

# VILLAGE VOICES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE VILLAGE CHARTER SCHOOL • ISSUE 02 • FEBRUARY 12, 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.

## VCS BASEBALL 2016



We finally have a real baseball field for our 3rd year of the VCS baseball program! The program will be Mondays from 3:30-5pm, starting March 28th through June 6th. I will put up a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in February for interested students. There will be no charge for the program.

Any student of any age can join in the non-competitive baseball program. We will focus on learning the game while working as a single team supporting each other. This is a parent-run volunteer program. Any support assisting with coaching or equipment donations is welcomed.

I will be placing an order for VCS Baseball hats and jerseys on March 2nd. Anyone interested in purchasing a hat or baseball jersey will need to let me know by March 2, 2016. Last year the cost was \$12.50 per jersey and \$14 per hat. The cost should be similar this year. Jerseys and hats are not required to participate in the baseball program, and you don't need to be on the baseball team to order the hat and/or jersey. I will put out a uniform order form with the baseball sign-up sheet.

Thank you,

Chris Naber, Jackson's dad | [chrisnatgabe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chrisnatgabe@sbcglobal.net)



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Student-Led Soccer Clinic.....2**
- The Village Garden Project.....2**
- Girls on the Run.....3**
- Guitar Class Update .....3**
- Parents' Place.....4**
- A Note from the PA.....4**
- Enrichment Classes.....4**
- Miss Elsie's Class.....5-7**
- Miss Barnum's Class.....7-8**
- Miss Malika's Class.....9-10**
- Appreciations..... 11**
- Classifieds..... 11**

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
**Presidents' Day,**  
**No School**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24-**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2**  
**Parent-Teacher Conferences,**  
**1:00pm dismissal for all**

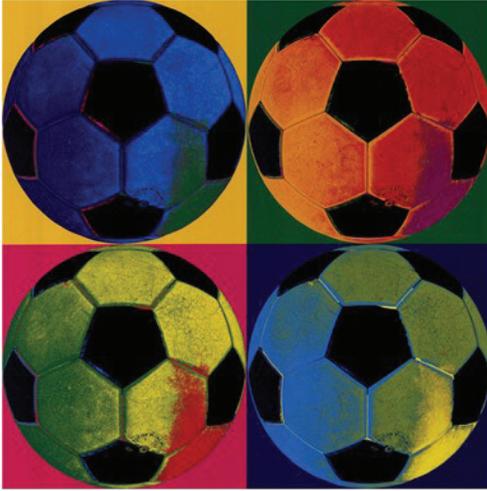
**FRIDAY, MARCH 4**  
**Letter of Intent due**  
**to hold your student's place for**  
**the 2016-17 school year.**

**MONDAY MARCH 21-**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 25**  
**Spring Break**  
**(Original calendar has a**  
**misprint; note that we DO have**  
**school on Monday, March 28)**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 22**  
**No School**

# STUDENT-LED SOCCER CLINIC

## FOR MIDDLE-SCHOOL MAKE-A-DIFFERENCE PROJECT



Sixth-grader Colin Campbell and 7-th-grader Wilder Bell-Bross are focusing their Make-a-Difference project this year on youth fitness. In an effort to get kids moving, they would like to share their love for soccer with other VCS students by offering a free soccer clinic to students of ALL AGES and skill levels after school on Wednesday afternoons, from 1:15-2:15. It will last for 6 weeks starting March 9 and go through April 20 (excluding Spring Break). Colin's dad Alex will help to monitor the sessions.

Colin and Wilder are excited to offer this opportunity for kids to learn some soccer skills, have fun and practice teamwork! It is the perfect lead into the VCS soccer program with Alvaro, Lucas' dad, which starts on April 22. A sign-up sheet will be on the board outside the office for those interested. Space is limited, so sign up soon!

[acampbell555@yahoo.com](mailto:acampbell555@yahoo.com) | [deneene.bell@gmail.com](mailto:deneene.bell@gmail.com)

## MRS. CARTER + MRS. MONTROSE'S MIDDLE-SCHOOL CLASS

# THE VILLAGE GARDEN PROJECT

The VCS garden is gearing up for a spring planting! We had a great harvest of herbs and vegetables for the Solstice soup and salad at our holiday event. Our

compost is doing excellent, and we expect almost a yard of compost from our lunch waste to use in our garden beds this spring. Recycling in action!

goal of the VCS garden is to provide our community with fresh, organic, local herbs and vegetables while our students learn the importance of organic gardening.



