



The HOWL

*Grass Valley Charter
An EL Education Mentor
School*

1/27/20



“We are Crew, Not Passengers.”



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Fostering Stewardship

Over the course of this past week 48 Fourth Graders released around 50 juvenile Chinook Salmon Fry into their natal river, after having cared for them the past several months.

As a culmination of their Bills and Gills Expedition, where students learned about healthy riparian ecosystems in class and on fieldwork – including rafting the lower Yuba to see native Chinook spawning, students put their skills to the test! Fertilized salmon eggs were placed in the care of our Fourth graders (under the tutelage of our Adventure teacher Beth) in the re-created salmon habitats in their classrooms.

Calculations of accumulated temperature units were used to determine hatch dates, stages of their lifecycle were observed, fish were fed and water quality was monitored closely!

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Fostering Stewardship Continued

Then the day came to release the Salmon into the wild. Fish were carefully collected for transport, students prepared for fieldwork and to the river they went!

Once at the river, student engaged in multiple stations to add depth to their knowledge, and to help determine where each of them should release “their” salmon.

With a wise to their fish, the salmon embarked upon the next leg of their journey and students spent some time reflecting on the experience of stewarding these fish.

While this can be a bit sad for students, it is also a beautiful opportunity to think about how they can be stewards of not just the tank in their classroom, but of our watershed.

I cannot wait to see what where these kiddos will go on their own journey as watershed stewards.

Student Leadership, More Than Just Words

There are a lot of buzz-words in the cyclical education world, and student leadership is



certainly one of them. I am proud to say that at Charter, this is more than just lip service. A recent example of this was highlighted in an interview on KVMR.

Dresden, Maren and Joey, current GVCS 8th graders, are TUPE (Tobacco Use Prevention Education) peer educators here at Charter. Under the supervision of Juliette Parks, their past 7th grade teacher, these students are not only fulfilling their 8th grade Service Graduation requirement, but are passionately educating 7th graders at GVCS about the dangers of vaping.

Not only do these students make us proud of their activism, you can also hear for yourself why they were drawn to be peer educators as well as some of the challenges they have faced.

The interview with Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, Scott Lay, as well as Marlene Mahurin, Nevada County TUPE Coordinator and be listened to here:

<https://www.kvmr.org/podcasts/educationally-speaking-26>

Kuddos must go out to Mrs. Parks, Maren, Joey and Dresden – as well as the 27 other peer educators at GVCS! This groundswell of student leadership has helped to create a culture of anti vaping at Charter that is unfortunately unique in many schools.

Student Led Conferences – This Week!

Student Led Conferences are a cornerstone of our school. They put students in the driver seat of their education by engaging them in their own learning. This structured time allows students to share their growth, as well as their struggles. They have been preparing for this conversation and are excited!

Nuts & bolts:

SLCs are this week! By now you should have an SLC appointment with your student's teacher(s). If you don't have one yet, contact your child's teacher ASAP.

Please arrange to attend SLCs so that you can give your undivided attention to your student presenting their SLC. This may mean finding kiddo care for other children.

While your child's teacher will be present and engaged, this is really a time for your student to speak to you, and for you to celebrate them. If you have a long list of questions for the teacher, please hold those for a later date.

Please, be on time. Each teacher meets with at least 24 families. This can mean more than 12 hours of conferences. If you are late, it impacts the whole schedule. Thank you for your engagement in your child's education.

Crew 24's GVCS Family Day of Service

Crew 24, GVCS parent group extraordinaire is kicking off a day of service for our families to come together and support others in our community who could use a helping hand. **This Thursday, January 30th from 5:00 – 7:30 pm** in the GVCS MPR you can contribute to a founding design principle of EL Schools, that of Service & Compassion.

For one night only work alongside other charter families in a school wide drive to support local nonprofits. Bring your donations of clothing, non perishable food, and books benefitting the: Hospitality House, Interfaith Food Ministry, Karing Closet and Partners Family Resource Center. We will be sorting, collating and boxing goods in preparation for delivery. Additional volunteers will be needed to help deliver items shortly after the work day.

BOXES! Save lots of them for us to use!

Join us: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/ 5080F4DACA62AA3F85-gvcs1](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4DACA62AA3F85-gvcs1)

Questions? Contact Olivia (opritchett@gvsd.us) or Laura (lines530@yahoo.com)

Sports Updates!

Boys Basketball

12/16 – 2/21

6th/ 7th – Coach Ben Murphy

b-bmurphy@att.net

7th/8th – Coach Simon Menesini

pineviewconstruction@gmail.com

Nordic Skiing

Coach Curry rcurry@gvsd.us

Girls Volleyball

2/24 – 4/24

Coach Russ

russyokon@msn.com

Track

4/6 – 5/24

Coach Curry rcurry@gvsd.us

Mountain Biking Club:

Fall Season is a wrap, Spring Season will start in March.

More info to follow.

**Contact Mr. E with Sports
Qs**

aezell@gvsd.us

Spirit Day, Friday 1/31



This Friday is the much anticipated, Fancy Dress Up Spirit Day! Dust off your ball gowns, tuxedos, suspenders, top hats and tiaras! Classes will compete for the coveted Spirit Day Trophy! **Show**



your Charter Spirit and get Fancy!

Boys Basketball

The season is about to kick off this week, come on out and support our students!

1/28 – GVCS vs CC at 6pm, Seven Hills

2/3 – GVCS vs CC, at 4pm (7th), 5pm (8th) at Seven Hills

2/5 – GVCS vs Ready Springs at 5pm at Mount Saint Mary's

2/6 – GVCS vs Seven Hills at 5pm at Seven Hills

2/11 – GVCS vs CC at 5pm at Mount Saint Mary's

2/18 – 2/20 Tournament at NU, details TBD.

Playground Supervision

Wow, the kids sure do love the new playground! Unfortunately there is no supervision before or after school. Please do not drop off your student before 8:15am. Additionally, if you are meeting your student at the playground for pick up, you must be there by 3:00pm. Thank you for helping to keep everyone smiling and having fun!

Dates! Be In The Know!

1/27 – 31 – Student Led Conferences (1/2 days all week)

1/30 – GVCS Family Day of Service

1/31 – Spirit Day! Fancy Dress Up Day!

2/7 – No School, Staff Development Day

2/14 & 2/15 - Presidents' Days

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