



The HOWL

*Grace Valley Charter
An EL Education Mentor
School*

10/14/18



“We are Crew, Not Passengers.”

We Are The Champions!



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My friend, boom ba boom ... And by we, I mean the Girls Basketball Team!!

The Lady Coyotes Basketball team showed incredible grit and determination all season, and it paid off in a big way! For the first time in our 20 years, the girls not only participated in the Small Schools tournament at NU, but they brought home the trophy!

Congratulations to Maddie, Allison, Liliana, Jayden, Chase, Jasmine, Talia and Katie for not only winning the championship, but for really learning the EL design principle of Collaboration & Competition. It is pretty awesome that this team of ladies who represent 5th – 8th grade here at Charter came together game after game to come out on top!

Huge kudos and gratitude go out to Coaches Russ, Koppa and Amy! Not only did you lead them to victory, you also taught them so many life lessons about working together as a crew!

Go Coyotes!!!

Bond, Playground Bond – Wait, What?

We have an amazing play structure for our kids at Grass Valley Charter and for the kids in our community. It's not only amazing because of its size, unique features, and variety of age appeal; **it's amazing because it was built by the community, for the community.** Before the days of red tape and DSA restrictions, communities could come together in a spirit of action and do amazing things for kids. Now, we live in a more litigious day where a structure's cost is exponentially increased in the name of safety. We're a school; we love safety! When it comes to playgrounds, safety can team up with the all mighty dollar and begin to hinder IMAGINATION and the spirit of JUST-GET-IT-DONE. This is a lesson we learned when we pledged some walkathon dollars to revamping some dilapidating structures of our amazing playground. We soon realized it wasn't thousand of dollars, or even tens of thousands of dollars, but much more than that would be needed. Thankfully, last spring, Measure D passed helping us to revamp, repair, and reimagine several aspects of our campus -- the playground being one of them!

We would like to recapture that same community spirit that built our original playground as we look to reimagine the playground for the next thirty years. This **Tuesday, at 6pm in the MPR**, Grass Valley School District Assistant Superintendent Brian Martinez will be hosting a community input meeting for the new play structure for our site. All you need to bring is your open mind, collaborative spirit, creativity, and spirit of CREW. Hope to see you there.

Fall Family Dance!

A resounding success! There were spottings of characters from Disney films of old – lots of amazing dwarves from Snow White! And many characters from Coco and beyond! Huge appreciation goes out to the Student Council (Tyler, Maddox, Faith, Anna, Mason, Aspen, Mario & Regan) and their families for helping to turn the MPR into the most magical place on earth (for a few hours at least!). Shout, shout, shout – out to DJ Lozano for his awesome skills on the wheels of steel!



Halloween...?

In the GVCS tradition, we will celebrate Halloween via a parade on the blacktop at 9:00 am. Parents are welcome to attend! Please support your student to follow school rules regarding appropriate costumes. That means different things in Elem & Middle School – but you get the idea! Please, no weapons as part of the costumes. Halloween is a minimum day this year, and there is no school for students the Nov 1st & 2nd.

Strong Academics + Character = Making the World a Better Place!

At GVCS, we talk a lot about how to be the best EL Education school, and we have done a pretty solid job of achieving this goal over the years. There are about 165 EL Education schools in the country, not only are we one of them, as a Credentialed and Mentor School, we are in the top 10% of these schools. But what does that mean?

In EL parlance it boils down to something called the “Dimensions of Student Achievement.” Which in essence means a commitment to rigorous academics, an exceptional focus on character education and professional high quality student work. But at GVCS, we like to take that a step further and apply that trifecta to making our world a better place. This is a tall order, but one that came together this past week!



As a culminating project from their fourth grade Bills and Gills Expedition, this year's fifth graders were honored with the strategic placement of student created signage at two different forks of Wolf Creek – one set by Sue Muir's students, at the Tinloy Street Bus Stop, and the other set, by Emma Samuels Ezzell's students (their teacher last year, this year these talented kids are taught by the amazing Lindsey Ward!), at the entrance to GVCS off of Colfax Ave.

