



THE VOICE

PLUMAS CHARTER SCHOOL

Our Students Sparkle!



Members of the PCS Crazy Crab Choir, taught by Eliza Hardee, performed songs on the courthouse steps during the annual Sparkle celebration on December 6. Above left: Cruz Anderson, CoraGrace Hardee, Aiden Vaughn, Lillian Davis, Brianna Stadler, Lilah Washburn Above right: Ella Yates, CoraGrace Hardee Below center: Cruz Anderson and Kylie Anderson



IVA Glee Club, led by Randy Pritchard, performed at IVA Holiday Open House on December 13. Below: IVA Glee Club members McKenna Cook, Caitlyn Talavera, Destiny Lyman, Swasey Riggs, Ashley Billings, Destiny Hanes, and Alexis Vaughn perform selection of seasonal songs to a delighted audience of fellow students and family members.

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Cash 4 College Nights

Attention 2011 Seniors AND 2010 Graduates!

You're invited to Cash 4 College Night

Feather River College representatives will assist you in the FAFSA process

Dates, Times and Sites

Monday, January 31, at 6-8pm at Greenville High School

Wednesday, February 2, at 6-8pm at Portola High School

Wednesday, February 9, at 6-8pm at Quincy High School

Thursday, February 10, at 6-8pm at Chester High School

FRC staff will also help you apply for additional grant \$\$ and get entered to win \$1000

Before you come: Obtain your FAFSA Pin # and complete the FAFSA worksheet.

Contact Taletha Washburn for more information or for assistance in obtaining your PIN #.



Educational Opportunities

Looking for a Reading Incentive?



1. Students in grades K-6 complete 6 hours of recreational reading (must be in addition to regular school work) between January 2011 and March 4 deadline.
 2. Parents complete logs for the students' reading hours.
 3. Logs are submitted online by our designated school coordinator.
 4. Students who complete 6 hours of recreational reading receive a ticket to Six Flags in Vallejo. (The Six Flags must be within 250 miles)
 5. If there is sufficient interest, PCS will sign up.
- Contact ES Kate Zachman** if you're interested.

<http://readtosucceed.discoveryeducation.com/about.cfm>

Try This Online Driving Practice!



Heads Up!, the new interactive road distraction challenge from Toyota and Discovery Education, will help you practice your driving skills and experience distracting scenarios, such as texting, changing a radio station or drinking a soda.

<http://headsup.discoveryeducation.com/>

Portola Community Service

PCS students and friends have been busy cleaning up different areas in Portola during the months of November and December. We are fortunate to have several beautiful parks within easy walking distance of our school site, including the Riverwalk, Portola City Park, the baseball fields, Wildcat Creek, and the large campus where PCS is located.

Now that it is winter time, we are focusing our energy on cleaning up our own classrooms. One project we are currently undertaking is to reorganize our classroom space and refresh all of our student artwork, including the many large, student-painted windows that grace the front of our building. Students are welcome to join us in creating new images for both interior and exterior viewing. Call Laura at 283-3851 or 832-4157 for more details. Below: ES Laura Beaton, Zac Wiggins, Angel Viden, Alex Viden display their collection.



**OPEN GYM
Is Back!**



Join us at Serpilio Hall
on the Plumas County
Fairgrounds
Mondays and Wednesdays
2:30-3:30

Starting on Wednesday, January 19
Basketball, Kickball, Soccer, Jump-rope,
—the sky's the limit! Come on out!



The Sound of Music and the Joy of Fitness at Chester PCS

Chester PCS students are currently enjoying Lake Almanor Fitness Center (LAFC) through Plumas Charter School's Enrichment Vendor Program. The Center is available to students from 5:00a.m. to 8:00p.m. Students can receive guidance in establishing a personal fitness program from LAFC personnel. Currently, 40% of our Chester students are taking advantage of this opportunity to improve their health, strength and cardiovascular fitness. The staff and facility are wonderful! For more information, ask your ES.