**Kids harvesting herbs and greens for the Solstice Festival.**

Each class now has a garden row (mostly planted with fava beans) to work with this spring/early summer. We have one extra row—closest to the sandbox—that is open to the community for design/plantings, just come on out, weed it and plant away! We also have a student/group of students planning a chicken coop for the area. Stay tuned for how you can help, if you're interested.

We are always in need of straw bales, broken-down cardboard boxes and plant starts for the garden. If you can help, please let our class know.

Please feel free to pick some kale, flowers, salad greens/herbs from the garden beds or planter boxes on your way home. The

Thanks, *Mrs. Carter*



**Our solstice harvest provided enough greens for the whole community to enjoy at the Solstice Festival!**

# GIRLS ON THE RUN



Village Charter School is now registering girls in grades 3rd through 5th for the Girls on the Run Spring 2016 season.

This program is designed to develop and enhance girls' social, psychological and physical competencies so they can successfully navigate life experiences. All girls in grades 3rd through 5th are encouraged to participate regardless of previous running experience or level of physical fitness. At the end of the three-month session, the girls participate in a Girl on the Run 5k event.

Online registration for the spring season of Girls on the Run will close on Tuesday, February 9 at midnight. Interested participants will be allowed on a team after the online registration period has closed and only if space is available through Friday, February 26. After Friday, February 26, no applications will be accepted.

## The program includes:

- Participation in a 10-week, 20 lessons program conducted by certified Girls on the Run coaches
- Materials used by the coaches over the course of the program, including game pieces, supplies and curriculum
- Program t-shirt
- Water bottle
- Healthy snacks
- Participation in a celebration 5K walking/running event
- Participation 5K medal

### Through February 9, the \$165 fee includes\*:

20 sessions x 1.25 hours per session = 25 hours  
\$165/25 hours = \$6.60 per hour

### After February 9, the \$190 fee includes:

20 sessions x 1.24 hours per session = 25 hours  
\$190/25 hours = \$7.60 per hour

**WHEN:** Sessions will be every Tuesday and Friday, from February 16 to April 22.

**WHERE:** Village Charter School Campus

**TIME:** 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm

If your girl is interested in participating in the program (or you are interested in your daughters' participation) you can contact **Crisarlín M. Vázquez**, VCS Girls on the Run Coach, [crisarlin@gmail.com](mailto:crisarlin@gmail.com) or **Amy Strommer**, VCS Girls on the Run Assistant Coach, [amystrommer@comcast.net](mailto:amystrommer@comcast.net).

\*Scholarships are available to girls who otherwise would not be able to afford this transformational program.

## GUITAR CLASS UPDATE

Guitar classes have been progressing nicely! As of now I am not adding any new guitar students for Wednesday's class, as I find that a smaller group size is



more conducive for focused music learning.

There is a possibility in a few weeks that I will have openings for one or two students on other days after school, if there is interest.

For families with students in a group already, I will contact you towards the end of the month regarding what your child has been learning, invoicing, and any changes in scheduling.

Feel free to contact me anytime with any questions.

**Miss Kristen | [kelizpearce@gmail.com](mailto:kelizpearce@gmail.com)**

## Fabulous Fun with Your Village Friends & Families!

Do you love a good party? Your Village Foundation has great news for you: We are planning some wonderful community events for all ages this spring! Keep your eye out for details coming soon.

