

CALENDAR

**It's time for our 2nd Annual
Gala Fundraiser:
Bluegrass on the
Bayou!**

This event is our biggest and best fundraiser, and we are doing it right again this year! Our goal is to reach out to the larger community that surrounds and supports us to bring in the big buck\$! We ask you to invite extended family, local business owners and professionals, neighbors, friends of friends, your groups, teams, congregations! Tell them to come enjoy an evening of southern-home cooking and hospitality, exciting bidding opportunities, and knee-slapping, heel-stomping fun. They'll have a blast and feel good doing it, knowing that it is for a good cause—our kids and our school!

Read on to find out how you can help and who to contact with questions or ideas.



CUPCAKE

Children & Maternity

The folks at Cupcake are generously offering to donate 20% of any purchases made this week (10/13 –10/19) to our school! You may shop at either location:

641 4th Street, Santa Rosa or
107 Plaza Street, Healdsburg.

All you have to do is reference our promo code: "Village Charter Donate"

**Community Meeting
Tomorrow night! See Page 2's
note from Rebecca about this
important School-Wide
Meeting!**

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**Picture Day is
November 7th!**

Please mark your calendars!

Class pictures will start promptly at 8:45 am. Individual pictures will follow soon after. A proof sheet and order form will be sent home approximately 1 week after picture day. There will be nothing due on picture day. Contact Lisa Dragna at: lisa_dragna@yahoo.com or 707-570-2598 with questions.

Th– 10/16
VCS Community Meeting
M 10/20

Elsie– Permaculture Center

TBD

Elsie Class Meeting

F 10/24

Malika's class fieldtrip WFC—Eric Carle

M 10/27

Carter– Permaculture Center

F 10/31

Parent Café—After morning circle

F 11/07

Picture Day!

T 11/11

No School– Veteran's Day

F 11/14

**2nd Annual VCS Fall Gala—
Bluegrass on the Bayou
(adult only fundraiser)**

M-F 11/24-28

NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving

**We are in need of
reams of white copy
paper....Can anyone
bring these in to
Carolyn?**

**We would be greatly
appreciative!**

Community Meeting

Village Community Meeting

Thursday, October 16th

6:00-7:30 VCS (room TBD)



Please mark your calendars and join me in a gathering of the Village community for an all school meeting. The VCS Board and I will be there to answer questions and seek your participation in shaping the next steps in VCS's future. This will be the first of several meetings to talk about our plans for finding a new school site and the re-charting process with Windsor Unified School District.

There is much to do! This is an exciting time and for those that have been with The Village for a while know that each change has brought invigorating growth and strengthened our community. So, come and bring your voice...be involved, ask questions, listen.

Notes will be taken so those who cannot attend can stay informed

Imagine...

~Rebecca

To Be Mindful Of:

DROP OFF & PICK UP

Everyone should use the south parking lot/entrance via the driveway behind Mark West Center (Bad Ass Coffee).

Bluegrass on the Bayou: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Why are we having this Fall Gala fundraiser?

To maintain the integrity of our educational ideals. The Village is a tuition-free, independent public charter that serves 100 children, K-8, and provides a quality education in a multi-age, multicultural environment. It is a school where the intellectual, imaginative and humanitarian promise of each student is cultivated and celebrated in a community that practices mutual respect, embraces diversity, and inspires a passion for learning.

To cover annual expenses and make up for state funding deficits. Our families already dedicate much of their own money towards VCS' annual budget. Still, additional fundraising is needed, and an event like this is designed to bypass parent pocket-books and reach out to the larger community that surround us. We count on these combined resources simply to sustain the basic workings of our school: to keep the lights on and to pay the teachers.

The funds raised by Bluegrass on the Bayou will help to further sustain our community's experience in ways that harmonize with our school's mission: keeping our classroom sizes small, providing art, music, and Spanish classes, purchasing science and environmental education supplies, and financing educational field trips. And finally, helping to build our capital fund to finance our very own unified campus, where we can fully realize our educational mission and vision!

It takes a Village! Thank you for encouraging others to come have a blast and support ours!