Lori Metcalf, a highly qualified music instructor well-known in the Chester area, is now offering individual instruction on the Keyboard as well as a recorder class at the Chester Learning Center. Ms. Metcalf will begin teaching in January. This opportunity is available to all PCS students. Questions? Call PCS Chester, 258-3365, or PCS Quincy, 283-3851.



Music teacher Lori Metcalf with student Dametri Jacobs

PCS HIKING CLUB

Friday, January 14, Plumas Eureka Ski Hill



About 4 miles round trip to the lake; a steep hike! Bring a lunch and **water** (1 quart minimum). Wear comfortable, layered clothing, hat, gloves, & sturdy hiking shoes or boots. Be prepared for snow and ice! **Snowshoes will be provided.** ***No electronic devices (except cameras) please!**

Fill out a **Permission Slip!** Call ES Laura at 283-3851 or ES Kate at 284-7050 to sign up

Meet at Johnsville Ski Hill at 10:00 a.m. Departure will be at about 3:00 p.m. Get PE credit, have a great time, and enjoy our natural, winter beauty!

Hiking Club

Hiking Club Scales Spanish Peak November 5, 2010

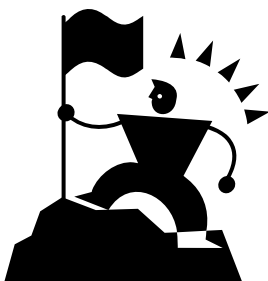
It was a beautiful, fall day, and nine of us— students, teachers, a grandparent and a dog— enjoyed a wonderful, warm day and vivid fall foliage on the eight mile hike up to Spanish Peak via Granite Gap. We had views of Mt. Lassen, Silver, Mud, Gold and Rock Lakes, and peaks of the Lakes Basin area. We ate our lunch on top of the mountain, added our names to the record book, and greatly appreciated Mother Nature at her finest!



Left: Austin Thompson introducing himself to the rubber boa he met on the trail



Right: Matt Grenier pondering atop some of the granite in Granite Gap



The group poses at the Peak! From left to right: ES Kate Zachman, Owen Tuttle, Austin Thompson, Cameron Ramirez, Cheyanne Nealey, Matt Grenier, Theresia Visser, ES Laura Beaton, Jared Vital.

Students Survive Babies!

Fifteen PCS Quincy students have successfully completed a 2.5 credit elective course that simulates the experience of caring for a newborn baby. Our intrepid group of students, grades 8-12, did an overall stellar job of caring for their electronic babies! Out of 15 students, 2 received perfect scores, 5 cared properly for their babies 99% of the time, and only 2 students received scores of less than 90%. The babies cried anywhere from 6 to 67 minutes over a stretch of 68 hours that the babies were in the care of their ‘parents.’ Electronic bracelets attached to students’ wrists recorded proper care of babies’ needs. All students agreed that this was a valuable experience that all students should have. Portola students tested their parenting skill over the Dec. 10th weekend.

Kirsten Lankston with her ‘baby’ Hannah



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!
 If you are interested, ask your ES for details.

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.

