



27 January 2011

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The newsletter of the Yuba River Charter School

“Receive the children in reverence, educate them in love, send them forth in freedom.” - Rudolf Steiner

Yuba River Charter School CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| DAY | DATE | TIME | EVENT |
|----------------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| Thurs | 27 Jan | | ALL LUNCH ORDERS DUE Monks visit* |
| Thurs & Fri | 27 & 28 Jan | afternoons | Strategic plan delegates meetings |
| Tues | 1 Feb | 1:30 & 6:30 pm | Rose Kindergarten Parent Meeting |
| Wed | 2 Feb | 3:30 pm 5:30 pm | Grade 4 Parent Meeting Grade 1 Parent Meeting |
| Thurs | 3 Feb | 6:00 pm | Lavender Kindergarten Parent Meeting |
| Mon - Sat | 7-12 Feb | | Grade 8 at the Off Center Stage, GV |
| Wed | 9 Feb | 3:30 pm | Charter Council Meeting in the library |
| Thurs | 10 Feb | 10:00 am | Grade 4 & 5 to see <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> (dress rehearsal)* |
| Fri | 11 Feb | 10:00 am | Grade 4 to Donner Grades 6 & 7 to see <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> * |
| Mon | 14 Feb | 3:30 pm | Ed Foundation Meeting* |
| Wed | 16 Feb | 3:30 - 5:30 pm | Parent Council meeting in library |
| Fri | 18 Feb | Minimum Day | Last day before February Break End of Second Trimester upper grades* |
| Mon-Fri | 21-24 Feb | No school | President's Day and February Break |
| Mon | 28 Feb | 8:15 am | Back to school |
| Tues | 1 March | 1:30 & 6:30 pm | Rose Kindergarten Parent Meeting |
| Wed - Thurs | 2-3 March | | Grade 6 to San Francisco |

* new item

The next newsletter will be delivered Thursday 10 February. It will be the only newsletter in February. Submissions are due by the previous Monday at 5:00 pm. The Bulletin Board is free and contains free items, items of interest to children and families, and occasional items for sale. It is printed monthly. The limit is 50 words. No anonymous submissions please. Paid advertisements are not accepted. Contact Lisa Hooper, 272-1182, Lisa@ObjectiveInsights.com for more information.



Hello YRCS community,

As we are getting acclimated to 2011, we are just beyond the mid-point of the school year. Consequently, it's a logical time for the YRCS community to assess how the year is going. Has the school year experience been what you have expected? Do you feel that you are involved in the school, and informed of what's going on surrounding your child's education?

The PC is built as a liaison between school parents and staff/teachers. The PC's goal is to keep YRCS parents apprised of school activities, and ensure that parents have a voice into the administration, faculty, and Charter Council. If you ever have any questions that you would like addressed by the PC, please reach out to your grade's PC rep (list below)

Sincerely,

Mark Dahlstrom, on behalf of PC

Did you know?

PC reps can help direct you on how to voice an issue or concern. In addition to sharing the concern with the PC, your rep can direct you to the prescribed processes for raising concerns, including: bringing the concern to the teacher involved, using the "Parent Concern" form, or providing input into Charter Council. Consult your PC rep as needed.

Quote to Quote

"Peace of mind is that mental condition in which you have accepted the worst." Lin Yutang

Watercolor Painting with Patricia Montijo

A two hour introductory workshop exploring the wet on wet watercolor technique used in Waldorf Schools.

Thursday, February 3

6:00 - 8:00 pm in the 8th Grade Classroom

Registration Required

In this workshop for parents, we will paint through the grades starting with several small color studies and culminating with an upper grade theme. This is an opportunity to learn the why and how of wet on wet watercolor.

We will go over the materials and how to use them and care for them.

You will be taught techniques such as blending, lifting color, shading, developing image from the color and creating a good composition.

It is my intention to give you the tools to work with your children at home with more confidence and enjoyment.

Registration is required by calling Susan Egan at 272-8078 ext. 106 or email susan@yubariverschool.org,

If you missed Eugene Schwartz's talk at YRCS, you can access it can our website at <http://www.yubariverschool.org>

Parent Council Representatives

| Class/Position | Representative | Class/Position | Representative |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Lavender Kindergarten | | 4 th Grade | Lisa Gorbet |
| Rose Kindergarten | Robert Wallis | 5 th Grade | Mark Fogiel |
| Sweet Pea Kindergarten | Chelsea Baum | 6 th Grade | Catherine Janicke |
| 1 st Grade | Hanna Ziesel | 7 th Grade | Veronica Morales-Combs |
| 2 nd Grade | Joe Fajen | 8 th Grade | Kristin Welch |
| 3 rd Grade | Mark Dahlstrom | | |



SPORTS UPDATE

2011 NCAL Small Schools Basketball Schedule

| Date | Time | Home | Away | Location |
|--------|---------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| 26-Jan | 5:00 PM | YRC | Crossroads | UHMPR |
| 27-Jan | 5:00 PM | NCSA | YRC | UHMPR |
| 1-Feb | 4:00 PM | YRC | Clear Creek | UHMPR |
| 3-Feb | 4:00 PM | YRC | Camptonville | UHMPR |
| 8-Feb | 5:00 PM | GVC | YRC | UHMPR |
| 10-Feb | 4:00 PM | MSM | YRC | RS |
| 15-Feb | 5:00 PM | Chicago Park | YRC | UHMPR |

UHMPR - Union Hill School's multi-purpose room (NOT the big gym)
RS - Ready Springs

Since the Yuba River Rapids boys basketball team opened the season with a 3-0 record, they have beaten Mount Saint Mary's and Chicago Park by double digits, but they have also lost their first game, an intense, emotional battle with the Ready Springs Raiders. But the Rapids shook off the loss, and went right into a small schools/big schools tournament the next day. It was a two day tournament, and our boys took third place in the winners' division, beating Union Hill twice, but losing to Magnolia in their second game. The tournament outcome will not go on the Rapid's small school season record, so they are still sitting pretty at 5-1; league play will start again on Wednesday, the 26th of January.

