



# *Mattole Valley Charter School Newsletter*

*To Share and Celebrate our Vision  
May 2011*



## **Almost Summer!**

Coming down the home stretch, we all have a lot on our minds, but I wanted to share some good news and some student work. Again, thanks to Ganasini for helping with the MVCS Newsletter and encouraging and promoting student writing, ☺

## **WASC**



**The WASC visit went exceptionally well! We presented ourselves as very competent school and such a great amount of thanks for that goes to Gwen Neu! The report and recommendations were positive. Thanks to you all for the group effort!**



A group of MVCS staff with WASC committee during the public report



Pam, Gwen, and Cathy posing with Harold, Dave, and Chris from the WASC committee

The WASC committee and many MVCS teachers and staff enjoy wonderful buffet lunch provided by Redwood Coast Montessori Learning Center's Parent Group. THANKS!



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Harold Visits with Willow Brook Classroom and talks with Nancy about Special Ed.



## High School Graduation – 2011

Once again we are about to celebrate the graduation of our students. This is such a special time, as most of our students have been with MVCS for quite a while and have developed a very personal relationship with their teachers and the school. We always need lots of help from both teachers and families.

**Don't forget to get all grad packs and diploma requests NOW!**

**See Graduation Link on the MVCS Website for most updated information**

Last Grad meeting for Humboldt/Trinity – May 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM. Please come all Grad teachers, parents, and students.

Graduation Schedules:

**Humboldt/Trinity County Students** – Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1 PM at Van Duzer Theater at HSU

**Siskiyou High School Students** – June 12<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM at College of the Siskiyou Theater

**Three Rivers Learning Center** – June 16<sup>th</sup> early afternoon at Three Rivers Learning Center

**North Coast Learning Academy** – June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM at NCLA

**Laurel Tree Learning Center** – May 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Wharfinger Building



***The Harris Learning Center started with Mattole last year. There are 11 MVCS students participating there.***

**Left – Learning about Permaculture**  
**Below – Making Numbers with play dough**  
**Below Left – Learning Capoeira moves**  
**Bottom – Language Arts**



## Four Witches (cont'd from last issue) by Ganasini's student Sophie Dowd grade 5

### Chapter Two- The Story Begins

One fine day Zelda was thinking deep thoughts. Cleo was sending out the trash .Artichoke was eating, as usual and Rani was admiring herself in the mirror. Well, you might remember when I said there were 4 slightly *Crazy* witches, this is what I meant ...

Rani cast a spell on her room so that there were 500 mirrors and wherever she looked she could see her reflection. Is that crazy or what? You do not believe me?! I am Sofka, the owner of E.F.T.W.W.S. (Elves, Fairies, Trolls, Witches, Wizards, and Sorcerers Inc.) I have to check in on them to keep them all in line: not a fun job.

One day Zelda was in a *REALLY* bad mood. I came in for the daily check in and she chased me right out of the house. The check in turned into a checkout. "Well)-./,=+&%\$@!#\$(\*)][.]" I said.

After that little misunderstanding I sent a messenger fairy to ask what the gumdrop (It's a fairytale land *sheesh*) is the matter with Zelda. 30 min. later the fairy came back and gave her report. She said Zelda was mad cause someone switched her socks. Even though she was wise beyond her years, Zelda still sometimes acted like a teenage drama queen!

### Chapter 3:Rapunzel's Hair Problem

As I was pacing the room (a.k.a. My Office) my Head Messenger Fairy burst through the door with 3 other messenger fairies and they all started yelling at once "Rapunzel... ogres...children...screaming...dreadlocks...tree..bannana slug.... ..bubblegum breaks...Ms.Muffet...ice cream..." "One at a time please!" I pleaded **(wondering what all this is about? Stay tuned to find out.)**

"Okay Rose Mary you go first."  
The Asian looking fairy stepped forward and said, "Sofka, the wizards are

complaining they don't have enough bubblegum breaks."

"I'll deal with it later dearie. Coconut, you're next." I said

A Hawaiian fairy stepped forward and announced, "Little Ms. Muffet would like ice cream instead of Curds n' Whey!"

"Tell that little girl strawberry yogurt's the best I can do." "Maple, let's hear your story!"

