



25 March 2010

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 Development Office ext 3
www.yubariverschool.org

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	25 March		Grade 4 to Kids' Concert
Fri	26 March	8:45 am	Grade 3 Play
		1:00 pm	Kindergarten Gardening Day* Kindergarten tea & crafting
Mon	29 March	6:00 pm	Grade 4 Parent Meeting*
Tues	30 March	6:00 pm	Grade 7 Parent Meeting
Wed	31 March	6:30 pm	Grade 1 to Senior Center Grade 8 Parent Meeting
Thurs	1 April	noon - 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	May Fair meeting downstairs in old Pre-School* Grade 4 Play
Fri	2 April	8:45 am	Grade 4 Play
Mon-Fri	5-9 April	No School	Spring Break
Tues	13 April	5:30 pm	Grade 2 Parent Meeting*
Wed	14 April	4:00 pm 6:00 pm	Charter Council Meeting Grade 5 Parent Meeting
Mon-Sat	19-24 April		Grade 7 at Center for the Arts* Presenting <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>
Wed	21 April	3:30 pm 3:30 pm	Grade 3 Parent Meeting* Ed Foundation Meeting*
Thurs-Fri	22-23 April		Grade 4 to Malakoff*
Fri	23 April	1:00 pm	Kindergarten tea & crafting*
Tues	27 April	am & pm	Grade 6 Play*

* new item

The next newsletter will be delivered 15 April. 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.

OFFICE NOTES

- **The lost and found is overflowing.** Anything left at Spring Break will be donated.

- **Your Staples Reward Card** can be used for recycled cartridges to get \$3.00 back for every recycled item. You may also give our YRCS phone number (530-272-8078). NOTE: Please ask if a quota of 10 have been returned this month, because Staples will take any amount over 10, but not give us credit. If so, please bring those back next month. Or bring your cartridges to the YRCS office and we'll take care of it. Staples is located at in the Brunswick Basin at 646 Sutton Way, GV, near Round Table pizza. Thank you for all of your donated cartridges.

- Please come to the office to fill out an **"Information Update Form"** if your address, phone number, etc. has changed.

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"
K- 12 Exhibition

at the Rood Center
950 Maidu Avenue off of Hwy. 49

8:00 am - 5:00 pm weekdays

Exhibit continues through May

SHINE!

SHINE stands for Social Health Inclusion Network for Everyone. It is a committee comprised of teachers, staff, and parents at our school. Our intention is to create a group through which issues pertaining to social health can be addressed in a timely, transparent and peaceful manner.

This work began when Kim John Payne - from the Institute for Social Health - visited our school last June and presented a protocol for working with social health within a school community. We are in the first phase of our development. This includes forming a group, creating a mission statement and deciding, with input from the community, on a set of agreements. The community agreements will be sent through an e-mail survey for parents to provide input on what is valuable to them and what is not. Once we have collected the surveys, we will share the findings with the community.

The development phase is a three-year phase with successive levels of integration occurring over that time to contribute to the healthy social fabric of the school. Our group meets weekly on Monday afternoons.

Musical Benefit Concert for the Haitian Children

Piano Concert

April 10th
3:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains
246 S. Church Street, Grass Valley

All Donations will go to the
Haiti Earthquake Children in Emergency Fund.

Annie Strugatsky is organizing this piano concert featuring talented young musicians as her 8th grade project.

For information call
Annie @ (530) 692-1505.



Please come!



A Lot To Do

There is a lot going on as we head towards the end of our current school year. Charter Council has two openings for parent representatives (see open letter within this newsletter). Parent Council is looking for volunteers for the 2010-1011 school year. Preparation for the May Fair Festival is starting up - with the donation baskets to be created for the Basket Raffle.

Open house, Grandparents Day, eighth grade graduation! And I apologize for everything I've forgotten at the moment... There is a lot going on!

As I've stated before, YRCS needs your efforts.

I invite you to attend the upcoming Parent Council meeting on Monday, April 12th at 3:30 pm in the Development Office.

As you might have noticed by now, I enjoy including an appropriate quote in our PC news - this one seems appropriate to me:

"People that are really very weird can get into sensitive positions and have a tremendous impact on history."

- Former US Vice President, Dan Quayle

I'll stand by that. I encourage all of you to have a positive impact.

Sincerely,
Greg Wilker

SCARECROW CLOTHES MISSING

I realize that this is a long shot, but for the Halloween Festival scarecrows, I had brought an old pair of overalls that have paint on them and a kid sized green flannel shirt with purple stripes. Does anyone know what happened to them?

Please let me know if you have any clues.

