



# VILLAGE VOICES

NEWSLETTER FOR THE VILLAGE CHARTER SCHOOL • APRIL 7, 2016

Education should consist of a series of enchantments, each raising the individual to a higher level of awareness, understanding, and kinship with all living things.

## 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CREEK CLEAN-A-THON YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH**  
**9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**  
**YOUTH COMMUNITY PARK**

The Village Charter School will be hosting its 4th Annual Creek Clean-a-Thon Fundraiser. We're excited again this year to have the opportunity to clean up trash pollution from a large section of Peterson Creek that runs very near to our school! Youth Community Park (off of Fulton across from Piner High)

Trash debris in and around our creeks is a big problem that has a damaging effect on creek habitat and water quality. Litter flows from people's lives into storm drains that then flow directly into our creeks, rivers and ocean. People, plants and animals need clean creeks and unpolluted water to be healthy. Our Village community will have fun together while making a big difference by cleaning up Santa Rosa Creek.

[creekcleanathon.villagecharterschool.com](http://creekcleanathon.villagecharterschool.com)  
[facebook.com/creekcleanathon](https://facebook.com/creekcleanathon)

by Emily Salings (7th grader)

The middle schoolers have been working very hard on the VCS 2016-2017 yearbook! The students are coming up with creative ideas and taking beautiful pictures for memories to last. However, the yearbook isn't quite finished yet, so it will be delivered on the last Monday of the school year (June 5th).

The yearbook costs \$20.00. When you purchase a yearbook, you get 46 colorful pages of 2016/2017 memories, 2 free customizable pages to fill with your own photos, and a tree will be planted in our school's name.

Please order your custom yearbook by **April 13th**. If you don't want to customize, you can order your yearbook as late as **May 8th**. (You can order even later than that, but you'll have to pay for shipping and it probably won't be delivered until summer vacation!)

In conclusion, I highly recommend buying our yearbook because it will be full of memories of the school year that would last a lifetime. And it helps us make a difference, too!

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To order and customize your yearbook, follow these steps:

1. Visit [treering.com](http://treering.com)
2. Click on "Buy Yearbook"
3. Enter our state (CA)
4. Enter the passcode below

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# MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION

This time of the year, I find it especially easy to see what makes our kids' experience here at Village Charter School so special; to see and fully understand how lucky we are. Working in their own organic garden and learning, not just about the growing food, but also about how the choices we make affect the ecosystems around us. Taking hikes through the vernal pools. Preparing to raise their own chickens in a chicken coop built by members of our fantastic community. Studying biology, botany, geology, art, ecology, writing... OUTSIDE! Our children spend more than half of their waking hours on our school campus; these things matter! But today, I got a glimpse of what I hold most dear from our Village education. What I feel will leave THE most valuable, indelible mark on my children: The elders were playing Duck Duck Goose! with our K1 class. I had to pause and just soak it in. Our kids connect with each other. The way our school embodies the mantra of community, humanity and compassion is a rare gift. Through curriculum, problem solving and daily modeling, our teachers encourage and nurture mindfulness and respect for others that will serve our children (and our larger community) every day of their lives.

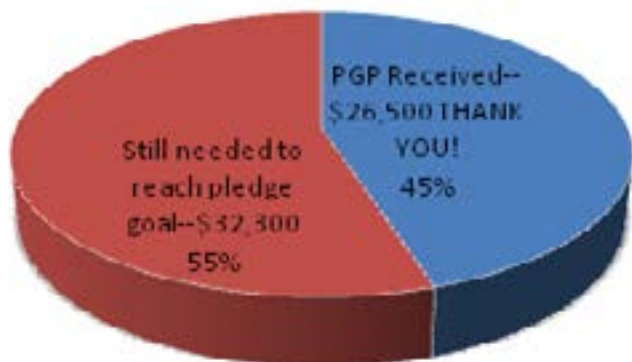
That is why I feel so blessed to be a part of this school. What brought you here? I ask you to think, what is it worth to you? Because, our Village can't exist without your support. As I'm sure everyone knows, as an independent charter school, we don't receive the same federal and state funds as other public schools. Our school RELIES on family support to pay for staff salary and benefits and our space on this wonderful campus. Not to mention our incredible aides in the classroom, creative curriculum and all of the extracurricular adventures.