Now yet **another** fairy jumped forward and said in a strong English accent, "Bly'me Gov'ner that Liddle Red Rodding Ood found a bannana lug in 'er bloom'in asket."

“Okay thanks for telling me that hon. Oh, Redding, one of my favorite fairies. What is your news?”

fairy stepped forward. “My news is much more urgent, Rapunzel has dreadlocks and is screaming like a child and it's the mischief of Cleo!” Dead silence. “That is serious. Call my dragon now!” I ordered.

*20 minutes later*

“No not Foo-Foo I need Tank! Can't you follow the most simple orders? I said **TANK** not Puff **TANK T-A-N-K!** Are you hopeless?” I yelled at Buck my stupid dragon getter. “I should have fired you 900 years ago. Cleo would have been better than you! At least she would have been able to follow orders!”

“What about me?” I heard a soft voice say and I turned around very slowly and saw little Cleo herself standing in the doorway. I blacked out.

“Is she alive?”

“I don't know.”

“Sofka? Sofka?”

“Wake up boss, wake up. I think I found the right dragon. It's collar says Tank spelled T-a-n-k is that right?”

My eyes flew open

“Finally!!!!!!!!!!!!” and with that word I

**“Okay! Do you need your ears checked? I said Okay! Okay! Okay!!!”**

**“Now I heard that!”**

“Thank you boss,” My head messenger

jumped to my feet.

When I got to Rapunzel's tower I heard screaming and crying.

I yelled as loud as I could “Yo Rapunzel let down the longest dreadlock ya' got k!”

“okay.”

“What?”

“Okay!”

“What?”

“Okay!”

“Huh?”

“okay!”

“LoLay?”

“Okay!”

“What I'm just messing with her now.”

“Okay!”

“What?”

So after that enjoyable time teasing Rapunzel, she let down a long golden dreadlock. I climbed up in to the tower. I snickered as I heard.....

“Ow, ow, ow, ow, **OW** that really hurts!!!!” whined Rapunzel.

“Girlfriend stop with the chatter and 'chilax it's just a brush not a weedhacker.” answered a familiar voice.

“I wouldn't be like this if you were brushing my original golden locks but instead your bru.....” complained Rapunzel.

“Girly turn off the whiner.” the voice interrupted  
I'd know that voice anywhere. The voice belonged to Laluna, Rapunzel's best friend (the princess from the princess and the pea story.) Well they've been tighter than PB and J since they were babes. I slowly pulled my self over the windowsill. As soon as I showed my face a dove flew over my head and did something in my hair!

“Oh wonderful just wonderful and I washed my hair this morning!” I said annoyed. Rapunzel and Laluna burst out laughing. “Yeah,yeah laugh it all up.” I said sarcastically.

“Sss...ooo...rrr..y sorry ssss...ooo...fff...kkk...aaa Sofka!” said Rapunzel

“Ha, ha, ha, ha, hee, hee, hee, hee, hee, hee, hee, hee that was like so darn funny heeheehee!” laughed Laluna.

“Ahhk Sofka finish the story ahhk your needed in China to tell a story to the kids there ahhk.” said a parrot.

“Okay I'll finish the story (that parrot is my boss.)” I said. Zelda came and made a spell that turned Rapunzel's hair back to normal. Cleo got Buck's old job. Do you remember Buck, my stupid dragon getter. He became my bodyguard. Everyone was happy and Rani got married but that's another story.

***The End***

## **Calling All Student Chefs**

**recent recipes, photos, and comments from So. Humboldt**

### **TACO SALAD by third grader Maxx Sherr**

Ingredients: corn chips, lettuce, cheese, soy meat, green onion, cucumbers, carrots, dressing

1. Make a green salad
2. Cook meat with green onion. Season to taste.
3. Serve salad with meat, chips, and cheese on top

I had fun having lunch with Ganasini. Ganasini made a great salad. Her banana bread was great too. I would like to do this again.