Thanks,

Gen Gartin
geneviegartin@gmail.com
477-6760

CHARTER COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Dear YRCS Parents,

It is time to elect two new parent members to the Charter Council. To this end, the Parent Council is now seeking letters of interest for these two openings on Charter Council.

The Charter Council is the governance body of YRCS and is responsible for ensuring that the school's policies and practices are consistent with the charter, vision and mission of the school and gives final approval to all personnel, budget, and policy decisions. The parent representatives provide the point of view and the perspective of the parent body on the issues that come before the council.

We can proudly say that the Yuba River Charter School structure is a MODEL for other Waldorf-methods charter schools across the state. For more detailed information about the duties of the Charter Council, go to section 9005 of the Charter Council by-laws.

The council consists of three parents, three faculty members, three community members, the YRCS Director (non-voting member), and the YRCS Business Manager (non-voting member). The parent representative will serve a **two-year term**.

The Council typically meets once or twice per month; special meetings may be called from time-to-time. The selected parents will attend the **first meeting in June** and become **voting members as of July 1, 2010**.

Interested parents should submit a letter of interest containing the following information:

- How long have you been at YRCS? (parent reps must have a minimum of two years at the school)?
- What is or are the grade level(s) of your child(ren)?
- Why are you interested in serving on the council?
- What skills and abilities can you bring to the council?

Your letter may contain any other biographical details that you feel might be of interest to the community and will be made available to the parent body so they can make an informed choice.

Letters of interest are due no later than Friday, April 14th

Please submit your letters to the Parent Council Chair, Gregory Wilker, by e-mail at jersey@well.com or place it in the Parent Council Chair mailbox in the copy room.

If you have any questions, please contact Gregory Wilker at 470-8911.

Thank You!



2010-2011 Parent Council Representatives needed! Please consider participating.

What is Your YRCS Parent Council?

- The YRCS Parent Council serves as a forum for the discussion of matters of interest and concern to the parents of the school and is the “Voice of the Parents” of YRCS.
- The YRCS Parent Council serves as the class leadership organization that facilitates our schools’ yearly festivals (Harvest Festival, Winter Fair, & May Fair) and other school functions (Winter Assembly, Spring Assembly, & Faculty Appreciation Luncheon).
- Parent Council hosts educational talks with speakers on various topics related to Waldorf Education and topics supporting the growth and spirit of our community.
- The YRCS Parent Council “houses” the committees and programs that offer support to our community and parents (Hospitality, Parent Coop, Sports Team Liaison, & Volunteerism), keeps our community visible and active in the Nevada County community at-large, supports our teachers and children’s classrooms, and much, much more.
- The YRCS Parent Council approves, oversees all the class fundraising activities that benefit the individual class fieldtrip funds and coordinates the PC Fundraising.
- The YRCS Parent Council oversees the election of the parent representatives to the Charter Council and the Teacher Hiring Committee.
- YRCS Parent Council funds activities that enrich YRCS, such as extra curricular sports.

Why is the YRCS Parent Council so important to the success of our school? It is the efforts of volunteering parents that help YRCS successfully continue with events and activities that give our children the best education possible. It helps create the school we love. – See the list above!

MAY FAIR

The May Fair is fast approaching. All May Fair representatives are asked to attend the May Fair meeting Thursday, 1 April from noon to 1:00 pm. It will be held downstairs in the old Pre-School.

May Fair Class Responsibilities

Grade	Class Responsibilities
K	Site decoration, Craft
1	Cake or Plant Walk
2*	Responsible for Maypole, Craft
3*	Organize clean up
4	Head Wreaths
5*	Maypole Dancing, Crafts
6	Games
7	Game and face painting
8	Site decoration, Game, K&Q

All classes: Clean up of craft/game/vendor area, 3 people for general clean up, donations of greenery and flowers.

* Hosts of May Fair

Again this year, classes are invited to fundraise by selling food. If your class chooses to fundraise at the May Fair, your class will need a separate representative for fundraising. Ideally, the food representative will also attend the 1 April meeting.

Join Us For The

May Fair



**Saturday, May 1st
12:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

A Day of Fun for the Whole Family.

**Maypole, Music, Dancing, Crafts,
Games, and Community!**



**All under the Beautiful Pines of
The Yuba River Charter School.**

**King & Queen Processional - 12:45 pm,
followed by the Maypole Dance.**

Admission is FREE

(Food will be available for purchase)

Please leave your dogs at home.