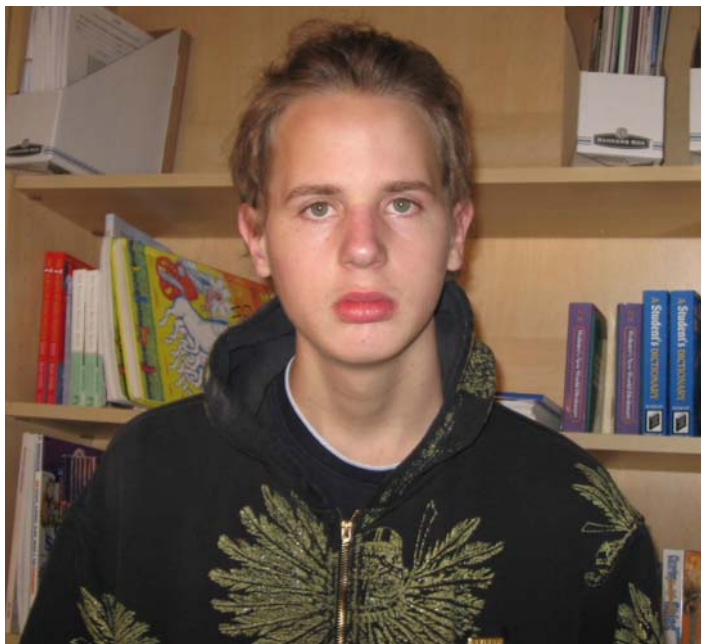


If you are interested, contact:
 Jessica Roper at:
 luv65bugs@att.net
 or
 Sarah Rhodes at:
 ocean_fairy4@sbcglobal.net

PCS 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. **If you are interested in serving on the board and would like to know what is involved and how to apply, please call Janet or Taletha at 283-3851.**





Left: Senior Troy Meadors' consistent effort in all subjects this year has been really impressive. Troy is also very adept in many aspects of technology. Troy plans to attend Lassen College, and possibly UNR after that. He hopes to pursue a career in music by playing either trombone or French horn in an orchestra.

Right: Senior Amelia Beck plans to attend Butte College and to transfer from there to UCLA to pursue a major in film. As for now, she plans to volunteer at the Quincy community radio station. Currently, her favorite subjects are geometry and English literature.



Quincy Student of the Month

Meadow Hunter-Warren

Meadow's favorite classes are math and science. Her plans for the future may include going to college to study computer programming. Meadow is in her second year with Plumas Charter School, and has made tremendous progress. Almost three years ago, Meadow was involved in a quad accident which left her with a spinal injury that left her with very limited movement of her lower extremities. Understandably very unhappy about this turn of events, Meadow had a hard time focusing on her school work and being positive. She and her teacher struggled through her freshman year, but now, halfway into a new school year, Meadow is taking her school work seriously and is a pleasure to work with. Meadow is witty, insightful and very adept at sharing her opinion. She has strong math skills, and while she would never admit it, she is also a skilled writer and critical thinker.

Congratulations Meadow!



Indian Valley Academy:

“Think Hard, Work Harder.”



The IVA bulletin board above, designed by Sue Weber and student Sara Fogleman, includes fish representing each student and staff member and their unique personalities. The board celebrates our differences and how we thrive together as a community.



Seventh Graders Dalton Johns, Ashley Billings, Jonathan Clark, Chris Clark, Landin Carmichael, and Destiny Lyman work on a project for their history class.



8th Graders Jason Martinez, Destiny Hanes, and McKenna Cook work on vocabulary practice. IVA students work on vocabulary exercises daily, with the result that they all have *awesome* personal ‘mental lexicons’!

Right: IVA students in class



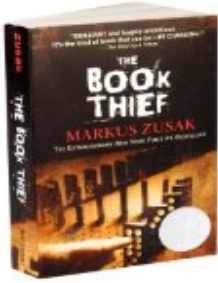
IVA Holiday Potluck and Open House



Above: IVA students, families and staff gather for a potluck supper on the evening of December 13, and enjoyed an evening that included socializing, entertainment, and good cheer.



Above: As part of the evening's activities, sixth grade students Christopher Gibson, Brent Washoe, Genna Battagin, Alexis Vaughn, Patrisha Villalobos, Julianne Cook, and Josh Hernandez present their clay replica of a city in ancient Sumer. Sumer is considered to be the earth's first true civilization. Students explained the agriculture, irrigation, technology, housing, and social organization typical of these ancient cities.



