



# The HOWL

Grace Valley Charter  
An EL Education Mentor  
School

9/24/18



“We are Crew, Not Passengers.”

## 10 Years Of Walk A Thon!

It may be that we are just fast walkers, or that time flies when you are having fun – and doing good! But this year makes the 10<sup>th</sup> year of Walk-a-thon fundraising for GVCS! As we get ready for the October 5<sup>th</sup> Walk-a-thon date by collecting pledges, it only seems appropriate to reflect on the positive impact on our school, community and student experiences born out of the past Walk-a-thons.

In the coming pages you will see how your support has created amazing opportunities for students and hopefully, encourage you to get those pledges rolling in for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Walk-a-thon, taking place on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>!

The link to Pledge Star can be found here:

<https://pledgestar.com/gvcs>

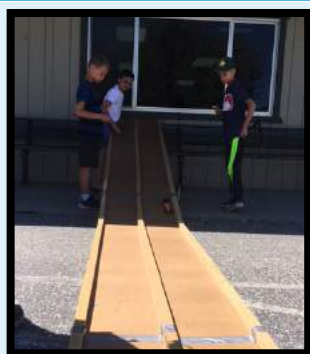
Or you can sign up to be part of the magic as a volunteer

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2428516/false#/invitation>



Thank you in advance for your continued outstanding support of GVCS! We could not do it without you!

Now strap on those walking shoes and peruse our past successes!



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## You Get A Science Lab, You Get a Science Lab, You Get... It!

For more years than I like to admit, GVCS got by without a Science Lab. We took to the field and did field science – and it was amazing! But with your support, we have been able to take it to the next level with a dedicated Science Lab. It is a space that has become familiar to our K-5<sup>th</sup> grade



students exploring STEM, our Middle School students learning robotics, and hosts visiting experts like retired Chemistry Teacher, Gary Larsen (featured just a few weeks back).



If you want to see inquiry and the having of wonderful ideas in action – then this is the place to be. Not sure? Check it out for yourself in these few pictures from the past years.

## Technology Upgrades!

Keeping up with the pace of technology in a public school is a challenge, and thanks to your support over the years, not only have we kept up – we have been a leader in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade access to appropriate tech use in the classroom with the following resources:

- Purchased new computers for the Lab
- Redistributed former Lab technology to K-5 classrooms
- Purchased Apple TVs in every classroom
- Refurbished Mac Books for 4-5 classrooms
- Purchased 1:1 Chromebooks for 4-5 classrooms
- Purchased cloud printers for 4-5 classrooms



Thank you for supporting us to deliver on our promise of preparing your children for college and careers, which increasingly require fluency in technology.

## Sometimes You Need To Climb The Walls! And At Charter, We Got the Wall for You...

Grass Valley Charter is rightfully known for a lot of things within our national network, and our adventure based character program is one of those things! Every year hundreds of students gain insight into



otherwise ethereal traits like perseverance and courage via the tangible challenge of rock climbing. When the climbing

program started, we spent a good deal of time and money transporting our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to the climbing



gym in Auburn, then to Sacramento. Then one day, it occurred to us, we could save time and money – and offer even more opportunities to students if we built our own climbing



wall. So we did, with tremendous community support in the form of volunteer expertise and dollars raised at the Walk-a-thon. Financially speaking, the wall has



saved us more money that it cost to build based upon student hours on the wall, which includes 48 second graders, 48 sixth graders climbing countless times throughout the school year – as well as a middle school elective that gets another 100 sixth – 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the wall Monday

thru Thursday. All of that being said, given the lessons of compassion and crew learned on the wall, the true cost is priceless...