Yes, we had a very successful Bluegrass on the Bayou fundraiser in November. But the real backbone of our financial stability is our Parent Giving Program. Without the participation of our families, the special gifts our children receive at Village Charter School simply would not, could not be possible. While I'm proud to report that this year, we have over a 90% participation rate in our Parent Giving Program, as you can see from the chart below, we're 75% through the school year, with less than 50% of pledges received.

Please help us end this school year (and plan for the next) in a strong fiscal position. Help us guarantee that this extraordinary educational experience is here for your children and for generations of children to come.

Ashley Hamlett  
Foundation Administrator

## Parent Giving Program



## MESSAGE FROM THE P.A.

Hi Folks,

This school year has continued to warm our hearts with numerous fun events from our schools dance, to class plays, to class field trips. Thank you to all parents who have helped this year, both in and out of the classroom; we are grateful for each of you and your unique gifts and support you share with us.

Coming up soon is our annual Creek-Clean-a-Thon, Teacher Appreciation Week and our May Day Festival. Soon after these will be more plays and then our end of the festivities with our special graduation ceremony and fun carnival! Make sure to attend our PA meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, right after school for an hour in the office to find out details on upcoming events and how you can help support our Village. Our children are our focus.

Warmly,  
Lauren Kushins  
Parent Association Chair

# MEET LEFTY!

by Brenna Harris (7th grader) and Avery Bean (7th grader)



Sabina was working at a ranch when she found and brought home a little feral kitten with a crooked neck. That's how she got the name "Lefty!" No one knew if she'd be okay, but Lefty proved to be very strong, and she began walking and her neck healed. And so now, the little and once fragile cat attacks children, dogs, and mice!

*"She was almost dead, but not dead."* –Rebecca Ivanoff

Lefty is now Village Charter School's official Animal Injustice Representative and newest student. She's sort of a loner, but she's very popular anyway. She hates lawn mowers. She likes to chew on sticks, grass, mice, and the fingers of children who try to pet her.

We interviewed Lefty earlier this week. Here's what she had to say:

**Question:** What are your feelings about being the VCS Animal Injustice Representative (A.I.R.)?

**Answer:** Meow, meow. [translation: *It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it.*]

**Question:** What are the perks of being the VCS A.I.R.?

**Answer:** ..... (slow blinking)

**Question:** So Lefty, how would you like to be treated here at VCS?

**Answer:** Meow-meow-meow-meow-meow... [translation: *Well, first of all, do not anger me or else you will get the claws. Here are some things to keep in mind so I'll be happy:*

1. Do not try to chase me. It scares me and causes me to run to dangerous places like the parking lot. You wouldn't catch me anyway. I am a ninja--faster than the speed of light! And on that note...

2. If you do catch me, do NOT try to pick me up. You will not succeed, and you'll probably end up looking like you just stuck your hand in a blender.

3. Do not freak out if you see me go into the field, under a building, or into a bush. I'm fine. You also don't need to inform every adult in the school and interrupt every classroom if you see me climb up a tree. I'm a cat--it's what I do!]

**Question:** Thanks for talking with us, Lefty! Do you have anything else you'd like to share?

**Answer:** Purrrrrr, purrrrrr, purrrrrrrrr... [translation: *It was my pleasure. Please spay and neuter your cats to keep them healthy and prevent homelessness and overcrowded animal shelters!*]

# THE WORD ON CAMPUS

by Blake Bishop (6th grader)

This issue's survey: We're building a chicken coop. I went around campus to ask **"What would you name a VCS chicken?"**



**"Scramble"**  
Lincoln Wheeler  
6th grader



**"Harold"**  
Hartley Blakey  
7th grader



**"Steph Curry"**  
Baylee Bishop  
3rd grader



**"Omelet"**  
Travis Robbins  
Teacher

Thanks for volunteering,  
Spencer and Alick!