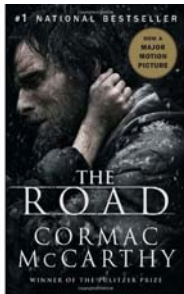
The Book Thief

by Markus Zusak
Reviewed by Laura Beaton

This extremely engaging story is unique in many ways, all of them positive. The narrator of this story is Death— but a kind Death, who regretfully describes for the reader the tragic and never-ending duties he is saddled with. He tells us about a nine year old girl living in Germany during the rise of Hitler and the Nazis. After her younger brother dies and her mother gives her up because she can no longer care for her, Liesel goes to live with a foster family, and there she finds love, understanding, compassion, and a huge and dangerous secret.

As we follow this once illiterate girl's quest for a happy and productive life, we learn about the trials and tribulations undergone by ordinary people during the Nazi regime. Liesel's best friend is a neighbor boy, and together they enlist in the Hitler Youth Group, which they are required to do. Liesel's love of books and her will to survive lead her and Rudy on countless adventures.

Somehow, because the horrors of war are described to us as seen and experienced by this young girl, our experience as reader is a gentler one. This book beautifully portrays the heartbreaking losses suffered in life. It is a powerful book, and uplifting despite its subject matter. It is definitely worth reading and is suitable for junior high and high school students.



The Road

by Cormac McCarthy
Reviewed by Barbara Hill

Before it was made into a motion picture, this novel won the Pulitzer Prize, and it's easy to see why. It's an outstanding book. In it, we walk a road in a post-nuclear-war America. It is a cold nuclear winter, as evidenced by the ash everywhere and the absence of plant and animal life. McCarthy makes this world even colder in your mind by not even naming the main characters; they are simply the man and the boy. The two are headed for the southern coast, hoping it will be a warmer there, scavenging for food and hiding from cannibals along the way, armed with only a pistol. I read this book over two evenings; it only took a total of four hours! Although it offers a bleak view of a possible future, it's a page turner and a beautifully written book.

New Staff Members!

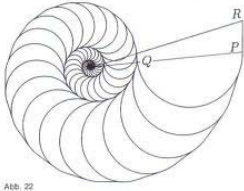
Three wonderful, new teachers have come to Plumas Charter: Dallas Tognotti, James Newell, and Stephenie McMorrow. Dallas is a science teacher, with a degree in biology from CSU; he will work in Chester and in Greenville. James has a mathematics degree from UC Santa Barbara and has extensive experience in school administration as well as math teaching; he will work in Chester. Stephenie is a Plumas County native; she trained at Humboldt State in liberal studies and music and has many skills to enrich our students' education. We welcome these three to our staff, and will provide a more thorough introduction next month.

We As Humans



I want to hold on tighter
When I am told to let go
I want to go faster
When I am told to go slow
We spend time searching for something new
When perspective is something we lack
We don't appreciate what we got till
We can't get it back
We always expect people to give us a break
Till we come to our senses and find
That when they want a break in return we
Think they are out of their mind
We complain we don't have enough time to
Do what we have to do
But if we were granted more time in the day
We would waste that time too
We as humans are never satisfied with who we are
We always want more
But chasing after it seems so far

— *Renee Tucker, senior*



Everything's Connected

That great lover of wilderness, John Muir, said, “When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.” If that’s true, why do we in the education business insist on separating everything into so-called “subjects?”

For the past several years, I have been teaching math to PCS students, teaching all subjects to my 11th-grade son, and immersing myself in natural history studies, including nature journaling, art, photography, and leading nature walks. The connections I see between these areas are so powerful that I cannot avoid bringing art into my geometry class, discussing geometry during nature walks, and being inspired by great writers/artists/scientists who are clearly holistic learners themselves.