The signs were the culmination of their Expedition, which dove into a study of watershed ecology, food chains and fostered the GVCS character trait of Stewardship in these students.

Over the course of the year student's raised Chinook Salmon, rafted the lower Yuba, created chalk art murals advocating for a healthy Wolf Creek watershed, met with experts from: Wolf Creek Community Alliance (Jonathan Keehn and Josie Crawford), the City of Grass Valley (Robin VanValkenburgh), Graphic Designer & Parent (Kathy Dotson)

and Interpretive Signage Specialist from CA State Parks (Denise Jaffke).

The authentic product at the culmination of these experiences, were to create signage to educate the public about the Wolf Creek Habitat, Food Chains, Life Cycle of Native Critters, and Human Impacts on Wolf Creek.

Students celebrated the unveiling of the signs on Wednesday by writing wishes for the creek on fabric ribbons.

And you know one of the best parts, as I was driving into work on Thursday morning, I saw a woman at the bus stop thoughtfully reading the signs. Go Crews 12 & 14!



Sports Updates!

Come out and support Girls Basketball

They won the championship!!!!

Wahoooo!

Cross Country!

**Had a great season! Nicely
done Coach Curry & team!**



Girls Volleyball: 10/22 – 12/14

**Sign Up Paperwork to be available
this week in the front office.**

**For more info, Contact Coach
Russ at russyokon@msn.com**

Boys Basketball: 12/17 - 2/22

Boys Volleyball: 2/25 - 4/26

Track: 4/8 – 5/24

Mountain Bike Club

**Riding Tuesdays from 3:00-
5:15pm. Members Only.**

Contact Mr. E with Qs

aezzell@gvsd.us

Got $x^5 + 3x^2 + 3 = 0$ Math?

Or does math have you – going...? Never fear! Jonah is here! Jonah is an 8th grader at GVCS who is enrolled in Algebra 1. As part of his 8th grade service project, he is raising money for the National Women's Law Center - by tutoring students in Math! He is excited to help students k-8, on Thursdays from 3:15-4:15pm in Conference Room B. Donation of \$5 per hour is requested. All students are welcome, but students must have an enrollment form completed and turned in ahead of time (enrollment form is attached and available in the front office). Reach out to Jonah (jonahcrussell@icloud.com) with questions.

Math Night = Best Date Ever?!

Does your kid's math have you flummoxed? Or are you looking to get more math into your life? Then you won't want to miss the 3rd annual GVCS Math Night on **Thursday, October 18th**. It will be held in the MPR from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. with pizza for sale from 5:30-6:00. There will also be baked goods for sale to support the 8th NY/DC trip.

Need A Little Help?

United Way and Interfaith Food Ministry will be hosting Food Access Saturday on the following dates: Nov 10th, Dec 8th, Jan 12th, Feb 9th

This is a wonderful resource for working families!

Dates! Be In The Know!

10/16 - Community Input on Playground Renovation

10/18 - GVCS Math Night!

10/22-26 - Fall Break

10/31 – Halloween, Minimum Day!

11/1 – 11/2 - No School For Students, Staff In-Service Day

11/20 – Thanksgiving, Minimum Day

11/21-11/23 – Thanksgiving Break, No School

An Expanded View of Student Achievement

At GVCS we have an expanded vision of student achievement. We believe that when a student graduates from our school, that they should be well on their way to becoming an effective and productive citizen, who not only envisions a better world, but possesses the tools to help create that world.

As students culminate their education, be it after college or vocational school, we know that their success is not solely dependent upon their test scores, but on the quality of their work and the quality of their character.

As such, at GVCS we consider student achievement to have three dimensions: Mastery of Academic Skills and Content, High – Quality Work, and Character.

We hope that you have found evidence of our commitment to these dimensions of student achievement in the previous pages.



Grass Valley Charter School

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Grass Valley , Ca95945

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Our Design Principles

The Primacy of Self – Discovery
The Having of Wonderful Ideas
The Responsibility for Learning
Empathy and Caring
Success and Failure
Collaboration and Competition
Diversity and Inclusion
The Natural World
Solitude and Reflection
Service and Compassion