

## **Nea Lead Facilitator Report** ***December***

Jana Chabre and Matthew Wienclawski



Compassion

We use compassion to...

- Develop and apply keen awareness of the interdependence of all things
- Exercise leadership and work with diversity
- Help others learn
- Give back to the community and recognize the needs of others

### **Pluses(+)**

1. Expo Night
2. Info Nights
3. New UV Staff

### **Challenges Inspiring Changes (Deltas: $\Delta$ )**

1. Office Hour's Attendance

### **Executive Summary**

1. Expo Night
2. Info Night
3. New Staff

## 1. Expo Night -

A huge thank you to Dept. Leads, Nik Ratzlaff and Cliff Rawls for their organization, leadership, and creativity on EXPO NIGHT! A great turnout, we had approximately 300 parents and learners walked through the UV doors that evening. We demonstrated how exceptional the UV program is and how the facilitators genuinely make the difference at Nea. Learner and parent feedback was very positive from both UV and LV. Over 20 projects in the UV allowed LV parents and learners the opportunity to see what Nea's middle and high school has to offer. Guests were entertained in the tree and UV classrooms throughout the evening. The learner passport system worked to ensure pupils were participating and built interest with the LV learners and families. Nea gear, gift cards, and a donated Chromebook were raffled off to one lucky learner! A night to build out next year to concentrate our retainment efforts on 5th and 8th-grade learners.

## 2. Information Nights -

Enrollment windows are open for LV and UV. Nea is currently holding information sessions to continue positive enrollment trends in our programs. Information nights conducted after school hours allow parents and prospective learners to review many aspects of Nea's program while engaging in a Q&A session afterward. All attendees are encouraged to visit campus for a tour to see the site in action. A very well attended first session took place for LV and UV already. A great deal of interest is coming from families and learners outside of Alameda. Efforts are underway to identify how parents and learners hear about Nea to better gather strategic marketing data.

## 3. New Staff

Heidi Rickard - MS History

Heidi Rickard was raised in Colorado and moved to the bay area a few years ago to follow her childhood dream of living in California. She received her BA in History from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and she has been an educator for more than 15 years. Heidi has taught middle school, high school, and worked at a charter school supporting youth at Job Corps to finish their high school diploma. Heidi is passionate about global issues, and she has done extensive work with prevention and awareness efforts around HIV/ AIDS as well as traveling to speak about genocide prevention. In her free time, she loves being by the water, scuba diving, exploring different cultures, watching documentary films, and having a good conversation. She is known for her creative and out of the box teaching practice, inspiring young people to become leaders and thinkers, and building a strong sense of community in her classroom. She believes in challenging students to lean into their unique talents and abilities while building positive relationships with her students. She lives from a place of authenticity, and



she encourages learners to be open and honest. Heidi is excited to become a part of the dynamic Nea family as a Social Studies Facilitator for the Upper Village, and she invites you to come by, grab a cup of tea, and share a bit of conversation! Consider Ms. R's door always open and ready for inspiring change!

Ashley Blackshore - MS Science & Intervention

Hello! My name is Ashley Blackshore and it will be my pleasure to teach 6th-grade science this year at Nea Community Learning Center's Upper Village.

I'd like to tell you a little about myself and what I bring to Nea. I attended and graduated from California State University, Chico with my B.A. and I loved it so much I stuck around to earn my teaching credential as well. I have been a middle school educator for the past fourteen years and have loved it. I really enjoy building a rapport with my students and empowering them to push beyond what they feel they are capable of. I live for those "a-ha" and "yes!" moments! I feel very fortunate to be a part of the Nea community this year. When I am not teaching I enjoy working out, hiking, biking, backpacking and playing ultimate frisbee. This past summer I played on a bay area mixed master's team, Bridge Club, that earned bronze at the Mixed Master's World Club Championships. It was so amazing to represent the USA and California at the world tournament.