



**Noddin News  
Principal  
Eric Scharer**

**Superintendent Denise Clay**

**USD BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Sheila Billings - Vickie Brown - Jennifer Petroff -  
Thomas E. Rossmeissl - Doug Evans**

**Issue 5  
April 6, 2018**

[Noddin Elementary Web Site](#)

Visit our New Website!



Dear Noddin Community,

It's been a busy and exciting 2018 so far at Noddin Elementary!

Upon returning from Winter Break, the 5th

graders went to Science Camp and had an amazing, albeit wet, experience! It was so wonderful to see them learning and participating in an outdoor environment for a week. They had a blast!



3rd - 5th graders got to participate in Google Expeditions. Students got to take virtual field trips into space, under the sea, and to the land of dinosaurs just to name a few!

We had two assemblies to end the months of January and February. We were first visited by the Top Secrets of Wizards in Training. Students were treated to extraordinary feats of magic using student volunteers in direct, hands-on learning applications. Next was Supercussion, which led a fun, high energy introduction to the world of percussion. Classically trained percussionists played over 40 instruments that integrated music with concepts from history, science, and math.

Once again, Noddin participated in two special late winter events - The Great Kindness Challenge and Global Play Day!

The week of January 22, Noddin participated in the The Great Kindness Challenge! Students participated in self-guided and classroom kindness challenge activities, spreading good and positivity throughout the campus. The hope is that our students take the power and message of kindness with them as they go through school and life!

February 7 was Global Play Day! Play allows children to use their creativity while developing their imagination, and physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. It is also important to healthy brain development. Often in children's 21st century world of electronics and high stress academics, the importance and time for play gets lost. On this day, students were invited to bring non-electronic toys for an unstructured day of play! They loved having this time to interact with each other and build forts, play board games, and create using Legos and blocks!

Noddin also held it's annual variety show on February 15 and 16. Dozens of students participate showing off their talents in music, skits, singing, and more! It is so wonderful for us as a school staff to see our students out of the classroom and performing for an audience.

Last week, Noddin held it's annual Multi-Cultural night celebrating the many diverse cultures of our students. Sixteen countries or cultures were celebrated and the evening was filled with learning, food, and

fun.

And this past Tuesday, Noddin had it's first every STEAM night to celebrate our district and school-wide STEAM initiative and the opening of our new MakerSpace! Students and families were able to choose from eight different stations that included coding, a Hovercraft build, and an LED art project, and much more!

We are so fortunate to have such a high amount and variety of community events and student programs! Through these, Noddin strives to build community and move education beyond academics.

**-Eric Scharer**

---

## Reports from the Classroom

PreK students have been utilizing the MakerSpace. They recently built large Leprechaun traps they were then able to play in! In social studies, students

participated in a community helpers units. A fire truck will soon visit the campus for them to see and explore. Students were also treated to an in-house music performance by Sean's Music Factory.



Kinder students are continuing their work in addition and subtraction, number bonds, and greater than/less than. They are continuing their growth in reading, via Guided Reading and word work centers. In social studies, they learned about community helpers and symbols of the USA and in science they've been conducting egg experiments. Students recently had an in-house field trip "Walk with the Animals" and they are getting ready to soon visit Emma Prusch Farm.

1st graders are beginning their module on geometry, learning about shapes, both 2-D and 3-D. They recently finished module 4, which focused on 2-digit addition, using multiple methods to solve, like number bonds and the arrow way. Students are wrapping up Rtl the week after break. 1st grade Rtl classes included research reports, word work for spelling patterns, and guided reading in small groups. In our homeroom classes, we will begin researching for our animal reports. In writing, students began opinion writing and are working on supporting their opinions with reasons and examples. Science included learning about light/prisms and while in the Makerspace, students made spectrosopes, thanks to Mrs. Koleszar. Coming later this month, 1st grade is adopting some "classroom friends", as they bring silkworms and caterpillars to 1st grade classrooms. Piggybacking off of math, students will use 3-D shapes to make buildings, as they begin a unit on maps. 1st grade will soon be visiting the San Jose Museum of Art and next month they'll take a trip to Ardenwood Farms.

