



The HOWL

*Grass Valley Charter
An EL Education Mentor
School*

12/8/17



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



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Ready, Set, Restore!

On December 1st, 2017, a group of Grass Valley Charter’s Fifth Grade Restoration Rangers did some fine stewardship work at Bridgeport, and next week they will continue their work at Bennett Street Meadow. Last year our students worked as 4th graders with volunteers from the Redbud Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and state biologist, Dan Lubin to gather cuttings and seeds from Bridgeport State Park and Bennett Street. They took them back to our Grass Valley Charter Science Garden and learned how to treat the cuttings so that they would form roots and grow into new plants. Through all of last school year, and through the fall this year, they continued to care for their cuttings and sprouts.

The efforts of our Restoration Rangers paid off with beautifully rooted bushes and clumping grass seeds. We had dozens of plants to take to our local state parks to plant this Fall, with cool names like: snowberry, skunkbush, chinese houses, and purple needlegrass . Students really enjoyed being stewards, noting that “native plants help the pollinators and all the other animals that live here”, “people will like seeing the flowers on our plants”, and “it’s really fun putting the plants we grew into the ground.”

Our Restoration Rangers plan to keep doing this work even when they are in 6th grade!



Sixth grade says, “No!” to Tobacco

Crew 18 is working hand-in-hand with Tobacco Project Director, Shannon Glaz, from the Nevada County Public Health Department.

We are learning all about the detrimental effects of tobacco on health and well-being. This week we met some amazing high school youth educators who talked about peer pressure and how tobacco companies are targeting youth with their flavored tobacco options that look an awful lot like candy!



After some very illuminating small-group initiatives we are feeling knowledgeable and inspired. We can't wait to learn more and conduct our own research that we will present to the Grass Valley City Council in the New Year!

We are out to change the way Nevada County advertises and features tobacco products in businesses throughout the county.

Middle School Dance This Friday!

It is time to put on your finery and boogie down! To quote Kai Meyer, an 8th grade student Council Member, “We need this dance! The 8th graders are stressed out with the Constitution Test.”

The dance is from **6-8pm at the GVCS MPR and all 6th – 8th graders** are invited, though must have a signed permission slip and \$3 to attend.

In a homage to hipsters, this is a non-theme dance, as the students “just want to dress up!”

Middle school students from other schools are welcome but must present a student ID, be a guest of a GVCS student, bring a signed permission slip and \$3.

Spirit Day – Thursday, 12/21!

That is right! It is Donation Day Parade and an **Ugly Sweater Spirit Day at GVCS!** On the last day of school before Holiday Break! Break out your ugly sweater, your swanky sweater, your fabulous frock and show your school spirit!

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.

Crew 24 Guest Speaker: Mr. Martinez!

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!

Crew 24 Next meeting is at a secret undisclosed location (Conference Room B at GVCS!) on Tuesday, December 12th from 3:15 – 4:15pm.

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

Sports Info!

Happening Now!

Boys Volleyball:

10/23 – 12/15

Contact Coach Gabe (530)

913 - 6965 or

Coach Shannon

(530) – 913 – 5979 for more information.

Cross Country:

10/23 -12/15

Contact Coach Regina for more information at rcurry@gvsd.us

Upcoming...

Boys Basketball:

12/18 – 2/23

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

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!

Drop! Cover! Hold On!

Even though GVCS missed the nationwide "Shakeout" earthquake drill, due to Fall Break, 6th graders did not despair!

Our 6th grade crews still trained the rest of the school in how to perform the "Drop, Cover and Hold On" drill, as well as taught them how to prepare their homes to lessen their chances of injury during an earthquake.

In alignment with our 6th grade science standards focusing on plate tectonics, students researched and presented the earthquake drill information and our whole school practiced the "Drop, Cover and Hold On" drill in our first annual "GVCS Shakeout."



Don't know how to perform the drill? Ask a 6th grader to share their brochure, "Don't freak out- Shakeout!"

If that were not enough, 6th graders assimilated information from the historical fiction novel, *Earthquake at Dawn* and presented some impressive projects ranging from video games to books, diaries to 3D models, skits to animations. They followed a complicated criteria list in order to show off everything they learned from reading the novel.



They are reaching the end of their Expedition focused on the earth's formation, volcanoes and earthquakes. The presentations were a super fun way to show off all they have learned over the past few months about fault lines, tectonic plates and Pangaea!

Way to go 6th grade!

Foundation Focus

We are so pleased that our 9th Annual Walk –A-Thon was a successful and fun day for all!

Great job collecting sponsors! Now it is time to collect the money and turn in those sheets!

A reminder that last Friday, December 8th, was the deadline to turn in all Walk A Thon pledge sheets in order to qualify for prizes!

But it is not too late to still turn in pledges! Please do so asap, so that we can close the books on another great event!

As we await the final tally on our dollars raised from our biggest fundraiser, your Foundation Board is getting to work on the details of how this will support the Science Lab and Garden.

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

The planning committees for the Blue Marble Jubilee will begin meeting in the New Year!

Email the Foundation if you would like to pitch in!

foundation@grassvalleycharter.org

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

225 South Auburn Street
Grass Valley , Ca95945

www.grassvalleycharter.org



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