

# 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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## **Plumas Charter School Commencement Ceremony**

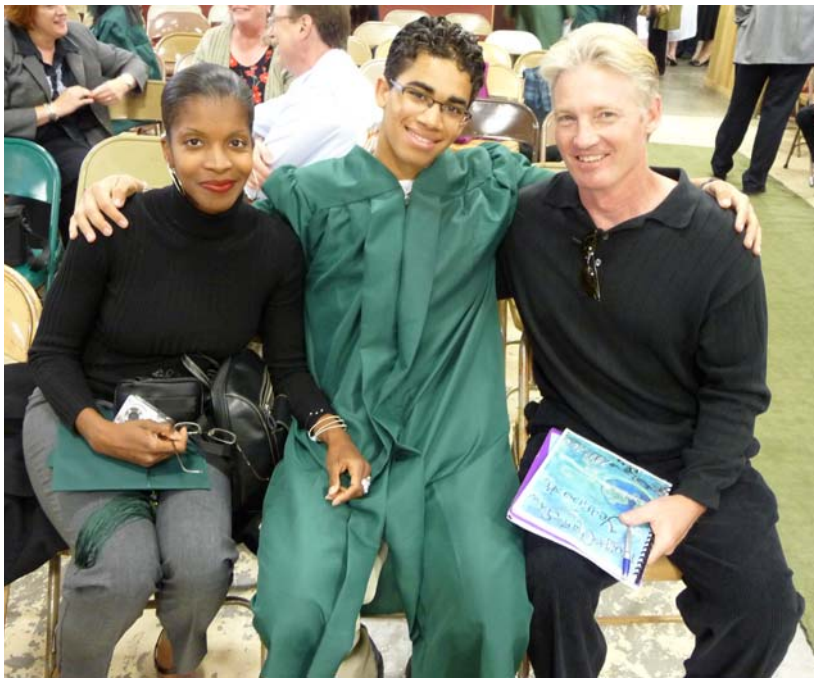
On June 4, 2010, PCS held its 12th annual Commencement Exercises. This year's events took place in Serpilio Hall at the Plumas County Fairgrounds, where twenty-seven seniors received diplomas from PCS Board Chair Mona Hill in front of an enthusiastic audience of over 200 family members and friends. The ceremony included stellar speeches from three graduates, a tribute to each graduating senior from their ES, and a heartfelt farewell to the entire class along with an invitation to return to visit the school and keep us informed of their unfolding lives. Above, graduate Kerri Peltier advances towards the stage, fulfilling a vow to she made to herself after being struck by a car, paralyzed from the waist down, and confined to a wheelchair three years ago: that she would walk down the aisle to receive her diploma on her graduation day.

## Thank you, Plumas County Fairgrounds!

Plumas Charter School would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to John Steffanic and the entire staff at the Plumas County Fairgrounds. John and crew helped us make our 2010 graduation ceremony enormously successful by allowing us to use Serpilio Hall, where they beautifully prepared the seating and stage areas. Thank you for your support and we look forward to many more graduations with you!



## Student Graduation Speakers



Among the highlights of this year's graduation ceremony were three brilliant, spirited student speakers. Lance LaBerge, above left, with parents Bonnie and Don, spoke of the many definitions of success, quoting Ralph Waldo Emerson and describing the ways in which PCS graduates have already succeeded. Nizhoni O'Connell, above right, spoke of the value of taking risks and of assuming the initiative to direct their own lives and education. Kerri Peltier, below, stunning the audience with her courageous walk down the aisle, spoke about the power of life experiences and the will to survive and be positive. Plumas Charter School is very proud of all of our graduates, and we are grateful to have had the privilege of participating in their education.



# Graduation Photos

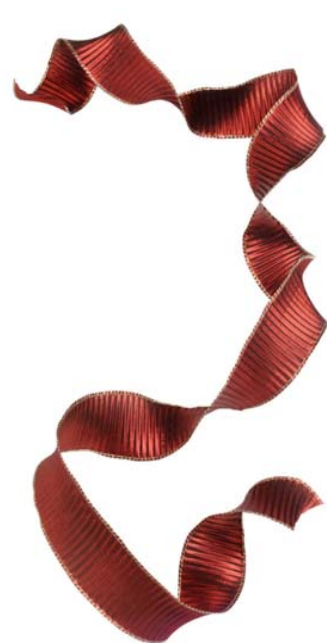


**Left:** Kate DiCarlo

**Right:** Nizhoni O'Connell and Jasper Murphy stride confidently into the auditorium. Notice the gold cord around Jasper's neck; he received it upon graduation with honors from Feather River College on May 18. Way to go Jasper!



