

THE VOICE

P L U M A S C H A R T E R S C H O O L



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Above: A bald eagle perches regally on a tree for ES Patty Hudson during the PCS field trip to the Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuge February 8. The 13 participants also saw swans, ducks, kites, geese, peregrine falcons, marsh hawks, and one great horned owl. The group also explored several caves at Lava Beds National Monument, and a grand time was had by all!

ACCELERATED READER COMES TO PCS!

After receiving many parent and student requests, PCS has finally found some money in the budget for a subscription to Accelerated Reader. This program is already familiar to most students and their parents, being widely used in schools all over the country. AR's purpose is to encourage students to become lifelong readers by helping them to establish the reading habit early in life. Students select books from the AR list, read them, and when they're finished take computer-based tests on the content, earning points for good test scores. We will track student points and decide on appropriate awards—probably books and recognition. The PCS teaching staff is for the most part reluctant to make much use of extrinsic motivation—we feel strongly that learning and reading are important and rewarding enough that we shouldn't have to bribe or reward students to do those things. This being said, we've researched and discussed the AR program and feel that it can be successful in motivating some of our students to become readers, and we think that it does have a place at PCS. A number of scientifically based studies have found that AR is in fact very successful in improving students' reading achievement, as well as their overall intellectual growth. In addition, we think it will help to build an atmosphere of fun and enjoyment in our libraries. The program will be in place soon, and it will be accessible from all learning centers. Ask your ES for more information!

PCS Yearbook

STUDENTS, the PCS 2009-2010 yearbook team needs YOU!

- TO CREATE the yearbook pages for your learning center by learning to use Microsoft Publisher®
- TO Take OTHER students' pictures at your learning center.
- Design a cover for your learning center.
- AND...get YOUR picture taken (or portrait drawn)

.SENIORS: we need each of you to create your own page with art, poetry, photos, or whatever you want! (See Senior Questionnaire below for ideas.)

Want a yearbook?

Reserve a FULL COLOR year of memories now!!

- Complete the form below and attach \$20.00 per book.
- Make checks payable to: Plumas Charter School.
- Write in the check memo: "2009-10 Yearbook."
- Give it to your ES or the learning center coordinator, and get a receipt .

Student Name: _____

ES Name: _____

of Yearbooks you are ordering _____

Payment amount attached \$ _____

Thank you!

Senior Questionnaire

Question 1: If you were stranded on a deserted island, name five things that you would take.

Question 2: What's your favorite song? Why?

Question 3: What's your favorite energy drink? Why?

Question 4: What makes you different from everyone else?

Question 5: What is your favorite quote?



Monterey Bay Field Trip April 26-30



We will camp at Sunset Beach State Park in Watsonville. Most of the activities will be about a 40 minute drive from the campground. Every morning we will be leaving the campground at around 8am for the day's excursions. One of the days will involve about 3 hours of drive time. All meals will be on your own. The cost of the campsites and all student entry fees will be covered by Plumas Charter School. The entry fees for non-students will be about \$63 per adult and \$22 per sibling (under 18 yrs.). Be prepared for inclement weather. Dress in layers and bring a waterproof coat and shoes.

Schedule

Monday, April 26 th	Travel to Sunset State Beach in Watsonville
Tuesday, April 27 th	10 a.m. tour of Point Sur Lighthouse 2:30pm tour of the Carmel Mission
Wednesday, April 28 th	9am tour of Colton Hall Museum and Old Monterey Jail (not confirmed) 11:15 am Monterey Bay Aquarium
Thursday, April 29 th	8:30 a.m. Whale Watching on Monterey Bay 2 p.m. tour of Pacific House and Custom House in Monterey State Historic Park
Friday, April 30 th	Leave for home (check-out is at noon)

If your family is interested in participating, please call Patty Hudson at 257-1240 by Friday, March 2 to reserve a place. All permission slips need to be to Patty by Thursday, April 15.



