

# Sesquicentennial Times



*Los Nietos School District Celebrating a "Rich Past and Promising Future"*

## Aeolian School Celebrates Successful First Sesquicentennial Event!

Dear Los Nietos Parents/Community,  
Established in 1861, the Los Nietos School District is proudly celebrating its Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary this year. In an effort to showcase each of the four schools in the Los Nietos School District, events have been planned at each site this year.

On November 5, 2010, Aeolian School's Parents and Staff opened their doors and showcased their hospitality and school spirit as they hosted the first Los Nietos School District Sesquicentennial event. Principal Amber Lee Ruiz and Parent Teacher Club (PTC) President Cindy Waugh worked collaboratively with Aeolian's staff and parents to host an amazing event.

Preparing for a maximum of 1000 attendee's, Aeolian School easily exceeded that number making the event the largest attended event in recent history.

To the delight of Aeolian's P.T.C. and staff, Aeolian's carnival made \$3,400.00 for the students in their school. To see other pictures of the event please go to the District website and look under the News and Announcement Section:

<http://www.losnietos.k12.ca.us>



Volume 1, Edition 2

January 20, 2011

### *Los Nietos Facts*

*(continued from Volume 1, Edition 1)*

- By 1834 the settlement of Old Los Nietos is reported to have 200 inhabitants.
- In 1843 Dona Jose Cota, Manuel Nieto's widow, sells the 17, 600 acre Santa Gertrudes Rancho that contained the town of Los Nietos to Lemuel Carpenter for \$4,000.00.
- In 1859 the Santa Gertrudes Rancho was sold to the Governor of California, John Downey and his partner J.P. McFarland.
- In 1861 the Los Nietos School District is established, at that time the second oldest school district in California. The two-room single-story adobe school was originally located at 9100 South Norwalk Boulevard.
- Continued in Edition 3

# Who Was Ada S. Nelson?

Located in the Los Nietos School District archives are detailed school board agendas and minutes that date back to 1949. Additionally there are hand-written school board records that date back to 1917. It is within the hand-written minutes of 1917, that the name Ada S. Nelson first appears.

Ada Shuman Nelson was originally a teacher at the original Los Nietos School. By 1926 she is listed in the Board minutes as the principal of the Los Nietos School, and was acting as the Secretary of the Los Nietos School Board. As the only school administrator in the district she served as principal of Los Nietos School until 1933. In 1933 she was made by all accounts the first Superintendent of the Los Nietos School District.

From 1933-1956 Ada Shuman Nelson served as the Superintendent of the Los Nietos School District. Her 23-year tenure as Superintendent of the Los Nietos School District is the longest of any Los Nietos Superintendent.

Superintendent Nelson oversaw the purchase of the land, and construction of Ada S. Nelson, Rancho Santa Gertrudes, and Wallace S. Wiggins Schools. Mrs. Nelson's tenure in the district provided stability and consistency in a district that went from a one school district (the K-8 Los Nietos School), to the creation of a four-school district (Aeolian School was built after she retired in 1956).

At the November 24, 1950 Los Nietos School Board meeting, the Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to call their second school the Ada S. Nelson School.



## Ada S. Nelson Construction

In 1949, the architectural plans for the second school in the Los Nietos School District were officially approved. The school which would be called Ada S. Nelson School took less than three years to build. The picture to the right is Superintendent Nelson, members of the Los Nietos School Board, and District Office Staff at Nelson School's dedication. Pictured to the left of Superintendent Nelson is School Board President Wallace S. Wiggins (the namesake for the Wallace S. Wiggins School). Pictured to the right of Superintendent Nelson is Mrs. Mary Crayan, who was the first principal of Ada S. Nelson School. Lastly, in the front row far left is Kenneth Walton who became the Superintendent on July 1, 1956 upon Mrs. Nelson's retirement.



## Nelson School Hosts Second Sesquicentennial Event on January 22, 2011!

On January 22, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Ada S. Nelson School will be hosting the second Los Nietos School District Sesquicentennial event. Principal, Marla Duncan, is excited to showcase her school and demonstrate to the parents of Aeolian, Rancho, and Los Nietos Middle School the Nelson Tiger Pride that her students and staff feel on a daily basis.

Mrs. Duncan along with her staff is preparing for a large turn-out on the 22nd, and although raising funds for her school is a priority it is not the only motivation for making the event a success. "I wanted to have this event be a community event for Los Nietos", she said. To that end some of the booths Mrs. Duncan will have

available for the community are local businesses, the fire department, and free parent education class information from Bright Health Physicians at Presbyterian Hospital.

