



16 February 2010

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

Now Enrolling

Sweet Pea Kindergarten Co-Op

We are happy to announce the re-opening of our third kindergarten. This home study/site kindergarten combination is ideal for younger students and home study students.

Call now to enroll at 272-8078 x109.

- Small Class Size
- Meets 3 days per week (Tuesday - Thursday 8:15 - 11:50 am) ~ attendance is required ~
- Monthly parent teacher meetings
- Taught by an Experienced Kindergarten Teacher, Suzanne Scirpo
- Now open

LOVE

Kindergarten is hosting this month's virtue.

Love is putting yourself in someone else's shoes and caring about what they feel. It is accepting them, loving them just as they are. You can even be loving to people you don't know, just by caring about what happens to them and sending loving thoughts. Sharing is a way to show love. Share your belongings, your time and yourself. Love is thinking about how you want to be treated and treating others in the same way.

Without love, people feel alone. When they don't feel they matter to anyone, they become unhappy. Sometimes they act angry and don't let others get close. Everyone wants to be liked. Everyone likes to be loved. When you are being loving, you help others to feel important. They become gentler and kinder. Love is contagious. It keeps spreading.

Reprinted from The Virtues Guide
 by Linda Kavelin Popov

"Love cures people - both the ones who give it and the ones who receive it."

Karl Menninger

"Spread love everywhere you go, first in your own house."

Mother Theresa

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"Learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all."

Michael Masser and Linda Creed

"Loves makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place."

Zora Neale Hurston

Bulletin Board

📍 **Looking for a few recreational players for our Samba U14 indoor soccer team.** Season starts Friday, 12 February! Contact Charley Hooper at 271-1940 or Hooper@ObjectiveInsights.com if interested.

📍 **Finding Peace and Happiness** in the midst of life and your relationships - why wait? "Loving What Is" study group forming on the work of Byron Katie, a life changing tool for peace and loving-honest communication. Starting Tuesdays, March 9, 8:45-10:00 am at NCSA. RSVP to attend to Colleen Ericson @ 478-5788.

📍 **A Season for Peace and Nonviolence.** A 64-day celebration inspired by the 50th and 30th memorial anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. **Opening Event 1/30 1:30-4:00 pm** with children's, program and crafts. Location: Unity in the Gold Country, 180 Cambridge Court, Grass Valley. More information: <http://www.ncpeace.org/>.

📍 **Parenting from the Inside Out** Tuesdays 2/2-3/23, 6:30-9:30 p.m. with Aida Baker, MFT Registered Intern #58844 Cost: \$5.00 per person, each evening. For further information please call Aida @ 530-263-6882 Location: Peace Center of Nevada County, 216B Main Street (next to SYRCL), Nevada City.

📍 **Compassionate Communication** Wednesdays 2/3- 3/10 ~6:30-8:30 p.m.~ with Terri Harmon. Cost: \$125. Location: Peace Center of Nevada County, 216B Main Street (SYRCL Building), Nevada City. First introductory meeting by donation, applicable toward tuition if continuing.

📍 **The county will soon be spraying Rodeo** (a.k.a. Monsanto Roundup) along our County Roads. For info on possible symptoms, see www.pesticide.org/. To request a free "Do Not Spray" sign, email Jenny.McCauley@co.nevada.ca.us or call 265-1411.

📍 **North Columbia Schoolhouse Cultural Center events:** Friday, February 12, 7:30-9:00 pm - The Yuba Watershed Institute Presents a panel presentation on Influential Plants and Animals of the San Juan Ridge. Saturday, February 20th, 7:00 pm. - Singing for Haiti - a benefit for relief efforts. 17894 Tyler Foote Rd., NC. 530.265.2826, www.northcolumbiaschoolhouse.org.

📍 **Yard Work, \$9/hard working hour.** Russ Hooper, senior, will rake, prune, blow, weed, dig... Well trained by his mom. Call 205-6671 or Russ.Hooper.24@gmail.com.

