



Mattole Valley Charter School Newsletter

*To Share and Celebrate our Vision
December 2010*

Happy, Peaceful Holiday Wishes to You All!



I just got out of the Humboldt IST meeting where many concerns regarding budget problems were expressed and discussed. I know it is hard to keep focus on our ultimate goal of helping kids learn and successfully navigate their school years, when we are worried about the viability of our school. Yet, we remained focused on moving on for a positive 2010-11 School Year!

In spite of the dreary predictions for our school due to State Budget school funding deferrals, it was great to hear your purposeful and positive comments about ways to solve the problems facing us. Once again, I feel proud to be part of this school.

Let's continue to work together and try to get through these problems and keep our eye on the prize... Continuing to be a choice in giving kids a good education while still keeping MVCS afloat financially.

I'm an optimist...I think most teachers are. We will figure a way to continue to provide a great education if WE WORK TOGETHER, SHARE, and COMMUNICATE.

In order to share and communicate, the newsletter will continue. I'm so pleased to announce that Ganasini has volunteered to help do the newsletter. She will be working on it this month and hopefully taking over more in the future. So please send your brags, student works, and other achievements to Ganasini at redwayes@wavecable.com. (you can also still send to me) Please, always feel free to contact me if I can be of any help.

Thanks for all your GREAT energy. Cathy

Teresa Creech – We'll Miss You!



Teresa next to Richard at AIP Meeting

Teresa Creech, who came to Mattole Valley Charter School in the Fall of 2007, was our first Math Coordinator. She was instrumental in implementing the Academic Improvement Program, setting up math labs, and initiating Black Board virtual classes. Teresa was our Webmaster for mattolevalley.com, and completely updated and revamped our website.

Teresa is filled with ideas, energy, and expertise in many areas. We will certainly miss all that she did for us, but hoping that her new directions will be filled with opportunities for her. (Especially being a new Grandma)



Teresa helping students at the first Math Lab

Calling all Humboldt/Trinity Students!

We all know there are some GREAT Student Artists out there. Let's put them to work!

Announcing the first ever MVCS Calendar Art contest!

Have your students create some awesome art and send it to me. I'll make a calendar out of the first, best 12 entries to illustrate a 2011 Calendar.

MVCS will sell the calendars for \$7.50. All the proceeds will go to Humboldt/Trinity HS graduation costs.

Each entrant will receive a free calendar!



Contact Cathy @ cathlynwright@hotmail.com

There are NO Rules BUT seasonal art would be appreciated.

Creek

So... Just get your kids to draw, paint, or sculpt something incredible, and I will scan them and make a really cool calendar.

This Will Be Fun!



Holiday Make it and Take it!
 Sunday, Dec 12th 10 AM - 1 PM
 Willow Brook Learning Academy Gym
 1204 Ross Hill Rd. Fortuna

Here's Some Good News:



CCSA 2010 Academic Accountability Report Card
 Mattole Valley Charter School
 210 Lindley Rd., Petrolia, CA 95558
 (707) 829-3834
 Created 11/18/2010
 Primary Contact: Pamela Lane
 Authorizer: Mattole Unified
 Charter Expires: 6/30/2011

CCSA's Accountability Approach

In order to qualify for CCSA's endorsement of the school's academic performance at time of renewal, schools four years and older must meet the following "Minimum Criteria for Renewal"

- API of at least 700, or
- 3-year API growth of at least 30 points, or
- 'Within' or 'Above Predicted' on the Similar Students Measure (SSM) at least 2 out of the last three years.

