

THE VOICE

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



Meet the Staff Back row, left to right: Barbara Hill, Kara Burkhead, Kate Zachman, Dennis Scott, Mary Wilbur, Karen Oglesby, Greg Gruner, Cindy Thackeray, Laura Beaton, Dan Wilson and Joe Willis. Front row, left to right: Becky Stokes, Gene Sies, Taletha Washburn, Janet Wolcott, Susan Donald, and Shannon Mallory. Photo by student Slatin Tweedle.

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Welcome Back, Students!

We welcome all of our students and their families back to PCS for the 2010-2011 school year. There have been a number of changes at PCS, but one thing that hasn't changed is our dedication to serving each of our students to the best of our ability. Please remember that we are always ready to receive your questions, comments, complaints or compliments. Simply call the main office or send the information via your ES.

The above photo was taken on August 16, the teaching staff's first day back. Upon their return from summer vacation, PCS teachers spent three to four full days training to use our new online curriculum, getting briefed on new policies, and setting staff goals for the upcoming year. The teachers voted to continue the same goal as last year: building the quality of the school program while increasing our involvement in, and service to, our communities.

We're glad to see you!

Fall 2010 Learning Center Offerings

Quincy

Mondays

- 10a.m.-11a.m.: 6th-7th Grade Social Studies with Karen Oglesby
 10a.m.-12p.m.: American Literature and History with Mary Wilbur
 11a.m.-12p.m.: Math Tutorial with Joe Willis
 1p.m.-2:30p.m. World Literature and History

Tuesdays

- 9a.m.-11a.m.: Early Literacy with Kara Burkhead
 11a.m.-12p.m.: Ceramics (grades 4-6) with Lacy Ringo
 11a.m.-12p.m.: Music (grades K-3) with Eliza Hardee
 10a.m.-11a.m.: 8th Grade Social Studies with Karen Oglesby
 1p.m.-2p.m.: Ceramics (grades 7-9) with Lacy Ringo
 2p.m.-3p.m.: Ceramics (grades 9-12) with Lacy Ringo
 3p.m.-4p.m.: Advanced Ceramics with Lacy Ringo

Wednesdays

- 11a.m.-12p.m.: Math Tutorial with Joe Willis
 1p.m.-2p.m.: Math tutoring with Karen Oglesby
 2p.m.-3p.m.: British Literature and Government

Thursdays

- 9a.m.-11a.m.: Early Literacy with Kara Burkhead
 11a.m.-12p.m.: Ceramics (grades K-3) with Lacy Ringo
 11a.m.-12p.m.: Music (grades 4-6) with Eliza Hardee
 1p.m.-2 p.m.: Ceramics (grades 7-9) with Lacy Ringo
 2p.m.-3p.m.: Ceramics (grades 9-12) with Lacy Ringo
 3p.m.-4p.m.: Advanced Ceramics with Lacy Ringo

Fridays

- 10a.m.-12p.m.: Garden with Karen Oglesby and Laura Beaton
 Hiking Club: One Friday a month; first hike, October 8, Homer Lake



Portola



Mondays

- 9a.m.-1p.m.: General Tutoring and Support with Barbara Hill
 1p.m.-4p.m.: Orienteering with Barbara Hill

Tuesdays

- 9a.m.-1p.m.: General Tutoring and Support with Laura Beaton
 1p.m.-2p.m.: Writing with Laura Beaton
 2p.m.-3:30p.m.: Community Service with Laura Beaton

Wednesdays

- 9a.m.-4p.m.: General Tutoring and Support with Barbara Hill
 10a.m.-2p.m.: General Tutoring and Reading Support with Dan Wilson

Thursdays

- 10a.m.-2p.m.: General Tutoring and Reading Support with Dan Wilson

Fridays

- 10a.m.-2p.m.: General Tutoring and Reading Support with Dan Wilson

Fall 2010 Learning Center Offerings

Greenville

Mondays

9:30a.m.-11a.m.: Elementary Literacy with Cindy Thackeray

Tuesdays

11a.m.-12p.m.: Math Tutorial with Joe Willis

11a.m.-1p.m.: General Tutoring and Support with Kate Zachman

10a.m.-11:30a.m.: World Literature and History (grade 10) with Mary Wilbur

12:30p.m.-2p.m.: American Literature and History (grade 11) with Mary Wilbur

2p.m.-3:30p.m.: English Literature and Government (grade 12) with Mary Wilbur

Wednesdays

11a.m.-1p.m.: Parent Enrichment Group (grades K-5) with Cindy Thackeray (every other Wed.)

