

The Current

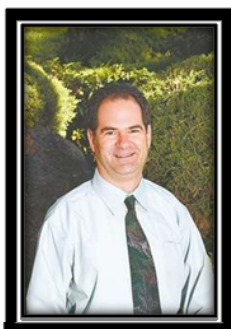


Office 265-6060
Kidspace ext. 121
Enrollment/Development ext. 102
Attendance ext. 109
Home Study Program ext. 110

To view newsletter online go to www.yubariverschool.org
email | for newsletter submissions: info@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



November 10th, 2011

Letter from the Director

If you did not receive a copy of the annual report or your new school directory, please come by the office to get one. It's amazing what we have accomplished in the last year and the report tells our story and is our accountability to our donors as to how our money was spent. This week our school is finishing its new charter document to send to a district to approve so we can renew our school for another five years. While I have these facts on my desk, I would like to share them.

The economically disadvantaged number climbed from 20% just a few years ago to 48% this year. Interestingly enough, the poorer families at this school outperform the middle class families on standardized tests. While we live in the whitest county in California, about 94% white, our school is only 84% white, so we are much more diverse than our town. There are also 15 different languages other than English spoken at home among our families. 40 of our families are bilingual. YRCS also has the highest percentage of families that give an annual gift to their school, a staggering 97%. And although the state has delayed and cut payments to public education, YRCS has a \$450,000 reserve to cover cash flow for payroll and services. We currently have 76 families enrolled in preschool and kindergarten which bodes well for our future.

Please attend our parent talks coming up and follow the school calendar closely over the next few weeks. Conferences are next week and school gets out at 1pm all of next week. Most importantly, join us on Nov. 19th for our school auction and support this diverse, international, and well educated community.

Sincerely,
Caleb J Buckley



YRCS Calendar of Events

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Fri	11/11		No School - Veteran's Day
Mon-Fri	11/14 –11/18		Conference Week Minimum Day
Tues	11/15	6:00 pm	Parent Ed Talk: George Hoffercker Media & Child Development
Wed	11/16	7:00 pm	Staying In Touch Presentation – Thea Blair
Thurs	was 11/17	To Be Rescheduled	Parent Ed Talk: Daniel Bittleston Rudolf Steiner 150 th anniversary of birth
Fri	11/18		Pizza Order Deadline for December Deadline for Wreath Orders
Sat	11/19	5:30 – 11:00 pm	✦ Moondance ✦
Mon-Fri	11/21-11/25		Thanksgiving Break – No School
Mon	11/28		Calzone & Sandwich Order Deadline for December
Tues	11/29	6:00 pm	Parent Ed Talk: Eugene Schwartz Brain Development and Waldorf Education
Wed	11/30		Pastie & Burrito Order Deadline for December Yearbook Orders Due
Thurs	12/1	8:30 am 3:30 pm	Parent Ed Talk: Eugene Schwartz Supporting Healthy Rhythms at Home & School Special Charter Council Meeting
			Deadline to order 2012 Calendar Minimum Day
Fri	12/2	10:00 – 2:00	Winter Fair Grade 7 & 8 to NU
Mon	12/5	3:15 pm	Playground Beautification Meeting Gr. 4 classroom
Wed	12/7	3:30 pm	Charter Council Meeting
Thurs	12/8	6:00 pm	Winter Assembly – Vet's Building GV Minimum Day
Tues	12/13		Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8 Christmas Carol Play Field Trip

Generosity

Grade 1 is hosting this month's virtue.

Generosity is giving to others something that is of value to us. Generosity is a quality of spirit that calls us to share what we have. We also allow others to give to us. Every gift is doubly blessed, bringing joy to the giver and the receiver. Generosity helps us to give time and attention to the feelings, needs and views of those around us. It springs from a sense of abundance and gratitude for the limitless richness of life.

We give cheerfully without expecting anything in return. We are receptive to blessings.

Generosity is an awareness that there is plenty for everyone.

I am thankful for Generosity. It helps me to give and receive abundantly.

Adapted from the Virtues Project

"One of the marks of true genius is a quality of abundance."

Catherine Drinker Bowen

"The fragrance always remains in the hand that gives the rose."

Mahatma Gandhi

"The gift which is given without thought of recompense, in the belief that it ought to be made, in a fit place, at an opportune time, and to a deserving person - such a gift is pure."

Bhagavad-Gita 17:20



Calzone Lunch Thursdays

Calzones are offered by the 4th grade and are provided by Pete's Pizza of Nevada City, and served with marinara dipping sauce.

Calzones are served on Thursdays: December 1, 8, and 15

Orders are due by afternoon of Monday, Nov 28

- Please return form to child's class
- Please make checks payable to: YRCS Field Fund

Parent's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

First Child's Full Name: _____ Grade: _____

____ Veggie Calzone (Cheese, mushrooms, black olives) —\$13.50

____ Canadian Bacon & Cheese Calzone —\$13.50

Second Child's Full Name: _____ Grade: _____

____ Veggie Calzone (Cheese, mushrooms, black olives) —\$13.50

____ Canadian Bacon & Cheese Calzone —\$13.50

Third Child's Full Name: _____ Grade: _____

____ Veggie Calzone (Cheese, mushrooms, black olives) —\$13.50

____ Canadian Bacon & Cheese Calzone —\$13.50

TOTAL DUE: _____

If you are interested in paying for many months in advance or have other questions just ask Anna Reischman @ 272-1397



Tuesday Pastie Lunch Order Form

Happily offered by the 5th grade

Pastie lunch dates: Tuesday, December 6, 13

Orders are due by Wednesday, Nov 30

Questions? Ask Jenn Knapp: letloveradiate@yahoo.com

Parent's Name _____ Phone # _____

First Child's full name _____ Grade _____

Check one: _____ Veggie Pastie - \$10 _____ Beef Pastie - \$10 _____ Chicken Pastie - \$10