Snowshoeing Field Trip

PCS snowshoeing group with our Forest Service guides in front of Swain Meadow





African Dance Class



**If You Can Walk You Can Dance,
If You Can Talk You Can Sing!**



Traditional Congolese Dance Classes Are Happening!

Taught by PCS parent and professional dancer LaVelle Kenney

Classes meet Wednesdays

1:15-2:15 P.M.

at the YOGA and WELLNESS CENTER in East Quincy.

All students in grades K-5 welcome!

Questions: call Janet Wolcott, 283-3851

**Classes for middle school and high school students are available depending
on interest.!!**

FAFSA: The Time is Now!

If you are a high school senior and are planning to attend college next year, it is time to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The application is online, and all you need to complete it is a copy of your parents 2009 tax statement (and a copy of your own if applicable). Filling out the FAFSA is an important step in receiving any kind of financial aid for school. The FAFSA is your application for several different grants that can total over \$15,000 a year towards your college education, depending on your eligibility. Call Taletha at the Quincy office for assistance or information!

Culinary Arts Available!

If there is sufficient interest among PCS students, we will offer culinary arts classes. One of our parents, Patrick Kenney, is a graduate of the CIA; he's not a spy— he has studied at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America! An experienced restaurateur, Mr. Kenney is enthusiastic about passing some of his valuable vocational skills on to students. These include cooking, serving, gastronomy, and nutrition as well as some of the practical aspects of finding work in the field. If enough students are interested, he's willing to coach a Culinary Olympics Team. **ARE YOU INTERESTED? Would you like to know more? Please contact Janet Wolcott, 283-3851.**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GREEN TECHNOLOGY?

High school juniors and seniors with a grade point average of 2.3 or above are eligible to enroll in online, community college level classes! Starting March 8: Introduction to Environmental Technology introduces the student to a range of fields that encompass the rapidly expanding environmental technology industries. This course will cover basic principles and skill sets applicable to several areas in "green" technology sectors. Students will learn of "green-collar" employment and career opportunities associated with these environmental technology segments. Contact Janet Wolcott, 283-3851 for more information.

How to Reach PCS Staff

Quincy Office: 283-3851
Toll free 1-888-509-4146
Greenville Office: 284-7050
Portola Office: 832-4157
Susanville Office: 257-1240
Chester Contact: 927-8248

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

Quincy Office:

Janet Wolcott, Director and ES ext. 14
Taletha Washburn, Education Coordinator and ES, ext. 15
Gene Sies, Business Manger ext. 19
Becky Stokes, Registrar ext. 26
Susan Donald, Librarian ext. 18
Michele Cruz, Secretary ext. 10

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
Patty Hudson, Susanville
Karen Oglesby, Quincy ext. 20
Dennis Scott, Chester, Almanor, Westwood
Mary Wilbur, Quincy ext. 21, Greenville
Joe Willis, Quincy ext. 25, Greenville
Daniel Wilson, Portola
Kate Zachman, Chester and Greenville

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



OPEN GYM !

**Mondays and Wednesdays
2:15-3:45 p.m.
Serpilio Hall
Plumas County
Fairgrounds
Open to all PCS Students!**

Allen Oglesby shoots over Tommy Nelson during a recent Open Gym 2-on-2 basketball game.

PCS students have been enjoying the Open Gym sessions at Serpilio Hall, located at the Plumas County Fairgrounds in Quincy. Open Gym will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:15 to 3:45. Either meet us there or come to PCS Quincy and hop a ride. Bring your energy, your enthusiasm, and your passion for exercise!

*If you are in junior or senior high school and would like to earn credits as a teacher's assistant for this class, please contact **Laura Beaton** as soon as possible: 283-3851, or laura@plumascharterschool.org.*

Portola Update



Portola 8th grade student Chelsea Cash shows off the picture frame that she made at the popular new Arts & Crafts Class taught by Donna Ramirez on most Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m., right before Barbara Hill's Writing Class. For more information or to sign up, call 832-4157 or 283-3851.

