



Holiday Greetings from Napa Valley Kids Connect

This is our favorite time of year when we get to witness the colors changing all around us. It is a time to reflect upon all for which we have to be thankful. John and I are so very appreciative for all the love and support we received this year. The **Jane Ferons Fund** continues to grow as we coordinate with the Napa County Office of Education (NCOE) to build the Assistive Technology Lending Library (ATLL) and the services they provide. Thank you for helping make this happen.

John & Mary Ferons

Napa Valley Kids Connect continues to support local children in need of communication, technology to make curriculum accessible, and to provide movement opportunities for children with physical disabilities. Please visit our website to apply for a conference scholarship, or to see how NVKC can help you: www.napavalleykidsconnect.org

Educating

● Kids Connect was again able to send a group of four local specialists, teachers and parents, to the annual Closing the Gap Conference in Oct. 2015. Closing the Gap provides information and training necessary to best locate, compare and implement assistive technology into the lives of persons with disabilities.

● This past spring, Kids Connect and the NCOE were pleased to bring Dr. Bruce Baker, the creator of the Minspeak language system, to NCOE along with Dr. Tracey Kovach, SLP, for a two day conference. Minspeak is the visual language system that was developed on the basis of using approximately 400 frequently used words of core vocabulary. Research has shown that these 400 core words, make up more than 75% of spoken language. With the Minspeak system, hundreds of words and sentences can be encoded with very few key-strokes.



Expanding Our Reach

NVKC is purchasing a tandem bike-wheelchair that will be housed in a public location and will be available to be used by the community. With the recent work on the vine trail, what better time than now to give individuals with disabilities the opportunity to bike in Napa Valley! This bike allows people to stop, while touring; the seat easily converts to a wheelchair, creating an opportunity to visit shops, restaurants or just taking a stroll along the way!



NVKC Ice Skating Day!

Napa on Ice has graciously opened up their rink free of charge to special needs children with motor challenges on Monday December 21, from 10-11:15. Ice Skating can be challenging for us all! Napa on Ice is giving children an opportunity to skate without a crowd. Wheelchairs and walkers are welcome! For questions please call Ashley at 483-6332 or email vinsearch@gmail.com

Appreciation

THANK YOU to our local businesses who continue to support us: UCPNB, NVUSD, NCOE, Napa Valley ATLL, Aaron Pott, Pott Wine, John and Michele Schulz, Schulz Cellars, Quixote Winery, Corley Family Wines & Napa Tax.

Thank YOU for supporting our efforts. Your donations really make a difference! Your continued support is greatly needed and appreciated. To find out how to help visit:

www.napavalleykidsconnect.org

**Wishing you the Happiest of Holidays
and
a Prosperous New Year!**

Ashley Derr, President
Mary Ferons, Vice President
Carri Mello, Treasurer
Marcy Bell-Ott, Secretary



All of the profits from the Lampyridae Vineyards Communication Block wine project are donated to Napa Valley Kids Connect. To find out more or to order our wine visit:
www.lampyridaevineyards.com