**Below:** Lacy Ringo and Brittany Daugherty



# Graduation Photos



**Above Left:** Front: Jessica Manfull, Emma Werstler; back Jennifer Harris and Ricardo Archundia

**Right:** Holly May and Denon Blasey



**Left:** Alisha Rodriguez and Daylon Goings

**Right:** Marcus Elliott and Academic Director Taletha Washburn

# Graduation Day



The class of 2010 assembles outside of Serpilio Hall.



## Graduation Day



**Above:** Hannah Hill performing some calming stretches pre-ceremony

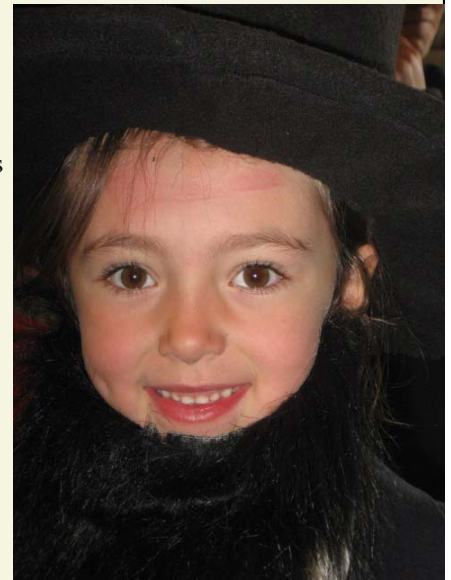
**Below:** Graduate Marcus Elliott, PCS Executive Director Janet Wolcott, Graduate Karyna Hernandez, ES Kara Burkhead and Graduate Chalise Galloway



### Living History Day

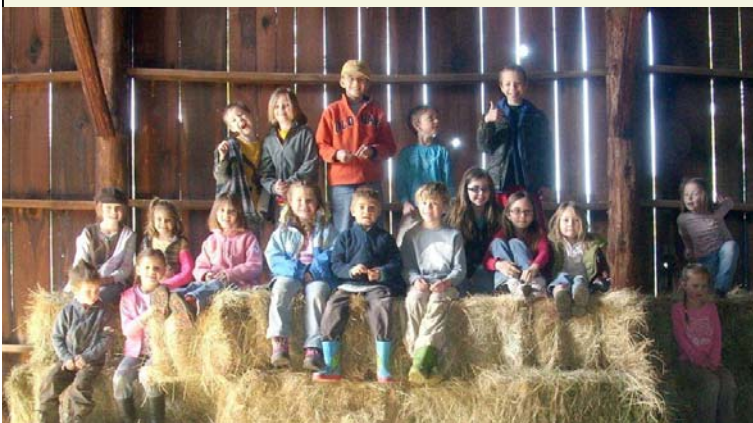
Wednesday May 19 was a very special day at Plumas Charter School’s Quincy office. Students in grades K through 12, gathered with their parents and teachers to celebrate Living History Day. In addition to making butter and the biscuits to eat it on with parent Dana Galloway, students made homemade ice cream with teacher Cindy Thackeray. To add even more fun to the day, PCS teachers arranged for various artistic activities with a historical flavor to be enjoyed by all. The highlight of the day was the presentation of historical monologues by students dressed to portray a variety of historical figures. Students as young as 6 years old took part. The children’s choices as to which individual they would portray was completely personal. This was a memorable day for children, parents, and teachers alike.