In the meantime, it's time to start planning our next grand fundraising gala: Bluegrass on the Bayou 2016! If you have talents or connections (or even just a keen interest) in the arenas of event planning, food and catering, music or PR/marketing, we need YOU! And all this fun for such a good cause, our beloved staff and school. The first meeting is happening soon. Be in touch with Ashley Hamlett, the event chair, and she'll make sure you are in the loop:

**[ashley@perfectlyharmless.com](mailto:ashley@perfectlyharmless.com)**  
**cell 415-819-0152**

# A NOTE FROM THE PA

We had a wonderful speaker come out to Parent Association Monthly Meeting to discuss a new after-school "4H Club" possibility at our campus. Thank you, Diego Mariscal. While we continue to discuss this opportunity, we have also put together all of the Enrichment Classes currently being offered here at VCS, as well as the ones on the horizon for this Spring. This is quick glance. For details on any of the programs please contact the Enrichment Class teacher. We hope all Village children have the opportunity to take advantage of at least one of these wonderful programs!

Warmly,  
Lauren Kushins, (Ella and Micah's mom)

# ENRICHMENT CLASSES OFFERED AT VCS

# PARENTS' PLACE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE PARENT ASSOCIATION

## PA CONTACTS:

### PA Chair:

Lauren Kushins, [lcyxprs@aol.com](mailto:lcyxprs@aol.com)

### Foundation Chair:

Ashley Hamlett,  
[ashley@perfectlyharmless.com](mailto:ashley@perfectlyharmless.com)

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Class	Day & Time	Dates	Ages/Grades	Cost & Payable to:	Location/Contact Info
Choir	Thursday 3:10 – 4:10pm	January 21 onward	Multi-age	\$5 per session; Miss. Barnum	Miss Barnum's room
Guitar	Wednesday	Year-round	Multi-age	Miss Kristen	VCS Library/Computer Room
Dance	Wednesday 1:15-2:45 2:45-1:15	Year-round	Multi-age	\$5 per class; Miss Ashley	VCS Extended Care
Girls on the Run	Tuesday & Friday; 3:15-4:30pm	February 16-April 29 (excluding holidays & Spring Break)	3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grade	\$165 through February 9, \$190 after February 9; <a href="mailto:crisarin@gmail.com">crisarin@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:amystrommer@comcast.net">amystrommer@comcast.net</a>	VCS Campus/Field
Art	Friday	Feb. 26th (1:15-2pm) March 4 (3:15-4pm) March 18 (3:15-4pm) April 1 (3:15-4pm)	Multi-age	\$10; Lauren 925-324-4016 <a href="mailto:LcyXPRS@aol.com">LcyXPRS@aol.com</a>	VCS Library/Computer Room
Soccer: Student-Led Clinic for M.A.D. Project	Wednesday; 1:15-2:15	March 9-April 20 (excluding Spring Break)	Multi-age	Free; Wilder Bell-Bross & Colin Campbell <a href="mailto:acampbell555@yahoo.com">acampbell555@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:deneene.bell@gmail.com">deneene.bell@gmail.com</a>	VCS Field
VCS Soccer	Friday; 3:15-4:15	April 29-May 27	Multi-age	\$15-Includes shirt & snacks for all 6 sessions Alvaro <a href="mailto:pulgaito@aol.com">pulgaito@aol.com</a>	VCS Field
VCS Baseball	Monday 3:30-5:00pm	March 28-June 6	Multi-age	\$26.50 for hat & t-shirt (optional); Chris Naber <a href="mailto:chrisnatgabe@sbcglobal.net">chrisnatgabe@sbcglobal.net</a>	VCS Field
Younger Girls Group (Cooking, Art, Gardening & More)	Mon, Tues, & Thurs. 3-3:30pm	Begins Thursday, February 18	K-5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls	\$5 per class; Sadari, 8th and Frankie, 6th; sign-up sheet outside the office on the bulletin board	VCS Library/Computer Room
6-8 <sup>th</sup> -Grade Girls Group	Wednesday	Now through May	6-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls	Free; Cardinal Newman Girls	VCS classroom TBD

# MISS ELSIE'S CLASS: ART & STORIES

These are small excerpts from some of the students' Friday Stories, accompanied by illustrations of the scenes. Friday Stories provide a time when this class really gets to know each other and gains inspiration through sharing 24 unique writing styles. The students are in grades 2nd through 6th.



