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Thursday, October 15, 2020

North County Racial and Social Justice PO Box 190 Nehalem, OR 97131

North County Racial & Social Justice,

The following Facebook entry implies Nehalem Elementary endorses your group's fundraising efforts selling yard signs & t-shirts for childhood hunger in our community:

We are fundraising for the Nehalem Elementary School Backpack Program.



- .The proceeds from yard sign sales and t-shirts will be going to the Manzanita Little Free Pantry and NES Backpack Program.
- .NES Backpack Program is a new volunteer-run organization that provides food for hungry children at times when other resources are not available, such as weekends and holidays. These resources will support the health, behavior and achievement of every student that participates. The success in programs like this can be seen in positive changes in student attendance, behaviors and grades.

Food for the NES Backpack Program is paid for by donations from local individuals, businesses and organizations like North County Racial & Social Justice.

- Over half of NES children are eligible for free or reduced priced meals. The objective of the NES Backpack Program is to fight childhood hunger in our community by filling the weekend food gap for children in need. \$20 provides food for 1 child for 1 month. \$40 provides food for 1 child for 2 months. \$200 provides food for 1 child for 1 school year.
- .To purchase Social Justice yard signs or North County RSJ t-shirts, Venmo @northcountyrsj-Erickson your donation amount (\$20-30 per item. In message note which yard sign you would like to purchase OR what size/style t-shirt you would like to purchase, name and local delivery address. Local no contact deliveries (Manzanita, Nehalem, Wheeler) available. Cash on delivery purchases can also be made. Please email northcountyrsj@gmail.com with any questions, to arrange cash on delivery sale or for postal delivery for t shirt sales out of the local area.
- .To donate directly to NES Backpack Program, please make checks payable to **Nehalem Elementary School Backpack Program** & send to P.O. Box 190, Nehalem, OR 97131

Your Facebook page also had photos favoring one political candidate over another candidate. This is not a problem; however, when it is associated with the name *Nehalem Elementary*, then it is a problem.

The Neah-Kah-Nie School District does not endorse political candidates or parties, for obvious reasons, we must remain neutral. We represent the entire community, not one side. The school district cannot allow association to one particular political party with the name of one of our schools.

The Neah-Kah-Nie School District commends any group that addresses childhood hunger and equity for all students. Many community groups: Mudd Nick Foundation, Eugene Schmuck Foundation, Methodist Church, First Student, Twin Rocks, Rockaway Beach Lions Club, etc., worked tirelessly this summer to provide breakfast and lunches to hundreds of students. It is obvious, childhood hunger exists in our community.

Neah-Kah-Nie School District does not give you, or any organization, permission to use the name *Nehalem Elementary* as a marketing ploy to entice consumers. I urge you to remove *Nehalem Elementary* from your marketing.

Neah-Kah-Nie School District will not accept donated funds from North County Racial and Social Justice raised using the name *Nehalem Elementary*.

We are all committed to ensure every child has enough to eat. Using the name of a public school as a marketing tool is not the way to accomplish this.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me.

Be safe

Paul Erlebach, Superintendent Neah-Kah-Nie School District

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