2nd grade students are working with the foundations of multiplication and division with arrays. In science, they are concluding their landforms unit and moving into physics. Social studies will soon include an ancestry unit and students will explore their family histories. 2nd grade is wrapping up Rtl reading groups and moving toward guided reading instruction. Students are also learning how to write opinion pieces. 2nd graders have upcoming field trips to look forward to - Levi's Stadium, History Park, and an in-house play provided by Theatre Works.

3rd graders are working on fraction concepts and determining how to compare parts of a whole. Students are learning how to read and write about informational text. In science, 3rd graders are working on their FOSS unit on Matter and Motion and will be using the MakerSpace to explore the power of magnets. Social studies includes continuing to learn about the Ohlone people from our local region.

4th grade students recently learned how to add, subtract, and multiply fractions. They learned how to solve multi-step word problems using tape diagrams, number lines, and unit form. Students are excited to learn how to convert fractions to decimals and find angles of geometric shapes. The students love using Quizlet Live to practice their multiplication and division fluency, as well as finding equivalent fractions. They are beginning to write and analyze persuasive writing. With this, they will learn strong introductions, arguments, and conclusions. Students will practice defending their arguments with evidence and reasoning. They will look at different forms of persuasive writing in articles and letters, and will use media to find strong persuasive language. They have implemented the use of 8 Parts, which continues to be a favorite of the students as they have opportunities to use creativity and conventions to strengthen their writing skills. 4th graders loved using the green screen in the Makerspace to bring their expository writing to life. They have also used the incredible space to create their own modern CA missions, targeting current social issues and needs. The students came up with their own take on missions to help improve our community. This is possible because of the amazing ideas and help of Mrs. Koleszar! Students are continuing to learn about pioneers moving West towards California. Students love taking and creating Quizziz about these historic events and develop deeper understandings of what happened. We had a wonderful time visiting San Juan Bautista, where students explored the daily life and culture of the historic site.

5th graders continue to infuse grade-level standards into their reading, writing, math development, and across the social studies curriculum. New visits to the STEAM lab help create context to their learning, and students have learned through engaging labs developed by our ToSA Heather Koleszar. Student scientists have explored chemical reactions through a fun inquiry lab, taken “trips” to other lands and planets through Google Expeditions, and explored creativity through a paint lab. In math, students continue developing their skills in fractions, including the division and multiplication of fractions. With Rtl winding down this week, students have begun synthesizing the learning they have engaged in through literary explorations, writing development, and language development. We are excited for the progress our fifth graders have made!

## **STEAM**

Thank you to the Noddin Community and teacher volunteers who helped make STEAM night such a great event. It was great to walk around and see families working together to build robots, code, create binary bracelets, hovercrafts, paper circuit cards and more! Thank you to the Home & School Club for serving popcorn to the families, and I hope we can make STEAM night an annual tradition. Another fun activity that students have been experiencing over the past week in STEAM is Google Expeditions and their Virtual Reality headsets. Students toured famous landforms, climbed Mt. Everest, visited penguins in Antarctica, and were a little startled by some gorillas in the Congo. The district currently has one set of headsets for STEAM ToSAs to check out at their sites, and there are plans to have one set at each site in the upcoming year.

April 2018

Following the distribution of the Spring School Bell, I have received a number of thoughtful questions regarding how our district is funded by the state. I've been asked by Union School District (USD) homeowners why they pay such high property taxes if we, as a district, do not reap the benefit.



School districts receive funding based on the state's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). The LCFF revenue is funded by property taxes and state aid. It is important to note that homeowners pay property taxes on the assessed valuation of their home. For residents that have owned their homes 5, 10, 20 or more years, their assessed valuation may be much lower than the market value. Districts that receive funding from property taxes and state aid are called "State Aid" districts. Union School District is a State Aid district.

The state utilizes the following criteria to identify the funds received by districts: the district's Average Daily Attendance, the numbers of students in state-identified grade level spans and the demographics of the student population. Districts that have higher levels of English learners, foster youth or socioeconomically disadvantaged students receive more funding.

Districts that receive all of their funding from property taxes are called "Basic Aid" districts. This happens when the amount collected from property taxes exceed the minimum funding amount the state determines districts should receive. The funding can be quite substantial. For a list of the Basic Aid districts, you may go to Ed Source: [https://edsources.org/local-control-funding-formula-database/basic\\_aid.html](https://edsources.org/local-control-funding-formula-database/basic_aid.html). Union School District is not a Basic Aid District.

