



The HOWL

*Grass Valley Charter
An EL Education Mentor
School*

9/1/17



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



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Fifth Grade Shows Grit!

What does it take for 22 students to climb a mountain: perseverance, endurance, and CREW! All of that was in evidence last week, along with a powerful spirit of adventure, as intrepid 5th graders, along with two teachers, ten parents, one adventure volunteer, and our amazing adventure guide Beth climbed to the top of the Sierra Buttes. The Sierra Buttes lookout tower sits at 8,750 feet above most of northern California. It's a challenging hike to get there, and when you do, you face the even bigger challenge of four flights of stairs that span the chasms with alarming views right under your feet. Grass Valley Charter students showed so much Crew as they encouraged each other on the long grueling trail. And they demonstrated amazing grit and courage going up those stairs, where Beth made our adventure safe and fun. You really do feel like you are on top of the world when you get there, as you can see from the grins on our students' faces. Way to go Maggie and Merry's Crew!



Into the Woods and Out of the Woods!



Last week Crew 17 went on a four day backpacking trip to the Grouse Ridge/ Glacier Lake area. The kids spent the previous week preparing their food and gear, and learning vital skills such as setting up a tent in case of inclement weather, and using cook stoves without igniting the forest.

The trip started out well, with a five mile hike into Glacier Lake, where most students waded enthusiastically ankle-deep in the icy water. We spent two nights there, doing orienteering exercises on Tuesday.

The next day (Wednesday) we packed up and made the hike to Island Lake, where we climbed Fall Creek Mountain for sunset. Following dinner in the dark, most students fell in to a deep and enduring sleep, until I woke them up ruthlessly and without mercy for the march back to the cars.

This trip was special for me because my crew came together and carried all my belongings, demonstrating tremendous Crew!

In addition, the parents who chaperoned and drove deserve the greatest thanks, as trips would not happen without them. Thanks!



Sports Schedule!

You asked for it! So here it is, one place with all the sports info!

Information for the year is below, detailed info (practices, coaches, etc) will be added throughout the year.

All coaches do handout paperwork in all eligible grades / classrooms a week before practice. Additional copies of paperwork can be found with Heidi or Mr. E.

8/28 – 10/12: Girls Basketball with practices M-Th from 6:00 – 8:00pm at the Scotten Gym. Grades 6th – 8th Coach Russ can be reached at russyokon@msn.com

First Game: 9/6 at Mount Saint Mary's 6pm

MTB Club Fall Season

9/12 – 10/27

Cross Country: 10/23 -12/15

Boys Volleyball: 10/23 – 12/15

Boys Basketball: 12/18 – 2/23

Girls Volleyball: 2/26 – 4/27

Track: 4/10 – 5/26

Charter Alive!

After School Enrichment Classes

www.CharterAlive.com



Bringing enrichment programs to the school is a win-win for the school, students, and parents. School site programming increases access to enrichment programs, reduces costs, and programs operate as part of the school community. Have a child already enrolled in CASE? Not a problem. We partner with the instructors to bring your child to CASE after the class is done.

This fall classes include:

- Art with The Artist Workshop
- Dance with Laura Bishop
- Kuk Sool with Lila Reyna
- Theatre with Paulette Gilbert
- And for our youngest of students - Turtle Tots Kuk Sool!

Charter Alive is sponsored by the Grass Valley Charter School (GVCS) Foundation. The classes are coordinated by parent volunteers in coordination with the school administration, GVCS Foundation, and the CASE Program Director. All proceeds fund the instruction of the classes and support Foundation programs and capital projects that benefit our students and school.

Classes begin the week of September 18. A registration form is attached. You can fill it out and drop it off at CASE **or** you can save time and register on-line at www.CharterAlive.com. No need to pay now. You will be invoiced when class starts.

Please see attachment to this edition of the HOWL for complete class offering.

Watch Out Walt Whitman & Billy Collins!

Having found inspiration and a sense of wonder, Cynthia's 5th graders have been putting pen to paper trying their hand at poetry.

From the eclipse, to the GVCS garden, where might their next muse be found?

Below are two Pantoums, a Malaysian verse form featuring repeating lines within a frame of three groupings of four lines each.

Untitled

*The summer wind whistles
As the sky fills with clouds and darkness
Millions of crescent shaped shadows hide
under the trees
Fish swim in swarms frenetically*

*As the sky fills with clouds and darkness
Chickens race to the shade compactly
Fish swim in swarms frenetically
As the moon steals the sun's spotlight*

*Chickens race to the shade compactly
Millions of crescent shaped shadows hide
under the trees
As the moon steals the sun's spotlight
The summer wind whistles*

Gibson, 5th Grade

The Pond

*Tadpoles clustering on the slimy bottom
Goldfish huddle in the center
Ripples dancing on the water
Lily pads floating on the surface*



*Goldfish huddle in the center
Bees buzzing all around
Lily pads floating on the surface
Breezes sweeping through, cooling the
warm air*

*Bees buzzing all around
Ripples dancing on the water
Breezes sweeping through, cooling the
warm air
Tadpoles clustering on the slimy bottom*

Ellie, 5th Grade

Back to School Night!!!

Please join us on Thursday, September 7th for Back to School Night! Come meet your child's teacher(s), visit their classroom and learn how you can be involved!

5:00 – 5:30 Pre K

5:30 – 6:15 K-3

6:15 – 6:45 Whole School Gather in MPR

6:45 – 7:30 4th – 8th grade

Childcare is available (5:15-7:45) in room 28 at a cost of \$5 per child. RSVP with Laurie (lbeauvais@gvcsd.us)

Girls Basketball Co-Coach Needed

If you are interested in co-coaching the Girls Basketball season (8/28-10/12) with Coach Russ please email Mr. E at aezell@gvcsd.us
Practices are Monday – Thursday from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

Mountain Bike Club

I want to ride my bicycle, I want to ride my bike...

The Fall season of the MTB Club is on the horizon, 9/12 – 10/27. Informational meeting Sept 7th from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Staff Room.

Coaches presented in rooms last week and sign up materials will be available by Sept 7th

Contact Mr. E for more info aezell@gvcsd.us

Get by with a little help from my friends!

Not just a good idea from the Beatles, but part of the Crew mentality here at GVCS!

We have some amazing supports here at GVCS including a 6-week Nurtured Heart parenting class taught by our very own counselor, Regina Curry!

The Nurtured Heart approach involves noticing kids' strengths and validating their skills. This approach is highly effective both at home and in the classroom, as it has a proven impact on all children, including those who are challenged socially, emotionally and academically.

The six-week session is offered from 9/19 – 11/7 (no meetings 10/17 & 10/31) from 5:30-7:30pm in the GVCS Staff Room. The cost is \$20.

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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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