**by 2<sup>nd</sup> grader Bella Sherr**

**Ganasini: Maxx, Bella and their mom Bonnie joined me for an excellent lunch. The kids were awesome guests and helped to prepare a killer taco salad!**



**Dawid Pacheco, Maxx Sherr, Bella Sherr**

### **Ganasini's Vegan Banana Bread**

**2 C. flour (whatever flour you prefer- I recommend whole spelt or Bob's Redmill Gluten Free, All Purpose Baking flour- for Gluten Free, add 1 ½ t. zanthum gum)**

**1 ½ t. baking soda**

**½ t. salt (optional)**

**1 C. pitted dates (soaked for 1 hr or more if using dry dates)**

**¼ C. date soaking or plain water**

**1 ½ t. vanilla**

**2 bananas**

**1 C- raisins, nuts and/or carob or dark chocolate chips**

**Preheat oven to 350 degrees**

**Mix dry ingredients**

**Blend dates, water, vanilla and bananas in food processor or blender**

**Mix wet and dry ingredients**

**Add raisins or chips/nuts**

**Bake for about 40 minutes until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean.**

### **Ganasini's Gluten Free Vegan Almond Butter Cookies**

**Note: (these cookies are delicious as is but if you're not concerned with the gluten, you can use any flour- just leave out the xanthum gum)**

**3 cups Bob's Redmill Gluten Free All Purpose Baking Flour**

**¾ t. xanthum gum**

**1 ½ t. baking powder**

**½ t. salt (optional)**

**½ C. almond butter**

**½-¾ C. maple syrup**

**2 T. vanilla**

**handful carob or dark chocolate chips**

**1 t. water**

**Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix dry ingredients, add almond butter, maple syrup, vanilla, water and chips. Spoon onto ungreased baking sheets. Flatten with fork. Bake about 10 minutes.**

**Creamy Broccoli Soup  
by 4<sup>th</sup> grader Gardner Boyce**

**ingredients:**

half a jar of water

veggie bouillon cube

salt  
Herbamare (dried veggies and salt)  
onion  
2 cloves of garlic  
a big bunch of broccoli  
1 can coconut milk

directions:

steam veggies  
puree' veggies  
heat all ingredients together  
serve warm

I have had lots of fun having lunch with Ganasini. I really like making food to share with other people.

Ganasini: Gardner is a great cook! This original creamy broccoli soup was absolutely delicious. His mom was not able to join us due to a last minute obligation. Gardner did a great job of serving his soup on his own. I was very impressed with his presentation and thoroughly enjoyed our lunch together.



## Spanish Class Fieldtrip

The Elementary Spanish class in So. Hum taught by Gabriella Espana went on a really fun field trip on March 24 to the Aztec Grill restaurant in Garberville to practice their conversational skills and vocabulary. Each student ordered their own meal and conversed with the wonderful server and her assistant in Spanish. These are some comments by the attendee's:

**Althea Knapp:** La comida es muy buena y es buena hablar espanol.

**Finny Knapp:** Me gusta la comida de Aztec Grill.

**Sophie Dowd:** Me gusta todo. Las senoras fueron amables.

**Gardner Boyce:** Me gusta Aztec Grill!!!!!!!

**Kourtney Rannow:** Nostras comimos reimos y nos relajamos y la pasamos muy bien.

**Ganasini:** Muchas gracias Aztec Grill por su hospitalidad y paciencia!



(from left to right and front to back) Ganasini, Kris Knapp, Finn Knapp, Gardner Boyce, Evie Dowd (Sophie's little sis), Althea Finn, Gabriella Espana, Kourtney Rannow, Sophie Dowd

The stories below were the end products of a reading/writing treasure hunt activity in which Ganasini wrote the first part of the stories on index cards with directions on the back of each card to find the next hidden card. She hid them around the room. When 1<sup>st</sup> grader Dawid had collected all of the cards, he read them to Ganasini and she typed the stories onto the computer. He had to finish, proofread, edit and format the stories (with Ganasini's help) to get his final clue to where in the room the treasure prizes were hidden.

**Rover, the Robot**  
by Dawid and Ganasini

*One dark, stormy day, Dawid was bored because his mom said that it was too wet to play outside.*

*"Let's do a science experiment," he said to Ishua. Maybe Jonah will help us."*

*They came up with a plan. It was to make a robot to do their chores. Ishua got two old scooter wheels and some metal and wood. Dawid got a hammer, nails, a drill and some bolts. Jonah got a computer to put inside the robot to make it think and talk.*

