers, the Director, and the FNCC.

THANK YOU!

While we don't have much to report yet in terms of funds raised, we can tell you now that the Fiesta Ball was a tremendous success thanks to several members of our community. It is hard to mention all who participated because so many of you showed up for a shift, donated to your classroom basket, sold /bought tickets, organized childcare and so much more. There are a few that deserve some special recognition.

For the past three years Katherine Fergus-Foulkes, Jessica Stokes, Juliana Goldstein, Julie Giannini-Previde, Hazel Bagwell, and Allison Oakland have poured hours of time and energy into making this event a success. They have a vision for supporting our school however our school needs it most at the time. Their efforts have inspired many of us to get involved and support FNCS through this fundraising effort.

Here's to another great Fiesta Ball! Again, thank you to each and every one of you who gave support in some way. The energy of the night was a success in and of itself.

¡Viva la Fuente Nueva Fiesta Ball!

Lunch Program Procedures

Please review the following information in order to help our lunch program run more smoothly:

Lunch orders are taken in each classroom generally by 8:30 a.m. We order a limited number of extra lunches every day, so if you know that your student will be arriving late to school and will need a school lunch, you can either order a lunch when you stop by the office to pick up a late slip or can call (822-3348) to order a lunch before 9 am. If you call, be sure to leave your student's name and which lunch option they would prefer: meat, vegetarian, or PB&J.

The cost for one lunch is \$3.50. Reduced price lunches are \$0.40. All families were to have filled out an application for free or reduced price lunches at the beginning of the school year. If you think your eligibility may have changed since then, please pick up a new application in the main office.

Invoices are sent out at the beginning of each month, but you can always call (822-3348), email (fuentenueva@humboldt.k12.ca.us), or stop by the main office to inquire about your current balance. Payments are accepted in the main office by cash or check (check is preferred, though receipts can be issued for cash transactions).

Especially given the current budgetary constrictions, it is extremely important that families regularly pay their lunch balances. If more than two months pass without receiving payment on a balance over \$20, it is school policy to not allow that student to order lunch until payment is received.

Noticias de la comité de inmersión

Queridos participantes y miembros:

Aquí están las notas de la última reunión del comité de inmersión.

Si no has asistido en el pasado, por favor planea asistir alguna vez para añadir tus ideas y trabajar para lograr las metas de nuestro programa de inmersión.

Después los invitamos a asistir a nuestra primera Noche de español en el restaurante Valley Azteca--5000 Valley West Blvd en Arcata cerca de la calle Giuntoli Ln. La idea es de practicar la comunicación en español--no formal, mientras gozamos de tapa, aperitivo o cena si lo quisieras.

Nuestra siguiente reunión será el 17 de febrero a las 4:00 de la tarde en mi salón.

Atentamente,
Agustín

Immersion Committee News

Dear participants and members,

Here are notes from our last immersion meeting.

If you have not attended out committee please consider attending to add your ideas and participate in our work of helping to meet our school's mission goals for Spanish immersion.

Afterward, I invite all willing to come to our first Spanish Night. It is a wholly informal gathering at a Mexican restaurant in Arcata--Valley Azteca Restaurant 5000 Valley West Blvd, Arcata, CA 95521--off of Giuntoli Ln. The idea is to practice speaking in Spanish no matter your level and enjoy an appetizer, a refreshment or dinner if you like.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February the 17th at 4:00 PM in room 14 at Fuente Nueva.

Sincerely,
Agustin

Fuente Fundraising and the Classroom: A Letter from Maestro Amaro

Dear Fuente Nueva Families,

After attending our PTO Summit meeting last week and listening to some of the concerns of the public, it seems vital to me that our community at Fuente Nueva continue to learn how the fundraising activities of the PTO and other committees such the Fiesta Ball organizers help beneficially affect our students in a capacity that our small school's basic traditional budget cannot currently achieve.

