

THE VOICE

PLUMAS CHARTER SCHOOL

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Did the Egg Survive?

High school students Jedidiah Richard-Schopplein and Damien Boudreaux seem almost as excited as fourth grader Corrina Stadler and Kindergartener Aiden Cunningham about whether or not Damien's egg survived the 40 foot drop from the PG&E truck. It did, as did Jedidiah's when his turn came!

PCS's annual Fall Festival and Science Day was held on Friday, October 29th. The day was filled with seasonal activities, science demonstrations, good food and the ever exciting egg drop contest.

More Fall Festival photos on pages 2-3.

Fall Festival Fun



Left: Kindergartener Aiden Cunningham dresses as the scary Swamp Thing, while parents Brent and Karissa Cunningham charm the youngsters with their portrayal of Bert the chimney sweep and Mary Poppins, **right.**



Below: Bodhi O'Brien (Luke Skywalker) and Garret Cunningham (Darth Vader) battle with their light sabers.



Corrina Stadler, **above**, and sister Brianna Stadler, **left**, came as flower princesses. Their father, Randy Stadler, made their headpieces from paper mache.



Above: High school student Ryan Willis prepares a science demonstration, appropriately named “The Puking Pumpkin.” Ryan added Hydrogen Peroxide, food coloring, dish soap, and potassium iodide to the pumpkin, causing a foaming reaction that oozed from the pumpkin’s mouth.



Above: Seventh grader Dametri Jacobs traveled all the way from Chester to participate in the annual Fall Festival. Above, he diligently mixes his handmade ice cream.



Above: Student Kayla Thackeray, ES Cindy Thackeray and student Joy Hale investigate the “Witches’ Kitchen”, where students were asked to stick their hands into the paper bags



PG&E comes through again, volunteering their time, good humor, and equipment for our egg drop activity.





THANK YOU PARENTS!

The PCS staff would like to express our gratitude to all of the parents who volunteered their time after the Fall Festival to clean up the learning center and yard. We are so very lucky to have such wonderful, helpful and committed parents!

THANK YOU PG&E!

The PCS staff would also like to express our profound gratitude to Pacific Gas and Electric! Every year they graciously volunteer their energy and equipment to our school, making our egg drop activity even more exciting and fun!

Jeff, who has come to our event for three or four years, along with first-timer Fritz, were a wonderful addition to our day!



Illustration Contest



This is an opportunity for students to be creative and have fun while helping a native plant conservation organization. The Mount Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is sponsoring an illustration contest for high school students to find an illustration for its Special Wildflower Show edition T-Shirt. The winning entry will be printed on CHPS t-shirts and sold at the Wildflower Show, and the illustrator will get a free t-shirt!

Contact Taletha for more information.

FRC Spring Registration



If you are a high school student and are interested in taking one or more classes at FRC this spring semester, here is what you need to do: Your first step is to call Taletha Washburn at the Quincy office and make a counseling appointment. Taletha will assist you in choosing appropriate classes and starting the enrollment process.

In order for you to take FRC academic classes as a high school student, your English and math abilities must be in line with those of an incoming college freshman. PCS students may not take remedial classes (high school level) at FRC but can only enroll in college level classes (those with a course number of 100 or above).

You should be aware that, in order to enroll in any academic class at FRC, you will need to take a placement test at the college that will give both Taletha and the FRC counselor information about your English and math skills and whether those skills will be sufficient for the classes you've chosen.

Taking college classes is a privilege and should be taken very seriously. Enrolling at FRC should not be a last minute decision, after the college semester has begun. In fact, the PCS staff will no longer allow our students to sign up for FRC classes once the FRC semester has started. College classes usually start one week before the start of the PCS semester, so you need to plan ahead. If you are interested in accelerating your academic progress by taking college classes while still in high school, call Taletha for a counseling appointment so that you can take full advantage of this opportunity.

Essay Contest for K-5 Students

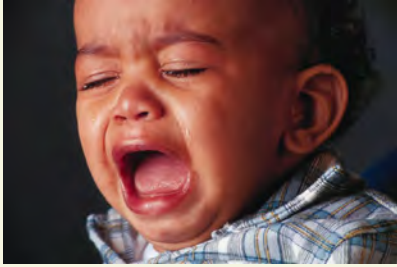
Tell about your favorite boating or fishing adventure and get the opportunity to win a trip to a National Park! You need to submit a short essay, 350 words or less, describing your outdoor experience and explaining why you think it's important to protect and conserve our waterways. All essays will be judged on content (make sure you're sharing a personal boating or fishing activity), creativity (bring to life your adventure through descriptive words) and flow (story needs to be well organized and easy to follow). If available, don't forget to provide a picture of yourself enjoying your fun activity!