📍 **Quality Childcare, Nanny.** All ages welcomed, 22 years experience, excellent local references. I can do crafting, tutoring, cooking and light housekeeping; can drive children to after school activities, etc. Contact Genavieve Knowles, 210-1888 or genavieve11@gmail.com.

OFFICE NOTES

• **In Search of Generous Community Member** – The Development Office received a pledge card from an unknown community member on November 4 for a \$60/month donation. The credit card ends in "6009." Please contact Melissa at ext. 110 if you are the person who pledged this amount, totaling \$720 for our current AFD Giving Campaign. We cannot process the monthly payment without more information from you! Thanks again for your support!

• **Please check for clothing left behind** in play yards, classrooms, and hallways.

• **The Cross Country/Track Team** will continue running Mondays, rain or shine, after school from 3:00 to 3:30 with Frank Plucker. This will be great training for the upcoming track season. Please meet by the 4th grade if you would like to join us. This is open to all 4th through 8th graders.

FRIENDS OF YUBA RIVER CHARTER SCHOOL

Custom-built, Waldorf-inspired woodwork - Did you see the lovely Waldorf playhouse at Moondance this year? You can have one too! Custom-built, Waldorf-inspired woodwork featuring play houses, play stands, lofts, bunk beds and doll houses. 10% of sales donated to YRCS. Call Mark Follansbee at 575-0916 for more information.

Yoga at Dragonfly Studios - Donations to YRCS - Come do the flow of yoga for everyone or prenatal yoga in the morning and 10% of class fee will be donated to YRCS. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9:15 am flow with Julie or Wednesday morning 9:15 am prenatal with Hannah. Check out www.pennvalleyyoga.com or call Julie @ 575-1757 for more information.

Nevada City Classic Cafe YRCS Community Outreach Program. Simply have a meal at the Nevada City Classic Cafe at 216 Broad Street in Nevada City, write your name, address and your child's name and grade or your school connection on your receipt and leave it with your server. 20% of the proceeds will be donated to the YRCS Educational Foundation.

WHAT IS CURRICULUM By Caleb Buckley

Curriculum is ultimately about a teacher's connection with their students. It creates a roadmap for how teachers can meet a child where they are at in the moment. It's a foundation that creates an opportunity for learning. While we all wish to convey wisdom to students, curriculum provides a form to our thoughts.

There is more than just an academic curriculum. It can involve how we relate socially and how we create something new out of what we already knew. Curriculum can have standards and be standardized but it can also be a guide to asking new questions and finding new answers.

A curriculum is a learning opportunity that works upon the student after the lesson is over. Perhaps it helps them to form the essence of who they are. It is created by the imagination of the teacher but the teacher should draw upon their students to understand where to focus their creative energy. Inspiration is the goal of curriculum but it can also be dead and overly concept driven.

When a teacher walks into a classroom and has a connection with their students, what follows is the curriculum. Even a class of kindergartners sitting quietly with hands folded for an extra two minutes is an example of curriculum working on them under the teacher's direction. If the teacher has no relationship to their students, then there is no curriculum; they merely become proctors of disconnected ideas.

Since I am the running coach at my school, I know that curriculum is Latin for "running." Today this has been adapted in traditional education to mean "courses," like one might run through a set of courses in earning a degree or the "Race to the Top." How often have we heard about "academic hurdles" one must jump to earn a diploma? But as a coach, if I send a student to run down a track, it is not to reach the finish line. I know every child will reach the finish line already. Instead, I send the child down the track so they can work on themselves, becoming stronger and more aware of themselves. My "curricula" or "races" are placed upon a physical track of dirt but they are conceived by me, as their coach, to work on them from the inside out. If I know my students well, then they will come to know themselves and the race to each other is our curriculum.



Hello Yuba River Community. I am very excited by the growth I see at our school. And why? Because the more I communicate and get involved with all the people of YRCS the more impressed I am. There are wonderful things happening! Are you aware of the SHINE Committee that meets Monday afternoons? Have you visited a Parent Council meeting or a Charter Council meeting? Attended one of the community meetings or parent educational events?

