



GOLDEN NUGGET

Gold Rush Home Study Charter School Newsletter




October, 2011

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Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.

~George Eliot



Whew! We've made it through the 1st month. We're excited about this school year. Students and teachers have gotten off to a quick start and we believe that this will be a great year. I believe that everyone is doing their fair share, with the possible exception of the state government. Once again they are talking about cutting funding to schools! This reminds me of a joke I heard recently:

We should send our senior citizens to prison and our criminals to a nursing home. This way the seniors would have access to showers, hobbies, and walks, they'd receive unlimited free prescriptions, dental and medical treatment, wheel chairs etc. They'd receive money instead of paying it out. They would have constant video monitoring, so they could be helped instantly if they fell, or needed assistance. Bedding would be washed twice a week, and all clothing would be ironed and returned to them. A guard would check on them every

20 minutes, and bring their meals and snacks to their cell. They would have family visits in a suite built for that purpose. They would have access to a library, weight room, spiritual counseling, pool, and education. Simple clothing, shoes, slippers, P.J.'s and legal aid would be free, on request. There would be private, secure rooms for all, with an exercise outdoor yard with gardens. Each senior could have a personal computer and a TV, radio, and daily phone calls. There would be a board of directors, to hear complaints, and the guards would have a code of conduct, that would be strictly adhered to.

The "criminals" would get cold food, be left all alone, and unsupervised. Lights off at 8pm, and showers once a week. They would live in a tiny room, and pay \$5000.00 per month for the privilege. They would have no hope of ever getting out. Justice for all!

We live in tough times and at some point we'll have to


make some tough choices. Where should we be spending our money, on more and better prisons? Or should we shift money to our most precious resource, our children? Let your assemblyman, state senator or the governor know that our children should be a higher priority than our prisoners. It just takes a moment to contact our elected officials and it does have an affect.

Assembly Member Kristin Olsen, State Capitol, Room 2111, Sacramento, CA 94249-0025, Ph. (916) 319-2025

Senator Tom Berryhill, State Capitol, Room 3076, Sacramento, CA 94249-0025, Ph. (916)651-4014

Governor Jerry Brown, c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, CA , 94249-0025 FAX (916) 558-3160

Kate Hansen
§
Jim Gallno



"Humor and Patience," One of Mr. Miller's Life Mottos

On Tuesday, September 27, our journalism class interviewed Mr. Miller, who is a part



From left to right: Amanda, Quinn, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Calderaro, Matt, and Sharon.

time resource specialist and instructor at Gold Rush. Jim has been teaching since 1968 and has lived in this area for 34 years. Jim is married and has two daughters. He also has his own western movie set and has been making movies commercially for the past eight years. His movie "Livin' by the Gun" won an award at the Twain Hart Film Festival on September 10, 2011, for being the best locally produced feature film.

GN: How has teaching changed over the years?

Jim: When I first started teaching, I loaded 12 kids into the back of a truck and took them to Yosemite. And when I first taught in Australia, students were caned (hit on the hand with a dowel) for misbehavior. When I first started, expectations were high, then they went low, now they are high again; the same as 43 years ago.

GN: How would you describe the students at Gold Rush?

Jim: Everywhere that I have taught, I've worked with very reluctant kids. Here, 99% of the kids are

cooperative and doing the best they can. They are not unruly, and I can trust them at a higher level.

GN: How long did it take to produce your movie, "Livin' by the Gun"?



Jim Miller (second from the right) stands with some members of his cast and crew at the Twain Hart Film Festival.

Jim: Four years.

GN: How did you stay motivated for four years?

Jim: It's real simple; we determined to get it done. Also, our motto was: Patience and Humor.

GN: How did you get people to work without pay?

Jim: As you know, everybody wants to be in a movie. Also, my wife and I made sure people ate well, and ate all day. Plus, we let them know they were appreciated.



"Being a parent is your punishment for having been a child. Being a grandparent is your reward for surviving parenthood."

Jim Miller



Two of the Biggest Modern Parenting Mistakes

- Failing to establish a strong emotional bond with your child by not spending the necessary time and attention.
- Not conveying to your child—through both actions and words—the moral, ethical, and spiritual values you believe in (or not having moral, ethical, and spiritual values in the first place.)

From the book "The Epidemic," by Robert Shaw.

Students of the Month



Tiffany Bowcutt, granddaughter of James and Laurel Kurth —

Tiffany is a new sophomore to our school and is doing exceptionally well. She completes all of her work and has a very positive attitude toward all members of Gold Rush.

I especially appreciate how much effort she puts forth in math to prepare for the Exit Exam. Tiffany is a joy to have in class and always displays courtesy, a diligent work ethic and a willingness to participate in extracurricular events to further her education. — Mrs. Elias



Hannah Wynne 6th grade—

Hannah is one of the most cooperative students I've encountered in my teaching career. She is attentive, friendly and always goes the extra mile to get the job done. Her artistic creativity is amazing. Hannah is the type of student that will excel in whichever field she chooses due to her work ethic.

— Mrs. Hildreth

Advertise in our Yearbook

Purchase space in this year's yearbook and your ad will be viewed by parents and students alike for years to come!

The yearbook staff will use the money earned from ads to help defray the cost of having our books printed.

PRICES

Business Card: \$25

Quarter Page: \$50

Half Page: \$100

Full Page: \$150

**Contact Mr. Blake: 533-8644
ext. 221**

Dramatic Guest



Ian McVey, joined his wife Emily, and her drama class on Tuesday, Sept. 27. Ian works at the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto. He shared some of his favorite circle games and soon the room was filled with laughter.

Sharing Student Photographs

Photos are often taken of students on fieldtrips or while participating in activities at school, and are used for our newsletter, Yearbook, Gold Rush brochures, and Student of the Month submissions to the *Union Democrat*.

If you opt not to have your child's photo shared in this way, you can pick up a form at the front desk, or print the form from our website.

(Release of Directory Information Overview and Request to Deny Release)

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Questions/requests can be
e-mailed to Cheryl Calderaro,
newsletter editor at:
CherCalderaro@hotmail.com

A Personalized Learning Plan

We're on the web!
www.goldrushcs.com

Important Newsletter from
Gold Rush Charter School

October 2011

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