



Golden Nugget

14763 Mono Way * Sonora, CA 95370 * Phone: (209) 533-8644 * Fax: (209) 532-9234

A Note From the Principal

Have you ever heard the term "March madness?"

It may be referring to the weather. As far back as I can remember (even in Minnesota) we always have had our biggest snow storms in March. This is good for the high country snow pack and all of you ski and snowboard fanatics. However, it also means that there may be some dangerous driving conditions and possible school closure days. If the conditions are such that we need to close Gold Rush, we will inform you through some local radio stations or the website mymotherlode.com/schools/. On the radio, tune in to any of the following: 1450 AM, 92.7 FM, 93.5FM.

Since there is so much madness out there, I am sharing some thoughts on cyber safety. Remember how we learned "Stop, drop and roll" for fire safety? Here's one to teach your kids. Keep, Don't meet, Tell.

Keep your personal information protected. Never give your real name, address, phone number, the name of your school or a picture of yourself to anyone you meet online.

Don't Meet in person with anyone you've met on the Net.

Tell a parent, teacher or trusted adult if you feel uncomfortable about anything you see on a computer.

Safety guidelines for parents:

-Keep the computer in a common room in the house so everyone can see it.

-Establish rules for using the Internet and teach your child important safety guidelines.

-Use blocking software or filtering programs, but do not rely on them as your only line of defense.

-Predators often use chat rooms to contact children. Teach them that people online are often not who they say they are.

-Check the computer history frequently to see what sites your child is visiting

-Monitor your child's e-mail account. Tell her or him that you are checking and why.

-Spend time with your children online. Visit their favorite sites.

-If you see anything suspicious or believe your child may be a victim of Internet exploitation, contact the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children 1-800- The Lost (843-5678) or contact local FBI or law enforcement agency.

Kathleen Hansen
Principal

Field

Where: **Bakersfield Area**
CALIFORNIA GEOLOGY EXPLORATIONS
When: March 30 - April 2, 2009
Time: TBA
Who: Grades 9-12
Cost: \$100.00 per person and includes food, lodging, all admissions and fees and student field syllabus

(see page 4 for more information)

Trips

Where: **Monterey Area**
When: May 30 - June 5, 2009
Time: TBA
Who: Biology and Integrated Science Students
Cost: \$100.00 per person and includes food, lodging, all admissions and fees and student field syllabus

Where: **Yosemite National Park**
When: April 27 - April 30, 2009
Time: TBA
Who: Earth Science & Biology Students
Cost: \$100.00 per person and includes food, lodging, all admissions and fees and student field syllabus



Don't Forget!!
Celtic History Day Is Back for Schools and Families!

Friday, March 13, 2009

9am-3pm

Check in time for buses 8:30-9:30

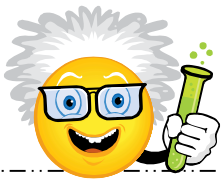
The fee is \$5 per student

Teachers and Chaperons \$7 (pre-reg.)

Payment due 2/25/09

Sign-up sheet and more info at GRCS front desk

Sonora DMV will be closed on the first and third Friday of each month.



Mr. Wyrick would like to remind everyone that:

Earth Science – California Geology project due May 21 – all Earth Science Lab students are expected to complete the project.

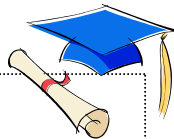
Biology – California Wild Flower Project due April 22 – all Biology Lab students are expected to complete the project.

Integrated Science – Ecosystem project due April 21 – all Integrated Science Lab students are expected to complete the project.

If any students needs to update their phone number, do so as soon as possible. The new phone system calls the number GRCS has on file. If we don't have an updated phone number—you won't receive a call on any announcement that is sent out.



Attention Seniors:



If you are planning to walk across the stage at graduation there is a sign-up sheet on Mrs. Carr's door. Also there is a sign-up sheet that you will need to fill in stating exactly how you would like your name printed on your diploma. Gowns and caps will cost \$22.95, please pay Ms. Spears in the library.



Irish Blessing: *May the hand of a friend always be near you, may there always be work for your hands to do, may your purse always hold a coin or two, may the sun always shine on your windowpane, may a rainbow be certain to follow every rain.*

Mrs. Hobbs would like to thank all the students and parents who took their time out of their busy schedule to take the NWEA assessment test. The teachers have the reports and are currently going over them and making adjustments to their lesson plans to support those that need additional guidance. Next month (April) will be the STAR testing. Please make sure that all of the students are staying current with their homework and getting any extra help for those subjects that may need it.

For those who are struggling in Math and/or English, there is an Internet-based site to give extra support. This is called *Study Island*. Please talk to your teacher about getting qualified for a login and password. This site is very recommended to those that are struggling and need that extra help at home. On this site are lessons, tests, and games. This site is also great for those that are studying for the CAHSEE exam.



Students of the Month



Everett Shelton

Nominated by Cyndi Owens

Everett is a hard working student that is a pleasure to have in my class. He never balks at an assignment and is willing to try his best even if it's a difficult task. He is a good friend and a very responsible student. The feedback from other teachers is that he is a pleasure to have in any class. *(no photo available)*



Brad Held

Nominated by Jeni Walker



I have worked with this student since the start of this school year. I am very pleased to say that I see marked improvement in many areas. First, as a young man, Brad has shown he is responsible and willing to work. Second, as a student, he has improved in attitude towards others and self. He has truly been a pleasure to work with.