Thursdays

10a.m.-11:30a.m.: World Literature and History (grade 10) with Mary Wilbur

11a.m.-12p.m.: Writing Tutorial with Joe Willis

11a.m.-1p.m.: General Tutoring and Support with Kate Zachman

12:30p.m.-2p.m.: American Literature and History (grade 11) with Mary Wilbur

2p.m.-3:30p.m.: English Literature and Government (grade 12) with Mary Wilbur

Chester

Mondays

8am-12pm: General Tutoring and Support with Dennis Scott

Tuesdays

8am-3pm: General Tutoring and Support with Dennis Scott

Wednesdays

8am-3pm: General Tutoring and Support with Dennis Scott

Thursdays

8am-11am: General Tutoring and Support with Dennis Scott



Enrichment Vendor Offerings

Guitar

Beginning Wednesday, September 1, 1:00 p.m. at the Quincy Learning Center
Instructor: Randy Prichard. Bring your own acoustic!

Band Opportunity

PCS parent Eliza Hardee has graciously offered our students the opportunity to participate in the instrumental music classes she teaches at Plumas Christian School. In these band classes, students may play woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone), brass (trumpet, trombone), or percussion instruments. Band classes start Thursday September 9.

1:15 p.m.-2 p.m. Grades 3-7, Beginning Band

2 p.m.-2:45 p.m. Grades 4-12, Concert Band

Questions? Contact Eliza Hardee, 283-3117

Culinary Arts

Beginning Wednesday, September 8, at 1:30pm at the Quincy Learning Center

Instructor: Patrick Kenny

Dance

LaVelle Kenny

African Dance; Time and Place TBD

Call Taletha if interested.

Kim Hillyard (Portola)

832-5543; Call for schedule and information.

Art

Beginning Monday, August 30, from 10:30 -11:30 a.m., grades K-5, at the Greenville Learning Center
Karissa Cunningham

Gymnastics

Kristina's Gymnastics, 281-6210

Call for schedule and information.

Drama

Dramaworks classes start Wednesday, September 15

Call for schedule and information, 283-1956

Additional application required; see Shannon Mallory.



Quincy Library Use

As many of you may have noticed, we have moved the student work area from the front computer lab to the library. We did this to provide students with a more structured and supervised location for reading and studying. Netbooks can be checked out for online curriculum work, research, testing, and word processing. We encourage students who want to study at school to take advantage of this quiet, new space. We want our library to be a calm and pleasant environment for our students, so we have established library rules to help students focus on producing high-quality work. The rules are:



1. No eating or drinking in the library
2. Please allow other students to work without distraction. Focus on your own work. Socialize before or after school. Quiet questions are fine.
3. Please put your trash in the wastebasket, and clean up your area when you have finished your work.
4. Turn off your cell phone while on the school premises. This includes texting and taking photographs.
5. Explore your library; it's full of wonderful books, reference materials, and audio-visual resources. If you have a question, Susan will help you find what you're looking for. Enjoy!

School Wide Cell Phone Policy

Plumas Charter School Policy on Cell Phone Use

The Plumas Charter School staff has found student use of cell phones to be seriously disruptive of the learning environment. Whether in a formal class, in the library, or simply in the hallway, cell phone use distracts everyone—not just the phones' owners. For this reason, we ask that our students not use their cell phones while at school. If students do bring cell phones to school, they are subject to the following policy guidelines.



Use of Electronic Devices at School:

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight while the student is on the PCS premises, unless students are otherwise directed by individual teachers. Parents are reminded that each learning center is easily reachable by telephone. Students can make or receive family calls on school landlines if necessary. (In cases of real emergency, students would, of course, be permitted to use cell phones.)