Second Child's full name _____ Grade _____

Check one: _____ Veggie Pastie - \$10 _____ Beef Pastie - \$10 _____ Chicken Pastie - \$10

Total: \$ _____



Yuba River Charter School

505 Main Street * Nevada City, California 95959 * (530) 272-8078 *Caleb Buckley, Director

POSITION AVAILABLE

- POSITION:** Long Term Sub for Little Creek Nursery Director
Classified Position
November 8 to December 16th, 2011
- SITE:** Little Creek Nursery at the Yuba River Charter School
505 Main Street
Nevada City, California 95959
- WAGE:** \$95.00 per day 8am to 3 pm Monday through Friday
- SUPERVISOR:** YRCS Director
- DUTIES:** Responsible for the operation of the Little Creek Nursery a Waldorf Methods early childhood education program. Implement Waldorf Methods early childhood education program and maintain quality of care and provide safe and healthy learning environment for children between the ages of 2 and 5 years. Supervise assistant teacher. Comply with all YRCS policies and procedures.
- REQUIRED:** Associate of Arts Degree from an accredited or approved college or university with a major or emphasis in early childhood education or child development (3 semester or equivalent quarter units shall be in administration or staff relations); and at least two years of teaching experience in a licensed child care center or comparable group child care program.
- OR**
- Bachelor's Degree from an accredited or approved college or university with a major or emphasis in early childhood education or child development (3 semester of equivalent quarter units shall be in administration or staff relations); and at least one year of teaching experience in a licensed child care center or comparable group child care program.
- APPLY:** Pick up classified applications at Yuba River Charter School or on our website: yubariverschool.org under employment opportunities. Return application along with resume and requirements to:

Caleb Buckley, Director of YRCS
505 Main Street
Nevada City, CA 95959
Fax: 530-265-6070
caleb@buckleydirector.com

DEADLINE: UNTIL FILLED

Yuba River Charter School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

From: The Charter Council

Hello YRCS Families:

The Charter Council continues its marathon meeting schedule. In addition to the typical work of reviewing budgets, contracts, and policies, we have several big projects in the works.

In collaboration with members of Parent Council, a group is getting together to discuss possible improvements to the playground. Some beautiful and creative ideas are being presented that include painting games on the blacktop, murals, natural areas, and shade zones. We are still in the early stages. Please watch for newsletter announcements or contact CC or PC for the next meeting date to join us.

The budget news from California continues to be grim. We have taken a \$262 per student cut this year. This means that in our area, the state now typically pays less than \$5,000 per student for an entire year's education (\$4,827 for K-3, \$4,903 for 4-5, \$5,056 for 6-8). This is about one third of what it costs to attend many private schools. Luckily, this cut was anticipated and money had been set aside. We are so grateful for the careful planning that goes on to keep this school fiscally sound. As the year unfolds, we will continue to monitor this situation carefully.

Many charter schools in our county are due to renew their charters soon . Our school is in great shape to succeed in this often political and challenging process. Our students are performing well: our middle school students scored the highest in the county on STAR tests, despite the fact that we do not teach to the tests! We have adequate financial reserves and a balanced budget. We comply with all state mandates and serve students that are both economically and culturally diverse. Part of the process allowed faculty to review our current curriculum in detail, which may lead to even further improvements.

The Strategic Plan is almost ready for approval. This will help us set and track specific goals and seek funding to help make them realities.

The building project on Rough and Ready continues, including finding the best way to access the site and finding additional funds to meet the needs of our current design without having to make too many compromises.

Teacher reviews and evaluations will soon be performed by the nationally recognized Waldorf experts George Hoffecker and Eugene Schwartz.

More details about happenings are available in the full minutes available on the website: <http://www.yubariverschool.org/parents.html>.

Respectfully yours,

Mariana Nielsen, CC Secretary

LAMPOST

PIZZA Lunch

Order Form December

Monday Pizza Lunch Dates: December 5th and 12th
Orders Due 11-18-11

NOTES: We are not offering a drink with this lunch, it is pizza, pizza and only pizza.

Questions: Jennifer Knapp letloveradiate@yahoo.com

Parent's

Name _____ Phone: _____

First Child's full name: _____ Second Child's full name _____

Grade _____ Grade _____

Circle either cheese or pepperoni:

Circle either cheese or pepperoni:

1 slice: Cheese/Pepperoni \$7.50

1 slice: Cheese/Pepperoni \$7.50

2 slices: Cheese/Pepperoni \$12.50

2 slices: Cheese/Pepperoni \$12.50

Total: _____

YEARBOOKS!!!

Yearbook orders are due by November 30th. If you don't want to miss out on the opportunity to have one of these lovely books, pre-ordering is a must. We only order 10 extra. Yearbooks are \$23.00 each. Please bring this order form to the envelope in the office.

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Cost: \$23.00

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Cost: \$23.00

Total: _____

Checks payable to YRCS

Win a Hot Air Balloon Ride at Moondance!

Last year at the Moondance, I was the happy winner of the hot air balloon ride. This was a long childhood dream of mine, and I couldn't believe that it really came true! Hot air balloon riding is addictive; I could do it every day, even if I am normally afraid of heights. But so is the pilot, as he kindly shared with me when we were high up in the air, so then nothing could go wrong any more....!

It takes you beyond imagination, into a place where our little worries, no matter how big they might shine from the ground, from up there they are all small, like in a funny doll house, and you can breathe fresh air.....free and relaxed!

