



The HOWL

*Grass Valley Charter
An EL Education Mentor
School*



12/12/22

“We are Crew, Not Passengers.”

Donation Day Parade!



This Friday, GVCS will join in on the long held Donation Day Parade tradition! While a slightly different route will be followed, the spirit of compassion and giving is going strong. **Families are encouraged to send in non-perishable food this week** to their homeroom teacher.

Below is an account of the history of the Donation Day Parade as written by the Ladies Relief Society.

“Way back in the early 1800’s, over 200 years ago, our little towns of Grass Valley and Nevada City didn’t exist. Where we live was a beautiful wide-open countryside in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Just imagine that there were no towns, no roads, no cars and no stores or restaurants! The only people living here were the Native American Indians.

In 1849 the precious metal, gold, was discovered in California. People from all over the country rushed here hoping to find gold and become rich. They were called “The 49ers”, and the famous California Gold Rush began! They found gold in the rushing water of the rivers, used big hoses to blast it out of the hills and finally by digging tunnels underground, where they found the most gold. Men who were miners from as far away as Cornwall, England came here to work in our mines. (Cont pg 2)

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They brought their families and our towns were created with houses, stores, churches and schools. Some of you may even be the great great grandchildren of a miner from Cornwall! Mining was a very dangerous job and miners were often injured or even lost their lives. Their wives and children were left with no money.

Fortunately, the local people here were very caring and helped those in need. A group of women, soon known as the Grass Valley Ladies Relief Society, came together in 1873 to help those in need. An article in the newspaper saying that the women needed help for these families during the holidays was answered by a lady who often watched the children going to school, looking cold and hungry. She wrote a letter to The Union newspaper with the wonderful idea that on a special day in December, each could child bring a stick of firewood to heat a stove and one potato to school.

With hundreds of children bringing one stick of wood and one potato, they would be bagged and given to the most needy families. The ladies' group, the children, the store owners, and the whole town loved this idea. The young children marched in a parade in the streets of Grass Valley, proudly carrying a stick of wood and a potato and were excited to help. The high school also made donations. The store owners gave hams, apples, bags of flour or whatever they could. A band led them through the streets. Everyone had a great time!

The parade ended at what is now known as Grass Valley Charter School, where the ladies of the society collected all the donations, filled big canvas bags and delivered them to the families in need. It was a wonderful day for the whole town and became known as the Donation Day Parade.

Times have changed a lot since that first Donation Day almost 150 years ago. Instead of sticks of wood and potatoes, you, the children, now bring canned goods for the families in need. The ladies lead the parade carrying sticks of wood and potatoes, a reminder of the early days of The Donation Day Parade. An old fire truck often follows the children at the end of the parade to pick up bags of food left along the parade route. The collected food is delivered to Interfaith Food Ministry where people are now able to get food every week.

We can all be proud of our history and the long tradition of helping one another. Being generous and kind are the most important lessons to learn, no matter how young or how old we are. Thank you all for being a part of sharing with others."

Thank you in advance to our GVCS Community for your generosity in supporting families in need in our community today.

Lost & Found – Headed To Donation!

A few times a year we are forced to clear out the lost and found and donate the items. This is the fair warning! **All items left in the Lost and Found will be donated over Winter Break.** Miette, one of our wonderful 8th graders has it all organized by size. So please drop by this week and claim your lost items.

The Lost and Found is located kitty corner from the Front Office.



Ugly Holiday Sweater Spirit Day!

Tis the season for some fun and laughter fueled by sweaters, tinsel, Christmas Lights, and whatever your imagination can dream up!

The class with the most participation **this Friday**, wins the coveted Spirit Day Trophy!

Sports!

Girls Basketball:

The season is coming to a wrap this week! Come on out and support the GVCS Coyotes! The first games will be Tuesday, 6pm at the Bear River Gym! Subsequent games will take place according to the bracket below. Contact Coach Ben with Qs: b-bmurphy@att.net



Boys Basketball: Open to 6th – 8th graders, the season runs from 1/2 - 2/24

Tryouts for Boys Basketball will take place January 4th, 5th and 6th at the Scotten Gym from 6-8pm. There is practice, or a game every day of the week for the duration of the season. Lead Coach: Ben Murphy (b-bmurphy@att.net), Assistant Coaches: Will Maddux & Simon Mensini



Girls Volleyball: Open to 6th – 8th graders, the season runs from 2/20 – 4/21

Track: Open to 4th – 8th graders, the season runs from 3/27 – 5/26

Spring Mountain Bike Season: Open to 4th – 8th graders (younger with coach permission) the season runs from 3/27 – 5/26 (NCAL).

Questions about Sports at GVCS can be directed to Mr. E at [aezell@gvsd.us](mailto:aezzell@gvsd.us)

Be In The Know

12/16 – Donation Day Parade

12/17 – 1/3 Winter Break

1/4 – (That is a Wednesday) First Day Back of 2023!

An Expanded View of Student Achievement

At GVCS we have an expanded vision of student achievement. We believe that when a student graduates from our school, that they should be well on their way to becoming an effective and productive citizen, who not only envisions a better world, but possesses the tools to help create that world.

As students culminate their education, be it after college or vocational school, we know that their success is not solely dependent upon their test scores, but on the quality of their work and the quality of their character.

As such, at GVCS we consider student achievement to have three dimensions: Mastery of Academic Skills and Content, High – Quality Work, and Character.

We hope that you have found evidence of our commitment to these dimensions of student achievement in the previous pages.



Grass Valley Charter School

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www.grassvalleycharter.org



Our Design Principles

The Primacy of Self – Discovery
The Having of Wonderful Ideas
The Responsibility for Learning
Empathy and Caring
Success and Failure
Collaboration and Competition
Diversity and Inclusion
The Natural World
Solitude and Reflection
Service and Compassion