

## 29 April 2010

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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-Fri	29-30 April		Grade 3 to Full Belly Farm
Fri	30 April	Minimum Day	Grandparent Day
Sat	1 May	12:00 - 4:00 pm	May Fair
Mon-Fri	3-7 May		STAR Testing
Wed	5 May	3:30 pm	Grade 1 to Independence Trail Parent Council Meeting
Thurs	6 May	evening	Spring Assembly and Open House
Fri	7 May		Grade 5 to Pentathlon
Mon-Tues	10-11 May		STAR Testing
Tues-Wed	11-12 May	9:00 am	Grade 1 Play in classroom
Wed	12 May	4:00 pm	Charter Council Meeting
Wed-Thurs	12-13 May		STAR Testing make-ups
Fri	14 May	8:45 am 9:00 pm	Grade 6 to Medieval Games Grade 5 Violin Skit* Grade 7 star gazing at Tobias Park*
Starting Sun	16-24 May		Grade 8 trip
Wed	19 May	6:30 pm	Grade 8 Parent Meeting
Wed-Fri	19-21 May		Grade 5 to Jughandle
Mon	24 May		Grade 2 to Bridgeport (date change)*
Mon - Thurs	24-27 May	Minimum Days	Last week of school
Wed	26 May		Kindergarten Fly Away
Thurs	27 May	Minimum Day	Last Day of School
Fri	28 May		8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation at Miner's Foundry
			* new item

#### **OFFICE NOTES**

- ♣ The last newsletter of the year will be delivered 13 May. 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.
- \* 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.
- ❖ May lunch orders are due TODAY!

"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

#### RESPECT

Grade 7 is hosting this month's virtue.

Respect is an attitude of caring about people and treating them with dignity. We show respect by speaking and acting with courtesy. When we are respectful we treat others as we want to be treated. Respect includes honoring the rules of our family or school, which make life more orderly and peaceful. It is knowing that every man, woman and child deserves respect, including you.

Respect helps people feel valued. Think about how you would like others to treat you and treat them with the same dignity. If you want to use someone else's things, ask, and then take good care of them. Express even your strongest feelings in a peaceful way.

Self-respect is making sure no one hurts you or abuses you. When you respect yourself, others respect you, too.

Reprinted from <u>The Virtues Guide</u> by Linda Kavelin Popov

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

Nelson Mandela

"There is a longing among all people to have a sense of purpose and worth. To satisfy that common longing in all of us, we must respect each other."

Chief Dan George

"Respect is treating your body with the same care you would give any other valuable and irreplaceable object."

Cherie Carter Scott

"He that respects himself is safe from others. He wears a coat of mail that none can pierce."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"We confide in our strength, without boasting of it; we respect that of others, without fearing it."

Thomas Jefferson

#### 2010 NCAL Track & Field Season

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	Start Time	<u>Grade Level</u>
April 22 April 29 May 4 May 6 May 13 May 20 May 26	Fun Run Lyman Gilmore Weimar/Colfax Chicago Park Union Hill Magnolia* Nevada Union**	Colfax Elementary Nevada Union Colfax HS Chicago Park Nevada Union Bear River HS Nevada Union	2:00 pm 3:30 pm 3:30 pm 3:30 pm 3:00 pm 3:30 pm 3:00 pm	4-5 6-8 4-8 4-5 4-8 4-8 6-8
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<sup>\*</sup> Times/distances from this meet will determine who advances to Nevada Union meet the following week. The top three finishers in each event advance.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Invite only

April 28, 2010

Dear Yuba River Charter School Families,

The YRCS Educational Foundation is excited to announce the receipt of a major donation targeted at funding salaries that would have otherwise been cut in next year's budget. This cut in salaries and benefits would have been in addition to the salary and benefits cuts the teachers and staff took this year. Because of funding reductions from the State, at the last charter council meeting, the finance committee recommended a salary reduction of 4 days for all staff (including teachers) plus a further reduction to teachers' health benefits. This \$35,000 donation eliminates the need to cut salaries and benefits for the 2010-11 school year. As well, along with this donation a challenge was given to our community to match the \$35,000. If we can meet this challenge and match this donation, the donor is willing to make the same donation the following school year. With reductions in revenue from the State, it will be several years before we receive any increase in state funding. This makes it critical that we continue to receive this donation in the future.