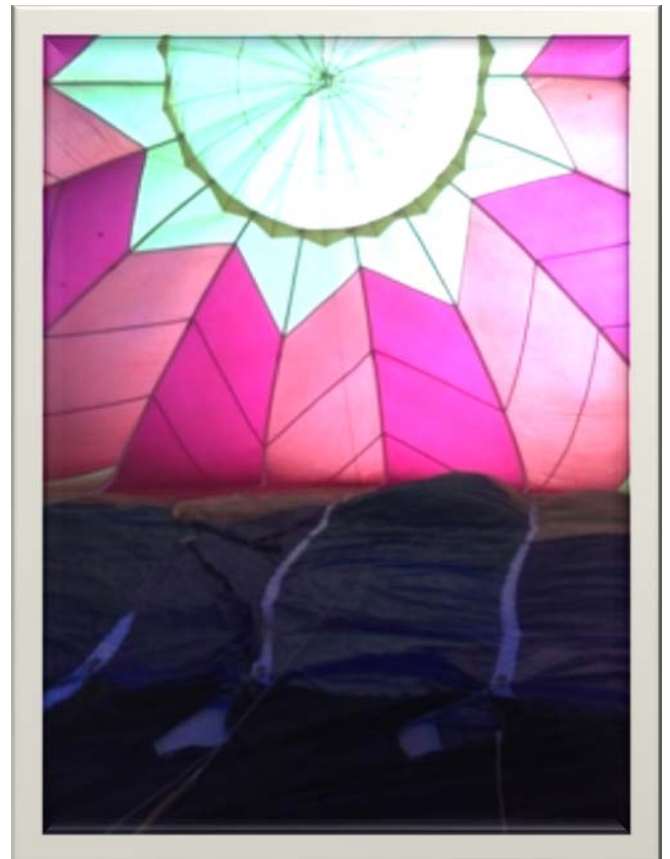
I obtained a lot of relativity to my life during the hot air balloon ride, plus we had a tremendous time! For Amina (9 years old), this was a whole adventure! We camped in the night before, woke up really early and helped with setting up and putting back together the giant thing! It adds a different dimension to a child's life, plus it is a great science and reality experience.

Bo and Orval are the best! We got a warm welcome and clear instructions, plus wonderful stories told about the history of the hot air ballooning, and in the end....an exquisite camping breakfast, including French toast and hot chocolate! We were done at about 10 am and felt that we had lived 3 days in 3 hours!

I think it is amazing that Bo and Orval are offering this item to the Moondance auction, considering all the work and dedication they put into it.

To me, this is one of the best items on the auction, fun and fabulous short trip guaranteed!

Good luck!
Andreea and Amina (3rd grade)





*Begin your Holiday Shopping at Moondance!
Save yourself money while supporting our school!*

Private Ski Lessons at Sugar Bowl
Hot Air Balloon Ride in the Sierras
Two-day, Weekend at Lake Tahoe
Accommodations in Hanalei, Hawaii for 4
Massages, massages, massages!
Recording Session Time – Record a Song!
Skiing at Kirkwood
Autographed Lucinda Williams Drumhead & Album
Kayak & Camping Trip for 3-days & 2-nights in the Sierra
Dining Out around Nevada County
Disneyland Tickets for 4
Strawberry Music Festival Tickets for 4
Beautiful, handmade items
Artisan, parent-made table valued at \$5k
Mobile chicken coop offered by our 2nd grade
To-scale, handmade tee-pee
Scenic, 3-hour sail on Lake Tahoe

And much, much more!

Tickets available in the Main YRCS Office. Volunteers still needed!!!!

Please join in and help us put on this amazing event and abundant fundraiser! The Moondance committee sign-up sheets are located to the right of the Main Office door, just at the beginning of the lower grades hallway. Most committees could still use support, although our greatest needs are as follows:

- 👉 **Moondance Set-up** during the day of Saturday, November 19th (between 9a – 3p)
- 👉 **Evening Greeters** (5:15p – 7:15p)
- 👉 **Computer Processing** (between 6:00p – 10:00p)
- 👉 **Check-Out** (9:00p – 11:00p)
- 👉 **Auction Items Wrap-Up** (7:15p – 11:00p) ~ We LOVE to have alumni help with this!
- 👉 **Clean-up** (10:00p – 1:00p) ~ (We are offering one complimentary ticket for the first five people to volunteer for clean-up! It is fun work, which goes into the late hours. First come, first served!)

(Please note: As of November, YRCS volunteerism and school service asks each family to have volunteered 15 hours. Moondance is an excellent opportunity to contribute that time!)



The bounty it brings to YRCS!

November 7, 2011

Dear Friends,

Moondance is upon us! Saturday November 19th is just around the corner. And for the 9th year we are going to have a fun night of gathering together, eating, bidding, laughing and dancing ~ all in the name of our children and school!

A small group of us parents have been holding the "core" of the auction for years now. And it has grown over the years from making a few thousands of dollars to *grossing over \$35,000 last year!* We love contributing to our school, and ultimately to our kids, in this way.

Last year Moondance earnings helped YRCS with operating costs, teacher health care benefits, and raised money which allowed for YRCS to re-establish our new and current playground at NCE. This year, as state and economic conditions command, YRCS is in great need of finding funding for operating budget cuts (the school will be taking ANOTHER \$80,000 cut/\$264 per child, again this year).

A portion of Moondance 2011 net proceeds will also, once again, go towards helping support teacher Health Savings Accounts (HSA). Our Global Auction to "**Fund a Need**" is to finance a Technology Lab. As a Waldorf charter school, our students do not use computers within the classrooms, at all, until 7th or 8th grades. Although, the State of CA is mandating that *all* schools have computers to accommodate students for annual STAR testing, which occurs each spring at our school. The State of CA is not providing funding schools to purchase these computers, therefore YRCS must begin raising money for another unfunded, state-mandate. We hope you will help us in this endeavor at Moondance this year.