I speak as one who has questioned authority and knows that I have a revolutionary spirit. Over time and due to my involvement with the school, I have come to recognize that everyone involved with YRCS on an intimate level has a single goal in mind - to provide the best possible Waldorf-inspired educational environment for children. And to that end, everyone is interested and invested in their own personal growth, along with the growth and improvement of our school.

I say all this with the hope of encouraging more of our adult community to get involved with the structures and events of YRCS - and perhaps create some of their own. We are a diverse and spirited group of people. I can think of no better, fertile ground for an inspired community.

With YRCS looking down the road to a new school building, this could be the best time for all of us to come together and help form the environment our children will be growing and learning in. We'll all grow and learn in the process - guaranteed.

Lastly, I would like to end with the "Motto of Social Ethic" I received from two of the recent YRCS events. I think it sums it all up perfectly:

The healing social life is found
When in the mirror of each human soul
The whole community finds its reflection
And when in the community
The virtue of each one is living.

Sincerely,
Greg Wilker
Parent Council Chair

Tuesday Pizza Lunch
Order Form

Happily offered by the 8th grade.

Pizza Lunch Dates:
Tuesdays: March 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30.

Orders are due by Thursday, February 25.

Questions? Ask Deanna Ronningen 432-8990
or kdronningen@aol.com

Thank you for supporting
the 8th Grade class!

Parent's Name _____

Phone # _____

First Child's full name _____

Grade _____

Circle either cheese or pepperoni circle the price

1 slice: Cheese/pepperoni \$12.50
With 100% Juice Drink \$17.50

2 slices: Cheese/pepperoni \$23.75
With 100% Juice Drink \$28.75

Second Child's full name _____

Grade _____

Circle either cheese or pepperoni circle the price

1 slice: Cheese/pepperoni \$12.50
With 100% Juice Drink \$17.50

2 slices: Cheese/pepperoni \$23.75
With 100% Juice Drink \$28.75

TOTAL: _____

Friday Burrito Lunch
Order Form

Happily offered by the 6th grade.

Burrito Lunch Dates:
Fridays: March 5, 12, & 26.

Orders are due by Thursday, February 25.

Burritos are provided by Tortilla Grill.

Bean and Cheese
with Chips and Apple Juice.

Questions? Ask BJ Schmitt at 477-7402.

~The 6th Grade Thanks You for Your Support~

Parent's Name _____

Phone # _____

First Child's full name _____

Grade _____

Check Please:
_____ Bean and Cheese Burrito with 100% juice — \$15.00

Second Child's full name _____

Grade _____

Check Please:
_____ Bean and Cheese Burrito with 100% juice — \$15.00

Third Child's full name _____

Grade _____

Check Please:
_____ Bean and Cheese Burrito with 100% juice — \$15.00

TOTAL: \$ _____

Lunches are now being offered Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays!

ORDER INFO FOR ALL LUNCHES

EACH order form needs
to be paid separately
since they are offered
by different classes.

Orders are for one month at a time.
IF YOU WANT TO PAY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS,
contact the info person.

Payments are due, in full, with
your order form. If paying in
cash, please pay the exact
amount. Make checks payable
to: YRCS Field Fund.

**ORDERS NEED TO BE
SUBMITTED BY THE DUE DATE!!!**

Envelopes are in each classroom and in the office.
Orders accepted from faculty, staff
and Grades 1 - 8.

Wednesday Sandwich Lunch Order Form

Happily offered by the 7th grade.

Sandwich lunch dates:

Wednesdays: March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31.

Orders are due by Thursday, February 25.

Sandwiches are provided by the Nevada City
Classic Cafe.

Questions? Call Lisa Hooper @ 272-1182.

~The 7th Grade Thanks You For Your Support~

Parent's Name _____

Phone # _____

First Child's full name _____

Grade _____

Circle your choices

Choose one sandwich:

PB&J cheese tuna turkey hummus

Choose one type of bread: multi-grain sourdough

Choose from the following condiments:

mayo mustard lettuce AND tomato

Check any desired additions, add the price and total.