Small group sessions currently happening at the Portola PCS site are:

Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:30, **Computer Applications** with ES Laura Beaton.

Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00, **Step Up to Writing** with ES Barbara Hill.

Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:00, **Arts and Crafts** with PCS parent Donna Ramirez.

Most **Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 – 2, Drop-in Tutoring** with ES Dan Wilson.

Coming up this Spring:

Our RiverWalk clean-ups will continue after the snow has gone. Earn your PCS T-shirt by participating in clean-up events or by being a student of the month.

SNAKE LAKE HIKE

PCS HIKING CLUB RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!

Snake Lake was the site of the PCS Hiking Club's fourth hike of the school year on January 15. What a great way to end the first semester and ring in the second! A group of 5 students and 3 ES's enjoyed a balmy, spring-like day as we circumambulated partially-frozen Snake Lake near Meadow Valley. Our group, comprised of junior and senior high school students from Greenville and Quincy, enjoyed a brisk warm-up walk up a forest service road that took us high above the lake, almost halfway to the Mt. Hough Ranger Station. We descended the hill and continued on around the lake, jumping from hillock to hillock near the swampy northern shoreline. We had a lovely lunch on the grass, with a beautiful view of snowy Spanish Peak looming up above the lake. The above photo of a beaver lodge at snake lake was taken by student Hannah Hill. On the shady side of the lake we saw some interesting results of nature at work: a couple of webbed goose feet, dead frogs, piles of feathers, and near the end of our hike, a dead goose submerged in the water. A flock of live Canada geese landed on the ice not too far from the resident beaver lodge. The trail on the east side of the lake was overgrown and blocked by a few huge trees, but that didn't deter us! We finished our hike by the dam at the southern edge of the lake.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE GEORGE WASHINGTON FOR A DAY? OR CLEOPATRA? EINSTEIN, OR JANE AUSTEN?



How about a Roman gladiator, an English monarch, an American pioneer? A scientist or inventor? An author or an artist? If you'd like go back in time, this year's Young Chautauqua Program will help you do that! If you've ever seen someone perform as a well known historical figure, and thought about doing it yourself, then Plumas Charter's Young Chautauqua is for you! It was invented in Chautauqua, New York, so this form of one person show was named after that city. Reno Humanities does several nights of performances each June, including a night of Young Chautauqua, and Plumas Charter students will follow their lead. First, you need to decide who you'd like to be.

Then, you research that person's life and create a timeline. When you've informed yourself about your chosen person, you will write a monologue—a story that your historical figure tells. (This will also give you credit for your fourth quarter writing assignment!) Costuming is part of it, too. You need to look like your chosen character! You won't be expected to do this alone. We'll have fun and make friends from all Plumas Charter School learning centers.

Performance day will be the day of the PCS Arts and Book Fair, May 19. (Participation at this event is optional; shy characters can perform for family, friends, and ES's.) Also, the project can be scaled to suit the grade level of the participant. More details will be distributed as they are available. Come have a good time, get a taste of performance art from several different angles, AND get some extra school credit. **STUDENTS IN ALL GRADES ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE PART!** This will be fun! Parent volunteers appreciated!



The Outsiders

A novel by S.E. Hinton
Reviewed by Iyasus TasFa-Kenny

Recently, I read a novel called The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, and I also watched the movie based on the book. The movie and the book have a lot in common, they also have many differences. The story is about teenagers growing up in the Nineteen-Fifties.

The Outsiders book did not tell how Ponyboy's parents died. Throughout the book I always wondered how Ponyboy's parents died. In the book, Darry was a dynamic character. The Greasers said Darry could have been a SOC, if it was not for them. The book had many scenes the movie did not.