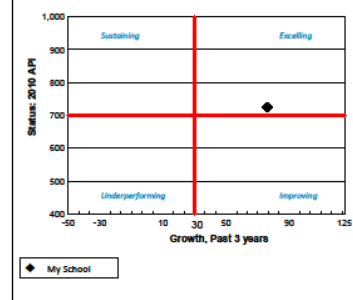
For more complete information on CCSA's Accountability Approach, please see <http://www.ca1charters.org/advocacy/accountability>

Summary of My School's Results

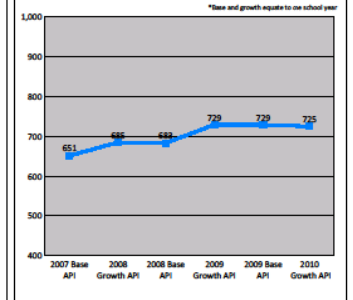
		Meeting Minimum?
2010 API:	725	Yes
3-year API growth:	76	Yes
Similar Students Measure	Within/Fluctuating	Yes
Meeting minimum criteria? (700 API, 30 pts 3-yr growth, and Within/Fluctuating or Above on SSM)		YES

My school is 12 years old. The minimum criteria are applicable for schools four years and older.

Overall Framework: Status and Growth



My school: API growth, past 3 years



Similar Students Measure (SSM)

The SSM compares your school's API to an Annual School Performance Prediction (ASPP), which is a predicted API based upon the School Profile provided on the next page. Schools are categorized into SSM Performance Bands based on the past 3 years of data.

SSM Performance Band:	Within/Fluctuating		
Year:	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10
ASPP Result:	Within Predicted	Within Predicted	Within Predicted

SSM Performance Band	Description	% of schools in this Band	My Band
Far Below All Years	Far Below ASPP all years for which have data	1.8% of all schools	
Below All Years	Below ASPP all years for which have data	4.5% of all schools	
Below Most Years	Below ASPP 2 out of the past 3 years	5.0% of all schools	
Within/Fluctuating	Within ASPP or Fluctuating between bands all years for which have data	78.5% of all schools	✓
Above Most Years	Above ASPP 2 out of the past 3 years	4.4% of all schools	
Above All Years	Above ASPP all years for which have data	4.7% of all schools	
Far Above All Years	Far Above ASPP all years for which have data	1.6% of all schools	

Creek Side Learning Academy

Creek Side is a self-paced, hands-on learning environment fostering student's deep connections with one another, their community and the natural world. We are a small, dedicated group of people (twenty-two students ages five to eighteen, plus our staff of one teacher, three aides, and a very supportive community of families, friends and local volunteers) working together in Willow Creek providing a progressive educational alternative for Trinity River families. Parent Volunteers help



every day doing hands-on projects. Check out the garden produce!

Redwood Coast Montessori



Students paraded with this peace dove to celebrate U.N. International Day of Peace

We started the RCM school year filled with joy and enthusiasm. We now serve 1st through 4th. Along with our exceptionally dedicated parent group, we have a classroom assistant and part-time Science teacher who are both excited to begin their Montessori training. Together we are creating a unique choice for local families who seek a Montessori education for their children.

Three Rivers Learning Center



Roger Coy presents STAR Award Medals in his K-5 Class



For PE, Three Rivers' Students get to walk on the Beach just a little way from the school! (Are you jealous?)

Caspar Creek Learning Center

Caspar Creek has been with Mattole for quite a while. I remember when it was called Mendocino Satellite School. Here are some pictures of Buddy Reading, with K-1 and 5th grade students.



The second and third graders who are reading *Boxcar Children* and are working in pairs to create dioramas and models of the environments of

the *Boxcar Children*. They will also write alternative endings to the story and read aloud to each other.

Independent Study...

To some, Mattole Valley Charter School MEANS Independent Study. There are many students receiving instruction as Independent Study students. An effort is being made to make sure that only students who will succeed in independent study are placed with MVCS. Those students have been very successful, with most going on to post-secondary educational opportunities – college, trade based instruction, etc.



Those IS students receive individual educational planning and attention known as personalized education, with an emphasis on parent and student choice, while still adhering to the State Curriculum Standards.

Here you see Devora Kaufman and Addy Meyers who are IS teachers meeting with students at the Cutten Resource Center.



Black Board Courses...

The recent cuts and layoffs due to cash flow problems caused the closure of the Pac West Virtual Academy.