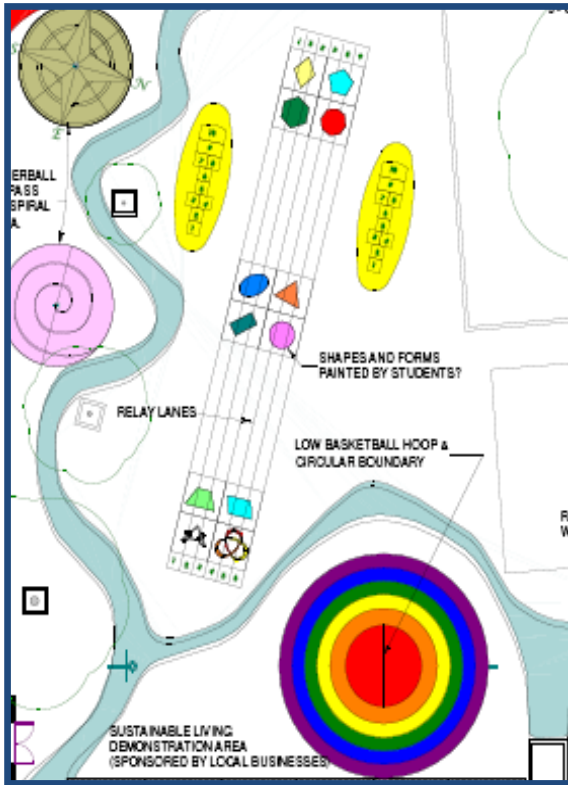
As I also have mentioned, we are a small group of volunteers. Frankly, we would love to have, and need, more help! If you would like to contribute to this important event and also check off necessary volunteer hours, we would be most happy and excited for you to join us. We could use help before the auction day and of course during the auction. A huge thank you to folks who have already stepped up!

As we all know, folks volunteer in so many capacities at our school. Thank you to all who help out in classrooms, go on field trips, attend councils, attend committees...the list goes on and on. Please celebrate yourself and your efforts by enjoying yourselves for the evening! Every year I hear people say they cannot come because they can't afford to bid on anything. Please don't let that deter you. Buying a ticket truly helps toward our goal of raising money. We want everyone in our school to be there if they would like to be.

Come join the fun and if you are able, pitch in a hand. Again, thank you for all you do. It's an honor to be in a school with such loving and committed parents.

Sincerely,

Jenny Gray
Mother of Forrest, 5th grade



Playground Beautification Next Meeting Monday 12/5, 3:15 PM, Grade 4

Join us to see beautiful ideas so far.

Share your thoughts/skills.

Next Step: PC and CC approval of first 2 phases: Asphalt games and art.

HELP! Do you have a power washer? A couple of hours to help prepare the asphalt? Skills/interest in laying string to shape basketball, volleyball courts and other games? This is a great way to get your volunteer hours while making a big difference for our kids. Call 292-3319 or email nielsenm@sbbmail.com

Winter Fair

A magical winter celebration

Saturday, December 3, 2011

10:00 am-2:00 pm

Come enjoy:

Seasonal Crafts ~ Elfin Shoppe*

*Children Only Please!! All Gifts under \$5

Shop For: A holiday gift

Create: Paper chains, Felt tree ornaments, Walnut shell babies And More!

Enchanted Cookie Forest

Look for the wandering **Treasure Elf!**

Kinder Cafe selling:

soup & breads

Tickets for all the fun for sale at the door!

Come join in the holiday fun!!

Vendors for adult shopping.

* Tickets for all the fun for sale at the door!
50 cents buys a ticket...all crafts and food are
1-4 tickets each.





We are upgrading the library system!

Our old computer died and we had to replace the old software system as well.

On a long term plan this is really good.

On a short term...we have to re catalog every book on the shelves...

The cataloging itself should be fast, but I need help bringing the books back and forth. Anyone can do this! 10 – 30 minutes at a time is fine, longer is better...ASAP is great!!!

Thank You,
Catherine

Help Make Hats!

My name is Reyna Van Valkenburg and I am making hats for the homeless people for my 8th grade project, but I need help. There are many homeless families in our area that are in need of a warm hat this winter. Can you please help by either making a couple hats for adults of children, donating yarn for me so that I may make more hats, or both? Anything helps and I appreciate everything I receive.

There will be a box in the office for any hats or donations. For questions, please call 477-0749 or email me at rvschery@gmail.com

Thank You!

Nevada County SELPA & the Special Education Parents Advisory Committee

a representative group of parents who provide resources and support to parents with special needs children

Video Presentation Series



6th
Annual

Addressing
Issues of
Concern to You

For
All
Parents
of students in
Nevada County

Bullying Prevention and Intervention

9:30 am ONLY

presentation with Sharyn Turner

November 15, 2011 TUESDAY

Sharyn Turner, School Health Services Coordinator, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools will be discussing bullying prevention and intervention with an emphasis on students with disabilities. As a parent, what can you do to support your child if they are being bullied? How can children be taught to stand up to bullies? Bullying is a problem that must be dealt with at the school wide, classroom, individual and community levels.

NOTE LOCATION ↘

This presentation will be held at the NCSoS, Houser Rm, 112 Nevada City Hwy., Nevada City 9:30 - 11:30 am ONLY, informal discussions to follow.

Please RSVP to: Randy McKean, 265-0611 x 203, email: randy.cm@nevco.k12.ca.us

More 2011-2012 Video Presentation Series dates to remember

Presentation: January 10, 2012

Video Presentation #2: February 13, 2012

Video Presentation #3: TBA

Puberty & Adolescent Development, Havilyn Ken

Hidden Curriculum - What is Meaningful

Autism HBO Movie - Temple Grandin

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, meetings 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, Terrence 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: _____

As you start to walk out on the way, the way appears.
-Rumi

SHINE (Social Health inclusion Network for Everyone):

We are a group of school staff and parents dedicated to improving social relationships in our community. By recognizing the humanity in each person we can work together to strengthen communication through reflection, respect, and responsibility.