# M.A.D. GAMES WITH SKY AND HAYDEN

by Hayden Fields (6th grader) and Sky Flores (6th grader)

We, Skyler Flores and Hayden Fields, are doing our M.A.D. (Make A Difference) Project on social issue of kids not socializing and not being active. The reason we chose this cause is because the average kid today does not really socialize out of their “groups and there is less focus on being physically active. We are helping address this social issue by doing games/sports with Miss Barnum’s 1st-4th grade class.

During the beginning of the school year (2016), we both decided we would play games with Ms. Elsie’s class only because we missed doing it when we were in her class, but then after a few months of playing games with Ms Elsie’s class, we thought maybe we could be doing it for our Make A Difference project. So, we decided to take our experience to a younger class. The games we have been playing are: Capture the Flag, Space Ball, and Banana Tag and include physical and social work. Every Friday during school hours from 10:30 - 11:45, we go to their classroom and get ready for a game. Sometimes the class will vote on the game or we will decide on the game we play ahead of time. Anyway, what we are doing is helping each student socialize, strategize, and use teamwork toward each other.

We have had so much fun so far! At first the kids were a little competitive and rambunctious, but we laid the rules down early on. They have been following the rules pretty well. It was fun playing with Elsie’s kids, probably because they are closer to our age, but Miss Barnum’s class is getting easier by the Fridays.

## MRS. MONTROSE’S AND MR. ROBBINS’ CLASS REPORT

By Jack Kofahl (7th grader)

In the middle school classes, we have been studying the Russian Revolution and World War 1 in Social Studies. In science we are studying cellular biology and have even painted some inspired artwork as a result of our looking at cells. In ELA, we finished our variety of readings on the subject of dystopia and revolution.

Students have been steadily working on their Make-A-Difference (M.A.D.) projects. We’re looking forward to sharing what we’ve learned with the rest of the school.

We’re also enjoying “burning our bridges” that were constructed during math class.

And last but not least, we look forward to putting the finishing touches on our chicken coop and getting baby chicks very soon, as well as plants and all that other gardening goodness!

In the meantime, come look at our grid drawing of Cesar Chavez, displayed in the classroom and look for an upcoming bake sale and art sale and the play.





## L.I.F.E. AND SUSTAINABILITY

by Frankie Hutchinson (7th grader) and Wilder Bell-Bross (8th grader)

For sustainability class, we are working on the L.I.F.E. Project with Stephanie Lennox. Some of us pick trash out of the pile of leaves we were collecting for our compost, a few more students were arrange the compost, and the rest weed our garden.

For sustainability, our class is remaking our garden from last year. Soon, we are going to plant starts in our garden: flowers, veggies, and fruits. We are weeding and forming the garden beds as well. We are also making a chicken coop, and we will eventually get chickens. We're also making a school compost. It has taken a while to complete this, but in the end, it is worth it!



## MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA WITH MISS ASHLEY

by Raina Stygar (7th grader)

Our middle school class isn't just all math and history! In Drama, we have fun in different ways, and we also learn the skills needed for acting. We play a lot of games like Telephone ( it gets really funny) and Taxi Driver (it goes like "vroom, vroom!"), do exercises like stretching, and more. We also act out scripts and poems for plays and entertainment.



### Class Poll: What's your favorite game to play in Drama class?

**Raina:** I honestly love every game we play in Drama!

**Emily:** The clay emoji game!

**Sky:** I like the game where Ashley has two sticks and clicks them.

**Kyle:** Taxi Driver.



# TRAVIS ROBBINS TEACHES...

## ENGINEERING

by Lincoln Wheeler (6th grader) and Micah Reyes (8th grader)



Our class has been working on making bridges out of popsicle sticks. The first thing we started on was planning our bridges. We looked at pictures to get an idea of what we wanted to make. Most of us made a type of bridge called a truss bridge, which is made of connecting triangular units. Some kids chose arch bridges, suspension bridges, and deck bridges instead. Then we drew rough blueprints of our bridges and estimated how many popsicle sticks they would require. Then it was time to make our bridges! We used lots of glue and about 200 popsicle sticks each. It took us about two and a half weeks to make them. Our next step was to stack weights on top of the bridges to see how strong they are. They'd probably all break, so we took some pictures first. We predicted the way each bridge would break based on their weak points.

At Village Friday, we stacked 5-pound books on top of the bridges. Some of them held more than 60 pounds! Finn even sat on one, and it *still* didn't break! All of the bridges were super strong...for being made from popsicle sticks!