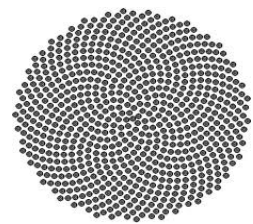
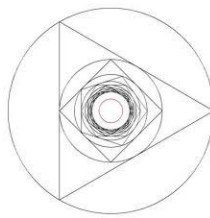
A friend of mine with a clear bias toward the humanities side of curriculum, once wrote the following: “The modern world is made for politicians and scientists, those who categorize, not for the artists and mystics who live like children (positive connotation) experiencing everything for the first time.” Compare this unfortunate bias with the following quote from Albert Einstein: “After a certain high level of technical skill is achieved, science and art tend to coalesce in esthetics, plasticity, and form. The greatest scientists are always artists as well.” Or this one by another great physicist, Richard Feynman: “A poet once said, ‘The whole universe is in a glass of wine.’ We will probably never know in what sense he meant it, for poets do not write to be understood. But, it is true that if we look at a glass of wine closely enough we see the entire universe.” I highly recommend that readers check out this latter quote. It suggests a great deal for education.

On a page of my nature journal, I sketched flowers into four regular polygons as aid to learning plant families, but also as a reminder that seeing this geometry in the flowers enhances one’s appreciation of them. On another page, I encourage readers to check into the etymologies of plant and animal names. A recent example from my natural history blog shows how a couple of flower names can be a launching pad into the entire curriculum – science, math, history, and English.

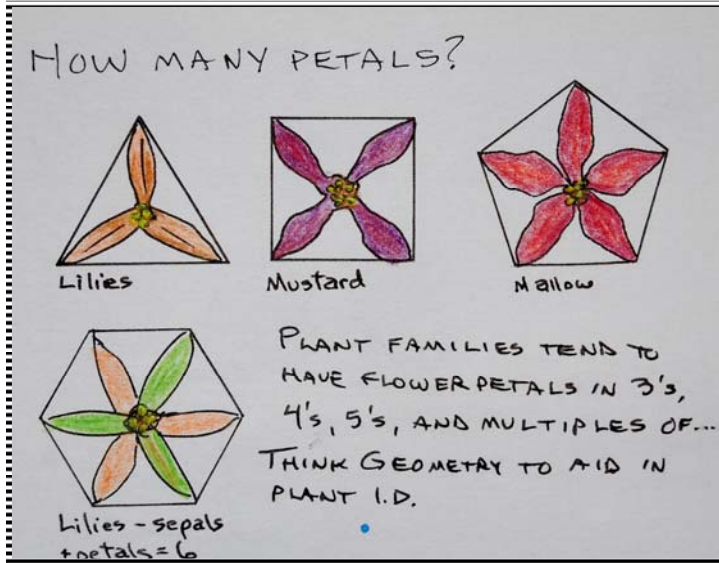
One of Plumas County’s spectacular flowers is the bitterroot, *Lewisia*. Another is farewell-to-spring, *Clarkia*, of which Plumas County has several different species. As you might guess, these two plants were named for Meriwether Lewis and William Clark who were sent by President Thomas Jefferson on an expedition to discover what might be of value and interest in the newly acquired Louisiana Territory, and to search for a relatively easy passage to the Pacific. Starting with beautiful photographs of these flowers— or better yet, a field trip— and researching their names, one can easily segue into history, science, math, and English.

Shortly after the time of Lewis and Clark, a certain California physician and amateur botanist named Albert Kellogg, did a detailed study of California’s oak trees. Later, the California Black Oak, prominent around Plumas County, was named after him, *Quercus kelloggii*. A brief search for biographical material about this man reveals that he was an early advocate of women’s rights. He nominated two women for membership in what was then the all-make club of scientists known as the California Academy of Sciences. One of the women later become president of that organization. All this before women won the right to vote!

My strong recommendation to teachers and students alike: let your curiosity come alive! Follow every lead. Don’t let subject boundaries stop you in your tracks. You can’t “make” a subject interesting. You can only “discover” that every subject is interesting and help others do the same. — *ES, Joe Willis*



Everything's Connected



Above: Flower Petal Geometry

Below: Leaf Geometry



Right: Clarkia

Left: Lewisia



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
James Newell, Chester
Karen Oglesby, Quincy ext. 20
Dallas Tognotti, Chester, Greenville
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*
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**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.