In addition to the salary reductions, next year's proposed budget includes reductions to the Handwork Program for Grades 1-3 and a 25% reduction in class supply funds for each child. Matching this donation will eliminate the need to cut your child's supply money and curriculum program for next year. As the business manager for the school, I am asking you to consider the value of our Waldorf education, and what this school community means to you and your children. YRCS has a very short window to raise the needed funds for next year's budget. So please, it is time to reach deep and to make your children's education a priority. We need each and every one of you to step forward. Remember that the cost of a private school Waldorf education reaches into the thousands of dollars annually, which is huge compared

to what we ask families to contribute. I have so loved this school and community for many years, sixteen to be exact. The donor stepped up for our teachers and children, now it's time for each of us to step up and show how much we care. I know together we can meet this challenge and I thank each of you for considering your contribution.

With Gratitude, Susan Egan Business Manager (Ed Foundation Member, Charter Council Member, Finance Committee Member)

### Yuba River Charter School GIFT MATCHING CHALLENGE Please choose the amount you want to contribute to help secure our Waldorf curriculum. ☐ \$50.00 ☐ \$250.00 □ \$1,000.00 ☐ \$100.00 □ \$500.00 □ \$2,500.00 ☐ My family wishes to make the *above marked* donation; to be made in equal payments due on or by: May 20<sup>th</sup> – June 20<sup>th</sup> -- July 20<sup>th</sup>. ☐ My family wishes to make a one-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ $\square$ to be paid by \_\_\_\_\_(date). □ which is included with this donation card. Please let us know if your employer will match this gift! Name: Child/(ren) at YRCS (Name & Grade): Payable to YRCSEF by: ☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Mastercard ☐ AmExpress ☐ Visa Your Authorizing Signature: Your gift is tax-deductible. (Tax ID # 88-0395780) YRCS Educational Foundation - 13026 Bitney Springs Road Nevada City, CA 95959 (Internal Use Only) Date Rvcd: Initials: Processed:

#### MANY HANDS RAISE NEEDED FUNDS!

An Educational Foundation Opportunity Denise Reynolds, Treasurer, YRCS Educational Foundation

School Councils Pass Resolution to Expand Community Engagement

"The YRCS Education Foundation Board of Directors (Ed Fnd) is requesting a parent volunteer from each class to be a member of the board. With shared vision the Ed Fnd, Charter Council, Parent Council, Faculty and Administration agree that one of the school community's top priorities is to increase fundraising efforts to support the school budget. With the full knowledge that all of us in the school community are called upon to give much of our time and resources, there is a sense of urgency that requires us to increase our efforts to preserve and grow our amazing school."

Since government funding continues to be cut from the school's revenue stream, it is imperative to find other sources of funding. We all want our children to continue to thrive within the rich experience found at Yuba River. We all give much of our time and resources. In order to avoid burning out our community revenue stream, it is important that we make a concerted effort to reach outside of our community with events and grant opportunities. Several Educational Foundation members sought stimulus funds last year and Gary Gardner is currently doing extensive research on private grant opportunities. There are ideas to do large-scale community events like a Sustainability Conference hosted by our school. In order to pursue these ideas and efforts the Foundation needs more members as there are currently only four members of the Board who do not have some other faculty or administrative position at the school. Given the urgency of raising funds for the next few years, the Foundation is asking each class to provide a representative to be on the board for one year, May '10 to May '11.

Please consider what you have to offer in terms of business skills, non-profit skills, fundraising or grant writing experience, or just enthusiasm and a few extra hours per month. We meet on the third Monday of each month from 3:30 - 5:30, childcare provided. We all volunteer our time for the annual fund drive and the auction as well as volunteering our efforts towards our particular areas of interest. It is a great way to be involved and stay informed about what is happening behind the scenes in all areas of the school since we have a report from the Faculty, Parent Council, Charter Council, and Director. Come join us! If you would like to be the board member for your class, please email a letter of interest to denisemreynolds@yahoo.com. If you have any questions please contact Melissa Seibold at 272-8078 or Denise Reynolds at 274-8697.

#### Yuba River Charter School

Proudly invites you to our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Grandparent's Day

Date: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

#### Yuba River Charter School's Class of 2011 8th Grade Field Trip Fundraiser

Northridge Restaurant will generously donate 10% of their proceeds from the night of

> Monday May 3rd 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

to the YRCS 7th grade class.