## WONDERFUL SCHOOL

Once there was a wonderful class—  
Or should I say school?  
And I know because I am in it,  
And grateful to be in it.  
*By Lily S.*



## THE BUNNY WHO NEVER GIVES UP

So the little bunny had just settled  
down for a long winter's nap when  
arose such a clatter.  
I sprang from my grassy bed to see  
what was the matter.  
And in my twinkling eye, what  
would appear, but a sleigh full of  
eggs,  
And eight tiny bunnies pulling it  
here.  
I jumped out of bed and flew like a  
flash to my window to get a closer  
view,  
But when I arrived at the window, it  
was gone.  
The whole thing vanished in midair.  
*By Annie E.*



## COOKIE & FRIEND

Once upon a time, there was a snug  
little home beneath the roots of an  
old willow tree. This willow tree was  
home to me, a young gnome girl  
named Cookie.  
*By Elsie L.*



## THE NAUGHTY BOY IN THE HAUNTED HOUSE

When he goes to the haunted house,  
he goes at dawn because it is more  
mysterious at that time. When he  
stepped into the house, he took a  
long pause... He saw moss on the  
floor and a spider crawling up a wall.  
*By Milo M.*



## THE JOURNEY TO THE PREVIOUS

As the dawn broke through the  
morning sky, a tiger as white as  
cream awoke in the birch tree bur-  
row she called home.  
*By Sky F.*



## THE ALIEN

Mom came running down the hall.  
I tried to hide but she caught me so  
I tried to act natural. I walked two  
inches and she grabbed me by my  
suspenders. She said, "Whoa, mister.  
Where do you think you are going?"  
I think I know where I'm going.  
Downstairs. Just when I was going to  
think of ice cream, something came  
through the window. There was a  
chubby cute guy on the back of this  
strong thing.  
*By Brigit S.*



## MISTER ALLIGATOR KEYSTONE

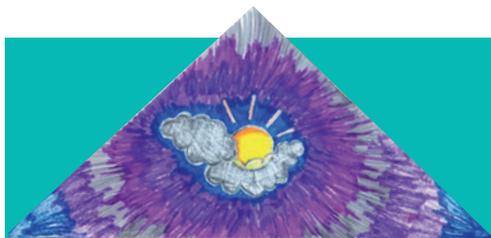
Once upon a time, there was an  
alligator. He was the most awesome  
alligator in the river and he died, so  
everything was boring.  
*By Blake B.*



## GREAT GRIZZLY

And there he was,  
Ollie, the most  
rowdy hound you  
could meet. He was  
sweet, playful, and  
of course loving.  
He jumped right  
on me like a hound  
would do. He was  
like a frog leaping  
from leaf to leaf.  
*By Hayden F.*

# MISS ELSIE'S CLASS: ART & STORIES



## THE WORLD OF ENCHANTMENT, QUEENS, AND CHESS

It was a large meadow that extended very far off into the horizon. Wherever she was, morning was just beginning to break the clouds. When she climbed out of the well, she wasn't even the slightest bit wet. She was just beginning to think the world was empty when she heard voices from behind a large tree, with blooming flowers like lilacs.

*By Bella R.*



## RIPPLES IN THE WATER

Ripples in the water, caterpillars on the ground. A frosty scent in the air, the rim of the sky so round. An ant so tiny, so thin, so flat—a water cricket hopping on a moist, soggy mat. A field mouse burrow, dug tight and deep underneath soil, probably fast asleep. Ripples in the water, a frog in the pond. An interesting water snake; red, yellow, and long. Did Mother Earth bless this wonderful place? It's so lovely, it shimmers like lace.

*By Ella K.*



## A FUN DAY

We saw the butterfly habitat. Red, blue, orange, purple—all the different colors.

*By Sarai K.*



## BOB

So he went in the water and then sharks ate him.

*By Finn B.*



## MAGIC

Magic then started to run faster than he ever did before. He kept running in 'til he was at the edge of a cliff.

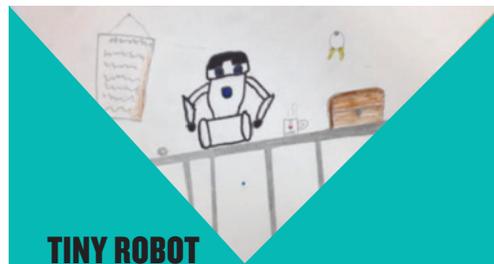
*By Jo I.*



## VERNAL POOL

And lots of new plants and lots of dew on the grass and this makes us a vernal pool

*By Jackson N.*



## TINY ROBOT

I turned. A tiny robot, about 8 inches high, was behind me. As I examined him, I noticed that the only color on his metal body was his blue eyes. "Hi!" he said. "I name is M.I.P." And that was the start of a remarkable friendship.