Within the movie, Dally decided to steal a magazine when Johnny died, because he was mad. He then pointed an unloaded gun at the store owner, and ran off. The store owner pulled out a shot gun and shot Dally in the hand. This did not happen in the book, and makes Dally a psycho. In the movie they didn't show when Ponyboy was being beat up by the SOC'S then one of them pulled out a pocket knife and said "need a haircut, Greaser?" then they cut his head badly. The movie showed Ponyboy's parents die in a car crash being pulverized by a train, which was not in the book.

I liked the book better than the movie, because the book was more eventful and you get to use your imagination to picture the characters exactly how you want them to be. Before I watched the movie I always thought Johnny was a lot taller than Ponyboy. When I watched the movie, Johnny was a lot shorter than Ponyboy. The additions to the movie were more dramatic, but distracted from the original story. I believe Hollywood should stick to the story when based on a novel.



The Things They Carried

A novel by Tim O'Brien
Reviewed by Laura Beaton

For anyone interested in the War in Vietnam, here's a firsthand account of one man's experience as a soldier in the lush and rainy villages of that country. O'Brien paints a picture of hardship and rude awakening, of growing up fast fighting a war that nobody understands. His clean prose tells about the heavy packs and the perpetual rain, about seeing your buddies' limbs blown off, and about wading through sewage fields to recover the body of a fellow soldier that has sunk below the surface. It unveils the psychological terror that the war created, and the post traumatic stress that turned veterans into haunted outcasts. The Things They Carried tells of friendship and bonding, and of trying to cope in a world that makes no sense.

This loosely woven collection of stories highlights some colorful examples of what the war was like for the soldiers who landed in Vietnam as boys and came home (some of them) as men. What they each carried was different and yet the same: whether it was a photo or a bible, each was striving for some connection to love, family, and the real world back home. O'Brien captures the fear and excitement, the lethargy and rivalry, the camaraderie and eccentricities that abound in the harrowing reality of fighting a war in a place far from home. Do yourself a favor and read this book. Glean some understanding of a generation of compromised souls and their struggles to survive and move beyond an often horrifying and soul-damaging nightmare that was the debacle of the Vietnam War.

Do You Have Nature Deficit Disorder?

by Joe Willis, ES



The majority of people of all ages who see this photo of my son with a millipede crawling across his face are disgusted. A notable exception is the small circle of naturalists with whom I'm in regular communication about all manner of wild creatures. Recently, my son and I were discussing the origin of the "great divide," that is, the divide between people who develop curiosity about and affection for things that crawl and those whose first impulse is to squish or avoid and to yell "Eeewww" or "Yuck!" We agreed that the divide usually occurs very early in life and is taught to the young by adults.

All kids are curious, up to a point, but they begin getting messages while very young that they should not be. Don't touch! Icky! It might bite. It's poisonous. It's dirty. Thus, most kids are on one side of the divide or the other before they even start school. What a tragedy that probably the majority of the population has negative feelings toward the wide range of critters which inhabit our ecosystem in a complex of interdependence on which we humans



depend. When we buy all our food rather than grow it, and when we spend most of our time indoors and/or wear headphones most of the time when we are outside, we grow up disconnected from nature and will only have negative relations with creatures that we fear are dirty, ugly or dangerous.

As a naturalist, I am totally supportive of the theme of Richard Louv's great book, *Last Child in the Woods*, in which he discusses the frightening consequences of kids growing up less and less connected with nature. He coins the term "nature deficit disorder" for the psychological and ecological consequences of alienation from nature.

If you read Louv's book, you will most likely decide you must get more familiar with the common critters in your environment in order to help your child become connected. There are actually very few harmful creatures to worry about in Plumas County. You don't have to be a biologist to learn to recognize black widow spiders and rattlesnakes. And that's about it!

The alligator lizard my son is holding tried to bite when first picked up. Then it became hand-tamed almost immediately and made a great pet for a while. We kept it in a terrarium and fed it slugs, worms, and insects for a few weeks then let it go where we found it. The ring-neck snake wrapped around his finger was even more of a thrill. As adults they seldom exceed a foot in length and are exceptionally gentle. They, too, eat worms and bugs and can cause no harm.