- ◆ **Submission must be made** by a Parent/Guardian of students in grades K-5
- ◆ **The grand prize winner** will receive a trip for a family of four to *Yellowstone National Park*. In addition, winners will receive a \$250 gift certificate to Sports Authority to buy outdoor gear for the trip. The five runners-up will receive a \$100 gift card to Sports Authority. **Enter now** through December 17, 2010. Winners will be announced end of January, 2011. **For more information:** http://exploretheblue.com/contact_1.cfm

K-5 Students: Ask your ES about submitting your entry as your second-quarter writing assignment, which is to be a narrative.

THE BABIES ARE COMING!



In many traditional high schools, ninth grade students take home something very special for a weekend: a robotic baby. Caring for these babies is part of a health curriculum designed to give students a hands-on opportunity to experience the challenges of caring for an infant. These little babies require much of the same attention that a real infant does, like changing, feeding, cleaning, and being held.

Here in Plumas County, local schools partner with the Health Department to provide the robotic babies along with appropriate classroom activities for their students. Plumas Charter School would also like to share this opportunity with our students. Along with actually taking the babies home, the "Parent Simulation" curriculum includes several lessons and activities for students to complete beforehand. Students who want to participate in this simulation will need to commit to completing these assignments, which include participating in a meeting Health Department representative Dana Cash for a total of about two hours upon receiving and returning the babies. The babies are checked out to students on a Friday afternoon, and are returned on a Monday afternoon. Upon returning the babies, Dana uses electronic data from each 'baby' to determine how well they were cared for. Students, teachers and parents can then review that information together.

Students in grades 7-12 are eligible to participate, regardless of whether they are currently enrolled in a health class. Students need only the approval of their parents and their Education Specialist, and the desire to participate. We are seeking to provide this opportunity to all of our students, so ask your ES or contact Laura Beaton if you are interested or have questions. Quincy's baby activities are scheduled to begin Wednesday, November 3, so hurry!



GUIDED EQUINE LEADERSHIP CLASS!

Terra Adcock and Cameron Ramirez both enjoyed the 2009 Equine Guided Leadership Class at Greenhorn Ranch!

Are you interested in learning more about yourself?

Are you aware of how you behave in groups?

Do you want the opportunity to work with horses?

Here's a hands-on opportunity to do both!

Sign up with your ES if you are interested.

Greenville Open House a Success!

On October 13, students and their families joined the Plumas Charter School Board for an open house at our new Crescent Street location . The beautiful fall evening drew around 50 parents, students, and community members who enjoyed a light dinner provided by Board members and parents. While some gathered upstairs to see what interesting activities ES Cindy Thackeray had to offer, others enjoyed a lawn picnic or conversations on the front porch. Thank you to all who participated in this event, and thanks, too, for supporting the hard work and achievements of our students thus far this year. We would also like to send out a special “thank you” to parents who voluntarily contributed a dish for the dinner. The food was delicious!



High school students Will Meyers and Dawn-Linn Thomas enjoy the Greenville Open House



Board members, community members and parents alike enjoy each other’s company, our beautiful Greenville location, and good food.

Cub Scouts

Come join the Scouts for a year of adventure, fun and learning. Find out what your friends are doing in Cub Scouts. Visit a local Pack and discover our “fun in learning”. Call Kathy Grost at 1-775-787-1111 for more information. This fall we are looking for interested parents to participate in Cub Scouting, sharing the fun with the boys! Visit ww.JoinCubScouting.org for more information



Hike to Homer Lake

The PCS Hiking Club's 2010-2011 school year debut hike to Homer Lake on October 8th was a resounding success! Eleven hearty hikers enjoyed a moderately strenuous five-mile hike on a beautiful fall day. Highlights of the trip included meandering through quiet forests, the autumn colors, eating lunch by the lake, climbing high rock cliffs, and discovering a geocache by the lake.

Homer Lake, known as a sacred site to the Mountain Maidu people, is beautiful and serene and was greatly appreciated by us all. We picked up what little trash we found and were careful to leave only footprints. The geocache we found near a favorite fishing spot had lots of interesting objects in it, and we left a few of our own, as is the tradition of geocachers. Geocaching is a popular recreation activity all over the world, where people use handheld GPS devices to locate boxes full of "treasure." Our group inadvertently stumbled upon one such treasure at Homer Lake using only our keen eyes! Our next hike, scheduled for November 5, is to Spanish Peak. Contact Laura Beaton for up-to-date information on future hikes.



Hikers Aiden and Karissa Cunningham, Cindy and Jake (hiding) Thackeray, Kate Zachman, Kayla Thackeray, Garrett Cunningham, Austin Thompson, Leann Smith and Jed Richard gathered before their descent to Homer Lake.