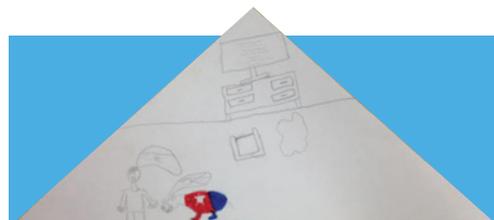
*By Emily P.*



## SPAGHETTIBROW

Tom had a piece of spaghetti noodle on his forehead so it looked like he had a unibrow.

*By Tony F.*



## HAWAII

"Do you want to go swimming with me?" asked Steve. "Nah, I want to watch my movie," Rogers said. "Why?" asked Steve. "'Cause you so rudely interrupted me when it was my favorite part," answered Rogers. "For the third and final time, it was the credits!" said Steve. "Fine, I'll come swimming. I'll just watch it on the ride home," said Rogers. "OO-HHH no you aren't! You will just keep fast-forwarding it and rewinding to your favorite part," said Steve. And he would. So they went swimming. That was their day.

*By Lincoln W.*

# MISS ELSIE'S CLASS: ART & STORIES



## THUMP

Once upon a time, there was a head that had a grip on the fence. He was at risk of going "thump."

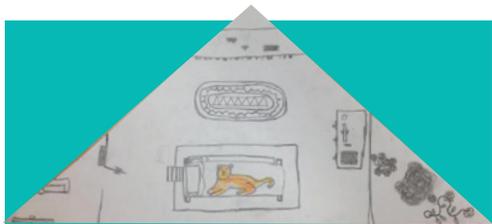
*By Calvin S.*



## ANIMALS ADVENTURES

Summer came after a cold winter and Daisy could now offer her family more food, like different flowers and lots and lots of plants.

*By Leila S.*



## SAVANNAH: THE TRUE STORY

If Savannah sleeps on my bed, it's impossible to get her off. It's like a bear protecting her cubs.

*By Jalen H.*



## A PERFECT VERNAL POND

I see a beautiful vernal pond. It has a lot of life and is very green. There are logs in the pond, and inside the logs, I hear the croaking of frogs, and the chirping of birds flying across the open blue sky.

*By Millie M.*



## REBOOTED: PART II

As with the previous battle with the overlord, their friends came to help. This time, they brought a friend of Russian nationality. He quickly ran towards the super evil vacuum cleaner. The ninjas tried to warn him, but he couldn't understand what they were saying. He ended up sucked by the vacuum cleaner.

*By Cristian C.*

# PASSION PROJECTS

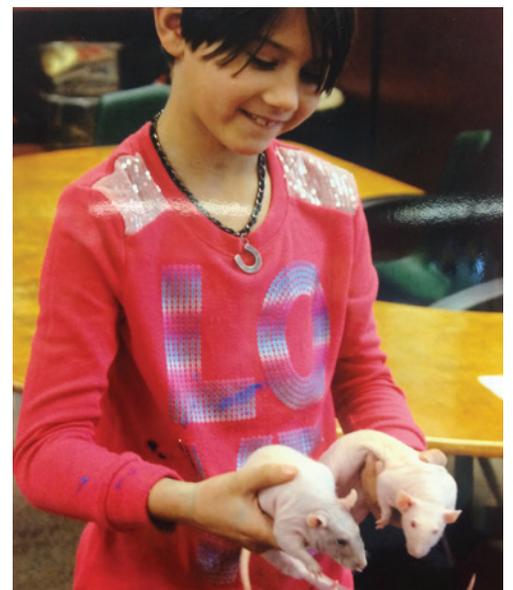
by Miss Barnum's Students



Lucas' passion is football



Charlize's passion is endangered animals



Baylee's passion is rats



Julian's passion is Dunny's

# BIRCH TREE ARTWORK

by Miss Barnum's Students

BY LEAH



BY THOMAS



BY EMILY S.