*They worked on the robot all day. By night time, they had a really cool robot. They named it \_\_\_\_\_ (Dawid took over here) Rover. The robot did all of their chores like washing dishes, taking out the compost and sweeping the floor and sometimes cleaning the stove. The robot broke down and then they built a new robot. They named it Rover again and it was a little bit better than the last Robot. It did more chores so even their mom and dad didn't have to do any chores.*

The END

**Dawid and the Monster**  
by Dawid and Ganasini

*Dawid and Ganasini read Monster Books at her office. That night Dawid had a funny dream. In the dream, Monster came to school with him at H.L.C. Many of the kids were afraid of Monster when he came inside. But Dawid sat on his lap at circle. He did not seem to be afraid, so the kids laughed.*

*Monster was there all day long. He liked art and math with Sama and helped make lunch. All of the kids wanted to take Monster home, but he said, "I am going home with Dawid."*

*They drove away. When they got to Dawid's house,..... (Dawid took over here) they played lots of video games. Monster was good at Black Ops. Dawid was good at Resistance and they played until Dawid's parents and Ishua got home. So they quickly turned off the games and turned on a cartoon because Dawid wasn't allowed to play M games, and then everyone was happy until.....*

*Dawid woke up.*

*The End*

**The End of Dawid and the Monster  
Adventures  
by Dawid and Ganasini**

*One day Dawid and his friend Monster came to town. Monster sat in the front seat next to Michiah. Dawid and Ishua sat in the back.*

*When they got to Garberville, Michiah took them to the library. Monster liked the science fiction books. He went to the desk to check out his books but the man said he had too many. He picked three books. His favorite was Frankenstein. Then it was time for lunch. They went in to Flavors but a little kid screamed when he saw Monster!!!!!! So, Monster sat in the car to eat his food.*

*Then they went to the park. Monster wanted to play on the slide and swings but a little kid screamed when he saw Monster.*

*Monster said, "I wish I didn't look so scary."*

*Dawid patted him on the back and said, "it's o.k. you are supposed to look scary. You are a monster!"*

*The next stop was....(Dawid took over here) taking Ishua to Bev's and Dawid to Ganasini's. Monster went to help Michiah with her errands. And then all of a sudden the earth blew up and everyone died. Monster floated through space and went back to his planet Pluto, the dwarf planet.*

*The end.*

**Poetry by 8<sup>th</sup> grader Kourtney Rannow**

**Things I learned last week**

Cats, no two are ever the same,  
Some cute, some sweet, and some untame

Sometimes it's easier to open a peanut butter jar  
When you gently tap it against a table and its bar

A man in Garberville is dedicating himself to  
welding  
For the few hundred dollars that you help,  
He'll come to your house and weld.

John was for proposition 19 (nineteen)  
but voted against it when he was eighteen (18)

Brian, Carl and Dennis Wilson, found talent

harmonized music that sounded beautiful and  
gallant

If I ever die, I'd like it to be  
in the evening, under an oak tree.  
Body and Soul, Spirit and mind  
none of the 4 should be left behind

In Oregon, one person's chore  
is to pump gas to your car from the store

The things I learned last week  
were all really cool and unique

## **Valentine Poem for Mom**

For a mom who was always there  
She's unique and beautiful and rare  
She is sweet and nice and kind  
She always keeps a straight mind

She took care of me,  
if I got a bruise or scrape on my knee.  
and even when money was tight  
She'd always make me feel everything's alright

A roof over my head and clothes on my body  
She was always there when I needed somebody  
When the clock was running but she'd always find time  
To be my very special, Valentine

### **More from Kourtney!**

#### **If he were a**

Sensitive but tough, strict but Fun  
if he were a number, he'd be number 1.  
If he were a star, he'd be very bright  
I'd have to say he's more than alright

**-Kourtney R**  
**- To Dad;)**  
**You're the best**

## **Historical fiction by Kourtney Rannow**

1799

Dear Henry,

It's new here! I've been here for a few weeks now. The government is different too. We have presidents instead of kings and queens and a lot less servants than the King. George Washington was our first president and when he passed away a few days ago, everyone grieved and mourned for him. Now our capital is named after him. Our new president is John Adams. And I heard that the White House is very formal and elegant. His wife is lovely and their child has a pet alligator. I'm not sure what to think of it, but its kind of neat. Well, its supper time so I better go. Hope to hear from you soon.

