



The HOWL

*Grass Valley Charter
An EL Education Mentor
School*



12/15/17

“We are crew, not passengers.”
– Kurt Hahn



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Bills and Gills

Fourth Grade enjoyed fantastic Fieldwork to Gray Lodge, where they met with Audubon Society experts. The experts took them on a hike out to an overlook, replete with numerous extraordinary bird observations, such as a Bittern, Red-Shouldered Hawk, and Great Blue Heron, to name a few. Students oohed and ahed as a hawk flew over thousands of birds at the outlook area, setting them all into motion in an instant. The experts also took them on a driving loop of Gray Lodge, further enriching and deepening fourth graders' understanding of bird habitats, adaptations, life cycles, and the relationship between humans, birds, and the environment.



Sixth Grade & their Older Buddies!

Tracey's crew has been making regular visits to the care home as a class wide service project. This is becoming a touching tradition and an especially poignant one around the holidays!

On their most recent visit, the residents and our 6th graders made awesome Christmas crafts together.

It was amazing and they even gave a ovation when the time to leave came too early!

The students always have so much to say when they leave the care home and it is amazing to see their character rise up when they are with their older buddies.

We are so proud of them! The residents just love them so much and we are so very thankful to the parents who helped us with that intricate crafting!

It was a morning full of joy and the students loved it!



Donation Day Parade & Spirit Day – Thursday, 12/21!

That is right! It is **Donation Day Parade** and an **Swanky Sweater Spirit Day at GVCS this Thursday!**

On the last day of school before Holiday Break!

Break out your ugly sweater, your swanky sweater, your fabulous frock – load up your arms with canned goods and other non-perishables to help those in need!

What has been a long held tradition among GVCS staff has now spread to our students! Not sure what a swanky sweater should look like? Here are some “exemplars?” from the past!

Show your school spirit and rock that swanky sweater!



Crew 24 Happenings!

Crew 24 is our parent crew at GVCS!

It is also a reference point for families to interact, organize, participate and contribute to further enrich our school community!

How?

Crew 24 hosts events & chats to educate, inform and collect feedback.

The November meeting was spectacular!

Learning more about the school district needs, and potential “GO” Bond from Mr. Martinez.

And! We learned how the computer lab is integrated with each grade's Expedition from Ms. Val!

If you are curious about joining future Crew 24 gathering contact Olivia Prichett at 530 470 3404 or via email at oprichett@gvsd.us or Cameron Herzog at 530 263 3261 or via email at cameron969@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

Sports Info!

Celebrating the wrap up of Boys Volleyball and their 3rd place finish in the division!



Happening Now!

Boys Basketball:

12/18 – 2/23

Coch Greg can be contacted for more info at bakercpa@gmail.com

Upcoming...

Girls Volleyball:

2/26 – 4/27

Track:

4/10 – 5/26

The Gift(s) that Keep on Giving!

Holiday & Online Shopping?
Raise Money for GVCS Too!

Hard to believe, the shopping season is almost upon us... This year, make it count for a good cause! OUR cause, it's not only easy – it's FREE to YOU!

Join **iGive** and **AmazonSmile** to help Grass Valley Charter School Foundation earn money this holiday season and all year long when you shop online.

Turn your online shopping and searching into free cash for our school. Try iGive's search engine - It's a simple, browser add-on that you download. It works with any computer and browser type. The iGive.com retailers like being good corporate citizens. When you shop at one of iGive's 1,000+ online partners, the iGive Buttons appears in the right corner of your browser telling the retailer you are an iGive member. A percentage of what you spend is donated to our cause (on average 3%) and **the store pays it all and you never pay more.**

Here's how to participate in iGive:

- Go to <https://www.iGive.com/GVCSFoundation>
- Enter your information and register for an account
- You will then be prompted to install the iGive Button
- Once installed, this little icon will appear on your browser the next time you are on a shopping partner's website.

Put your online shopping to good use: when you shop at AmazonSmile, The Amazon Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the GVCS Foundation at no cost to you! It's the same Amazon you know: same products, same prices, same service.

Here's how to participate in AmazonSmile:

- Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-1558111>
- Sign in to your Amazon account or create one
- Start your shopping and earning \$\$ for GVCSF!

Do You Remember When...

Your kiddo was 5 or 6 years old? Full of wonder, inquiry and energy! Do you ever miss sitting down with them one – on – one to help them, and them looking up at you with that expression of, “Whoa!” and watching their mind click!

You can get that feeling back!

Siobhan is looking for some classroom helpers for her Kindergarten Crew!

Crew 5 is fortunate to have hard-working families who see to their financial responsibilities during the day. We also have an energetic and curious crew of kids who need more small group or one-on-one learning support. Siobhan is looking for volunteers for literacy and math time (and other times, too)!

Literacy would be helping at a writing table or doing a phonics activity.

Math is more one-on-one time or general whole-class support.

You can email Siobhan at sboylan@gvsd.us for more info, or sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/crew5signup!>
Thank you, Crew!

The GVCS Foundation Focus!

Simply put, the parents behind the GVCS Foundation are amazing! Not only do they put on three amazing events a year, facilitate monthly meetings, engage stakeholders, and award funds that support GVCS being all around awesome! Including such remarkable features of our school such as the climbing wall, the science lab, the science garden, fieldwork camp kitchens / tents, hydration stations and more!

Now they are taking to the next level with a quarterly newsletter, “The GVCS Foundation Focus.”

You can get a sneak peak at the very first edition as an attachment to this edition of the HOWL!



Foundation Focus

Value Cards are IN!

Just in time for those “hard to buy for” folks on your gift list!

Official roll out of the Value Cards to our GVCS Families will take place during our Student Led Conferences in January!

However, we are offering these a bit early for the holidays! These do make great gifts – amazing local businesses offering year-long deals at a steal of a price – only \$20 and you save from January thru December!

This includes businesses such as: Caroline’s Coffee, Lefty’s Bar & Grill, Mountain Recreation, Miner Moe’s Pizza, Three Forks Bakery, the Nevada City Bike Shop and more!

Get yours this week from Cissy – any cards bought at this time WILL count toward the requested fundraising** minimum of two cards per family.

** Funds raised from Value Card sales go directly to support your child’s Fieldwork and Expedition expenses in the classroom.

Save the date! Blue Marble Jubilee on May 12th!

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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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