We all are extremely saddened and impacted by this, as the PW Team provided the BlackBoard classes for all of our students.

We are pleased that almost all the Pac West Teachers are continuing to provide the Black Board Courses as Small Group Instruction Classes.

Above is JJ Stott, our math teacher for BB courses. We also have John Warren for English Classes and Jordan Plocher for Social Science courses. Kara Martin is teaching Tech courses and PE, and Gwen Neu continues to provide great classes in English and Social Studies at the middle school level.

Please continue to afford your IS students access to this great opportunity for LIVE teaching via online format, so that we can provide these teachers with enough classes to keep them viable!

Montessori Del Mar

Below are Sharon Richardson and some of her students working at their beautiful learning center in Fort Bragg



We almost never see some of the other services that MVCS provides, but here's a rare picture of our Speech Therapist, Janine Redwine.



Willow Brook Learning Academy

I just love this picture... Kids playing in a parachute.



Willow Brook has had a really good start this year under the leadership of Rebekah Rybeck-Davis with the help of the whole WB

team.

A new teacher, Rachel Davis was hired for the middle school, and a whole new focus on student success is in place.

Rebekah and her 4th-6th students and Rachel Davis's Middle school Classroom



Willow Brook's High School is thriving, and here is Mark Blackwood, the science guy explaining a concept to an avid student .



Calling All Chefs Program

From Ganasini

I sent the following challenge to my students via flyer and email at the beginning of the year:

Calling All Student Chefs

cooking/baking exchange challenge

Let's exchange our favorite AND new delicious creations

Email me or set up a time to interview each other about our food preferences.

We will find out:

1. each other's favorite vegetables, fruits, main dish or dessert
2. if there's any ingredient we absolutely can not tolerate, because of allergic reaction OR taste preference

THEN

We will use this information to make or bake a dish using each other's favorite ingredients

exchange and EAT the food

exchange recipes and feedback

publish recipes in MVCS newsletter

HAVE A COOKING CONTEST IN THE SPRING USING THE BEST RECIPES!

Several of my students have participated in the program. Lunches have varied from the extremely simple (Kindergarten student Helen Ertl's beautifully presented cut up raw veggies and peppermint tea) to the more complex, most recently, Fourth grader Gardner Boyce's delicious Curried Squash Soup made with curry that he blended himself. (see recipe below) Althea, Finn and their mom Kris, brought a wonderful miso veggie soup and garbanzo pancakes. Most of these students prepared and served their meals with very little help from their parents! Ishua Pacheco was excited to share some of his recipes that he had also created himself- see Ishua's Vegetarian Cookbook below.

These lunches are providing an opportunity to discuss and practice important life skills; the energy we put into the food- from caring for the plants (Gardner and his mom Sarah grew the butternut squash that they used to prepare the soup) to the careful preparation of the meal, conscious eating using all of our senses to enjoy the food, table manners and the follow through of the clean up! Related academic learning emerged as well, for instance, using the globe to locate the places that the food came from and how the food came to be in the store.

Cooking and sharing food is a wonderful way to share love with people and the kids really seem to have a sense of this. Their enthusiasm and joy is contagious and a blessing and I'm grateful for their participation!

My Apple cake recipe **By: Sophie D.**

- 1 1\2 cups of sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 2 cups of flour
- 1 1\2 teaspoons of ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1\2 teaspoon salt
- 1\4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 3 cups of chopped tart apples (medium sized)
- 1 cup coarsely chopped nuts

heat oven to 350, grease and flour pan, mix sugar, oil, and eggs until blended, stir in remaining ingredients except the apples and nuts, beat for 1 min., then put in apples and nuts, pour in to the pan, bake until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean, bake for 35 to 45 min. , then take it out of the oven slice and enjoy.