Students may engage in cell phone usage outside the school building only.

Process for Violation of This Policy:

Students who choose to violate the above rules will face corrective action as described below.

First violation: Warning. Cell phone will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school day.

Second violation: Cell phone will be confiscated for the balance of the school day, and the ES and administration will contact parents.

Third violation: Student is subject to dismissal for refusing to follow school regulations.

FRC Concurrent Enrollment

PCS is very pleased to be able to offer our students the opportunity to enroll in Feather River College classes while they are students here, thus enabling them to get a head start on their college careers at the same time they earn credit towards high school graduation. In the past we have been very flexible about this process, allowing students to enroll in FRC classes up until the very last minute, and sometimes even during the first week of classes. After much discussion with the counseling staff at the college, however, we have all agreed that our procedure and timelines need to be more stringent. We believe that enrolling our students in FRC classes should be a carefully considered decision, with plenty of advance planning, counseling and preparation.



Beginning this year, PCS will only consent to concurrent FRC enrollment if the interested student meets with Academic Director Taletha Washburn no later than January 7 for spring semester and August 15 for fall. Before choosing appropriate academic classes, students must complete an assessment administered by the college to determine the classes for which they are qualified. With test scores in hand, the student, parent and Taletha can discuss and schedule appropriate courses and make a counseling appointment at FRC for final validation of enrollment.

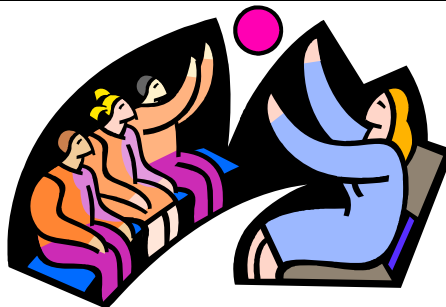
Planning for study at FRC in this careful manner ensures that the choices made will be sound ones for the student while providing for a smooth relationship with FRC.

We have also changed the way in which we distribute FRC texts to our concurrently enrolled students. Students will no longer go to the FRC bookstore to pick up their own textbooks. Instead, the PCS librarian will pick up the textbooks during the week prior to the start of classes, bring them to the Quincy office, and issue them to students from her desk. This procedure allows her to keep better track of these books and facilitates their timely return at the end of the semester. College textbooks are very expensive, and it is important that they be well cared for and returned promptly, so that PCS can return them for credit on book purchases for the next semester's students.

If you have questions about concurrent enrollment, contact Taletha at the Quincy office.

Where is my Teacher?

ES	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES- DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Barbara	Portola 9-4		Portola 9-4		
Cindy	Greenville All day	Quincy 9-12:30	Quincy 9-1	Quincy: 9-1(2nd & 4th Wed.) Greenville: 9-1 (1st & 3rd Wed.)	
Dan			Portola 10-2	Portola 10-2	Portola 10-2
Dennis	Chester 8-12	Chester 8-3	Chester 8-3	Chester 8-11	
Greg		Quincy 1:30-4:30	Quincy 1:30-4:30	Quincy 1:30-4:30	
Gretchen		Quincy 9-3	Quincy 9-3		
Joe	Quincy 9-1	Greenville 9-1	Quincy 9-1	Greenville 9-1	Quincy By appointment
Kara	Quincy All day	Quincy All day	Quincy All day	Quincy All day	Quincy All day
Karen	Quincy All day	Quincy All day	Quincy All day	Quincy All day	Quincy All day
Kate	Greenville All day	Greenville All day	Greenville All day	Greenville All day	Greenville All day
Laura	Quincy All day	Portola All day	Quincy All day	Portola/Chilcoot (primarily in Chil- coot w/no phone service)	Quincy All day
Mary	Quincy All day	Greenville All day	Quincy All day	Greenville All day	Quincy or Greenville, de- pending on stu- dent need; call to verify
Taletha	Quincy All day	Quincy All day	Greenville All day	Quincy All day	Quincy All day



PCS HIKING CLUB KICKS OFF THE YEAR

Friday, October 8
Homer Lake Trail in Greenville



About 5 miles round trip, moderate to strenuous

Bring a lunch and **water** (1 quart minimum)

Wear comfortable, layered clothing and sturdy hiking shoes or boots.