—Kara Torrence-Burkhead



Clockwise From Upper Left : James Ellermeyer as Benjamin Franklin, Kylie Anderson as Abe Lincoln, Brianna Stadler as Betsy Ross, Bernadina DeVita as Puritan Eliza Miller , Garrett and Aiden Cunningham try tie-dye, CoraGrace Hardee showing her colorful results

### AMorning at the Farnworth Farm



On April 9, PCS students enjoyed a fine morning at the Farnworth Farm on Highway 70 in Quincy. After studying the importance of farming and farm animals for many weeks, the tudents were eager to experience a farm up close and hands-on! They saw alpacas, emus, sheep, goats, cows, horses, and various birds. They explored the different shapes and sizes of bird eggs, petted a baby goat, and explored the hayloft of the old barn. A good time was had by all! Thank you to the Farnworth family for so graciously welcoming us to their farm!



## Girls Learn International

Sarah Rhodes, PCS Junior

Do you ever take your education for granted? Most people in the United States do, because it is available for everyone. We might think that everyone in the world has a good education, but they don't. Most of the time girls in foreign countries do not have as much opportunity to go to school as boys, because of their social standing. The lack of school facilities or female instructors, school fees, armed conflict, safety concerns, cultural preference for boys, early childhood marriage, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic all play a part in the prevention of girls in many countries from going to school. Girls Learn International is a national program that helps the girls in those countries where education is not available to them to get it. Girls Learn International focuses on helping girls become leaders. The Girls Learn International program helps girls learn by participating in community based activities that build awareness among the people in the community of the educational needs of girls.

My name is Sarah Rhodes, and I am in eleventh grade. I've started a chapter of GLI (Girls Learn International) in Quincy, and my hope for this program is that girls in grades 9-12 will become aware that many people, and particularly girls, lack the opportunity for free or private education. I also hope that as a community we can make a difference in the lives and education of girls around the world. The Quincy chapter of GLI will hold fund raising activities and complete projects, beginning in September, 2010 and continuing until the second week of June, 2011.

All Plumas County girls (and boys) in grades 9-12 are encouraged to participate. This program mostly targets girls, but it is open to boys as well. It is a fun and exciting program, and I hope that many girls will decide that this is a good group of to be a part of. For more information please call me, Sarah Rhodes, at (530)-283-1655. I really do hope that many young people in our community will join this group so that we can make a difference in the world.



## First Annual Scholastic Book Fair a Success!



Thank you to all participating parents, students and teachers for helping to make our first annual book fair a success. PCS Librarian Susan Donald worked hard to plan and execute the fair, and we all appreciate her efforts. Look for the book fair again next year!



## Hiking Club Adventures



**Above:** Students Tommy Nelson, Hannah Hill, Kate DiCarlo and ES Kate Zachman

### Peters Creek Hike

The PCS Hiking Club ventured to Indian Valley on April 9 to hike the Peters Creek Trail. High water necessitated ingenuity and teamwork on the part of the hikers, who faced two raging creek crossings. The day was beautiful and warm, and the trail gave us a good workout with its steady uphill incline. There were still patches of snow visible amongst the new shoots of spring, but the going was fairly smooth, and a good time was had by all.

### PCS Hiking Club Wraps Up the Year

The last hike of the school year was a pleasant, easy stroll on the popular Cascade Trail, along Spanish Creek. The weather on Friday, May 7 was beautiful, the water was clear and rushing, wildflowers graced the trailside, and we all had a great time enjoying nature! We hiked about 2.5 miles before stopping for lunch by the creek. The trail, mostly on level ground, did contain a few tricky spots, including a narrow footbridge that spanned a crevice (pictured below), where the sound of the raging water added to the excitement. This year the Hiking Club made trips to: Bucks Lake, Spanish Peak, Homer Lake, Round Valley Lake, Indian Falls, Snake Lake, the Plumas Eureka ski hill, Peters Creek, and the Cascade Trail. Come join us for more adventures next year with the PCS Hiking Club! All ages are welcome!



Student Hannah Hill and ES Kate Zachman traverse the creek.



**Above:** Students Kate DiCarlo, Kyonna Carey and Tommy Nelson with ES Kate Zachman. **Right:** Kate DiCarlo crosses the bridge at the Cascades, while Kyonna Carey looks on.



## Fall Field Trip Shakespeare Festival, Crater Lake, Lava Beds National Monument and More! October 11-15, 2010



Come join us for an educational, fun filled week of traveling and camping. Students will have an opportunity to hike, swim and enjoy the outdoors. We will be experiencing warm fall weather along with cold mountain weather. We will be camping at three different campgrounds along our route. Plumas Charter School will cover all entrance fees for PCS students and campground fees. Families will be expected to share campsites. Following is a tentative itinerary and estimated cost for the trip. Call Patty Hudson at 257-1240 or 310-2250 for more information and to RSVP.