Some of Ganasini's personal favorite kid friendly recipes

Chinese Salad

mixed greens
green onions
tomatoes

high quality Ramen noodles- whatever flavor you like

toasted sesame oil
brown rice vinegar
almonds
ginger
garlic

Dry toast almonds in pan on stovetop over medium flame (stir frequently), or in toaster oven. Do not allow to burn. Set aside to cool. Chop them coarsely. Mix salad ingredients

Use a rolling pin or glass jar to break up raw ramen noodles before opening the package. Open package and remove spice packet. Pour contents into a glass jar and add equal parts sesame oil and brown rice vinegar. Add fresh grated ginger and a clove of crushed garlic and shake/mix well. Add chopped almonds and raw ramen noodles right before serving and add dressing.

Spicy, Sweet Almond Noodles

almond butter
mirin (sweet Chinese cooking wine) or agave syrup or honey
garlic
hot pepper sauce
warm water
tamari soy sauce

whatever kind of noodles you prefer (I like rice spirals or penne)
whatever veggies you prefer (try red bell pepper and broccoli)

Make sauce by adding ingredients to taste- dilute with warm water and mix well
steam veggies and cook noodles
combine and pour sauce over noodles and veggies.

Ishua's Vegetarian Cookbook

ENJOY!!

Guacomole

2 ripe avacado's
few cloves of garlic
1 tsp of garlic salt
juice of ¾ of lemon
1-2 chopped tomatoes
½ chopped onion

smash avocado, add garlic, onion, garlic salt, garlic powder, lemon and chopped tomatoes. Serve with chips

9 Layer Bean Dip

1 can of refreid beans
1 cup of dried pinto beans
few spoonfuls of sour cream
¼ jar of peppercinis
2 chopped tomatoes
1 onion chopped
guacamole from page one
1 cup chopped cilantro
1 cup grated cheese
1 cup olives

Layer in order. Serve with chips

Parmesan Garlic Fries, aka fried Ishua fingers

wash potatoes
chop with krinkle cutter
coat with safflower oil
bake until crisp
while baking make garlic cheese sauce
2 handfults of parmesan cheese
5 cloves of crushed garlic

mix with 2 Tbs. butter, 2 Tbs. chopped basil and parsley, coat fries and bake 10 more minutes

Hashbrowns, aka grated Ishua guts

wash 10 potatoes and put through food processor
soak grated potatoes in water
preheat pan with oil
squeeze water out of grated potatoes and dry with a towel
cook until browned. Serve with grated cheese

Helen Ertl- age 5

I worked in the kitchen and I got our lunch together first. Afterward, we went to Ganasini's office. I met Ganasini and said, "Hi."

Then when I said "Hello," I showed her what I brought and she showed us what she brought.

She shared her food. She made a fruit salad with papaya, bananas, mango and coconut. She also made a yummy bread. I brought bell pepper, tomatoes, celery, and nuts. Afterward we brought tea.

I had a good time. It was so fun. I wish I could do this again.



Lunch with Ganasini and Althea and Finn Knapp

Althea's Noodle Soup

Boil 1 pkg. rice noodles until done. Drain and set aside.

Fill pot ½ way with water. Add cubed tofu, sliced carrots, spices, seasoning, and/or bullion. Bring to a boil.

Reduce to a simmer. Add frozen peas and fresh chives when carrots are almost done. Continue to cook until peas are cooked.

Turn off heat. Stir in 1 tbs. of sesame oil and 1 tbs. of miso paste.

Add noodles and serve.

Enjoy!

“It was fun cooking this and serving it to Ganasini! It's a really good dish to have on a cold (or warm) day! “ – Althea Knapp

Finn's Garbanzo Pancakes

2 cups garbanzo flour

1 cup water (or more as needed to get a thick batter)

1 tsp. salt

any spices/seasonings you like, ground flax, hemp seeds

Mix above well and let sit 15 minutes.

Heat skillet with 1/8 inch of bottom covered in oil.

Pour in skillet in rounds and cook each side until browned.