As the nights grow longer and the days wane, we begin to look inward. Some may say inwardly we awaken as the earth prepares for its' long winter rest. First, we would like to express our gratitude for the big move we undertook last June. It was an immense amount of work and, upon reflection, clarity supports it as a necessary step to help us move forward as a growing, living school. Our new home at NCE provides a composed uprightness and a sense of formality that is uniquely different from our last site.

When looking at the social health of our school, our group is striving to bring form to the social harmony of our students, teachers, and parent body. We foster cooperative social goals, including promoting a healthy forum for communication, and how to deal with conflicts when they do arise. Imagine our community agreements as three simple legs of a stool that we as individuals may use to give our community a solid, stable platform upon which to anchor. Here, we'll introduce our third agreement: *Listen to Understand*. In fifth grade, we are working diligently on listening not with just your ears but with our hearts. Listening is a skill that can be very challenging, and is like a muscle that needs to be exercised regularly in order to remain strong and flexible.

The Shine group meets every other Monday and is actively looking for parent representatives to serve our group. We're generating great ideas that we are trying to bring to our larger school community. For example, working with our student population to develop healthier social patterns. This entails establishing a student council where student generated issues can be brought forth and peaceably discussed.

Present in the natural world are seasonal markers that mark the rhythms of the earth. This provides a natural rhythm to life and all its surroundings. Listening to and establishing rhythms is a vital component to Waldorf education - from our daily routines to our yearly block rotations. We believe this move was part of a larger rhythm in the life of YRCS, thus marking a big in-breath, or a seasonal process of contraction. When we relocate to our final home in a few years it will be counter or the expansion or out-breath in our schools life rhythm as we begin a farm or a school with a lot of open space. Mr. Bell recently joked with Mr. Buckley as to where we are developmentally in the overall life of the school? If we were to make an analogy with the grades, and the developmental themes described therein, where does our school currently sit? Could building our new school be similar to the theme of the Israelites finding their homeland - such as in third grade with the new site - or maybe the more formal setting of our current site is like the theme of the Roman empire of sixth grade with the twelve year old change.

In SHINE, we're generating great ideas that we are trying to bring to our larger school community. Working with the older, middle school children to bring this social curriculum down the grades by means of the students themselves is one such example. As our school enters its sixteenth year, it is clear we are alive and ready to grow. On behalf of the SHINE group we appreciate all of your work and efforts given to our community to make it a special place where everyone is free to work, play and grow.

Sincerely, Erik Bell (On Behalf of SHINE)

Community Agreements:

- I. ***Go to the source:*** This is a direct line of communication
- II. ***Speak the Truth:*** All our feelings and perspectives are valid, presume positive intentions.
- III. ***Listen to understand:*** Can we see a different perspective. Why is this person feeling this way?

May our Hearts SHINE bright!

Krissa Connelley
Elise Hierman
Baruch Simon
Paula Barber
Erik Bell

CHILDCARE AT YRCS FOR MOONDANCE...

Childcare will be available for Moondance attendees, at our school campus for the first time ever! Get your discount tickets at Harvest Festival and know that you won't have to scavenge for a last-minute babysitter; or worse yet. . . No babysitter at all!

The care will be available at 5:00pm the evening of Moondance and conclude at 11:00pm. Reservations must be made in advance through Melissa Seibold at melissa@yubariverschool.org. There will be a nominal hourly fee for this convenience. Come join your Community of Friends for the evening, while supporting our awesome school, and know your children are well-cared for only a few blocks away!

CALLING ALL YRCS PARENTS... MOONDANCE HELP NEEDED...

A volunteer sign-up list is posted on the YRCS foyer. Please take your time to review our "party needs" and join in to help us raise much-needed money for YRCS.

Moondance is our school's biggest, and most fun, event each year. With the incredible help of our entire community, we will be able to break our \$36,000 fundraising goal for Moondance 2011!

YRCS ~ 2012 Calendar

Order the only 2012 calendar you will want hung on your wall or placed on your desk! This calendar includes beautiful YRCS faculty and student artwork for all seasons.



Desktop calendars: \$10.00 / Wall calendars: \$12.00



2012 Calendar Order Form

You may make your check payable to "YRCS Field Fund," presented by the YRCS 2nd grade class.

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Desktop calendars at \$10: QTY: _____ COST: _____

Wall calendars at \$12: QTY: _____ COST: _____

Deluxe wall calendars at \$16 QTY: _____ COST: _____

Total number of calendars: _____

Total cost of calendars: \$ _____

Paid by: Check or Cash

The YRCS 2nd grade thanks you for your support!

Calendars will be delivered to your child in his or her classroom by Friday, December 16th.

Deadline to Order 12/1

Holiday Wreaths



Dear Yuba River Families:

The eighth grade will be selling wreaths, swags, candy canes and door charms that are assembled in Oregon and delivered fresh the week after Thanksgiving. These wreaths are beautiful to either hang up in your home or as a wonderful gift to bring the scent of the holiday to someone special.

Please support the eighth grade's efforts to raise funds for their trip together by purchasing a wreath. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Fill out the form below and place it with payment attached in the Wreath Envelope in your child's class. You may also contact any eighth grade student to purchase a wreath. A flier containing the actual photos of the wreaths available is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Thank you and HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

Class Of 2012

Wreath Order Form

Name _____ phone: _____

	Without Bow	# To Order	With Bow	# To Order
22" Wreath	\$20.00		\$22.00	
25" Swag w/Holly Berries	\$23.00		\$25.00	
25" Door Charm w/Holly Berries	\$23.00		\$25.00	
25" Candy Cane w/Holly Berries	\$25.00		\$27.00	

TOTAL: _____

Please make checks payable to YRCS Field Fund. **Payment must be included with your order.**

Wreath Orders are Due November 18 – Thank you from the Eighth Grade!!



