Construction is Underway!

Attention everyone….Novitas Academy is expanding our Academic Department! Construction started early February and is due to wrap-up mid-March. Our new building will house a Project-Based Learning Center, Computer Lab, Math classrooms and a brand new library.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- March 2nd No School
- Spring Ski Trip March 6th-8th (weather permitting)
- March 23rd-27th Spring Break
- April 1st projected move-in day to new school building
- May 25th No School

Fun Fact: Did you know that “Novitas” means Newness, Rareness and Reformation

Duke’s Corner

Written by: Alex James

As many of you know, Duke has been living here at Novitas with us for the last six months. He has become our best buddy and loyal mascot to all of the students and staff. Duke is a lab/boxer mix and has lots of energy and likes to play and keep us entertained!

Duke is heading off for a little adventure to obedience school, where we hope he will learn to not eat our socks and shoes! He will be leaving next week and will be missed dearly by all of the students. Duke keeps all of us company and keeps us up-beat with his positive attitude and contagious friendliness. When Duke returns from doggy school he will get his own doggy door.

Hurry home Duke! We hope that you learn new healthy habits just like the kids at Novitas do. We work hard here at Novitas to get rid of the bad habits and learn to develop new good habits, we hope Duke will do the same!

Good luck Duke and we will miss you very much! See you soon buddy!

Your friends,
AJ & all Novitas students and staff!
**FISHtastic Student of the month was Casey!**

**Congratulations Casey, YOU ROCK!**

Celebrating the FISH! philosophy at Novitas Academy has become a daily routine! Our staff and boys do a wonderful job recognizing each other for the little things that we all do everyday.

Our FISHtastic student that earned the most FISH slips for February is Casey H. Thank you for being a GREAT role model and confidant.

Casey has been a great student and a tremendous asset to the program here at Novitas Academy. Casey is always a smiling face and a helping hand to both students and staff here on campus!

Casey enjoys participating in a local Mauy Thai class, listening to music, Longboarding, BMX biking and snowboarding. One thing I am really proud of “Is being nominated student of the month by the staff and students for three months in a row! I have worked really hard here at Novitas to be a good leader” Casey proudly states.

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**Novitas News, Questions & Answers from Dr. Sapp**

As Novitas is growing strong and building a strong foundation for the future of our boys and school, we are continually evolving and change is a huge part of this process. I would like to share some changes and introduce a few new faces that will be joining our team.

We would like to welcome Sharlene Towler, B.A. Ed. EC to our Academic Team. Sharlene has been the Special Education teacher at Cherry Gulch for the past 3 years and has over 15 years of experience teaching students with special needs. We are also pleased to announce that Founder and Head of Bend Learning Center, Sanford Shapiro, M. Ed. is joining the Novitas team on a consulting and training basis to strengthen and build our Project-Based Learning curriculum and provide Novitas with his knowledge in teaching students with specific learning challenges! Please visit his website for his bio and further information at: http://www.bendlearningcenter.com/aboutus.php

Please welcome Dr. Juli Bohlman to our clinical team! Juli is joining the Novitas team and will be working individually with the boys and families as our lead therapist starting around the 1st of April. Along with all of our good news we are sad to have two very special employees leaving our team. Our Academic Director, Brennan Gage, has the opportunity to start a charter school in Louisiana and has partnered up with several professionals to begin his new journey. Brennan has been a tremendous asset to our academic program and has developed and implemented many systems which have truly built our academic foundation, and he will be deeply missed. Due to an unexpected illness, Dr. Gold will not be returning to Novitas. Though his is on the mend and recovering, we would also like to bid him a farewell.

Until Juli joins the team in about 6 weeks, I will be your clinical point of contact. I will be conducting all individual, family and group therapy sessions. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at 208-941-7934 or Kylie Peters at 208-954-5085. Again, I want to thank all of the families for your continued support and belief in Novitas, and it is truly a pleasure to work with you all!

Warmly, Andy Sapp
See What’s Happening in the Classroom!

Matt is still working on launching his new business, Preserve House, that will sell high-end canned goods. He is currently testing and perfecting recipes and working with local farmers to find the best in-season fruits throughout the year. Matt is also participating in a local internship at the Whistle Pig where he is learning how to be a prep cook, restoring the historical building into a restaurant, making long lasting friendships, and learning the art of hard work.

Welcome, Josh! Josh has been with us since the beginning of the new year and has been an amazing addition to the Novitas family. Josh enjoys reading books and tapping into his creative mind to build and develop new systems. Josh is working hard on developing and creating an artificial intelligence to assist individuals with learning differences to access computers that are user friendly.

Andrew has finished building two speakers, including putting together all the circuitry and wiring. He is writing up his process and looking for the next challenge with the goal of building his own speakers from “scratch.”

Casey had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear President Barack Obama speak last month at Boise State University. Casey has a very musical mind! He is creating his own lyrics and music to eventually compose his very own song for a class project. Stay tuned for the next newsletter to hear the completed version.

AJ has been working hard with our Math instructor, Rich Dees, on building a Rube Goldberg machine. AJ also enrolled to take classes at the Emmett High School next semester and is very excited to start the transition into public school.

Like our Facebook page for a chance to win a copy of Malcolm Gladwell’s David and Goliath

www.facebook.com/novitasacademy