No electronic devices please!

Meet at PCS Quincy at 9:00 a.m. or PCS Greenville at 10:00 a.m.

Return to PCS Quincy by 4:00 p.m.

Fill out a *Permission Slip!*

Get PE credit & enjoy our region's natural beauty!

Call ES Laura at 283-3851 or ES Kate at 284-7050 to sign up

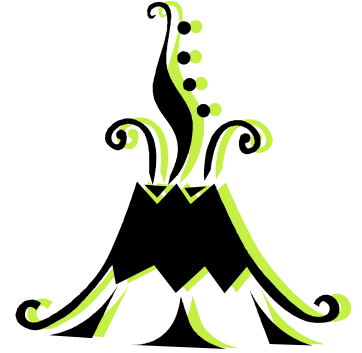
A School Within Our School!

PCS is now the home of the Indian Valley Academy, or IVA. Located in Greenville, IVA is a middle school for students who are seeking a rigorous education that will build strong skills for college and career. Recognizing that the hard work required to achieve academic success is easier to accomplish in concert with others who are pursuing the same goals, IVA has established a community of students who support and inspire each other as they devote themselves to learning and hold themselves to high standards in all areas. *Cogita Valde, Operare Valdius* (Latin for *work hard, think harder*) is the school's motto. IVA's curriculum is designed to develop well-rounded students, but their specialty is project-based learning, particularly science research. They also have their own logo, designed by students, as well as an IVA uniform. For more IVA information, look on the PCS website. We expect great things from these hard-working students!





3rd Annual *Lassen Field Trip*



Join us to start off the year!
September 14-17, 2010

Camping at Juniper Lake with day hikes to:

- ◆ Inspiration point: 3 miles
- ◆ Crystal Lake: 1 mile
- ◆ Horseshoe Lake: 4 miles
- ◆ Snag Lake: 6.5 miles
- ◆ Other? Mt. Harkness again?

Details:

- ◆ Arrive Tuesday at noon, set up camp
- ◆ Bring your own camping gear, food and water
- ◆ ****NO POTABLE WATER available at campsite****
- ◆ Leave Friday at your own pace

Call your ES, Kate Zachman, or Shannon Mallory for more information or for a permission slip.





Take Advantage of the New, Improved PCS Website!

Last spring, PCS finally replaced its worn-out website. We have been building our new one over the past few months, with the help of Bob Burney of Plumas Computing, and it's almost finished. Our main goal was to create a site that would be **useful to students and their families**. We want you to be able to check the website whenever you have a question about a class, an event, a schedule, or any other school-related matter. If you haven't already, please check out the new site: www.plumascharterschool.org. We have yet to complete several sections of the web. We particularly want to have a page with listings of educational websites, materials, and events that are recommended by parents; please send us your suggestions. Also, we will be posting photos of school events, so if you attend a school event and manage to capture a wonderful image of the action, please send it to us. We welcome your feedback; contact janet@plumascharterschool.org.



First Quarter Writing Assignment: SUMMARY



The first quarter's school-wide writing genre is the summary. If your ES hasn't already assigned this project to you, you can expect it soon. (You can find a copy of the First Quarter Writing Assignment under Parent/Student Resources on the PCS website.) The idea behind summarizing is a simple one; you read something and then explain in your own words what the writer has said. You just include the most important ideas and leave out the rest.

Many students find that what's difficult is deciding what is important and what isn't. Because a summary needs to be much shorter than the original piece of writing, you have to leave out anything that is not essential. That's where the thinking comes in; you have to use your best judgment to select the most important points! Ask your ES for more information about summarizing and about the writing process in general.

If you would like some help and practice with summarizing, ask your ES about *Write to Learn*. This is an online program that helps you to improve your summarizing skills by giving you a short passage to read, asking you to write a summary of it, and then providing you with advice and corrections, so that you can improve your writing step by step. The program is simple, and it's a nice way to get help with your writing.



Replace Teachers With Computers?