Addressing
 Issues of
 Concern to You

For
All
Parents
 of students in
 Nevada County



Video Presentation #3: March 22, 2010 Monday

Look What You've Done (Learning Disabilities and Self Esteem): Whether they've failed a spelling test or dropped an easy pop fly, kids with learning disabilities hear those words far too often. It's no wonder they often give up hope. And it's no wonder we sometimes overlook what Dr. Robert Brooks, a nationally-known expert on learning disabilities, calls the "everyday courage" of our children. He says we need to find each child's "islands of competence" and then build on those strengths. He offers practical strategies for helping children develop confidence and resilience to succeed. Dr. Brooks is a clinical psychologist, has worked with special needs children and their families for over 25 years, is on the faculty at Harvard Medical School and the author of the Self-Esteem Teacher.

Video presentations will be held from 9:30-11:30 am or 6:30-8:30 pm, informal discussions to follow at the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office, 112 Nevada City Hwy., Nevada City
 Please RSVP to: Randy McKean, 265-0611 x 203, email: randy.cm@nevco.k12.ca.us

Parent Awareness Registration Form

The SEPAC Special Education Parent Awareness registration is a mailing and email list of special education parents. The purpose of this list is to forward information to parents about upcoming classes, meeting and special events that may be of assistance to you and your child's education. If you would like to be on the list, complete this form and submit it to your SEPAC representative or mail it to Nevada County SELPA, Terence K. MacAteer Family Resource Center, 400 Hoover Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959.

Parent Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____

Child's School of Attendance _____ Child's Special Needs (optional) _____

I would like to be placed on the SEPAC Special Education Parent Awareness Registration: _____

Parent Signature _____

**Nevada County
Health and Human
Services Agency
Public Health Department**

March 24, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Last week we sent you information about an outbreak of Varicella (chickenpox) at Yuba River Charter School. We have received notice of additional cases this week, so we would just like to follow up with this reminder of who is at risk and how to reduce the chances of spreading the disease further.

Please remember that students with chickenpox may not return to school or daycare until all blisters are crusted over or five days have passed, whichever is longer. Unvaccinated siblings and other children in the household must also stay home for 14 days or until vaccinated.

Keep in mind that pregnant women and immunosuppressed individuals are at high risk for complications and are strongly encouraged to call their medical provider.

We continue to monitor this outbreak and to offer vaccines from the Mobile Services Van every Thursday afternoon, 1:00-4:00 pm, behind the Grass Valley Veteran's Hall at 255 S. Auburn St. Vaccines may also be obtained from private providers in the community.

Please feel free to call our Communicable Disease Coordinator, Cindy Watson, at (530) 265-1420 with questions or concerns. For more information on chicken pox, see www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/list_varicel.htm.

Ken Cutler MD MPH
Acting Public Health Officer
Nevada County Public Health Department

**Re: Cesar Chavez
by Caleb Buckley**

March 31st marks the birthday of Cesar Chavez. In relationship to Waldorf education, I distributed this quote last year. "Real education," said Chavez, "should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students. What better book can there be than the book of humanity." I hope that you will have an opportunity, whether in the shining hearts of grade two, farming in grade 3, or the struggle for democracy in grade 8, to reflect on the contributions of Chavez. He lived outside of San Jose in a barrio called Sal Si Puedes - "Get Out If You Can". Fourth grade might like to know that for his honeymoon, Chavez went to visit all of the California missions. Fifth graders, through their study of India, might see the importance of Gandhi's fasting which Chavez took up for 36 days in 1988 both as personal cleansing and as a political statement. There is no corner of our curriculum that is untouched by his efforts.

I learned about Chavez many years ago when I was in San Antonio organizing a gathering of Hispanic leaders for Clinton/Gore. To my great embarrassment, I had arranged to have lots of non-organic grapes served at the event. One of the county leaders pulled me aside and gave me a much needed history lesson on the grape boycott and told me how he had marched alongside Chavez for workers' rights. (He also told me how to pronounce Bexar County in Spanish). I was stunned that I had never learned about Chavez in school and decided to make his biography an important part of my teaching.

As Luis Valdez said at the Chavez funeral attended by 50,000 people, "Cesar, we have come to plant your heart like a seed . . . the farm workers shall harvest in the seed of your memory."

Yuba River Charter School

Proudly invites you to our
5th Annual Grandparent's Day

Date: April 30th, 2010
Time: 8:15 am - Noon
At Yuba River Charter School
13026 Bitney Springs Road ~ Nevada City, CA

Enjoy a day with your Grandchild in their classroom. Meet their teachers.
Experience their education first hand.

There will be student performances followed by a reception with Caleb Buckley, our school director.



Please RSVP and let us know that you are joining us! 530-272-8078.