



Golden Nugget

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A Note From the Principal



The month of March is one of three whose name has a definition apart from its name as a month. In fact, the first student who identifies another month and tells me its definition will receive a lunch ticket. As for March, it always seems time is marching on quickly at this time of year. It quickly turns from winter to spring. Day light savings time causes us to spring ahead and we're half way through the second semester. It really is good to reflect on this, so you as a student or parent can check your progress to make sure you complete everything necessary to finish your grade well, be ready for STAR testing, and to prove you have done your best this school year.

For Gold Rush, March means it is time to begin thinking about next school year; class schedules, testing, school calendar, text books and materials, and whatever else will make us a better school next year. One thing we do not want to change is our personalized learning model where each student has an assigned instructor, one-to-one help, and

appropriate courses and materials for personal academic growth.

We came across an article entitled "One Kid at a Time" and feel the following quote reflects our vision...
"Great teachers approach their craft with humility. They know there is no instructional strategy, textbook, lesson plan, classroom management approach, motivational method, or timetable that will work for every individual in the kaleidoscopic mix of learners they encounter daily. They know enough about theory and research to chart a course for learning, but they also know that the journey will almost never go as planned."

Thus we always are prepared to make adjustments whenever they are needed and we welcome your suggestions and input.

~Kathleen Hansen
Principal

Field Trips

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

CALIFORNIA WILD FLOWERS

WHERE: San Francisco, CA
WHEN: Wednesday, March 3, 2010
GRADE: 10th (Required for all biology students)
COST: No Cost

WHERE: Red Hills Wildlife Area, China Camp, CA
WHEN: Wednesday, March 24, 2010
GRADES: 10th grade (Required for all biology students)
COST: No Cost

SIGN-UP/FEE DUE BY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010

SIGN-UP/FEE DUE BY MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2010

DESCRIPTION:
Spend a day at the new California Academy of Sciences exploring a single building that evokes the interdependence of Earth, ocean and space. It houses an aquarium, a planetarium and a natural history museum. Explore a fascinating place that is filled with hundreds of innovative and engaging exhibits and thousands of animals. Count the number of teeth on the albino alligator, catch insects with a virtual butterfly net, rocket through the galaxy at warp speed, and so much more!

DESCRIPTION:
Spend a day exploring nature's spring wild flower show at New Hogan Lake, starring golden poppies, lupines, brodiaeas, larkspurs, red maids, baby blue eyes, and a host of other spring wild flower species. Students will learn how to identify common wild flower families and used field identification keys to determine the identity of the flowers they observe. Digital cameras are highly recommended.

Beware the Ides of March

The ominous warning, "Beware the Ides of March," originated with the Roman ruler, Julius Caesar, who was assassinated on the Ides of March - March 15, 44 B.C.E. If you've heard the ominous warning, then it's most likely due to William Shakespeare and his play, *Julius Caesar*.

The warning itself was made famous in Shakespeare's play on Julius Caesar, when an unidentified soothsayer tells Caesar, who is on his way to the Senate (and his death), "Beware the ides of March." Caesar replies, "He is a dreamer; let us leave him. Pass."

The Astrologer Spurinna

According to historical writer C.J.S. Thompson, Ph.D. in *The Mystery and Romance of Astrology*, 1929, the unidentified soothsayer from Shakespeare's play was a Roman astrologer by the name of Spurinna.

According to Thompson - and confirmed in Plutarch's account of the story written in 75 A.D. and Suetonius in 110 A.D. - it was sometime prior to the fateful day of March 15 that Spurinna had first given Caesar the famous warning to "beware of the Ides of March." The astrologer, Spurinna, had previously warned Caesar that on "the Ides of March," he would be in great danger. If, however, Julius Caesar took care on that one day - then all would be well.

According to Plutarch's account, Caesar had previously made the wise decision to stay within the safety of his bedroom chambers on the 15th of March. However, Caesar's "friend" Decimus (Albinus) Brutus (not Marcus Brutus) managed to convince him that the astrologer's warnings were

nothing more than superstitious foolishness.

So Julius Caesar decided to attend the Senate on the 15th of March. On his way to the Senate, Caesar "accidentally" met up with the astrologer. Upon seeing Spurinna, Caesar confidently informed the astrologer: "The Ides of March are come."