Friday Sandwich Lunch Order Offered By the 6th Grade

Sandwich lunch dates: Friday, Dec 2, 9, 16 - Orders are due by Monday November 28th

Parent's Name: _____ Phone # _____ -----Email _____

Child's full name: _____

Child's full name: _____

Grade: _____

Grade: _____

Circle your choices:

Choose one type of bread: **Multi-grain or Sourdough**

Choose one sandwich: **Ham or Turkey**

Choose one specialty sandwich: **Tuna or BBQ Chicken**

Choose from the following condiments: **Mayo Mustard**

Lettuce Tomato

Choose if you want cheese: (.50 cents a slice) **Cheese**

Check any desired additions, add the price and total.

Sandwich \$12.00

Specialty Sandwich \$13.50

With cheese add \$1.50

Circle your choices:

Choose one type of bread: **Multi-grain or Sourdough**

Choose one sandwich: **Ham or Turkey**

Choose one specialty sandwich: **Tuna or BBQ Chicken**

Choose from the following condiments: **Mayo Mustard**

Lettuce Tomato

Choose if you want cheese: (.50 cents a slice) **Cheese**

Check any desired additions, add the price and total.

Sandwich \$12.00

Specialty Sandwich \$13.50

With cheese add \$1.50

Child lunch total: _____

Child lunch total: _____

Make Checks Payable to: YRCS FF

Grand Order Total: _____



Burrito Lunch Wednesdays December 2011

Burritos are served on Wednesdays: December 7 and 14

Orders are due by Wednesday November 30th, 2011

Burritos are offered by the 7th grade and are provided by Emily's Catering and Cakes of Nevada City. Burritos contain organic ingredients, and are guaranteed to be delicious! They come with chips, and a 100% juice drink, if you choose.

All lunches must be paid for separately. Late orders are accepted on a case by case basis, please do not leave late orders in envelopes.

Parents Name: _____ Phone #: _____

First Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

_____ Bean, Cheese, & Rice Burrito — \$8.00

_____ Bean & Cheese Burrito — \$8.00

_____ Bean & Rice Burrito — \$8.00

_____ Chicken, Bean, Cheese, & Rice Burrito — \$10.00

_____ **Juice box for the month - \$2.00**

Second Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

_____ Bean, Cheese, & Rice Burrito — \$8.00

_____ Bean & Cheese Burrito — \$8.00

_____ Bean & Rice Burrito — \$8.00

_____ Chicken, Bean, Cheese, & Rice Burrito — \$10.00

_____ **Juice box for the month - \$2.00**

Burrito Cost: _____ Juice Cost: _____ TOTAL DUE: _____

If you are interested in paying for many months in advance or have other questions Call Deanna Ronningen @ 913-4342 or kdronningen@aol.com



We made compost tea to spray the soil and plants with.



We went for a walk around town to see the "Halloween spirit."

AT THE FARM

Our Home Study Farm Program is for Grades 1, 2 & 3 (ages 6-9). Classes meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Sierra Friends Center from 9 a.m. -1:30 p.m. To schedule a "Day in the Life of the Farm Program" visit call Yuba River Charter School at 530.265.6060 ext. 110 or email us at raelynnnoel@gmail.com

You can visit us at

<http://www.yubariverschool.org/homestudy.html>

See our new blog at

<http://yrcshomestudyfarmprogram.blogspot.com/>



We made soil out of compost for starting seeds.

Handwork/Library help needed!

This year, the Library and 4-8 Handwork room are the same!

This is great for me because instead of having to run from one building to the other I have 5 minute to put things away and prepare for the next class. It is also great for the students as they can pick up a reader during handwork if they missed their library time.

The disadvantage of this setup is that we, the students, occasional parent helpers and I, have to be very vigilant on putting things away at the right place after each class. Pins and needles do fall down and like to hide in the carpet, bookshelves become an easy place to put away what is left on the tables... and scissors, thread, pencils are found hiding between books.

At the beginning of the year I ask each teacher, 2nd to 8th grade, to mention at their first parent meeting that this year the Library/Handwork room needs help with cleaning. Ultimately once a week would be lovely but every other week would work as well. The room gets vacuumed every Monday night and trashcans emptied every day. What the room needs is for someone to clean the tables and do a quick dusting and checking of the shelves surrounding the tables. I take care of my desk area, teacher and handwork supplies shelves.

I know this is asking more from all of you parents but my asking comes out of a concern for the safety of your children. I do not want anyone to get hurt finding the wrong thing while looking for a book. And yes, although not too many children complain about a messy room,

most of them comment about a clean friendly space and finding the right tools when they need them.

A class also asked their parents to bring me flowers... Yes I love flowers, they brighten my day and the room but I never asked and do not expect anyone to go buy flowers! If you bring a bouquet from your garden to your classroom and think it would still look nice if you take one flower out and put it in the small vase on the library nature table I would love it. Last year, I was notorious to find old flowers in the trash cans on the deck and giving them a second life...

The library also needs help shelving books and covering new books before they become available to the students.

And of course you are always welcome to come play and create with us during handwork. If you have any question or are interested to help in anyway, please come by or give me a call or send me an email.

I thank you in advance.

Catherine
265-6060, ext 123
library@yubariverschool.org

***Congratulations YRCS Spelling Team!
Our Team Placed 4th out of 13 schools
that competed in a District Spelling
Competition for Grades 7/8
Yuba River Team Members:
Tristin Duncan
Eliza Cohen
Joy Castro-Wehr
Jenica Hierman
Loaan Ericson***

from: *The Harvard Education Letter*
Nov/Dec 2011 issue --

Waldorf Education in Public Schools

Educators adopt—and adapt—this developmental, arts-rich approach

By LAURA PAPPANO

Waldorf Education in Public Schools: Educators adopt—and adapt—this developmental, arts-rich approach

Waldorf Education in Public Schools

In the quest to fix ailing schools, should we slow down to move faster?

Just as the handmade, home-farmed foodie movement is transforming how consumers view processed food, is education's equivalent—Waldorf-style schooling that favors hands-on art and personal exploration while shunning textbooks and technology—just what school reform needs?