Not at PCS! While we have adopted two new web-based curricula this year and think that many of our students will find them to be an excellent support to their learning, we definitely see computer-based learning as a tool to help our teachers spend more time face-to-face with their students, engaging in higher-level discussion and better-targeted instruction.

Our biggest adoption this year is **PLATO**, a program that offers online resources aligned to the California Standards. A student can take one or several courses on PLATO each semester, or a teacher can assign PLATO lessons to enrich a textbook-based or small-group class. High school students can use PLATO courses to make up credit deficiencies, and ambitious, hard-working students can accelerate their progress towards graduation.

Probably the most useful feature of PLATO is its ability to assess a student's achievement in a particular subject. Students who come to PCS having completed part of a course but not the entire thing can take a PLATO assessment test that will exempt them from those parts of the course they've already mastered. The program will then prescribe the lessons they need in order to finish the course and receive credit. Students whose skills have gaps in them can be prescribed just the lessons they need in order to build the missing skills, while being exempted from lessons on topics they've already mastered.

We think of PLATO as a sort of teacher's aide with a very good memory. It will help teachers to be well informed of their students' needs and progress, enabling them to make better use of the time they spend meeting and talking with students.

Our second adoption this year is **WRITE TO LEARN**, a program that builds writing and reading comprehension skills. WTL provides feedback on the 'six traits of writing': ideas, organization, conventions, sentence fluency, word choice and voice. PCS has used these same six traits for several years to teach and evaluate student writing, so students and staff are already familiar with the ideas and terminology used in the program.. WTL is simple to use and allows students to work independently, at their own pace, and then to receive *immediate feedback* on what they have written, with several chances to improve their work before they submit it. Again, this program will never replace the thoughtful guidance of an expert teacher. But it does provide instruction in basic skills, as well as a framework for practice and self-correction, enabling a student to build writing skills at his or her own pace and then meet with a teacher for higher-level discussion of content, ideas, and argumentation. If you are interested in trying Write to Learn, contact your ES.

How long does it take to decompose??



Glass bottle: 1 million yrs.
 Plastic beverage bottle: 450 yrs.
 Disposable diapers: 450 yrs.
 Aluminum can: 80-200 yrs.
 Plastic bag: 10-20 yrs.
 Cigarette filter: 1-5 yrs.



Join PCS for the

Great Sierra River Cleanup

Take a break from your books and help us clean up our local creeks!

Debris we collect will be recorded and submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Quincy: Thursday, September 23 Meet at school at 12p.m. or Oakland Camp at 12:15 p.m.
 Contact Karen Oglesby for details.

Portola: Tuesday, September 21 Meet at school at 2p.m. Contact Laura for details.

Greenville: Friday, September 24 Meet at school at 10a.m. Contact Kate for details.

IVA: Contact Sue or Lyn for details.

Fall Field Trip Cancelled (October 11-15, 2010)

We are sorry to announce that the field trip we had planned for October 11-15, which was to include Lava Beds National Monument, Crater Lake, and the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, has been cancelled. This trip had been planned by our Susanville ES Patty Hudson and promised to be wonderful, as were all of Ms. Hudson's excursions. Because we have closed our Susanville office, however, choosing to focus our program close to home, Patty Hudson, fondly known by the rest of the staff as "Field Trip Queen," is no longer on our staff, choosing to remain close to home and teach in Susanville. We miss her very much—and we'll miss those wonderful trips she planned. The rest of the staff will try to incorporate at least part of this proposed trip into a field trip later in the school year. Watch the *Voice* and the PCS website for an announcement.



Plumas Charter School’s New Greenville Learning Center!

We are delighted to announce the relocation of our Greenville Learning Center to 304 Crescent Street in downtown Greenville. Previously a much-loved book store, this lovely building now houses our Greenville staff and students, providing us with a light, spacious and inspiring place to learn and teach.



FRENCH 1

Will be offered if there is sufficient student interest.
 Contact Janet Wolcott
 283-3851 or
 janet@plumascharterschool.org

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:

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

**PLUMAS CHARTER
SCHOOL**

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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 centers. 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.