I arrived here four and a half years ago from a Southern California school district—the third largest in the state in terms of enrollment. We had excellent resources for training, equipment, and other assets. In fact, the year Deirdré and I moved to Arcata the district was completing my then school's computer lab (it had thirty new computers with a new projection device for teaching in each of our school's twenty-plus classrooms), a 1st – 5th GATE/EXCEL program, a K – 5th dual immersion program, and a regular K – 5th program, and a student population close to nine hundred. Funding for our curriculum materials, texts, and classroom libraries was ample.

continued on page 5

Fuente Fundraising and the Classroom: A Letter from Maestro Amaro

continued from page 4

At a school as small as Fuente Nueva and with overall funding at an extreme low, it is difficult to maintain solvency. However, at Fuente we are able to do so and our school thrives with parent volunteers, a sound but thin budget, strong leadership, and hard-working and knowledgeable educators, and parents that assist our school in finding funding that is not part of our school's traditional budget. By the way, we moved here not because of need, but because we wanted to be part of a small, healthy community where we could help make a difference and a place where the community was more closely connected to a school's activities in its purpose of serving its students well—a community like Arcata and a school like Fuente Nueva.

Fuente Nueva is a school that achieves what it accomplishes because of contributions from parents—both in terms of funding and time spent assisting in numerous ways. This year, the PTO has been able to provide funding and organizing for the purchase of laptop computers for each of our teachers. These are new DELL computers with adequate specs for more than five years of functional use. Also, they are connected to our school printer for easy replication of lessons, documents, and hand-outs for students. With these computers our teachers are organizing their curriculum, planning their week's lessons, developing new lessons, giving staff presentations, researching ideas to help with the presentation of curriculum in the classroom, and maintaining communication with Fuente's community. With my Fuente laptop, I complete my weekly planning, add to our class website, design lessons and grading rubrics, present Power-Point presentations to students on many different topics, conduct much of my electronic communication with parents and students (email, website, VOIP), complete my grading and produce countless other documents vital to my teaching in addition to pre-planning my curriculum for the following year as well as planning, preparing, and running meetings like the Fuente's Immersion Committee.

This year the PTO has also set aside funding for each classroom to add to their libraries and provided separate small funds at the beginning of the year for basic classroom needs. Furthermore, the Fiesta Ball Committee is funding new technology for our classroom teachers to be able to present lessons in a more exciting visual format. Moreover, this is only a small example of what parent involvement is accomplishing here at Fuente Nueva.

Again, please take note of the vast contributions of the organized fundraising that our PTO and our Fiesta Ball Committee are able to accomplish—the results are enormous and magnificent, especially when we take into account the size of our small school and by contrast note the incredible amount of work that is accomplished by those dedicated parents that serve on our board, PTO, Fiesta Ball and other committee, as well as classroom parent volunteers that enter our classrooms and work hard to help do more than their part to ensure our students receive a strong beginning on their long journey of learning.

Sincerely,

Agustín Amaro

February

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
			¹ EGGROLL, VEGETARIAN RICE Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	² CHILI CON CARNE VW BE ANS VEGETABLE CHILI CORN MUFFIN Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	³ Hot Dog/Bun PB & J CHIPS Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Dessert Milk	
	⁶ Chicken Nuggets PB & J Caesar Salad Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	⁷ MAC & CHEESE /BRD Hot Vegetable Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	⁸ Frito Pie Meat or ME ATLESS Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	⁹ Ravioli Vegetable Soup Breadstick YOGURT Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	¹⁰ Bagel, Ham & Cheese BAGEL & CREAM CHEESE Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Dessert Milk	
	¹³ Corn Dog PB & J Baked Fries Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	¹⁴ Potatoe Bar Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	¹⁵ Ground Pork Pizza Cheese Pizza Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	¹⁶ Chicken Noodle Soup CRACKERS YOGURT Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	¹⁷ Hamburger/Bun EGG SALAD SANDWICH Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Dessert Milk	
	²⁰ No School	²¹ No School	²² No School	²³ No School	²⁴ No School	
	²⁷ BURRITO Chips & Salsa Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	²⁸ Spaghetti/Brdstck Meat or ME ATLESS Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	²⁹ Bacon egg muffin Egg cheese muffin Hashbrown Salad Bar Fresh Fruit Milk	Arcata School District Lunch Menu 2012		