

# NOVITAS

## ACADEMY

Volume 1: Issue 1

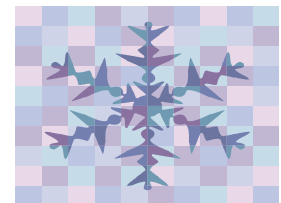
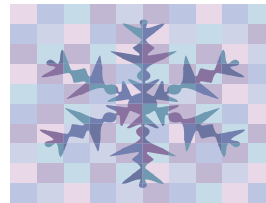
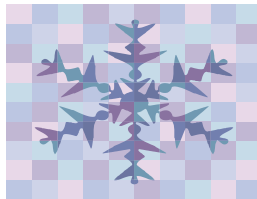
November 2014

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

- November 26th-28th No School Thanksgiving Break
- November 27th Thanksgiving
- December 5th-7th Skiing trip
- December 22nd-January 4th No School Holiday Break

## *Novitas Winter Wonderland*

How do you imagine your perfect snow day? Our first (and perfect) snow day is winding down as I write this. Sitting at my desk, I can hear the student's laughter, our new mascot "Duke" running through the hallways, and the boys planning to attack Dr. Sapp with snowballs while the smell of chocolate chip cookies baking fills the house... I feel truly blessed to be a part of such an amazing school and program!



## *Meet our new School Mascot, Duke!* *Novitas Academy welcomes a new family member.*

### **Duke's Corner**

*Written by: Weston Persons*

Our new dog Duke is definitely a one of a kind type of dog. He is a mix between a Lab and Boxer. Every night before I go to bed I can hear Duke at the foot of my bed barking for some attention. So usually I let him up. The few times that I haven't though, Duke retaliates. One night, when I wasn't letting him up onto my bed, he quickly ran into my closet and grabbed one of my shoes and holds it in his mouth at the side of my bed. As if trying to say "Let me up on the bed, or you may never see this shoe again!" I eventually caved in, and pulled him up. He rested comfortably at the foot of my twin bed, managing to take up all the legroom.

Duke is incredibly smart for his age. If he runs out of water, he lets me or another student know by simply pawing at the water fountain. When he wants food, he will pull his bowl over to Zach's feet until it gets to feast on Kibble. He's also very therapeutic. When myself or other students get anxious, or overwhelmed, the dog helps us mellow out, and deal with our emotions. I'm happy to welcome Duke into my new home, and I love to see him grow and mature along with myself.





## *FISHtastic Student of the Month was a TIE! Congratulations to Cole and Zach*

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 students that earned the most FISH slips for October are Cole and Zach. Thank you for being a GREAT role model and confidant.

Cole and Zach both came to Novitas Academy the day the doors opened! They have been an asset to the program in so many ways and we are truly grateful to have them as part of the Novitas family!

Zach is always a helping hand and a smiling face here at Novitas and an avid outdoorsman! “One thing I like about Novitas is that I have a lot of freedom to participate in the outdoor activities that I like” said Zach. Zach is eager to learn about Project Based Learning in the classroom, so he can apply and explore his interests.

Cole has a passion for all genre’s of music but especially loves Dub Step. Here at Novitas, Cole has the opportunity to explore his music interest here on campus in our music room and at Sageland Music shop with professionals.



## *Holiday Plans: Questions and Answers*

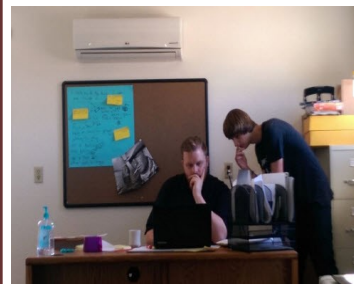
As you are planning your holiday schedules and making travel arrangements, I want to clear up some questions about our schedule. As a year-round school program, we can schedule activities 365 days a year but highly encourage students and families to spend the holiday’s together. There will not be class November 26-28 or December 22-January 4. Please discuss all holiday travel plans with our Admissions Department head, Kylie Peters at 208-954-5085 so we can solidify our staff needs over the holiday break.

A couple parents asked about holiday gift ideas for our boys and the Novitas team. Given the holidays approaching I wanted to touch base regarding Novitas monetary gifts and donations. Although you are welcome to give individual gifts, Novitas would prefer to have donations to the general employee Holiday Fund. Each year Novitas budgets to purchase items for our employees (jacket, vest, etc.) but we do have a limited budget. Past general employee donations by parents have allowed expanded employee gifts, expanded holiday parties, holiday gift cards and prizes for our FISH employee appreciation program. Parent gifts have generously ranged from a few hundred dollars to several thousand.

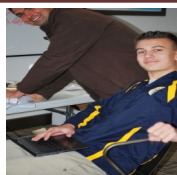
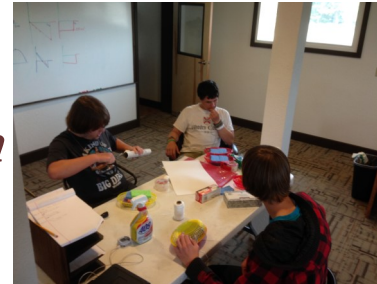
As always, nothing is expected but should you decide to mail a gift or donation please do so to my attention or we can add to the Novitas bill. If you would like to talk to me about the 2015 Wish List please let me know.

Novitas was born with inspiration from the books Mindset and David and Goliath combined with the Anatomy of Peace, The RULER Approach and a modified collaborative problem solving approach; with which we have created a relational strengths-based program that inspires students to reach their goals. I would recommend reading or listening to these books over the holiday season (it is not “required” but highly recommended).

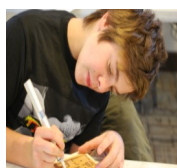
Warmly, Andy Sapp



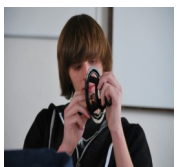
## See what's Happening in the Classroom!



Matt is 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. The website will launch early in the new year.



Weston is digging into the exciting work of writing a Dystopian novel. While not wanting to give away any of the plot twists, I can tell you that it involves a band of young people battling an authoritarian technocratic government. The novel explores what it means to grow up in a world that is always changing, unpredictable, and has lost touch with its natural roots.



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.”



Cole is working on plans to build his own MIDI controller. The brainstorming phase was very productive, with ideas for an electronic music controller built from fruit, cars, and even other musical instruments.



Zach is continuing to work on his pond design project and has begun designing and building a fly tying desk. Authorities came from the Idaho Fish and Game Department to inspect the pond and approve our fish transport license. Zach is working to find the best aerator for the pond, which will ensure that all the fish stay healthy.

From everyone here at Novitas Academy, we want to wish you all a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Like our Facebook page for a chance to win a copy of Dr. Carol Dweck's book Mindset!!

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