BY JON



BY EMILY A.



# MISS BARNUM'S CLASS ART, WRITING & ADVENTURES



## TALL SHIPS!



Miss Barnum's kids have been planting daffodils and salad gardens like crazy (have you seen our radish heart!). We're excitedly exploring science with our individual science project presentations, and learning nautical terms for our next great adventure—the Tallships!

Ahoy, matey! Miss Barnum's class will take a field trip to Sausalito on March 29 to not only see but to SAIL and WORK on a tall ship!! A tall ship is a large, traditionally-rigged sailing vessel from the 1800s. The students are excited to work like sailors and experience this living history.

The class will be hosting two upcoming fundraisers to help subsidize this awesome trip:

1. Keep your eyes and taste buds peeled for a bake sale (you remember how awesome the last one was, right? Yummy!).
2. The class will also be selling sets of greeting cards decorated with the students' lovely birch-tree watercolor art, showcased on this page, and created by Lauren & Benji Kushins at their Art & Soul Studio.

# MISS MALIKA'S CLASS: CLASS REPORT

In Miss Malika's class, we are having an extraordinary winter season in our new school home. The Winter Solstice Festival was a perfect start to a season full of splendor and light. We have been marveling at the beauty surrounding us, as we have watched the world turn green from the glorious rain. And as you can see from the pictures, when it hasn't been raining, we've been enjoying our fantabulous new sandbox. Thanks again, to all the parents and families who helped make our sandbox dream come true!

Of course, we've also been enjoying our cozy classroom. We've spent a lot of time talking about the seasons and our natural world through these last few months.

Our chalk pastel project was a wonderful opportunity to connect art and literature. Inspired by the beautiful photographs found in "Stranger in the Woods," the children were able to create their own wintery forest scene featuring their favorite forest animal. If you haven't had a chance to stop by the classroom to examine them, you should; they're truly beautiful.

Starting in January, we began our author's study with Dr. Seuss. (Fun Fact: Did you know that Dr. Seuss wrote books under different names?) Thanks to all the books from home, we have at least 25 different Dr. Seuss stories! We even had the opportunity to both hear the Cat and the Hat and then SEE the play in person at Wells Fargo. We're finding that his books are not just fun and silly, but are also full of Life Skills topics.

Our class has been super-fortunate to have some of our talented parents joining us in the classroom recently. Brooklyn's mom, Tara, has been coming in each Thursday to read and discuss various literature focusing on life skills. The children enjoy the focused attention and "big" questions she brings. Our kindergartners have just embarked on a Gross Motor Skills Program with Stephanie (Natalie's mom) and Liz (Alexis's mom). This six-week unit, has our children jumping, hopping, balancing, crawling and walking backwards through a course that stimulates brain-body development and adds a fun challenging edge to their overall well-being. Did you know  
*Continued on page 10*



Fun in the Sandbox



Author Study Class Field Trip



Fun in the Sandbox

# MISS MALIKA'S CLASS: CLASS REPORT

Continued from page 9

that these types of exercises build language skills as well? And if that weren't enough extra goodness, Micah's dad is coming in to do four weeks of drumming with the whole class. We're feeling the rhythm down to our toes.

## Here's a poem that shares another central theme we've been exploring:

I'm Glad I'm Me  
No one looks  
The way I do.  
I have noticed  
That it's true.  
No one walks the way I walk.  
No one talks the way I talk.  
No one plays the way I play.  
No one says the things I say.  
I am special.  
I am me.  
There's no one else  
I'd rather be!