Mrs. Duncan is entering her fourth year as principal of Nelson School. Under her leadership the school has increased the school's Academic Performance Index (API) each year as well as winning gold and silver medals at the county science Olympiad, and winning gold medals at the county math field day. Last year, Nelson's fifth grade students placed first overall out of more than 20 elementary schools at the county math field day.



**Marla Duncan, Principal**

## Feed the Family Program a Huge Success During Holiday Season

The Los Nietos School Board would like to thank the staff, parents, and students who helped make the "Feed the Family Program" a huge success during the Winter Break. Showing what can happen when all four schools work collaboratively together, the Los Nietos community was able to collect enough canned food to provide for more than 125 families during the Winter break. Working together with the Los Nietos District community, the South East Los

Angeles County Educational Foundation (SELAC), and the offices of Los Angeles County Supervisors Don Knabe and Gloria Molina, bags of food were distributed to Los Nietos families on December 18, 2010. The Whittier Daily News highlighted the event on their front page. You can read the article at the District website:

<http://www.losnietos.k12.ca.us>



## Rediscover the Los Nietos Middle School

The Los Nietos Middle School was once called simply Los Nietos School in the early 1900's when it was the only school in the district. As the oldest school in the District, there can be no greater gift to the Los Nietos community than to have its oldest school be the only middle school in Los Angeles County to exit out of Program Improvement last year. When other middle schools in the area struggled to make academic targets, Los Nietos Middle School was the only school in the immediate area to have made both its AYP and API targets last year.

Additionally, the school has so many electives, activities, and enrichment programs to offer their 7th and 8th grade students that a new Los Nietos Middle School brochure was created to highlight the school properly. Principal, Jacqueline Cardenas, will be hosting an informational meeting for in-coming 7th grade parents on January 26 at 6:00 pm at the Los Nietos Middle School. Parents please feel free to download the LNMS brochure at the District and Los Nietos Middle School websites and see for yourself the changes that have made Los Nietos Middle School, "A Supportive Learning Community for Continuous Growth".



**Jacqueline Cardenas, Principal**

*Los Nietos School District  
Board of Trustees*

Nicholas Aquino  
President

Raymundo Chacon  
Vice-President

Marisa B. Hernandez  
Clerk

Art Escobedo  
Member

Silvia R. Monge  
Member

*Los Nietos School District  
Administration*

Jonathan Vasquez  
Superintendent

Dr. Mary Martinez McNeil  
Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

Douglas McMasters  
Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

.....

## 150th Anniversary Fundraising Priorities Identified

At the January 13, 2011 School Board Study Session, the Board of Trustees identified fundraising priorities for the 150th Anniversary. Trustees agreed that any money raised through District fundraising efforts should go to support the following endeavors: funding educational field trip opportunities for students, providing innovative grant opportunities for classroom teachers, providing visual/performing arts programs at the schools, and supporting additional book purchases for classroom and school libraries.

The Los Nietos Trustees are committed to providing quality educational

programs to its students. However, in the climate of massive State Budget deficits that now measure over 25 billion, providing additional innovative support to the students and classrooms has proven difficult.

This year the Los Nietos School District has explored ways to garner corporate sponsorships for its schools as a way to provide classrooms additional revenue. Currently plans are in place to meet with local businesses as well as with outside corporations to hopefully establish relationships that will benefit the schools and district long past our 150th Anniversary.

Additionally, the primary

fundraising tool for the 150th Anniversary will focus on the selling of engraved brick pavers with the District's logo, individual's name, and another line of text (for example: Teacher, School Name, Year Attended). Below is a sample of what the fundraising paver would look like.



Ada S. Nelson  
Superintendent  
1933-1956

.....

## Be A Part of Los Nietos History on our 150th Anniversary

As mentioned above, the Los Nietos School District as a fundraiser for extra student/teacher projects will be selling engraved paver bricks to commemorate the District's 150th Anniversary. The paver bricks will come in two sizes a 4"x8" size for \$75.00 and a 8"x 8" size for \$150.00. All money raised will go to help support the priorities that were identified at the January 13, 2011 School Board Study Session.

This summer as part of the Bond renovation process Aeolian School and the Los Nietos District Office will be undergoing underground infrastructure renovation (sewage pipes and electrical). Additionally the District Office will be putting in a new wheelchair accessible ramp in the front of the office in order to be ADA compliant. As the District Office will be under construction it was recommended that the "Alumni Paver Walk-Way" be located and built at the District Office for everyone to see.

the paver walk-way will be able to be set at no additional cost. Interest forms will be available at Nelson's Sesquicentennial event on January 22nd, and will be available on the new Los Nietos Sesquicentennial website that will be launching shortly.

A picture of what the walk-way would look like is shown below.