Second Quarter Writing Assignment



This quarter, students will be writing a personal narrative. The narrative *genre* (type of writing) involves the telling of a story, with a beginning, a middle, and an end. A narrative can be fiction or non-fiction. A *personal* narrative is a *true story* of an actual experience you have had. A few examples of topics for a personal narrative:

- ◆ The scariest thing that ever happened to you
- ◆ A time when you felt very proud of something you said or did
- ◆ One of your favorite childhood memories

When beginning this assignment, remember that writing is a process requiring specific steps in developing your narrative. Your completed quarterly writing assignment should include the following:

1. Outlines, graphic organizers, or notes
2. A rough draft
3. A final draft

Enjoy your storytelling!

Elementary Literacy Group Field Trip and Friends



Left: High school senior MARRISA ARCANGELI assists kindergartener ABRA DEOCAMPO with a language arts lesson.



Right: On Monday, October 18, PCS parents and students took a field trip to the Dawn Institute gardens in Indian Falls. Here the group is pictured with master gardener MANUEL BOEHMER as he demonstrates the use of an historic apple press.

Have fun, pursue your passion, learn a lot, get extra credit:

Participate in the Science Fair!

Two Science Fairs to Take Place in March; NOW is the time to get started!

Greenville Jr./Sr. High School is hosting the first *Plumas County Science/Engineering Fair*. All students in grades 7-12 enrolled in any PUSD or PCOE school (which includes PCS) are eligible to enter the fair with either a science or an engineering project. Students can request an entry application from their ES or via email at bgimple@mac.com. If you are interested in participating, request more information and an application ASAP.

Students in grades K-6 will have their own *PCS Science Fair*. Ask your ES for information.



Left: High school student KIRSTEN LANKSTON participates in a science activity led by IVA's SUE WEBER, who is supporting PCS students wishing to participate in the County Wide Science Fair. KIRSTEN is holding a leopard print box in which there is an unidentified object. She is trying to identify the object by sound alone, moving and shaking the box in different ways to see if she can glean any information about the object's shape, purpose or identity.

Right: High school student RYAN WILLIS discusses his "Puking Pumpkin" Fall Festival demonstration with parents and other students.



Plumas Charter School Board of Directors

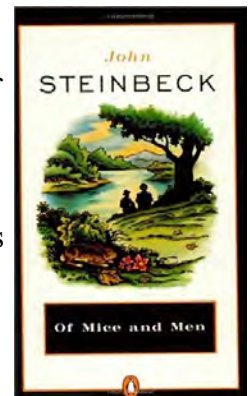
Everything that goes on at PCS is overseen by our Board of Directors. Their job is to ensure that the school's resources are effectively and appropriately used and that the school's students and their families are well served. At its monthly meetings, the Board examines and approves the school's income and expenditures and makes plans for the ongoing improvement of the school. Our bylaws provide for a 12-member board consisting of at least 2 parent members, 1 student member, 3 PCS staff members, 5 community members, and the Superintendent of our charter grantor, Plumas Unified School District.



If you are interested in serving and would like to know what is involved and how to apply, please call Janet or Taletha at 283-3851. Board meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. and are open to the public. The agenda for each is posted at least 72 hours in advance at each learning center. The next meeting: Wednesday, November 10, 1:30 p.m. at PCS Quincy. We welcome your participation.

Of Mice and Men
By John Steinbeck
Reviewed by Wesley Stark

George and Lennie: they have been chased out of every job they have ever had, mainly because of Lennie. George is "small and quick and dark of face." Lennie, a man of tremendous size, has the mind of a young child. But, somehow, they are the best of friends. George has to deal with all the problems that Lennie causes for them. They are chased out of a town called Weed because Lennie, who likes to pet soft things, wants to feel a girl's dress. When he does feel her dress, the girl screams. Lennie panics and latches on to her dress. And now they are near Soledad, which is near the Salinas River, looking for work.



They land a job bucking hay. They have a plan: once they have enough money, they are going to buy a few acres and have a ranch for themselves. They even get a man named Candy in on it. Lennie is going to be able to tend to the rabbits, feed them alfalfa seeds and everything. George could finally settle down. Candy could take care of the garden. But then Lennie does the thing, the bad thing. It stops all their plans cold. Curley's wife should have stayed away from Lennie. Lennie told her to go. But no, she stayed.

This book is on the edge of brilliance. Steinbeck does what he did with Flowers for Algernon: keeps you turning the pages. And if you read this, it will keep you on the edge of your seat waiting for the bad thing to happen, all the way through to the ending. Positively brilliant. I am going to read it again one day. I think this book is great - one for your book collection. I recommend this book.