## **Sports Updates!**

### **Come out and support Girls Basketball**

9/25 Forest Lake 4:00

10/3 Mount Saint M 4:00

10/4 Lyman Gilmore 4:00

Coach Russ at

[russyokon@msn.com](mailto:russyokon@msn.com)

### **Come out and support Cross Country!**

Their upcoming meets:

9/27 Seven Hills 4pm

10/3 Empire Mine 3:30pm for  
5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade only

10/10 Ready Springs 4:00pm  
for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Coach Curry at

[rcurry@gvsd.us](mailto:rcurry@gvsd.us)

**Girls Volleyball: 10/22 – 12/14**

**Boys Basketball: 12/17 - 2/22**

**Boys Volleyball: 2/25 - 4/26**

**Track: 4/8 – 5/24**

### **Mountain Bike Club**

First Ride 9/25

That is this week!

Contact Mr. E with Qs

[aezzell@gvsd.us](mailto:aezzell@gvsd.us)

## **Have You Seen the Garden Lately?**

This is a perennial question that one should ask themselves, because there is ALWAYS something new and incredible happening in the garden under the watchful eye and brilliant mind of Crosbie!

Crosbie always has something up his sleeve, and with the backing of the GVCS Foundation & past Walk-a-thons, his dreams become reality and benefit all students at GVCS.



Just a few of the items supported by past Walk-a-thons include:

- Pond
- Green House
- Gem Wall
- Erosion Table
- Shade Structure
- Scale Model of Yuba Watershed (still in progress)



If for one cannot wait to see what the next amazing educational experience students will have in the garden with your support via the Walk-a-thon!

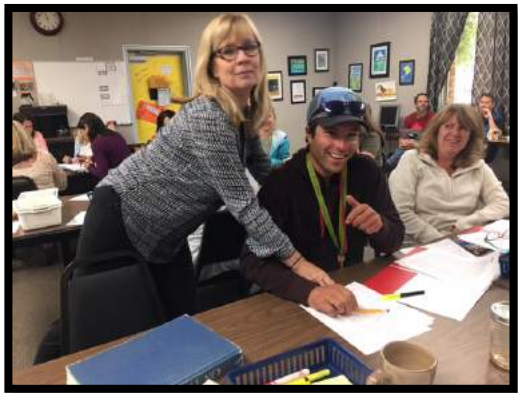
Thank you for your support over the years!



## High Quality Work Demands High Quality Spaces!

Ever wonder about that beautiful mural when you walk in to the front of the school every morning? Have you ever thought about the way it displays stunning student work right there in the entry way to our school? Yep, you guessed it! Walk-a-thon funds helped bring this project to fruition!

How about all those Friday afternoons when your kiddos get out of school at 12:30? What are the teachers doing? They are hard at work designing amazing learning experiences for students and building their toolkits as amazing educators!



While sometimes they are out in the field to do this work, they are often in the staffroom, hunkered down doing heady work.

Walk-a-thon funds have helped make this space a little more welcoming and productive! What better investment in your child's experience, than investing in teachers!



## But Wait... There is More!

There are so many other ways that your generosity has supported amazing opportunities at GVCS, here are just a few more accomplishments, thanks to Walk-a-thon Funds.

- Supplied new Sound system for MPR
- Remolded and outfitted a new Library at the Bell Hill Campus
- Fieldwork Kitchen Kits and Tents

Support of Fitness Wellness via: 3 Hallway Hydration Stations, Sink filtration units in every classroom, Playground Equipment Shed & Fitness equipment.

Support of Playground Improvements via: Raised basketball hoops, New nets for basketball hoops, Replaced all swing seats and chains & Purchased new slide

## Soooo, What is Next?

Curious about what we have our sights set on for this next Walk-a-thon? Take a peek at the attachments to this edition of the HOWL for more info on the fundraising focus, as well as copies of those pledge sheets to get filled up before the next Walk-a-thon on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>!

## Dates! Be In The Know!

**9/26 – CREW 24 Parent Community Meeting, 3:15pm in the Staffroom. Light refreshments and free childcare! Please RSVP to [opritchett@gvcsd.us](mailto:opritchett@gvcsd.us) by 9/25/18**

**10/5 - Walk A Thon**

**10/12 - Fall Family Dance**

**10/18 - GVCS Math Night!**

**10/22-26 - Fall Break**

## 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](http://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