_____ Sandwich	\$17.50
_____ with cheese add \$2.50	_____
_____ with 100% juice drink add \$5.00	_____
_____ with apple add \$2.50	_____

First Child lunch total: _____

Second Child's full name _____

Grade _____

Circle your choices

Choose one sandwich:

PB&J cheese tuna turkey hummus

Choose one type of bread: multi-grain sourdough

Choose from 3 condiments:

mayo mustard lettuce AND tomato

Check any desired additions, add the price and total.

_____ Sandwich	\$17.50
_____ with cheese add \$2.50	_____
_____ with 100% juice drink add \$5.00	_____
_____ with apple add \$2.50	_____

Second Child lunch total: _____

TOTAL: _____

Monday Sushi Lunch Order Form

Happily offered by the 5th grade.

Sushi Lunch Dates:

Mondays: March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29.

Orders are due by Thursday, February 25.

Choices:

6 piece Vegetarian Roll
(carrot, cucumber and avocado)

or

6 piece California Roll
(crab, cucumber and avocado)

Questions? Ask Deanna Ronningen 432-8990
or kdronningen@aol.com

Thank you for supporting
the 5th Grade class!

Parent's Name _____

Phone # _____

First Child's full name _____

Grade _____

Check one please

_____ Vegetarian Roll, no drink — \$23.75
_____ Vegetarian Roll, with 100% juice drink — \$28.75
_____ California Roll, no drink — \$23.75
_____ California Roll, with 100% juice drink — \$28.75

Second Child's full name _____

Grade _____

Check one please

_____ Vegetarian Roll, no drink — \$23.75
_____ Vegetarian Roll, with 100% juice drink — \$28.75
_____ California Roll, no drink — \$23.75
_____ California Roll, with 100% juice drink — \$28.75

TOTAL: _____

High school doesn't have to bite.

↳ → Whatever happened to liking school?

We're a college preparatory school, but we do it in a way that acknowledges that you are a person:

- Small class sizes
- Vivid wilderness experiences
- Supportive community focus
- Enthusiastic, skilled teachers
- Emphasis on real-life skills for the 21st century

Come visit us for a night. Find out more about life at Bitney.

You can even bring your parents.



Bitney College Prep

A PUBLIC CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Free

Hey, parents:

Would your student appreciate a school that's a real, supportive community?

Our graduates meet the UC/CSU "a-g" admission requirements. We build on this base with co-curricular and experiential learning.

At Bitney, students are *known, respected* and *educated*. Visit us and learn more from faculty, parents and students.

Information night for prospective students and parents, too.

February 24, 2010
6-7:30 p.m.

135 Joerschke Drive, Grass Valley · www.bitneyprep.net · (530) 477-1235

Annual Fund Drive Giving

We are creating a community that we have chosen to be a part of. Give because it is what our community does and needs to do to sustain itself. In lieu of our state government funding and supporting our children's education, we, as parents and families, need to take on more responsibility to provide what we once counted upon.

Participation: 78%

Pledges & Gifts: \$73,476

Yuba River Charter School

2009-2010 Annual Fund Drive Giving Campaign
January 2010 - December 2010

This year's recommended annual gift donation is \$1,080 - per child.

The State of California cut the YRCS annual budget by more 11% over the past year, and this amount will help to replenish funds. This is only a suggested amount. As always, we welcome and appreciate any donation that is meaningful to your family. **We are hopeful every family will participate!**

\$40/mo. (\$480/yr.) \$60/mo. (\$720/yr.) \$75/mo. (\$900/yr.)

\$90/mo. (\$1,080)/yr. \$100/mo. (\$1200/yr.) \$200/mo. (\$2,400/yr.)

I wish to pledge \$ _____ a month.

I wish to make a one-time gift of \$ _____.

Let us know if your employer will match your gift!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Child(ren) at YRCS (Name & Grade): _____

Gift in Memory or Honor of: _____

Payable to YRCS by: Check Cash

Visa Mastercard AmExpress

Credit Card# _____

Expiration Date: _____

Your Authorizing Signature: _____

We thank you for supporting our school, our teachers and public-Waldorf education.