773 Nevada St. Nevada City

530-478-0470

Please join us and tell your family and friends.
"To Go" orders count too.

#### **Charter Council Letters of Interest**

Four letters of interest follow for the two openings of Charter Council Parent Representative.

Please vote for up to two candidates of your choice using the ballot on page 8 — one vote per parent and/or legal guardian.

#### Mariana Nielsen

#### Dear YRCS community,

I am writing to express extreme gratitude for all the ways our family has been nurtured and blessed since we first came to Yuba River almost 6 years ago, and to express interest in serving on the Charter Council. Our second grader, Iris, has been attending YRCS since she was 3, starting at Little Creek Nursery. I feel lucky to have found a school for her that shares so many of our values: community, sustainability, self awareness, integrity, and all the other virtues our school teaches and models. I have often said that I am learning as much, or more, as Iris as we experience Rudolph Steiner's lessons come to life at YRCS. I especially value the lessons on how to be a fully present, heart centered human.

I am interested in serving on the Charter Council because I consider having a public, Waldorf-based education option that can serve as a role model for other communities to be one of the most worthwhile endeavors of our current time. I also firmly believe in the tenets that founded our school as a collaboration between teachers, parents and the community. We parents need to be fully involved in our school's on-going success to ensure it not only survives but thrives well into the future, even in these dismal economic times.

I can bring to the group over 25 years of working professionally in large teams to bring consensus on difficult decisions. As a quality specialist, I have a lot of experience in how formal, living procedures can bring group cohesion, consistency, and impartiality when issues and dilemmas arise. This experience has also made clear that good oversight and transparency can keep groups healthy and thriving. Now that YRCS has reached its adolescence, I hope to help the leadership team build on the very solid foundation that has been established for this organization so it can grow old and wise and share this wisdom with the wider community.

I welcome this opportunity and would be grateful for your support.

Mariana Nielsen

Parent of Iris Tilton, Grade 2

#### Dear Friends.

My name is Kirk Valentine and I am committed to the Rudolph Stieiner vision of education and its implementation by the Waldorf school methodology. I wish to contribute to the continued success of our school by serving as a member of the Charter Council, and I now have the time and energy to do so. My wife Genevieve and I recognize and appreciate the benefits our son Sean is accruing in his eighth year at YRCS. Because of Genevieve's French origins we are both keenly aware of the educational system in Europe that motivated Steiner to develop his vision and begin the development of the Waldorf system. I hope to contribute to the strengthening of that vision here at our school.

Allow me to share my background:

- Co-owner with Genevieve of the Nevada City Classic Café in Nevada City.
- Earned a degree from San Francisco's Healds College in Mechanical Engineering.
- Worked at Aerojet in Sacramento from 1957 to 1970 as part of the team for the US Apollo moon shot project.
- Owned Tradewinds Sailing Center and School for 42 years in Sacramento and Pt. Richmond teaching sailing and guiding tours all over the world.
- Experienced in personnel matters interviewing hundreds of teacher candidates.
- Developed the US Sailing Commercial Sailing School Program and wrote their charter.
- Moved to Nevada City 10 years ago with my wife and son to live and raise our thirteen-year-old son Sean.
- Served as Chairman of the Yuba River Charter School's Educational Foundation.
- Elected to and now serving on the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.
- > Sit on the Chamber's Marketing and Web Site committee.
- Conceived of and conducted the Great Nevada City Survey providing our community leaders direct input from its residents.
- Conceived of and implemented the formation of the Nevada City Economic Enhancement Team
- Conceived of and implemented the merger of the N.C. Downtown Assoc. and the N.C. Chamber of Commerce

The Yuba River Charter School has survived and flourished over the years because of the incredible efforts of many committed parents and staff members. I would like to join in that effort for the next two to four years and bring my commitment, background, experience and energy to help grow our school, its programs and activities. I will work toward a stronger financial foundation with a view towards minimizing the impact of the State-level cutbacks while maintaining the integrity of our Charter School system and our ability to offer our program to all income levels. I appreciate conflict resolution skills that are exemplified by our staff and parents, and I will work towards expanding our SHINE program to integrate our experiences with the experiences of other communities and cultures so that we are clear models for our students by setting shining examples of us working together to resolve conflicts.