“It was fun to flip these pancakes. All the food tasted good!” –Finn Knapp

Here are some student writing pieces from Ganasini's students

The 4 Witches

Chapter One

How the Witches Got Their Nick Names

By: Sophie Dowd

Once upon a pot of bats wings there were 4 slightly crazy witches. Their names were, the twins Zelda the smart one, and Cleo the curious one. There were also 2 younger sisters, Artichoke the food loving one, and last but not least Rani the gorgeous and vain one.(she'd beat me with her broom if I described her as any less than gorgeous!)

Well, when Zelda was just a young witchling she fell into a cauldron full of wisdom potion and has been incredibly smart ever since.

Now I know you're wondering how curious little Cleo became known as, well, the curious one .One day when she was about 6 years old she was taking a walk in the forest and a rotten branch fell off a tree and wapped her in the face giving her a slight case of amnesia. (Ow, *that had to have hurt.*) Well ever since that day she has been curious about the things that she can't remember.

You're probably also curious about how Artichoke became known as the food lover. That's a fun jumble of stories. Let me start with the pizza story. It is always fun to tell. One day, Artichoke fell in love with a slice of pizza and she said she'd marry it the next day(*weird*). She went to the church with the pizza slice. After they said their vows instead of "Groom you may kiss the bride," the priest said, "Bride you may EAT the groom" and SHE DID.

Now it's time for the second story. Artichoke was about 4 years old. It was Christmas Eve and she was waiting up for Santa Claus. She got hungry so she decided to eat just 1 of Santa's 8 cookies. But she accidentally ate all of the cookies and fell asleep. I bet someone found coal in her stocking that morning!

Don't worry. I'm not going to tell you any more of the 409,678,765,986,656,897,564,764,875,532,123,321 stories about Artichoke.

Yes, I'll tell you why Rani is called the gorgeous and vain one. This is going to be pretty short. Well she is veeeeeeeeery vain but bewitchingly gorgeous. That's all. If you're complaining that Rani's story is too short, quit it! There's lots more to come in the following chapters. To be continued in next newsletter.....

Kinkajous

by Dylan Kelly Boyte- grade 4

Kinkajous are extraordinary creatures.

They are nocturnal. They are awake 7 pm to 12 am, and the hour before dawn. They can turn their feet backwards to run both ways. They have a Prehensile tail to use like another hand.

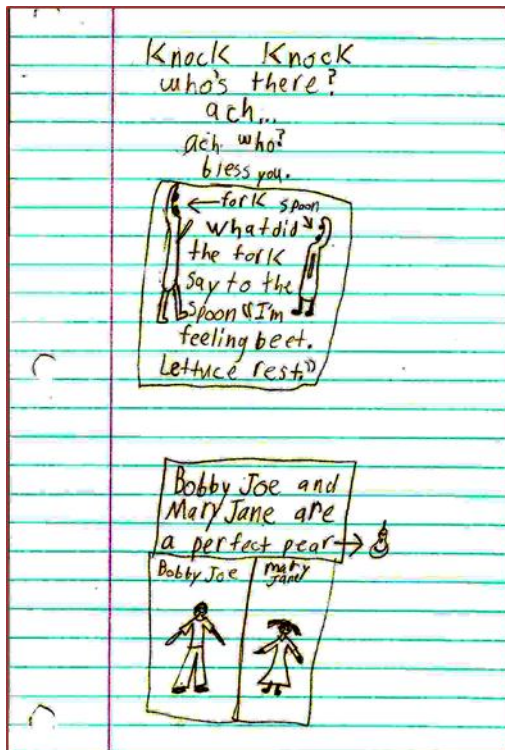
They are 6 ft long (including tail).

Where do they live you may ask ? They live in the trees of the rain forests of Central America.

They have long tongues for slurping balsa blossoms and honey. (They are known as “honey bear” for eating honey and looking like bears; but they are related to raccoons.) Did you know 90% of their diet is ripe fruit?

I personally would like to be a kinkajou, because they have no work to do, and look at all the things they can do!

Dylan Boyte November 13, 2010



The Kangaroo

The kangaroo lives in the zoo.

I think he wants to use shampoo.

I will give him some, will you?



by Bev and Ishua