Bluegrass on the Bayou: The Event

Advance tickets are \$50 and include: Dinner, local wine tasting, live music, and access to our exciting live auction!

FOOD & DRINK

Tasty and bountiful appetizers, fabulous southern-inspired dinner, wine tasting and sales by Old World Winery, beer from Lagunitas Brewery. Plus ,a fresh oyster bar, where you can buy yourself a little extra taste of the bayou to go with that glass of crisp sauv blanc or bottle of cold Lagunitas ale.

SILENT AUCTION

Winery packages, Sonoma County and Bay Area excursions, local and international vacation getaways, outdoor equipment, family adventures, locally made art, jewelry and more!

LIVE MUSIC & DANCING

The evening will open with sugar-sweet harmonies from **The Bootleg Honeys**, a Sonoma County homegrown trio made – up of singer –songwriters Alison Harris, Hannah Jern-Miller, and Katie Phillips.

A featuring magical musicians **Arann Harris and The Farm-Band!** Arann's ability to captivate an audience is ridiculously incredible! High energy and highly entertaining, their style is a mix of old time blues, jazz, folk, mountain music, funk and camp-fire songs unlike anything you've ever heard.

And stay tuned for details on additional special guest performances from within our very own VCS community...

The event is being held at a super-cool venue in Santa Rosa's historical railroad square.



Bluegrass on the Bayou: How can you help?

HOOK US UP!

DO YOU HAVE any beneficial **contacts in your personal or professional network**? We've made lots of progress securing food donations and logistical support. But do you know someone in **event rentals**? Know anyone in the **food or beverage industry**? A **florist** to help decorate? Any potential resource helps to keep our costs down and profits up!

Let Ashley Hamlett know if you can hook us up and she'll make sure to connect you with the appropriate hard-working Gala Committee Member.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Classroom Reps & Contacts:

Miss Ashlie's Classroom: Natalie Naber christatgabe@sbcglobal.net or [707-303-5017](tel:707-303-5017)

Miss Malika's: Ashley Hamlett ashley@perfectlyharmless.com or [707-545-7590](tel:707-545-7590)

Miss Elsie's: Lauren Kushins lcyx-prs@aol.com or [925-324-4016](tel:925-324-4016),

Miss Barnum's: Ashley Hamlett ashley@perfectlyharmless.com or [707-545-7590](tel:707-545-7590)

Mrs. Carter and Miss Andie's: Paula Camacho paulacamacho@comcast.net

Ashley Hamlett, Foundation & Gala Chair ashley@perfectlyharmless.com or [707-545-7590](tel:707-545-7590)

Natalie Naber, Gala Co-Chair christatgabe@sbcglobal.net or [707-303-5017](tel:707-303-5017)

GET THE WORD OUT!

Invite your friends to attend, share or like the event through our **Facebook page** and to keep an eye on it for newly listed auction items and other important updates!

Facebook Event Page

http://tiny.cc/bluegrassonthebayou_fb

Share the **ticket website** and encourage others to do the same!

Information & Tickets

<http://bluegrassonthebayou.brownpapertickets.com>

Get the word out about the amazing **live musical performances** at the event!

Musical Guests

<http://www.arannharris.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/thebootleghoneys>

Help promote the event by posting flyers and handing out postcards. Do you know of **good locations to advertise** the event (high-end, high-traffic establishments)? Grab some posters/postcards from the front office and ask if you can hang them there!

The poster is also attached to this letter. Forward it to **family and friends** and ask them to forward it to their friends!

Also tune into KRSH, KZST to hear our ads and read about the event in the *Bohemian* and *The Press Democrat* community calendars!

Do you like oysters? Can you shuck 'em? We need one or two fabulous parents to start shucking about an hour before the event begins, and to help host the Oyster Bar for the first part of the evening! If you can help with this, please contact Ashley Hamlett: 707-545-7590 or ashley@perfectlyharmless.com

Bluegrass on the Bayou: SECURING DONATIONS FOR AUCTION ITEMS!

Now Is the Time to Get Those Donations!

The auction is the bread and butter of our event and we need premier items!!!