Thank you, Kirk Valentine

#### **Charter Council Letters of Interest**

This is the second page of the four letters of interest for the two openings of Charter Council Parent Representative.

Please vote for up to two candidates of your choice using the ballot on page 8 — one vote per parent and/or legal guardian.

#### Allison Gjertsen

Greetings to the parents of children attending YRCS,

Sadly, the end of my term as a parent representative on the Charter Council is coming to an end. I decided I wanted to join the council 2 years ago because I appreciate a Waldorfmethods curriculum being made available to the public. My children are at this school because of these qualities together, since 2006. My daughter Lilith, who makes me so proud of her persistence, is in grade 5. In grade 3 is my son Ferrous. He has enough heart to light a planet.

Thank you to all of you who voted for me, as well as those who just voted! Please know that your input counts. I listen and try to understand if I do not already. As I vote on agenda items, I keep in mind the past, present and future generations of Yuba River Charter School.

I have accumulated an understanding of our charters' functioning through the position I hold currently. It would be an honor to represent the parents of YRCS as a Charter Council parent member next term. Please vote for me. Much of the work done already is excellent preparation for what will be needed in the future.

My intention is to encourage understanding that YRCS is a school of choice and thrives on oneness. I believe I have been successful at this. I offer my all school perspective to you. I am happy to contribute a steady and open stance in regulations and policies.

Thank you for your attention, Allison Giertsen

Dear YRCS Parents,

My name is Torrie Mudd and I am seeking re-election to serve as one of your parent representatives to the Charter Council, on your behalf, for another two-year term.

I came to our Yuba River Charter School seven years ago and currently have a daughter Hollie in 8th grade and a daughter "KK" in 6th grade. I stepped into service as a parent helper in Rose Kindergarten and for five years, I served on the Parent Council as Secretary, Co-Chair, and Chair, one year as a liaison to the YRCS Education Foundation and, for the last two years, as your Charter Council Parent Representative, Secretary, and very recently as the Chair.

Over the past 26 years I have acquired a professional background of management, administration and self-employment where I have worked with the following skills that can benefit me if I serve on the Charter Council: Marketing, extensive customer communication, presentations, public speaking, leadership development, coaching and mentoring, business planning and development, working in cooperative teams, goal setting, vision and project development. Through my years at YRCS, I feel some of the most important values that can assist me and others on Charter Council is staying objective, looking at things from a "whole-school" perspective and having a positive, present, "can-do" attitude. Lastly, I feel it's important to approach situations with calm action versus quick reaction and to maintain a clear-thinking environment for working out resolutions.

As a member of the Charter Council, I see opportunities to make positive changes in the areas of policies and procedures, budget (increasing revenue) and conflict resolution checks and balances. I want to encourage and help implement SHINE (Social Health Inclusion Network) to be an integral part of our conflict resolution process. Through the newsletter, I would like to create more transparency around the Charter Council functions through our online site where parents can access our agendas, support material, and monthly minutes. I would like to also make sure that the Parent Council, Charter Council, and Ed Foundation continue to have clear communication and good working relationships to move our school forward in a positive direction.

I've had the opportunity of listening to and implementing suggestions and comments from YRCS parents and am always grateful for the many hours that families give to our school. I love our school and will continue to serve this community the best I can. I'm very appreciative for the experiences I have gained through the different committees and have had the pleasure of working along side dedicated parents, teachers, and administration that are committed to the continued development of our school. Much progress has been made and I look forward to the work that still needs to be done. I would consider it a privilege to represent YRCS families on Charter Council, and will always make myself available by phone, e-mail or in person to receive questions, comments, and suggestions.

In gratitude and service, Torrie Mudd



## Parent Council Election for

### **Charter Council**

## Two 2-year terms beginning June 2010

Return this ballot to the school office by 9:00 am, Monday, May 10, 2010

2010 Candidates:								
Charter Council Parent Member Ballot								
Allison Gjertsen								
☐ Torrie Mudd								
Mariana Nielson								
☐ Kirk Valentine								
Choose up to 2 candidates. One ballot allowed per parent and/or legal guardian. You may write your choice(s) on a separate piece of paper if you wish.								

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.

Yuba River Charter School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Benefit

#### Tapas Dinner & Musical Show

FEATURING
Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher
RON CHARLES and his BAND

Saturday, May 15

\$15 for adults and \$8 for kids

at

The Classic Café in Nevada City 216 Broad Street

Two seatings are available: 5:30 and 7:30 pm

Please call 470-0544 for reservations for one of these seatings.