Unfortunately, we are one of the lowest-funded school districts in the state of California. We have worked hard to manage our resources. We have the benefit of lease revenues from seven closed school sites and we are beginning to generate cost savings from our solar projects. We have also had the benefit of the use of bond funds for various construction and technology projects, as well as a parcel tax that we can use for more general purposes. Nevertheless, we are continuing to operate in a deficit; spending more than our revenues each year.

I've been asked by parents, "What can we do?" At the March Board of Trustees Meeting, the Board passed a resolution sponsored by the California School Boards Association (CSBA) demanding from our State Legislature that California Schools receive Full and Fair Funding. Here is a link to the signed resolution: <https://goo.gl/fvNVQ6>. This resolution was sent to CSBA. CSBA is collecting signed resolutions from districts throughout California, approximately 1,000 districts, and will be lobbying the State Legislature for increased funding for California Schools.

At our February Board of Trustees meeting, our Union District Educators Association (UDEA) President, Julie Guglielmo, invited me and the Board members to attend a legislative brunch to meet with Senator Jim Beall and other legislators to discuss issues facing California Schools, one of which being the under-funding of our schools. A Board representative and I attended the meeting to

ensure that we could participate in the important discussions regarding the state's support of our schools. The Board of Trustees and I will continue discussions on ways to increase revenues and resources at our monthly meetings. Please make sure to read the Board Highlights that are emailed to you each month for updates on our discussions. We must work together to ensure that our voices are heard as advocates for our students so we can continue to provide the excellent educational opportunities that support our children's continued success.

---



Saturday, April 21, 2018  
9am to 3pm

website: <https://noddin.walkstarter.org>  
email: [noddinwalkathon@noddinhsc.org](mailto:noddinwalkathon@noddinhsc.org)

## What is the Walkathon?

The Walkathon is an event hosted by Noddin's Home & School Club and is our school's biggest fundraiser! Students collect donations (pledges) from family, friends, and community members before their participation in the Walkathon. On Saturday, April 21, 2018, students will come to Noddin with their friends and families and walk as many laps as they can on a ¼ mile course between 9:30 am and 2:30 pm. Prizes will be awarded for top walkers and money earners! **Every participating student will receive a 2018 Noddin Walkathon t-shirt.** Please bring chairs and umbrellas, and join us for this wonderful Noddin community event!

## Why are we raising money?

Money raised at this event will go towards Noddin's Home & School Club funded programs and resources, including:

- Art Vistas
- Reading & Language Programs
- Field Trips & Buses
- Assemblies
- Olympic Day
- Ceramics Program
- Student Council
- Teachers Fund
- Classroom Supplies
- Music Programs
- Library Books & Supplies
- Safety Patrol
- Physical Education

# Important dates

## Thursday, March 29

Begin Collecting Pledges – Set up Walkstarter account

## Friday, April 20

2:30pm-4:00pm

**Registration EXPO** (Pick-up Walking Scan Tag & T-shirt, turn in pledges & permission slip)

## Saturday, April 21

### Walkathon Music Festival!

9:00 am

Registration Opens (Pick-up Walking Scan Tag & T-shirt, turn in pledges & permission slip)

9:30 am

Walkathon Starts and Music Festival Opens

2:30 pm

Walkathon Ends

3:00 pm

Music Festival Closes

## Monday, April 30

Pledge envelopes returned to students for remaining pledge collection.

## Monday, May 7

ALL Walkathon Pledge money due

## TBD

Awards and TOP CLUB assembly

---

## Yard Duty Positions Available

Noddin is in need of yard duties Monday - Friday or on individual days based on availability. If you or someone you know are interested and want more information, please contact me directly at [scharere@unionsd.org](mailto:scharere@unionsd.org). Thank you!



**-Mr. Scharer**

---

## Accelerated Reader - March

Noddin uses the Accelerated Reader program, or AR, to encourage and practice reading. Reports are run at the end of each month and students who obtain certain point levels receive a certificate and a book for each level they achieve! The point levels are on the bottom of this message. The report was run at the end of March.

Students received a certificate and a book for each level they obtained. Congratulations!

