



The HOWL

*Grass Valley Charter
An EL Education Mentor
School*

1/19/18



“We are Crew, Not Passengers.”



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Rocket Man!

Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) teacher, Larry has been taking learning to new heights with the majority of our elementary classes in their study of rockets!

Students learned about physics, flight, and design thinking as they crafted their rockets out of basic classroom supplies such as paper and tape. Students collaborated with their crew to create the lightest, fastest rockets possible, pausing to consider aerodynamics, symmetry, and physics in their designs.

The project culminated with crews heading out to the field to test their rockets, using compressed air to launch them into the stratosphere (well, not yet)!

Students cheered one another on, measured the distance of their rocket's flight, and marveled at which designs were strongest. Working hypothesis were made and tested, revisions to designs abounded and perhaps a few astronauts were born!



Student Led Conferences!

Student Led Conferences (SLC) will be occurring from 1/22 – 1/26, which means that there will be **minimum days all this week. Please arrange to pick up your child by 12:30 Monday – Friday.**

SLCs are one of my favorite traditions here at GVCS. They are designed to support our students engagement in their own learning by presenting their growth from this past semester to the most authentic audience – you, their parents!

Homeroom teachers are organizing sign ups for conferences, so if you do not have a time yet, please check in with your teacher.

No Name Calling Week

This past week marked the inaugural year of GVCS's participation in the national "No Name-Calling" week campaign. All around the country, schools focused on helping children end name-calling and bullying in schools. This week is organized beautifully following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, where we focus on his leadership with regards to kindness and justice, and how we can help create a more kind, beautiful, just world.

In class, students articulated their values regarding conduct towards others and collaborated to create crew norms with a "code of ethics."

Aiming at a crew approach to end name calling, classes dug into what it means to be an "upstander" as opposed to a "bystander" when someone is being treated unfairly or unkindly.

Thank you for supporting this work at home by chatting with your child about their values regarding conduct towards others, alternative ways to express their feelings when they are feeling tempted or pressured to name-call, and what it means to have empathy for those who experience name-calling.



And of course, the end of no name calling week does not mean the beginning of name calling next week!

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.

Past meetings have been spectacular!

And have included 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!



Happening Now!

Boys Basketball:

12/18 – 2/23

Come watch the next game! This Monday at 4 pm, at Chicago Park! It is GVCS vs Nevada City School for the Arts.

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

Upcoming...

Girls Volleyball:

2/26 – 4/27

Track:

4/10 – 5/26

XC Pictures & Posters!

So we knew that the GVCS XC team was kind of a big deal, but now you can put evidence of that up on your wall with these **AMAZING** photos!

Order forms are available at Coach Regina's office!

Sixth Grade & Service!

Our 6th Grade crews both dove into service projects this past week, seeking to make a difference in our local community.

Crew 18 ventured out into the community Friday for our anti-tobacco service project. We photographed the results of tobacco use on our community (litter) as well as evidence of targeting

youth in stores. Next week we will go through our photos and start putting together proposals to take to city hall!

Crew 20 spread some cheer at Brunswick Village Assisted Living on Friday. Students were reunited with their buddies after the holiday, spending a morning visiting, playing bingo and winning some fun prizes. We were happy to meet the new Vibrant Living Coordinator, Kristen, who will be working with Crew 20 to make this awesome connection happen each month. Crew 20 loves its buddies!



Winter Formal – February 9th!

The Middle School Winter Formal will be Friday, February 9th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Gold Miner's Inn ballroom in Grass Valley. The theme is a Winter Wonderland, so dust off your glitter, glam and be ready for good times! Permission slips are required and will be available from homeroom teachers and in the front office. Cost is \$5 per student.

Students from schools other than GVCS are welcome, but must be a guest of a GVCS student, have a signed permission slip, have a school ID and pay the \$5 fee.

Time to Get that Blue Marble Rollin'!

Saturday May 12, 2018!

A colorful, village-style festival for families and all ages!

Featuring: Entertainment & live music, Food & Refreshments, Village Booths, Kid Art Sale, an Activities Green and more!

Do you have great ideas for the Festival? Activities you want to see on the Green, know of a vendor for our Merchandise Village? Or maybe you want to hear about the many ways you can pitch in and the planning committees where you can help.

Planning for this 2nd annual fundraiser is about to begin! **Join us for a brief, 45 min meeting:**

Wednesday, January 24th from 6:45p – 7:30p in the Staff Room

Kids Welcome, please bring items to keep them busy. If you can't attend but want to help, please email to info@bluemarblejubilee.org

Kindergartner Volunteers Sought

Siobhan is looking for some classroom helpers for her Kindergarten Crew! This energetic and curious crew of kids need more small group or one-on-one learning support. If you are interested in volunteering with literacy or math please email Siobhan at sboylan@gvsd.us for more info.

Crosbie Needs YOUR Help!

Crosbie is looking for a few volunteers to help with the following projects!

1) Help in constructing a woven branch fence for our new native plant garden. If you have interest in helping or a large amount of long and bendy branches to donate please contact him.

2) Seeking an experienced cement contractor to help build our Yuba Watershed Scale Model in the Science Garden.

3) Got a big truck? If so, Crosbie has a deal for you! Help him pick up construction materials from Home Depot in Auburn, and he will chat with you about gardening for hours!

Crosbie can be reached at awalsh@gvsd.us

Foundation Focus

The 2018 Value Cards have arrived!

That's right! Our 2nd fundraiser of the year is underway! These cards are an excellent value, on top of raising much needed funds for GVCS to implement EL Education, the Value Card offers discounts at many of your favorite local businesses each and every time you use it!

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!

It's a win – win! At just \$20, the amount you will save over the year, (cards are valid through December 2018), is much more than the cost.

We ask every Charter family to sell a minimum of two cards, which will be sent home with your youngest child at Student Led Conference.

The crew that sells the most will get a special class party! Thank you for your support of GVCS!

For questions or additional info, please contact Meagan at mlittlejohn@gvsd.us

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

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