Date Rvcd: _____ Internal Use Only: Initials: _____ Processed: _____

Your gift is tax-deductible. (Tax ID # 88-0395780)
YRCS Educational Foundation - 13026 Bitney Springs Road
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear YRCS Community Members,

I am writing today as a parent to reflect about the virtue of love, this month's virtue for our school. I had an experience of this virtue recently at the new school site at the Old Dairy Place in Grass Valley.

Last autumn, when I first saw the property, my first thought was that the house would be perfect for Little Creek Nursery. . .and, what a mess! The next time I saw the house was in January when I volunteered to clean-up after all the hard work. The house has been transformed. It is evident that the work has been done by capable hands, skilled minds and warm hearts. Complete overhaul!

I was happy to be part of this labor of love. I was happy to be part of the beginning of this new phase in the school's life. The work completed, I thought, "I can only do small things with great love."

This new phase would not have been possible without the culture of giving, which has been established at YRCS over the years. Countless hours of hard work and planning. Hundreds of thousands of dollars given, lovingly, on behalf of the children and our Community. I would like to acknowledge these acts of love that have gone into creating and sustaining YRCS. **Thank you all!**

At this time, we are all being asked to make a financial contribution to YRCS. This act of giving, no matter how small, adds up to something great...100% participation!

The Old Dairy Place purchase was possible due to the active financial participation of our community over the years. This year, my own contribution was small but it helped the participation level to move from 62% to 70%. It was fun to see that squirrel travel up the "Giving Tree" at the entrance to the school.

Your act of giving sustains specialty classes and pays our teacher's salaries. Your gift today can be multiplied hundreds of times. Other donors, supportive of our school community, are generous; and our giving and support encourages business partners to invest in YRCS, public Waldorf education and our children's futures.

So, please reconsider your ability to give financially. In this case, a little bit truly goes a long way. I truly believe YRCS can have 100% financial participations from our families.

Blessings, Marguerite Vulfs

(Gabriel, 7th grade & Marija, 1998 YRCS graduate.)

Yuba River Charter School CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Fri. & Mon.	12, 15 Feb.	No School	Presidents' Holiday
Wed.	17 Feb.	3:30 pm	Ed. Foundation Meeting
Fri.	19 Feb.		End of trimester
Tues.	23 Feb.	1:00 pm	Kindergarten Parent Meeting
Wed.	24 Feb.		Grade 3 ski trip
		6:30 pm	Grade 8 Parent Meeting
Fri.	26 Feb.	1:00 pm	Kindergarten tea & crafting
Sun.-Tues.	28 Feb. - 2 Mar.		Grade 4 to Fort Ross
Tues.-Wed.	2-3 March		STAR Writing, Grade 4 & 7
Wed.	3 March	3:30 pm	Parent Council Meeting
T, W, F	9, 10, 12 March	Minimum Days	Parent-Teacher Conferences
Wed.	10 March	4:00 pm	Charter Council Meeting*
Thurs.	11 March		Teacher/Staff Appreciation Lunch
Mon.-Tues.	15-16 March		Grade 6 to UC Berkeley and SF*
Wed.	17 March	6:00 pm	Grade 3 Parent Meeting*
Fri.	19 March	No School	Teacher In-Service Day*
Fri.	26 March	1:00 pm	Kindergarten tea & crafting*
Mon,-Fri.	5-9 April	No School	Spring Break*

The next newsletter will be delivered Thursday, 25 February. Submissions are due by the previous Monday. The Bulletin Board is free and contains free items, items of interest to children and families, and occasional items for sale. 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.

Please note that we used our 2 snow days in December. So we now have school the Friday before and the Monday after Spring Break. Please make your plans accordingly.

"YOUNG AT ART EXHIBITION"

The "Young at Art" K - 12 exhibition is again nearing. Each of our children's art will be displayed.

PARENTS ARE NEEDED
WEDNESDAY MORNING,
24 FEBRUARY
TO HANG YOUR CLASS' ART.

We may begin to hang art on the Rood Center walls beginning at 8:00 am. Hanging the art should take about an hour. I will be collecting the art from each class, so you just need to show up with a stapler and a small ladder, stepstool, or chair.

Talk to your teacher today!