### LEVEL 1:

Alexis Scott, Yifan Zhou, Joel Bolaji, Nina Jackson, Jordan Granados, Isaac Sanchez, Emma Barnes, Liam Kelly, Elena Mathias, Kai Salquist, Alice Pankova, Yuejia Wang, Isaiah Rodriguez, Nicolas Corlan, Enoch Shin, Miles Huntington,

Rajveer Jain, Riley Huston, Ronan Laughlin, George Clowser

**LEVEL 2:**

Luke Kalynij, Lance Takamura, Diya Pillai, Heidi Storey, Katelyn Rose Pham, Lillian Piasecki, Olivia Poirier, Evelyn Wan, Katelyn Scheinberg, Isaac Xu

**LEVEL 3:**

Xinyao (Cynthia) Wang, Aanya Sethi, Lindsay Takamura, Asmit Mohapatra, Siri Smith

**LEVEL 4:**

Andrew Jeong, Seongwon Jo

**LEVEL 5:**

Yash Bhatia

**Point Levels**

**Grades 1 & 2**

- Level 1: 15 points
- Level 2: 30 points
- Level 3: 50 points
- Level 4: 75 points
- Level 5: 100 points
- Level 6: 150 points
- Level 7: 300 points or more

**Grades 3-5**

- Level 1: 20 points
- Level 2: 50 points
- Level 3: 150 points
- Level 4: 300 points
- Level 5: 500 points
- Level 6: 750 points
- Level 7: 1000 points or more

---

**Blue Card Winners**

At Noddin Elementary, students receive Blue Cards when they display good and positive behavior at school. We have aligned our Blue Cards with the Noddin READ Positive Behavior Plan. READ stands for Responsible, Engaged, Adaptable, and Dependable. The students at Noddin have earned over 1,500 Blue Cards so far this school year! Every week, Mr. Scharer picks 5 Blue Cards and announces those students during morning announcements. These students received a prize and a pizza lunch with Mr. Scharer! The Blue Card winners for March were:

- Hannah Kalynij
- Jolee Perry
- Mason Pini
- Aiyanah Mendoza
- Luke Yi

Yuki Omitsu  
Carter Ennen  
Joceline Palacios  
Joel Bolaji  
Julian Leconte  
Nicole He  
Maksim Miocinovic  
Punreet Bhullar  
Lilly Ortiz  
Ethan Stagg  
Carisa Castro  
Jayden Fernandez  
Hannah Huff  
Neil Bhargava  
Kyron Schmeisser-Madu

---

## **Parking Lot, Traffic, and Safety Reminders**

Noddin is a large elementary school with several hundred people arriving and departing in the same 15 minute timeframe. Please remember these important traffic and safety rules when dropping off and picking up your child:

- Please do not briefly "double park" on Gilda Way, Harwood Ave., or Harlow Way surrounding the school to drop off! This causes traffic buildup, frustration to other drivers, and potential accidents. Do not send your student across the street from the opposite curb!
- As you enter, use the drop off/pick up lane and pull all the way forward. Please do not drop off or pick up in the fire zone, then drive through the parking lot.
- Please do not briefly "double park" on Gilda Way, Harwood Ave., or Harlow Way surrounding the school to drop off! This causes traffic buildup, frustration to other drivers, and potential accidents. Do not send your student across the street from the opposite curb!
- The handicapped zone in front of the cafeteria is for handicapped student drop off and pick up only.
- For safety, when dropping off, students should exit from the passenger/sidewalk side only

These guidelines are for the safety of our children and families!  
Please honor them for this reason.

---

## **Upcoming**

April 9 - 13: Spring Break

Saturday, April 21: Walk-A-Thon  
April 23 - May 4: SBAC Testing  
Friday, April 27: Kinder RoundUp  
Friday, May 4: Noddin H&SC Meeting

Noddin Elementary School  
1755 Gilda Way  
San Jose, CA 95124

Phone Number: (408) 356-2126  
Absence Line: (408) 358-1228  
Fax: (408) 358-9807

Eric Scharer, Principal  
Heidi Golab, Site Administrative Assistant  
Sue Ahmadian, Office Assistant  
Michele Testa, Health Clerk

**2016 Gold Ribbon School Award**

2011 Cornerstone "Caring School Climate" Award  
2008 California Distinguished School  
1999 National Blue Ribbon School  
Home of the Roadrunners!



**STAY CONNECTED!**

[Noddin Website](#)

[Noddin Home and School Club](#)

Noddin Home & School Club on Facebook  
Noddin Elementary on Twitter