Spurinna replied, "Yes, they are come, but they are not past." Later that day - on March 15, 44 B.C.E - Caesar's enemies assassinated him in the Pompey theater, at the foot of Pompey's statue, where the Roman Senate was meeting that day in the temple of Venus.

What Are the Ides?

In the ancient Roman calendar, each of the 12 months of the year had an "ides." In March, May, July and October, the "ides" fell on the 15th day. In every other month, the "ides"

fell on the 13th. The word "ides" was derived from the Latin "to divide." The "ides" were originally meant to mark the full moon - but since the solar

calendar months and lunar months were of different lengths, the "ides" quickly lost their original intent and purpose.

So an alternative (albeit somewhat dubious) theory, as to why Caesar might have "seemingly" ignored the ominous warning of Spurinna, is that perhaps Julius Caesar got the dates of the warning mixed up. He may have been thinking that the Ides of March fell on the 13th.

Using this theory, forgetful Caesar would have been very careful and stayed home on the 13th of March, but on the 15th of March his guard was down.

(Article taken from: <http://astrology.about.com/od/oddstrange/a/idesmarch.htm>)



WATER OR COLA??

WATER:

75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated.

Even mild dehydration will slow down one's metabolism as much as 3%.

Lack of water is the #1 trigger of daytime fatigue.

Research indicates that 8-10 glasses of water a day could ease back and joint pain for up to 80% of sufferers.

Drinking 5 glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, plus it can slash the risk of breast cancer by 79%, and one is 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer.

COLA:

You can put a T-Bone steak in a bowl of cola and it will be gone in 2 days.

To clean corrosion from car battery terminals: pour a can of Cola over the terminals to bubble away the corrosion.

To loosen a rusted bolt: apply a cloth soaked in Cola to the rusted bolt for several minutes.

The active ingredient in Cola is phosphoric acid. Phosphoric acid leaches calcium from bones and is a major contributor to the rising increase in osteoporosis.

To carry concentrated Cola syrup, the commercial truck must use the hazardous material placards reserved for highly corrosive materials.

Now the question is, would you like a cola or a glass of water?

YEARBOOK NEWS!

The time is coming to order your 2009-2010 yearbooks. The cost is \$25, but if you order now, the cost is only \$20. The theme of this year's book is "Liberty," with faculty and students commenting

on this important theme. If students have not taken their picture for the yearbook, there is still time! Please see Mr. Blake or contact him at 533-8644, ext. 221, to set up a time for your picture.

Country School Openings for 2010-2011

If you or someone you know has a child who will be going into to kindergarten next school year - be sure to fill out an enrollment application right away, there are only a few more openings left. You can get an application by going to www.goldrushcs.com to print one out or come in to our main office to pick one up. Main office is open from 9am-3pm Monday thru Thursday.

GRADUATION

The date of graduation has been changed!! Eighth grade and high school graduation will be held on Friday, May 21 at the Black Oak School in Twain Harte. Rehearsal and graduation ceremony times will be announced soon.



Student of the Month

ELEMENTARY: Alex McKeon - 6th Grade



Alex is a very unique student. He has just about perfect attendance and always has a bright smile when he comes to class. Alex's interests are varied - these include books by Rick Riordan such as *The Lightning Thief*

and *The Battle of the Labyrinth*. He insists that I read them as well. Alex also enjoys taking dance classes in his spare time. Of course, his studies come first. It is a pleasure to work with this young man.

~Sherill Cranston, teacher

HIGH SCHOOL: Carly DeStigter - 12th Grade



I have chosen Carly DeStigter to be student of the month not only for her excellent academic abilities but also because she continues to be an academic through illness. Carly has been my student for the last two years, she has always been excited to learn and more organized than

most adults I know. She is that rare and wonderful teenager who knows what it is she wants to do after high school and knows how to make strides towards her goal. For the two years I have known her she has also been dealing with illness that takes her not only out of school but out of her daily life, and still she carries on, very impressive at any age.

~Kayley Rhett, teacher

COUNTRY SCHOOL FIELD TRIP
Celtic History Day and Family Day!

Don't miss a great field trip. There will be Celtic music, a jousting show, a Celtic living history village, merchants, food, various activities, and performers.

At the Sonora Fairgrounds
Friday, March 12th
9am-2pm

The cost is \$5 per child, \$7 for adults
(siblings may attend with parents)

We pre-registered, so money was due by February 22nd. If you did not make your payment by that due date, you may pay at the gate upon entry \$5/child, \$10/adult.