#### PROPOSITION 39

California voters passed Prop. 39 back in 2000 to allow charter school students to receive the same rights to facilities as other public school students. It makes sense since you are all taxpayers and your district of residence receives funding for buildings while your child's charter school does not. Every year the Director of YRCS meets with the superintendents of both Grass Valley and Nevada City to request the facility accommodation that our students are entitled to receive. This year Nevada City has considered closing some of its campuses so it might be of interest to them to follow Prop 39 and offer classroom space to YRCS and even offer additional classrooms for rent. The traditional districts are obviously concerned that they will continue to lose enrollment to the charters if we are in town. NCSA, for example, began as a program within the Nevada City school district and now had the same number of students as Gold Run and NCE combined. I'm a strong believer in The research shows that when school choice. parents pick a school for their child that they make good choices and are more invested in the success of their child. Whether or not a charter school is ultimately offered a lease on a closed public school is still an open question.

Caleb Buckley

## PARENI

This is going to be brief...

Four important letters are in this week's YRCS newsletter. They are introductory letters of interest for the two openings on Charter Council from four par-

ents from our community.

I hope you take the time to read them. At this Saturday's May Fair festival, you will have an opportunity to meet them and ask questions.

Lastly, if anyone is interested in chairing the parent council next school year, please contact me.

Sincerely, Greg Wilker PC Chair jersey@well.com

"April is a promise that May is bound to keep." - Hal Borland

Dear YRCS families,

Did you know that 380 billion plastic grocery bags are manufactured every year, and that only 5.2% are ever recycled, leaving the rest to pollute our Earth for 1,000 years?

As part of my 8<sup>th</sup> grade project on plastic in our environment, I have created a petition urging the Nevada City and Grass Valley city councils to encourage local merchants and grocery stores to place a surcharge on all plastic bags. My hope is by doing this it will encourage customers to bring their own reusable grocery bags instead of contributing to more pollution. My petition is in the office now and I ask you to take a moment to sign it if you agree that we must start to change our habits if we are going to save our planet. Please sign both petitions before April 30.

Your support is very much appreciated.

Sincerely, Nikki Ronningen, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

#### Yuba River Charter School Calendar

2010-2011 (Approved by Charter Council 4-21-10)

July 2010						4	4 August 2010 10								6 September 2010 21							5 October 2010							
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August 12 - 17 Teacher Inservice August 18 First Day of School & Opening Ceremony August 18 - 20 **All Minimum Days** September 3 Picture Day September 6 Labor Day Holiday Harvest Festival Minimum Day September 24 October 27 Picture Make-Up Day October 15 **Minimum Day** October 18 - 22 October Break October 29 Halloween Festival Minimum Day November 6 Moondance 2010 November 11 & 12 Veteran's Day Holiday & Teacher Inservice Day November 15 - 19 Parent Conferences Minimum Days November 22-26 Thanksgiving Break December 17 **Minimum Day** December 20 - 31 Winter Break January 3 Teacher Inservice Day - NO SCHOOL January 17 M.L.King Holiday February 18 **Minimum Day** February 20 - 25 President's Holiday & Break Days March 8, 9 & 11 (Optional) Parent Conferences Minimum Days March 10 Staff/Teacher Appreciation Tea March 26 Day in the Life of Kindergarten April 9 Day in the Life of Kindergarten April 11-15 STAR Testing **Minimum Day** Apri15 April 18 - 22 Spring Break April 25 **SNOW DAY** April 26-29 STAR Testing

Grandparent's Day

May 5

May 13 Medieval Games
May 27 SNOW DAY
May 30 Memorial Day Holiday
May 31 - June 3
All Minimum Days
June 3 Last Day of School
& Graduation

Teacher Inservice

First Trimester

June 6 - 9

Trimester Ends: October 29
Report Cards: November 12

**Second Trimester** 

Trimester Ends: February 17 Report Cards: March 3

Third Trimester

Trimester Ends: May 20 Report Cards: June 10

Key to SymbolsT - Teacher Inservice

C - Conference Day/Minimum Day

H - Holiday

B - Break for Students and Staff

S - Snow Day

Minimum days are underlined

170 days of student instruction