It sounds counterintuitive for struggling students to spend class time on, say, knitting and drawing. Yet, a small but growing number of public schools are embracing Waldorf methods in hopes of engaging students in ways advocates say traditional approaches do not—and raising test scores along the way.

Once a private school model chosen by mostly middle- and upper-middle-class families for its child-centered, developmental approach to schooling, the number of Waldorf-inspired public schools has risen quickly, from a dozen in 2000 to 45 in 2010, with another 30 expected to open this year, according to the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, a non-profit membership group for public Waldorf schools. Many are charter schools.

"A lot of parents and educators are recognizing that what we are doing in traditional education is not working for kids," says Caleb Buckley, board president of the alliance and director of the Yuba River Charter School. Founded in Nevada City, Calif., in 1994, Yuba River was the first public Waldorf charter school to open in the United States.

While most Waldorf schools are elementaries, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation helped launch the first public Waldorf high school four years ago at the George

Washington Carver School of Arts and Science in Sacramento, Calif., replacing a failed America's Choice program in the building. Test scores have since risen dramatically: In 2008, 67 percent of 11th-graders scored "far below basic" or "below basic" in English; in 2011, just 12 percent did. Teachers are happier as well, says principal Allegra Allesandri. While many teachers spent the summer boning up on content, Allesandri's teachers also honed skills in bookbinding, painting, and felting. Many Carver faculty gatherings include singing in harmony and playing games. "Those skills, which might be about singing, are also about working together successfully," she says.

Ida Oberman, author of *The Waldorf Movement in Education from European Cradle to American Crucible 1919–2008*, is so convinced that Waldorf holds answers for urban school reform that in August she launched a Waldorf-inspired school of her own: the Community School for Creative Education in nearby Oakland, Calif.

"We know about the achievement gap but haven't figured out how to close it," insists Oberman. She says pressure to raise test scores in poor, underperforming districts has led to a narrowing of curriculum, leaving students who may lack rich home environments with even less to engage them. "No Child Left Behind has failed," she says, asking, "What do we do to keep the children in this system, learning and growing?"

"Head, Heart, Hands"

While Waldorf education as conceived in 1919 by Austrian philosopher Rudolph Steiner brought a Christian and spiritual bent to developmental learning, U.S. schools have focused more on its pedagogical methods. Waldorf teachers use an experiential, arts-rich approach—"a head, heart, hands" philosophy—that includes singing, reciting poems and stories, and handwork, from weaving to woodwork.

Waldorf education, which often requires families to limit TV watching and electronics at home, considers a child's growth to take place in three seven-year stages from birth to age 21. Each stage is characterized by developmental phases—imitation, imagination, and the search for truth—that inform curriculum. The goal is to match learning with natural development, spurring a kind of organic compounding of children's innate drive to make sense of their worlds.

In early grades, strict Waldorf classrooms delay overt academic work in favor of imaginative play and movement centered on myths and fairy tales. Multiplication tables, for example, are not taught until fourth grade, although kindergarteners may gain early math skills as they knit. Even high school students studying science find a narrative focus as a teacher describes how Charles Darwin struggled to conceive his theory of evolution. Students may draw muscle cells to learn about them. There are no textbooks; students create their own "lesson books" to chart their learning.

Waldorf also emphasizes strong teacher-student relationships. Ideally, teachers stay with the same class for the first eight years, a practice known as looping. The daily schedule has an extended Main Lesson, which may last two hours. But before academics commence, each student is greeted by name by the teacher and joins in whole-class movement and singing.

Not surprisingly, Waldorf has been on the educational fringe. "In the public sector, Waldorf has been seen as loosey-goosey, weird, or even cultish," says Oberman, whose charter application was first rejected. "It's taken some real case building."

A Long View of Education

Authentic Waldorf education doesn't dovetail neatly with American public schooling. There is Steiner's Christian focus as well as the seeming indifference to metrics and assessment data. For public Waldorf schools, expunging Christian images and celebrations like passion plays has been straightforward. The tougher challenge is to show that kids are learning. Waldorf educators have such a long view of educating children and building capacities that, even by high school, students taking SATs at traditional Waldorfs "do all right, but considering they are in private schools, it's nothing to write home about," says Eugene Schwartz, educational consultant to public and private Waldorf schools.

There is little independent research on Waldorf outcomes. A 2001 study by Jennifer Schieffer and R. T. Busse compared test data in 1997–1998 and 1998–1999 among poor fourth-graders in two schools, one a public Waldorf and one a traditional public school, and found that Waldorf students scored somewhat better.

In 1997, Oberman considered survey data from 500 Waldorf grads, Gates Foundation documentation, and test scores from four public Waldorf-inspired schools. Survey data show Waldorf grads watch less TV and spend more time with friends and in creative pursuits, which is not surprising. But Oberman did identify a notable pattern: Waldorf students score below district peers in the early grades—and then catch up.

For example, at the Woodland Star Charter School in Sonoma County, Calif., test scores for 2010 show a stunning 81 percent of the second-graders scoring "below basic" or "far below basic," compared with 32 percent of district peers. By eighth grade, however, none of the school's students score in that level (in fact 89 percent are "proficient" or "advanced"), while 19 percent of district peers score in the lowest two levels and just 56 percent in the top two levels. Results have been less dramatic at some Waldorf-inspired charters, whose students in upper grades have scored about the same as district peers.

Making Waldorf Work

Increasingly, however, there is less waiting and more action as public Waldorf leaders, aware that poor scores can threaten their existence, alter approaches to

improve test results

When test scores dropped at the Waldorf-inspired Novato Charter School in California, for instance, the district superintendent came right to the point, recalls Rachael Bishop, the school's director. "She said, 'You have to come up 45 points by next year. No pressure.'"