And finally, we make a regular practice of expressing **GRATITUDE** in our classroom. Here are just a few appreciations our youngest ones have shared lately:

*"I appreciate Milo and I am happy that he gets to go to a place that he's never been before."*  
—Elijah (Milo had left for Mexico 3 days prior :-)

*"I appreciate that we have food and a house and nature to live in."* —Alexis

*"I appreciate our school, because we can learn things we haven't learned before and learn how to be friends."* —Brooklyn

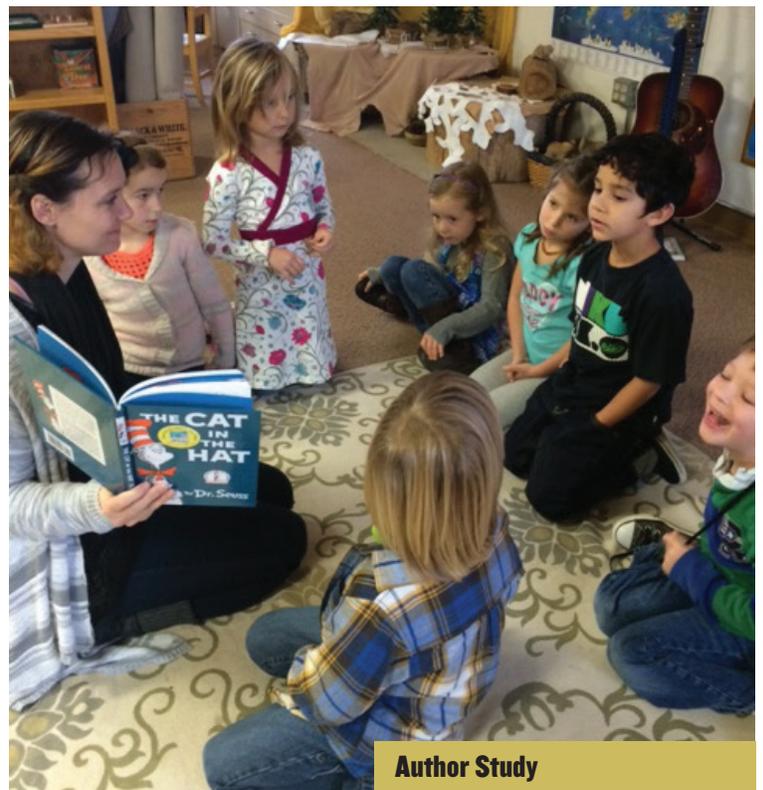
*"I appreciate Brooklyn, because she is a good friend and respects what I say."* —Amara

*"I appreciate water, because I don't want anyone to be dehydrated."* —Krislyn

*"I appreciate that I have a life to live in and all kinds of things to survive."* —Finn



Art/Literature Project



Author Study



Solstice Festival

# CLASSIFIEDS

## CLASS NEEDS MRS. CARTER/ MRS. MONTROSE:

We are always in need of straw bales, broken-down cardboard boxes and plant starts for the garden.

## MISS BARNUM

Anyone out there know how to record music? Miss B would love to record her class singing several of the dozens upon dozens of songs they regularly regale themselves and the school with. The idea is to make a CD for all to enjoy and to sell for a class fundraiser! Let Miss B or class parent Tiffany majesticredwood@gmail.com know if you can help!



Do you have seeds or other items to add to our fairy garden, which we are populating with fresh soil, small artifacts and spring blooms?

# APPRECIATIONS

I'm so appreciative for ALL the families that help make our classroom healthy, sparkling, bright and beautiful. From those parents who do a monthly deep cleaning task, to washing cups, taking the laundry home or bringing flowers into the classroom. Thank you, thank you, thank you! — Miss Malika

I'm thankful for our new site and all the work that has gone into making it such a special new home for our Village community. —Miss Malika

Thank you to all the amazing parents who do tons of work behind the scenes to coordinate and bring so many programs and opportunities to all children at Village.  
Gracias. —Claudia

Thank you, Miss Malika, for being you and nurturing our littler ones.

Thank you, Miss Elsie, for being a strong, wise and guiding presence at our weekly circles.

Thank you, Miss Barnum, for the amazing work you do to bring so much magic and wonder and knowledge into our kids' lives!  
—Deneene & Chris

Thank you, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Montrose for all of the hard work you do to assure that our middle-schoolers have a unique, solid, well-rounded perspective and education. And thank you, Travis, for your sharing your genius math and history skills with them all!  
—Denene & Chris

Thank you, Miss Kristen, Miss Jessica, Miss Ashley, Franco, Travis, Emma & Rachel for your eternal presence, patience and enthusiasm.

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.net](http://villagecharterschool.net)**

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