## ESPIONAGE

by Liam Kerwin (8th grader) and Wilder Bell-Bross (8th grader)

We finished learning about World War I. We are starting on the subject of the Cold War. The Cold War was basically a race for world domination. The project we will be starting when we return is about spies and espionage, which is basically how the Cold War was fought. To prepare for this project, we created our own spy operation. We will be decrypting ciphers, studying maps, and after we are done, we will propose our plan to the class.

For one of the assignments, we will be put in groups and we will do a packet on the Cold War. In this packet, we must figure out how we would sneak into a Marine Corps base and capture a CIA informant. We also have to decode messages, and those messages will help us infiltrate the base.





# PHOTOGRAPHY

## WITH MISS EMMA

by Millie Munson (7th grader)

On Fridays, from 1:00 to 3:00, Emma has been teaching the middle school class about photography to supplement their yearbook class. They're learning proper camera handling, photography tips like the Rule of Thirds, and some special techniques for taking more interesting photographs.

Some of these techniques include:

**Forced Perspective** - Forced perspective is a technique which employs optical illusion to make an object appear farther away, closer, larger or smaller than it actually is, or to create the illusion of gravity changing directions.

**Clones** - Clone photography is combining multiple photographs of one person into a single picture to make it look like they have twins, or triplets, or quadruplets, or quintuplets, or sextuplets, or septuplets, or... You get the idea.

**Reflections** - Reflections are the throwing back of light without absorbing it, and we were challenged to take photographs using reflections as the main focus.

**Multiple Exposures** - Multiple exposure shots layer one photograph over another to make a single image. Bright areas in a photograph are fully exposed, so they can't record any more light. The dark areas are still "blank," so if you take another photograph over it, the second image will appear only in the dark parts of the original photo.

**Selfies** - A selfie is a photograph of oneself taken by oneself. It's an introspective form of a photography that dates back as far as cameras themselves!





# MS. ELSIE'S CLASS REPORT

We had an amazing time on our Gold Rush field trip to the Tall Ships, and we are making good progress on quilting, "stitch by stitch." We finished our eco-dioramas and shared them with the other classrooms by creating a scavenger hunt bingo game which required students to examine each diorama carefully. Presently, we are creating geographical maps of California with clay boards, reviving the art of Four Square, and selecting Green Giants who the students will portray in the end-of-the-year play.





# FELTING SPRING EGGS WITH MS. STEPHANIE



**WRAPPING THE WOOL AROUND PLASTIC EGGS**



**DUNKING THE EGGS IN WARM SOAPY WATER**



**PATting THE EGGS TO SHRINK THE WOOL**



**ALL DONE!**





# THANK YOU ALL!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE INCREDIBLE PARENTS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE COULDN'T BE MORE GRATEFUL FOR YOU.



## CLASSIFIEDS

Carolyn is looking for a red Radio Flyer 10" tricycle.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4/12 - B<sup>2</sup>' Farmers Market Field Trip
- 4/13 - Cardinal Newman Day of Service  
8:30 - 11:30
- 4/18 - B<sup>2</sup>'s Tall Ships Field Trip
- 4/22 - Choir @ Tall Ships in Sausalito  
meet at school at 8:30
- 4/26 - Middle School Bake Sale
- 5/05 - May Day  
Hours: 10:00 - 4:00
- 5/16 - Malika's Shell Beach Field Trip
- 6/01 - Middle School's Campout
- 6/02 - Malika's Campout
- 6/02 - Elsie's Green Giants Play
- 6/08 - Elsie's Doran Beach Field Trip
- 6/09 - Last Day of School

## SMARTER BALANCED TESTS COMING UP

We'll need plenty of protein-packed snacks to keep our test-takers going strong! Please check in at the office if you'd like to donate some goodies.

If you have an appreciation you'd like to express in the Voices, please submit them to [deneene.bell@gmail.com](mailto:deneene.bell@gmail.com), or drop a note in the office!

Village Charter School • 2590 Piner Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 • 707-524-2848 • [villagecharterschool.com](http://villagecharterschool.com)

[ The Village Charter School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin. ]