CAHSEE TESTING

For all 11th and 12th graders who still need to pass

ENGLISH- Tuesday March 3rd, 2009

MATH- Wednesday March 4th, 2009

Both tests will be held in Excelsior from 9am-12pm

Mygradebook.com

Parents and students—check grades and homework assignments online! Talk with your teacher to obtain a classword and a password for each subject. Log onto www.mygradebook.com and enter the classword and password into the corresponding fields on the right side of the web page. Click “submit” to view the current grade for that class, as well as any missing assignments. Also look for comments from the teacher and view a calendar with upcoming assignments due.

We hope that parents and students alike will take advantage of this great site!



Upcoming Field Trip Information *CALIFORNIA GEOLOGY EXPLORATIONS*

“**CALIFORNIA GEOLOGY EXPLORATIONS**” is designed for students in grades 9-12. This program focuses on the geology of California with a special emphasis on the tectonics and paleontology of California’s Southern San Joaquin Valley and the surrounding mountain ranges. In the module “I Was Just Petrified,” students visit several fossil sites to gain an understanding of California’s past ecosystems. Students visit a section of the San Andreas fault in the module “Shake, Rattle and Roll.” The politics and ecology of California’s water battle is investigated in the module “Water Fight!,” Other modules include “Black Gold,” “Please, Can I Get a Straw?,” “Wild About Elk,” and “I Need a Drink!”

DATE:

March 30 – April 2, 2009

PLANNED ACTIVITIES: *(based on availability)*

Tule Elk Reserve tour
Ecology of the San Joaquin Valley tour
McKittrick Tar Seep tour
Kettleman Hills Fossil Site tour
Carrizo Plain National Monument tour
Buena Vista Museum of Natural History tour
Kern County Museum – Black Gold: The Oil Experience
Western Kern Oil Museum tour



MODULES:

“**I Was Just Petrified**” – Compares the composition of several fossil sites.
“**Shake, Rattle and Roll**” – Investigates California’s San Andreas Fault..
“**Black Gold – The Oil Experience**” – Studies California’s fossil fuel resources.
“**Water Fight!**” – Investigates California’s water battles.
“**Can I Please Get a Straw?**” – Takes a look at the distribution of water in California.
“**Wild About Elk**” – Studies the San Joaquin Valley’s native Tule Elk.
“**I Need a Drink!**” – Examines the adaptations of plants and animals to the desert.

LOCATION:

Bakersfield area

COST:

\$100.00 per person

Sign up in main lobby at Gold Rush Charter School

-Poetry Out Loud- National Recitation Contest



GRCS students participate in poetry event for the first time! Rebekah Chapline (*left*) recited “A Red Red Red Rose” by Robert Burns and “When You are Old” by Butler Yeats. Sarah Impink (*right*) recited “Song to Celia” by Ben Johnson and “Song of the Powers” by David Mason. Special thanks to Mrs. Cyndi Owens, Drama teacher, for helping them prepare.



Notes from the GRCS Journalism Class

The following is an interview the journalism class did with Lane Willey, Director of Special Education at GRCS. This interview will also appear in full color in the GRCS yearbook. Remember to purchase your yearbook now for only \$20.

Yearbook: When did you go to china, and why did you go?

Lane Willey: This is my fourth year as Director of Special Education at GRCS. I went to China with the Chamber of Commerce in the Spring of 2008. I saw the trip as a great opportunity to visit another culture - a third world - and especially the people.

Yearbook: What was your experience like in China?

Lane Willey: Wow! The trip was an eye-opening experience. The sheer volume of humanity in Beijing and Shanghai, the architecture is awe-inspiring, with dozens of skyscrapers and 30-story apartment buildings. And everywhere: bikes, buses, cabs - all taking chances!

It was sad to see all the small homes torn down to build these skyscrapers and new apartment buildings - sending the poor further and further out of the cities to live. The apartments are very expensive, and sometimes three families must live in a two-bedroom apartment. Once outside the cities, it is hard to commute to work back in the cities, as few middle-class and poor own cars. The smaller cities are still compared to cities in the United States, but tend to go at a slower pace.

The air was so unhealthy in all cities; many people walking and going to work wore masks. No one is idle; people are hired to clean streets, fix sand between walkways, and plant flowers. People are always exercising outside, as well as playing handball, volley ball, and ping pong. Oh! The real food we got - not in restaurants but along the streets - was unforgettable!

Yearbook: Did you meet any Chinese educators?

Lane Willey: No, but many business-owners we saw at seven different factories (jade, pearl, rugs, silk), were well-educated and anxious to answer our questions.

Yearbook: What do you think is the future of Chinese/American relations?

Lane Willey: If more people have opportunities to visit each other's country, and meet people and see how much more we are alike than different, the two countries can continue to build a stronger relationship.



GOLD RUSH HAS A NEW VENDOR

Foothill Explorations at Silver Spur is offering day camps for outdoor education for students in 5th through 8th grade. Classes are from 9:00am to 3:30pm. If this is a vendor that you have chosen, the cost is covered by Gold Rush. If not, the cost is only \$25 per day and includes lunch. Upcoming day camp dates are March 5th and March 26th. All classes meet California state curriculum guidelines and will count towards students' science grade. Sign up in main lobby at Gold Rush Charter School.



**Gold Rush
Charter School**

14673 Mono Way
Sonora, CA 95370

Phone: (209) 533-8644
Fax: (209) 532-9234

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

E-mail to:
danielle.grcs@gmail.com

**A Personalized
Learning Plan**

Gold Rush S.O.N.G
(Student Outcomes Needs & Goals)

Students will be:

- *Life-long learners*
- *Numerate and Literate*
- *Critical and Creative thinkers*
- *Responsible, productive & collaborative*

March 2008



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