Greenville Student of the Month Austin Thompson

Austin has demonstrated real maturity this year. He shows up on time every day to complete his work or to attend class, and he stays after class to complete his homework two days in advance! He has responded positively and productively to all feedback and has worked diligently to improve his work. Austin is a talented artist and is taking an interest in ceramics, something he recently discovered in Karissa's art class. Austin excels in Auto Mechanics and would love to attend UTI to pursue a career in that field. Keep up the good work, Austin!



Service to the Community



Greenville PCS 11th graders Dawn-Linn Thomas and Sara Fogleman helped with traffic control at the local "flu shot drive by" on October 26th. Guy McNett, Chairman of the Indian Valley Health Care District, requested volunteers - rain or shine - to help direct the line of cars that typically stretches the entire length of Hot Springs Rd.! Dawn-Linn and Sara (sporting the lovely orange vests) volunteered their time and earned credit for Community Service, a new requirement for Vocational Education at PCS. All students now must earn a minimum of 15 hours of Community Service to graduate. These hours include a written reflection component AND look *fantastic* on your resume! Wait.... You don't have a resume? Well it just so happens that creating a resume is also a way to earn Vocational Education credits! Talk to your ES today to get started, and get prepared for your life after high school!

Fall Themed/Colored Ceramic Creations



The Creative Juices are Flowing!

PCS ceramics students have been hard at work creating unique projects that reflect the fall season as well as animal and other sculpture.

PROM?

Several of our high school students this year are interested in organizing a high school prom and would like to know how many other like minded students we might have who would like to be involved and/or attend.

If you are interested, contact:

Jessica Roper at:
luv65bugs@att.net

or

Sarah Rhodes at:
ocean_fairy4@sbcglobal.net



How to Reach PCS Staff

Quincy Office: 283-3851
Toll free 1-888-509-4146
Greenville Office: 284-7050
Portola Office: 832-4157
Chester Office: 258-3365

Staff members can be reached at these locations and/or by voice mail or cell phone as follows:

Administrative Staff:

Janet Wolcott, Executive Director ext. 14
Taletha Washburn, Academic Director ext. 15
Gene Sies, Business Manger ext. 19
Becky Stokes, Registrar ext. 26
Susan Donald, Librarian ext. 18
Shannon Mallory, Secretary ext. 10
Sue Weber, Student Activities Coordinator/IVA Director, Greenville

Education Specialists:

Barbara Hill, Portola
Laura Beaton, Quincy ext. 23, Portola
Kara Burkhead, Quincy ext. 12
Greg Gruner, Quincy ext. 24
Gretchen Hagwood, Quincy ext. 11
Karen Oglesby, Quincy ext. 20
Dennis Scott, Chester, Westwood
Cynthia Thackeray, Quincy, Greenville
Mary Wilbur, Quincy ext. 21, Greenville
Lyn Williams, Greenville
Joe Willis, Quincy ext. 25, Greenville
Daniel Wilson, Portola
Kate Zachman, Greenville

Janet Wolcott and Taletha Washburn, are the Editors of *THE VOICE*
For questions or submissions, email janet@plumascharterschool.org, or taletha@plumascharterschool.org

**Portola Community Involvement Group
City Park Clean-Up**

Almost every Tuesday, from 2-3 p.m., ES Laura Beaton, students, parents and grandparents join together to clean up an area of Portola. So far we have picked up trash on the Riverwalk, at the City Park, around our campus, and at the baseball park.

Pictured below are students Owen Tuttle, Wesley Stark, Cameron Ramirez, Cougan Stark, Cannon, Isabelle and Megan Church, and grandmother Theresia Vissier Pose with the trash they collected on Tuesday, October 26th at Portola City Park.



**PLUMAS CHARTER
SCHOOL**

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www.plumascharterschool.org



Plumas Charter School is *Your School!*

2010-2011 Testing Schedule

California High School Exit Exam

English-Language Arts (Tues)	Mathematics (Wed)	Grades
October 5, 2010	October 6, 2010	11, 12 and Adult
December 4, 2010 (Saturday)	December 11, 2010 (Saturday)	11, 12, Adult
March 8, 2011	March 9, 2011	10 (Census), 11, 12 and Adult
May 10, 2011	May 11, 2011	10 (make-up), 11, 12 and Adult

STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) Program: The STAR testing schedule for the administration of the California Standards Tests (CST & CMA), the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA), and the Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS) is:

- ◆ May 2nd-May 13th, 2011 - for PCS and all PUSD Schools

All regular and make-up testing must be completed within this window.

Grade 4 & 7 Writing Tests

- ◆ Tuesday., March 1, 2011 with a make-up day of Wednesday, March 2, 2011 for all schools

CELDT (California English Language Development Test)

The annual testing window of the CELDT is July 1 - October 31.

PFT (Physical Fitness Test)

- ◆ The designated testing window for administration of the Physical Fitness test is February-May, 2011.