We're asking each family to try to secure 2 items to the auction. It can be super easy and not cost you a penny. Remember we are asking for **tax-deductible donations** for our school and our children. There is no better reason to ask for free stuff, and people generally love to help out a good cause.

Need help thinking of ideas? Take a look at the FB page for listings of some of the cool items we've already procured! Not sure how to "make the ask?" Check in with your classroom rep to ask for ideas. And take a look at the **Tips from Paula** below!

We've also included a copy of the **donation letter** with this newsletter to present to possible donors. We've made a few edits AND we've included a form that the donor can use to register their donation. There are also copies in the front office and on the notice board in our hallway.

DONATIONS ARE DUE no later than MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, but the sooner we have them in hand, the sooner we can get them listed on all of our publicity sites and start creating more excitement around the event!

Paula's Top 5 Tips for Securing Gala Donations

1. Don't feel uncomfortable asking for donations.....businesses are used to this and usually have a procedure to follow. Occasionally you might get a grump who is tired of being asked, but more often than not the person directs you to the right person or informs you of their procedure, or you may get lucky and they just give you the donation then and there.
2. Go in person with our donation letter and an idea of a great Auction item they might donate. I find that most companies will just glance at the letter... they really just want something to submit with their donation to their head office and the IRS, with a description of the event and the Tax ID. I just take the auction letter as it is, along with my list and put my name and number on both pieces of paper. It has worked...I've gotten donations both immediately and have a few pending. If anyone would like a little bit of help changing the wording slightly and/or typing in their name and contact info as well as their lists, Paula's happy to help: paulacamacho@comcast.net or [707-824-0686](tel:707-824-0686).
3. Pick up a business card of the manager who has said they will get back to you. Give them a week or so and then call to see how it's going.
4. Key phrases like "local school" and "fundraising, because there's just not enough money for schools" really work. Keeping your spiel short and sweet, unless you see interest to hear more, really works too.
5. Go to the places where you usually shop, and keep in mind how much you spend there as you ask...that helps me get rid of any guilt I might feel in the asking. I always carry my purse so that I have the posture of a shopper, and sometimes if I was going to buy something anyway, I buy whatever I need first and go to the manager with a purchase in hand.

Finally, remember to keep your Gala Classroom Rep apprised of your efforts (successes and failures), so we can do our best to cover a wide-range of local businesses (and not hit any business more than once :-)

SAFETY FIRST!
Information & Announcements from the Safety Committee

CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE) ALERT

Your child may have been exposed to conjunctivitis at school. This is commonly known as pink eye. Pink eye can be contagious, and it is best controlled by diligent hand washing. Pink eye can be bacterial, viral or allergic, so it is very important that if your child has the symptoms below, you should call your child's healthcare provider for guidance.

Common Signs and Symptoms:

- ☒ Irritated swollen eyes or eyelids**
- ☒ Itching of the eyes**
- ☒ Excessive tears**
- ☒ Blurred vision that clears with blinking**
- ☒ Green or yellow discharge**
- ☒ Painful dried or crusted discharge on the eyelids**

It is important to discuss conjunctivitis with your child's healthcare provider as treatment may be different based on the source of the conjunctivitis (bacterial, viral or allergic). If your child has pink eye he or she may need to be excluded from school. The decision about when it is ok for a child with pink eye to return to school is made by the healthcare provider after receiving proper medical treatment.

CONTAGIOUS

SAFETY FIRST!

Information & Announcements from the Safety Committee

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME WITH ILLNESS DURING COLD AND FLU SEASON

Sometimes it can be difficult for a parent to decide whether to send children to school when they wake up with symptoms of an illness or complaints that they do not feel well. As we enter into the cold and flu season, please pay close attention to your child's health. Whenever there is an outbreak of a specific contagious infection, the school will send out a notice to alert you to watch out for any symptoms. If your child starts to develop symptoms, it is important that you alert your own health care provider that your child had a possible exposure. Be sure to ask your provider when it is safe for your child to return to school, both for your child's health and for the health of the rest of the school.

