



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Camp University – Partnership for Learning and Fun

(Novato, CA)... The Novato Unified School District, the YMCA, the City of Novato, and the City of San Rafael partnered this summer on a pilot program to provide 120 NUSD students entering first through third grade a unique learning and camp experience. Beginning in June to July 31, 120 students from Lu Sutton, Lynwood, Loma Verde and Hamilton Schools gathered at Hamilton School for three hours of English Language Arts instruction with NUSD teachers with the primary goal of vocabulary development and reading skills. NUSD teachers provided instruction and were supported by teacher's aides from the YMCA in each classroom.

Immediately following the morning academic program, NUSD's Food and Nutritional Services provided a nutritious lunch after which the students enjoyed Traditional Y Camp Time. Y Camp included weekly summertime themes linking the morning academics with afternoon art and language activities, as well as technology, games, and outdoor sports. Students were visited by guest speakers such as Whale Bus, Wild Care and the Bubble Lady and each afternoon individual grades took the bus to the Hamilton Community Pool and received swim lessons from City of San Rafael instructors.

"Aside from the supportive relationship NUSD and the YMCA share, two elements set this program up for success; the commitment parents demonstrated in devoting six weeks of summer vacation to promote learning for their children and the talented educators we were fortunate to have in each classroom," commented Renee Nebolon, Principal, Camp University.

Uriel, a 3rd grader "...liked learning Lexia on the iPad and passing my levels. It made me proud" while Hassly, another 3rd grader, commented "My favorite part is where we go to the pool because I love when we practice swimming." However, another 3rd grader Malik "...liked learning about space and the cosmos and scientists in the classroom."

"There are very few things in this world of true, significant importance. Life skills, knowledge, and the future are this programs primary focus. It has been an honor to be part of a program fostering knowledge, and teaching skills both inside and outside of

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the classroom. The youth of this program are the future," Jon Anger 3rd grade teacher Hamilton School.

This pilot program was generously supported by grants from the Marin Community Foundation and the Peter E. Haas Jr. Family Fund as well as the YMCA and NUSD.

One of the largest community foundations in the country, MCF distributes charitable resources in two ways: by assisting more than 500 individuals, families and businesses in their grantmaking locally, nationally and internationally; and by directing Buck Trust resources to an array of nonprofits and schools in Marin County. MCF currently manages more than \$1.6 billion in total assets and distribute more than \$60 million annually in grants.

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