-Josiah Barber
- Assistant Coach of the Rapids

TV Watching is Bad for Babies' Brains

Babies who watch TV are more likely to have delayed cognitive development and language at 14 months, especially if they're watching programs intended for adults and older children.

Babies who watched 60 minutes of TV daily had developmental scores one-third lower at 14 months than babies who weren't watching that much TV. Though their developmental scores were still in the normal range, the discrepancy may be due to the fact that when kids and parents are watching TV, they're missing out on talking, playing, and interactions that are essential to learning and development.

This new study, which appeared in the *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, followed 259 lower-income families in New York, most of whom spoke Spanish as their primary language at home. Other studies examining higher-income families have also come to the same conclusion: TV watching not only isn't educational, but it seems to stunt babies' development.



But what about "good" TV, like *Sesame Street*? The researchers didn't find any pluses or minuses when compared to non-educational programs designed for small children, like *SpongeBob SquarePants*. Earlier research by some of the same scientists, most of whom are at New York University School of Medicine-Bellevue Hospital Center, has found that parents whose children watch non-educational TV programs like *Spongebob SquarePants* spend less time reading to their children or teaching them.

The bottom line: This latest study adds more fuel to a recommendation from the American Academy of Pediatrics that babies under age 2 watch no TV at all.

Condensed from an article by Nancy Shute
US News, Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010

CHARTER COUNCIL NEWS

Hello YRCS Families:

CC, along with a group of parent and teacher volunteers, has been busy supporting the effort to develop a Strategic Plan for our community. The document will formalize our goals for the next 3-5 years and is intended to be a living document that can be monitored and updated over the years. It will give us concrete projects to showcase when we look for grants and donations, and hopefully keep us all focused as we move YRCS into its next phase of growth. Thanks to all for completing the survey that is being used as a foundation in this process.

CC has also been monitoring the situation with Little Creek, our on-site preschool program. After a wonderful start to the year, the program was abruptly brought up short in late November due to a serious flood in the basement. Administration has been working with Marguerite Vulfs to develop alternate plans. Repairs are being coordinated through our landlord, and after lots of discussions and evaluations, it was determined that the best solution was to change the program to two days a week from its original three, so that Sweet Pea Kindergarten and Little Creek could share space. Negotiations and long term planning for the future of this program are underway, with the stated goal to return it to a 3 day a week program by next year.

New members Robert Wallis and Mariana Nielsen were welcomed this month. Robert will take over the duties of Parent Council Rep, acting as liaison between the two groups. Mariana will take on the role of Secretary, including these monthly updates in the newsletter. We are still evaluating the responsibilities of the newly created position of Treasurer and will look to fill this role in the near future. If you know of anyone outside our school community that has specific skills in finance, please see Susan Egan to discuss. The CC has been hearing results of teacher evaluations, acting as oversight for the school community, and will perform the evaluation of the director over the next couple of months.

Progress continues towards the development of our new campus. The big recent push was to satisfy all the state's requirements for paperwork. This has all been submitted (Go, Susan Egan!) and once the state approves it, we will receive our initial \$1.5 million. In the meanwhile, work continues on acquiring and formally evaluating an appropriate site. Robert Wallis, licensed architect, has joined the building committee, along with Caleb Buckley, Susan Egan, and Vitskaia Fernandez who acts as Project Manager. The goal, if all goes well, is to move into the new school facility for the school year 2013/2014.

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Buckley on being selected as president of the National Alliance for Waldorf Charter Schools and giving the keynote address at its recent annual conference. YRCS is a founding member and role model for this ever expanding group. We are very proud of our school for its achievements at this national level. Carrie Reuther, second grade teacher, also presented a talk on the Virtues Project at the conference.

The annual fund drive will be kicking off soon. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters and phone calls. The sooner you get your pledge card in, the less phone calls you will receive. 😊

Our next Charter Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 9th at 3:30pm in the YRCS library. Agendas are posted on the front door of the school and online at www.yubarivercharterschool.org 72 hours before the meeting. Any questions or comments can be submitted to any of your three Charter Council parent representatives:

- Robert Wallis 274-2246 robert@wallisdesignstudio.com
- Mariana Nielsen 292-3319 nielsenm@sbbmail.com
- Torrie Mudd 210-6507 torrie@torriemudd.com

Respectfully yours,
Mariana Nielsen, CC Secretary

William Shakespeare's

Much Ado

About Nothing

Performed by Yuba River Charter School - Class of 2011

February 10
6 p.m.

February 11
10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

February 12
12 noon



OFF CENTER
STAGE

315 Richardson Street, Grass Valley
Behind the Center for the Arts

Tickets available at Book Seller, Briar Patch
and Yuba River Charter School

Ticket price: \$7
Call 272-8078 for more information