



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Lynwood's Jamming Ukuleles

(Novato, CA)... On Friday, April 8 at 1 pm, 100 or so Lynwood 4th and 5th graders will have a ukulele jam session with the Piko ukulele musicians. PIKO is a non-profit community organization that helps people discover and keep alive the spirit of aloha through the Pacific Island's music and culture. Lynwood's ukulele program represents Piko's mission. The jam session is known as a kanikapila and is Hawaiian for everybody bring your ukulele and jam.

Lynnette Booséy, Lynwood music teacher and ukulele player, introduced ukuleles to the school about 2 ½ years ago. Between grants and donations, the school has over 80 ukuleles for the students to use. It has been such a successful program, now all fourth graders at Novato Unified learn ukulele instead of the recorder.

The Novato Unified School District is proud of its diverse performing arts curriculum. From ukuleles at the elementary school, world beat percussion at the middle school, and the Marin School of the Arts at Novato High School, and smARTT at San Marin High School, the traditional music program is enhanced with these additional offerings. There is truly something for every student at NUSD. For more information about Piko, please visit <http://www.piko.ws/home>.

The ukulele is generally associated with music from Hawaii where the name roughly translates as "jumping flea," because of the quick movement of the player's fingers. Developed in the 1880s, the ukulele is based on several small guitar-like instruments of Portuguese origin and introduced to the Hawaiian Islands by Portuguese immigrants. In the 1960s, Canada began using the ukulele as an inexpensive and practical teaching instrument to foster musical literacy in the classroom. Today, the program continues in a revised version and is a staple of the music education in Canada.

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