Your dearest cousin,  
Anna

Michael Perricone  
Social Studies/Science - Native species report  
January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011

## **Ensatina Salamander ensatina oregonensis**



### **Ensatina Salamander ensatina oregonensis**

The ensatina is a salamander that lives in most of California up to British Columbia. It can be found from sea level to 10,000 feet. There are seven subspecies<sup>1</sup>. The one where I live is called the ensatina oregonensis. A salamander is an amphibian. Ensatinas usually live in evergreen or oak forests near streams. In wet weather they live under bark, logs and rocks. In cold or hot weather they live in other animals' burrows, rotten logs, & rotten tree roots. They feel slightly sticky when you touch them, not slimy.

#### **Diet**

The ensatina's diet includes bugs (crickets, earwigs, ants, termites, beetles), spiders, small scorpions, centipedes, millipedes, sow bugs, pseudo scorpions, snails, and worms. They have long sticky tongues to catch their food.

#### **Defense**

The ensatina has a very poison tail. They use their tail to defend themselves.

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<sup>1</sup> A subspecies is a category below species, usually defined by where it lives

**Predators**

One of the predators of the ensatina is the raccoon. The adult raccoon eats the head and then stops at the base of the tail. Young raccoons will stick the whole thing in their mouth but instead of eating it they will spit it out.

**Smell**

Because they are nocturnal they need a very good sense of smell. They have a very strange way of doing that. The upper lip of the ensatina overlaps the bottom one and it has a groove that picks up water from the ground surface and lifts liquids to the nose.

**Habits**

Ensatinas don't travel far. The male only travel at most 120 meters in its lifetime. The female only travels at most 60 meters. They are not good swimmers and do not like the water.

**Reproduction**

Eggs are laid from April to May in a damp, hidden place. The female could lay 3 to over 20 eggs at a time, and she broods for five months. When they hatch they are only 30 millimeters long - just over an inch. It takes 3 to 4 years for them to mature.

The following is an essay from one of Cathie Shermer's students:

## The Value of Life

By Nick Thomas

What is the value of life? In the excerpt from "It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life" by Lance Armstrong, he describes his struggle against cancer and how his brush with death changed his life. He never gave up. On the other side of the spectrum, in the play "Hamlet" by Shakespeare, Hamlet has lost his father and is now contemplating suicide. Can you put a price tag on death? That is the question in Amanda Ripley's article "What is a Life Worth?".

In Lance Armstrong's book, he describes his fight with cancer. Being a diehard athlete, he was knocked for a loop when he was given a 40% chance of survival at the age of 25. Life pushed him down, but he chose to get back up. He could have let cancer take him. Instead, he fought back. He views cancer as the best thing that ever happened to him. While he was sick, he saw courageous people fighting against almost impossible odds. He experienced a side of life which changed him forever.

Hamlet is facing a crossroads in his life. He has just learned that his father was murdered and he wants to end his own life. Hamlet is very pessimistic and is having trouble dealing with the tragedy. He can just lie down and die or he can get back up, brush himself off, and move on. He will never heal completely, but that doesn't mean he can't be happy again. He debates his choices.

In Amanda Ripley's article "What is Life Worth?", she tells about how the United States government gave compensation to the families of victims on 9/11. In order to avoid lawsuits, the government devised a plan to take into account how much that person would make on average until they retired. Plus a flat 250,000 dollar rate for pain and suffering. Tack on an extra 50,000 dollars for the spouse and each child the victim had. Then, they subtracted how much the families got from life insurance, pension,

Social Security death benefits, and workers' compensation. The entire sum has now dropped from a very high amount to at or close to zero. Even so, the families are still receiving close to a million dollars.

Some families feel this is not enough. Maybe they are trying to make themselves feel like the person they lost was more important. Or maybe they are simply being greedy. After the Oklahoma City bombing, families of victims got far less from the government and charities. The whole idea of giving these people money was to lessen financial burdens the tragedy may have caused. The thing is, it wasn't the government's fault and the money won't make the people feel any better.

Death is a part of life. You just need to live life without regrets. People deal with tragedies differently. Some people are motivated by it. Others get depressed and look for a permanent way to end the pain. Or, they try to look for ways to make them feel better through blaming someone else. Only time can mend their broken heart. You can let the sadness consume you or you can just enjoy life and know that your loved one would want you to continue living life.