Bishop, trained as a public school administrator, pulled out binders of state standards, to the dismay of her staff. What began with denial and pushback from faculty, however, turned into a realization that what they already did fit standards, she says; they just needed to be more explicit. For example, second-graders who were making their own pentagons for a class exercise weren't being taught the word "pentagon" in a way that they would recognize the word on the state tests. "We know the pentagon will be on the second-grade test," she says, "so now the teacher will write 'pentagon' on the board, and the kids get to the test and say, 'Oh I've seen that before.'"

Their efforts worked. Scores rose 91 points. But Bishop has kept at it, seeking to raise middle school math scores by doing the sacrosanct: buying textbooks. They still do project-based activities, start class with a verse perhaps by Albert Einstein, and end by thanking the teacher. But Bishop says the texts and 40-minute daily math lessons "look more like public school."

Reform Challenge: Oakland

It's one thing to tweak Waldorf methods in suburban Novato and another to lean on Waldorf in districts where students may be behind academically. Oberman, whose school just opened with 103 children in grades K–3 in six classrooms of the Howard Elementary School in Oakland, has the added challenge of serving an immigrant population. English is not the primary language spoken at home, and because many are extremely poor, she says, they are also transient.

"We are adjusting more radically than many Waldorf-inspired charters," says Oberman. She wants to use stories, poetry, and play to enrich but also to equip children academically so that if they transfer elsewhere they will not be behind.

Teachers, she says, "will not assume the child gets it" but will regularly assess in a Waldorf way. When students write in their Main Lesson books, they will underline a long-A sound, for example, write the word separately, and use it in their own made-up story, all while thinking about, say, a poem they have learned to recite. And where traditional Waldorf does only whole-group instruction, Oberman will do differentiation through centers. "We have the Center of the King, the Center of the Queen, the Center of Angels," she says.

Parent Aida Salazar, who knew nothing about Waldorf, transferred her six-year-old daughter to Oberman's school because of the creative approach. "I was really dismayed by all of the worksheets my daughter was

bringing home in kindergarten. It seemed an illogical way to get to a child's mind," she says.

"An Experiment in the Public Sphere"

Waldorf may be foreign to many parents and educators, but Oberman insists it is "a long-untapped resource in urban school reform." Can Waldorf's developmental philosophy and tangible elements—looping, creative hands-on learning, and respect for a child's innate abilities—change options for poor students?

Robert C. Pianta, dean of the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia, whose Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) measures quality instruction in preK–5 classrooms, says research suggests that disadvantaged students struggle as much with self-regulation and relationship skills as with literacy and math skills. But, he cautions, little is known about Waldorf's effectiveness for these students—or how it can address the critical need for concrete academic instruction.

"We know that kids don't learn to decode reading and they don't learn to understand algebra without instruction," he says. "It strikes me that it is potentially the case that immersing kids in a very intensive and developmentally focused experience may help them build a lot of capacities that will help them in the long term—but we don't know that."

"It's an experiment in the public sphere, and I don't think anyone right now can predict if it will work," agrees Bonnie River, chair of Hybrid Programs at Rudolph Steiner College in Fair Oaks, Calif., which focuses on Waldorf teacher training.

River sees more traditional teachers bringing Waldorf approaches into their classrooms. Some training programs are oversubscribed. But River, who has been in education for more than 40 years, has seen the pendulum swing back and forth. Will reformers expect results too quickly? The payoff in Waldorf comes when children reach adulthood, she says. "It may be a little bit too long [for some] to wait."

Laura Pappano is an education journalist based in New Haven, Conn. She is the author of [Inside School Turnarounds: Urgent Hopes, Unfolding Stories](#) (Harvard Education Press, 2010)

Staying in Touch:

How to maintain a close connection with your child as they achieve greater independence.

In this presentation you will learn: What your child's behavior is telling you and why nurturing touch works like "magic".

Along the way we will look at biological evolution, the workings of the human brain, and the physiology of love.

This **FREE EVENT** by Thea Blair is interesting, insightful, and fun!

Wednesday, November 16 7 pm

Briarpatch Community Room, 290 Sierra College Drive. Grass Valley Info: 530-470-8646

2nd Grade at the Pumpkin Patch ~



MANY HANDS MAKE FOR A VERY SWEET HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL!

It was magical for the children and parents - you could just see it on their faces! The Halloween Festival committee, consisting of Baruch Simon, Doris Rainville, Suzanne Scipo, Marguerite Vulfs, Celeste Dempsey, Veronica Combs, and Thea Blair would like to give very special thanks to the following individuals:

Christina Konstantin for sewing the pouches;
Gabe Vulfs and a few seventh graders (don't know their names, sorry) for helping to set up;
Jaima and Maura Blair for help with set-up of the palace;
8th grade set-up crew: Reyna Van Valkenburg, Sofia Van Valkenburg, and Kaelin Mudd;
Adam for donating the pine "trees";
Molly Collum, of Holly Hock Children's Garden, for giving out crystals at the crystal cave;
Leslie for giving out seeds at the flower stall;
Marija Vulfs for procuring all the seeds to be given out at the flower stall;
Corine Laurijsen for giving out sea shells and directing traffic - "Arr, matie!";
Eleanor Starr, Nevada City resident, for the donation of sea shells;
Karen Geisler for playing her alto recorder as a "court musician";
Joanna Mortenson for telling a beautiful tale, 5 times!
Shannon Becker for baking 280 yummy rolls (and Marisha Finkler for offering);
Steve Barber for tending the fire;
Jen and Lucia Lifler, for stepping in a star guides;
and the amazing family that donated the crystals to be given out at the crystal cave (I could not garner their name by press time);
all the children who carved jack-o-lanterns;
and the YRC faculty members that contributed to the festival:
Karen Geisler, Paula Barber, Dan and Jerrilee Martinez, Eric Bell, Carrie Reuther, Caleb and Jen Buckley.

**Together we made it
happen!!!**