If your child develops a fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, body and muscle aches, please do not send your child to school until he/she does not have a fever, is not taking any medicines to reduce the fever, and is well enough to stay in class all day and learn. Students who have a fever or vomiting are not to return to school a full 24 hours after the fever has broken or the vomiting has stopped. Until then, please allow your child to rest and get better at home.

To help protect your child please remind them to:

- ☑ Wash their hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- ☑ Avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ☑ Avoid kissing, hugging and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- ☑ Cover their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue if possible.



Hand washing with soap and water is the best method for cleaning hands. If soap and water are not available, alcohol based hand sanitizers (60% concentration or greater) may be used. We recommend you supervise your child when using hand sanitizer. If your child is sensitive to hand sanitizer products, please notify the school. VCS staff is reminding students to cover their mouths when coughing and sneezing, throw their tissue in a trash can, wash their hands, and not share any personal items. Areas that students touch frequently will be given additional attention. **The following are a few situations that warrant watching and possibly calling your health care provider:**

- ☑ Persistent fever greater than 100.4° orally, including a fever that requires control with medication such as Tylenol
- ☑ Child is too sleepy or ill from an illness, like vomiting and/or diarrhea
- ☑ Cough that makes a child feel uncomfortable or disrupts the class
- ☑ Sore throat that is severe along with fever and feeling ill for more than 48 hours, OR after known exposure to a confirmed case of Strep throat infection
- ☑ Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth or rash on other body parts; OR a rash in various stages including boils, sores and bumps that may be chicken pox; OR a significant rash accompanied by other symptoms of illness such as fever
- ☑ Red, runny eyes that distract the child from learning
- ☑ Large amount of discolored nasal discharge, especially if accompanied by facial pain or headache
- ☑ Severe ear pain or drainage from the ear
- ☑ Severe headache, especially if accompanied by fever
- ☑ Any condition that you think may be serious or contagious to others.

Please remember to notify the school office (not the teacher) via phone or email whenever your child is absent. Giving a specific ailment is helpful in identifying illness outbreaks.

SAFETY FIRST!**Information & Announcements from the Safety Committee**

Many of the classrooms are planning field trips that rely on parent drivers. However many of you have either an expired driver's license and/or insurance information on file and several of you have no information at all. If you are planning to drive this school year please get your current information to the office now to avoid last minute chaos which could cause the planned activity to be cancelled.

Driver's License: All volunteers must supply the school office with a copy of their current valid driver's license. Remember to update expired licenses upon renewal.

Auto Insurance: Village Charter School's insurance company requires that all drivers carry a **minimum of \$100,000.00 of Property Damage and \$100,000/person and \$300,000.00/occurrence of Bodily Injury coverage**. We will need a copy of the **declaration page** from your insurance policy demonstrating this coverage. It is also an option to obtain one-day coverage from your insurance company at this level of coverage. Evidence of this coverage must be provided to the school.



Elsie's Class at the Old Grove, last Thursday

Appreciations

Mike Lennox, thank you for bringing the idea of 4H to our school- Natalie Naber

Miss Ashlie, thank you for stepping up at the last minute to teach your own class while completing your credential. -Mike Lennox

Stephanie Lennox, thank you for stepping out to help out in the classroom and on the playground this last month with Miss Ashlie and Miss Malika's classes.

To Miss Ashlie & Miss Malika - Thank you for coming together to create such a wonderful classroom for our children on such a short notice. -Ashley H.

To Paul C. Natalie N. & Charis Janda- Thank you for hitting the ground running and chairing the Auction and Food Committees for the Gala. -Ashley H.

Carolyn, thank you for all your hard work with our kids, sending emails, and being on top of everything all the time. - Vicki

To Elsie- My heart is filled with gratitude for the roll you play with our children and in our school. You model mindfulness, kindness, & gratitude with such grace, love, and nurturing hands. I couldn't imagine a better role model for this time in my daughter's life and mine. I give thanks to the universe daily for the blessing you have been in our lives thus far. It truly takes a village to raise a child as a single-parent, and I don't know what I would do without such wonderful partners (that's you to Miss B2)! I look forward to watching her grow under your mentoring!

With Love- Chelsea