As for the big, scary millipede, it, too, is harmless and is quite easily distinguished from its mildly poisonous cousins, the centipedes. It is lots of fun to watch the wave motion generated by their legs when they crawl – a wave that moves forward faster than the millipede itself – and compare it to the 'standing' wave of the centipedes, which can be observed without handling the centipede. The centipede seems to move forward through the wave of its legs which stands still.

Kids will not grow up caring about protecting our environment if early on they develop aversions to most of the creatures in it. At Plumas Charter School we have lots of books that show kids how to care for harmless bugs in terrariums. I would be glad to help any interested families get started.

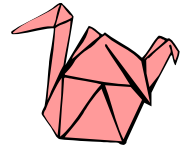
LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE:

PCS Students Love Powerspeak!

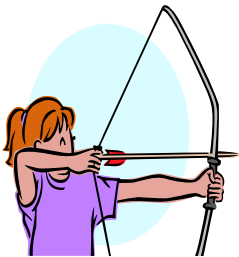
Plumas Charter students who have tried our new, web-based, computer language courses say that they *really work*. They're interesting, easy to follow, and you really learn! If you're interested in learning French, Spanish, German, Chinese, or Latin, ask your ES about Powerspeak. You can give it a try to see if it looks like something that would work for you. Available for students in K-12th grades



Attention Artists and Craftspersons!



Exciting changes are being made to our front reception area in Quincy! We are putting in place specially designed shelves to display three dimensional art, such as sculpture, ceramics, models, and origami. We are also creating a framed space for a student mural. Talk to Taletha or Michele for more information.



Would you like to LEARN ARCHERY?

State certified archery instructor Scott Martin is willing to offer archery classes in Chester and/or Susanville if there is sufficient interest among PCS students. Mr. Martin, a 4H leader and father of four is experienced in instructing kids of all ages, and students of all grade levels would be eligible to participate. ***If you would like to participate, please contact Janet Wolcott at 283-3851. We need to know if there is sufficient interest to warrant going forward.*** The class will be offered through ASAP, the After School Archery Program of the National Field Archery Association and USA Archery, the official governing body for Olympic archery.



DANCE CLASS IN GREENVILLE!

Fundamental techniques of Hip Hop/Funk

Taught by Jessica Lewis
PE or Visual /Performing Arts credit
7th-12th grade

Tuesdays 4:30-5:30pm at the GES Cafeteria
Sign up with your ES today



La Panache Madrigal Group Seeks New Members

La Panache, a madrigal singing group, has been together for two years and has a repertoire that includes chorales from the Renaissance, Romantic and Modern periods. They also perform music from a variety of genres, including spirituals, patriotic works, and folk songs. They have performed three chorale concerts locally and participated in a Reno Ecumenical choral concert. Rehearsals are from 4-6pm each Sunday in East Quincy. It is not necessary to read music, but an "ear" and past chorus experience are helpful. If you are interested in more information or an audition, please contact or leave a message for John Probst at 530-283-5430

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Plumas Charter School is *Your School!*

PCS 2009-2010 TESTING SCHEDULE

CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam)

English/Language Arts Tuesday	Mathematics Wednesday	Grades to be Tested
March 16, 2010	March 17, 2010	Grades 10, 11, 12 and Adult
May 11, 2010	May 12, 2010	Grades 10 (make-up ONLY), 11, 12 and Adult

STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting)

These tests will be given May 4-7. As the dates approach, informational letters will go out to all participating students.

CELDT (California English Language Development Test)

The annual testing window of the CELDT is July 1-October 31. Initial identification assessments are ongoing throughout the school year.

PFT (Physical Fitness Test) for Grades 5, 7, and 9

PE testing will take place during the week of April 19, with make-ups in May. Specific dates and times to be determined. As the dates approach, informational letters will go out to all participating students. For suggestions on preparation, contact your ES.