### Tentative Itinerary

<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b>Grants Pass /Cave Junction, Oregon</b>	<b><u>Friday</u> Lava Beds National Monument</b>
1:30-2:30	Wildlife Images-Wildlife rehab. center	10:00 Cave exploration
3:30-4:30	Oregon Caves-limestone cave	12:00 Leave to go home
(Camping at Valley of the Rogue Campground)		

<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b>Shakespeare Festival, Ashland Oregon</b>	<b>Estimated costs</b>
9:30-11:30	Participatory Workshop	Adults (17 and up) \$33.50
12:30-1:00	Prologue for Hamlet	Non-PCS children (4-16 years old) \$26.50
1:30	Hamlet	Children under 4 \$21.50
(Camping at or near Crater Lake)		

**Wednesday Crater Lake, Oregon**  
 10:00-1:00 Crater Lake classroom program  
 1:00 Drive around lake/hike to Cleetwood Cove  
 (Camping at Lava Beds)

**Thursday Lava Beds National Monument, California**  
 10:00 Mushpot Cave Power Point guided talk - lava tube formation  
 11:00 Explore the caves in the cave loop in small groups/family groups  
 2:00 Captain Jack's Stronghold Guided Hike - Modoc Indian War History  
 3:30 Modoc Indian War Landmarks and Petroglyphs  
 (Camping at Lava Beds)



## PLAN FOR NEXT FALL'S LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES !

### *PCS Presents Culinary Arts!*

An opportunity for hands-on learning with a professional chef and restaurant owner!

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN A CULINARY ARTS CLASS, PLEASE CONTACT PCS! We will determine location and curriculum based on student interest.** Janet Wolcott or

Taletha Washburn, 283-3851; OR janet@plumascharterschool.org



Possible Topics :

American regional and international cooking; bread baking; nutrition; menu design; job shadowing and apprenticeship; food safety; the history and culture of food; recipe reading and execution; serving food; purchasing; job interviews

### Don't Miss the 3rd Annual PCS Lassen Camping Trip!

Come and enjoy this local treasure— a National Park in our own backyard! Check PCS website for details.



**DAY HIKES  
ACTIVITIES  
CAMPING  
FUN!**

## SEPTEMBER, 2010

### 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 Office: 258-3365**

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

**Quincy Office:**

**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

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, Westwood  
**Cynthia Thackeray**, Quincy, Greenville  
**Mary Wilbur**, Quincy ext. 21, 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

### **NEW, IMPROVED, HELPFUL WEBSITE!**

PCS has redesigned our website, [www.plumascharterschool.org](http://www.plumascharterschool.org), with usefulness to students and parents in mind. Beginning this next school year, you will be able to consult the site for a regularly updated, yearlong calendar of events. In addition, each learning center will have a calendar of its own, listing office hours and regularly scheduled activities. You can download documents, such as the school year calendar and enrollment forms, and you can obtain other school information as well. We encourage you to have a look. Although the site is not quite finished, you can get a good idea of what it will be like, and **the 2010-2011 school calendar is posted there now.**

**PLUMAS CHARTER  
SCHOOL**

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[www.plumascharterschool.org](http://www.plumascharterschool.org)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.PLUMASCHARTERSCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.PLUMASCHARTERSCHOOL.ORG)

**Plumas Charter School is *Your School!***

## **PCS Expanding Online Curriculum!**

*For students who seek more variety in their studies or who could benefit from a more structured, multi-media approach, web-based curriculum is an excellent option.*

PCS has been researching the entire range of online curriculum to find the ones that will best suit our students. Starting this fall, our students will have the option of enrolling in one or more online core or elective classes. Students access the curriculum—including assessments, lessons, practice, and quizzes—over the internet, both from home and from their learning center. Teachers are able to follow student progress closely through online monitoring and can offer assistance when needed. Teachers will assess student mastery with discussion and through unit and final tests administered at the learning center. For more information, contact Janet Wolcott or Taletha Washburn at 283-3851.