We invite families to attend with their children. You may plan your own day to enjoy as you wish. Wear a Celtic costume, bring your lunch or buy one there. Don't forget to bring a little money to shop at the Celtic village. Students are not allowed to roam the grounds without supervision.

If you can not attend with your child and s/he needs a ride, please make arrangements with another parent driver. We will be meeting at the fairgrounds at 9am. Families that will be carpooling or driving other students may meet at the school before heading to the fair.

Please fill out the permission slip below

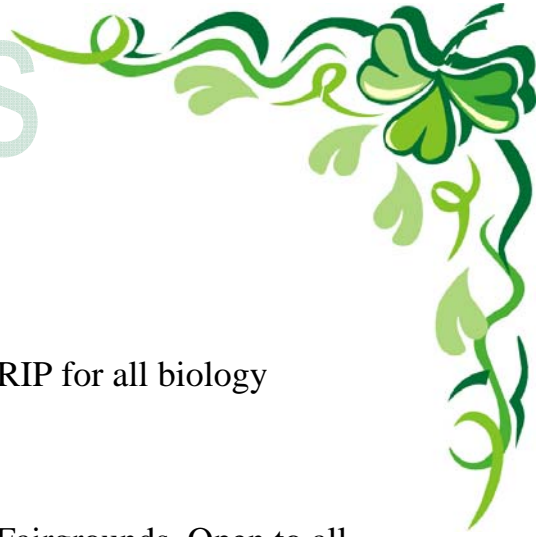
_____ Yes, I will attend with my child.

We will also be bringing _____ extra children, and _____ extra adults.

_____ Yes, my child will attend, but s/he will be riding with another parent.

_____ No, my child can not attend.

March Events



March 3:

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE FIELD TRIP for all biology students. There is no cost to the students for this trip.

March 12:

CELTIC FAIR 2010 from 9 am - 2 pm at the Sonora Fairgrounds. Open to all Country School students and their families.

March 16 - 17:

Make-up CAHSEE Testing for any 10th grade students who missed one or both of the tests.

- Monday March 16 - English
- Tuesday March 17 - Math

March 24:

CALIFORNIA WILD FLOWERS FIELD TRIP for all biology students. There is no cost to the students for this trip.

March 30:

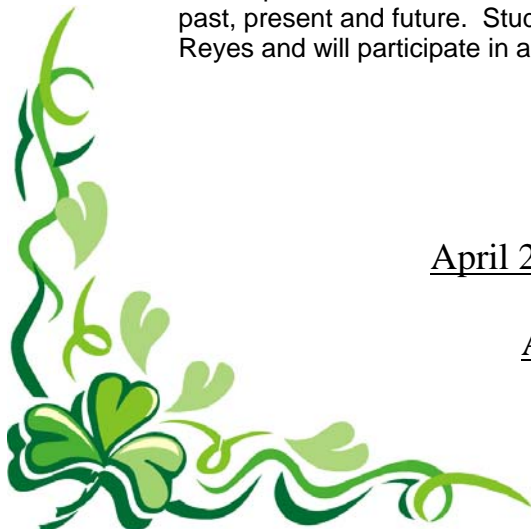
Pt. REYES NAT'L SEASHORE FIELD TRIP for all earth science students. There is no cost to students for this trip. SIGN-UP BY TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010. DESCRIPTION: From Point Reyes National Seashore's thunderous ocean breakers crashing against rocky headlands and expansive sand beaches through its open grasslands to its brushy hillsides and forested ridges, visitors can discover over 1000 species of plants and animals and view the many stories in stone that tell of California's geologic past, present and future. Students will spend the day focusing on the geologic story of Point Reyes and will participate in a variety of hands-on activities focusing on Earth Science.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 2 –11: NO SCHOOL: Spring Break!

April 19-30: STAR TESTING

May 21: GRADUATION!!



Gold Rush
Charter School

*Important Newsletter from
Gold Rush Charter School*

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Questions/requests can be
e-mailed to Breeanna, news-
letter editor. Thank you.

E-mail to:
brnnbattiste@yahoo.com

A Personalized
Learning Plan

March 2010

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|----|----|-------------------------------|--|----|---------------------------------|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Academy Of Science Field Trip | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Celtic Fair Field Trip | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 CAHSEE TEST | 17 CAHSEE TEST | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Wild Flower Field Trip | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 Pt. Reyes Field Trip | 31 | | | |