

# Village Voices



A newsletter for  
The Village  
Charter School

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

### *Holiday Craft Faire - Cancelled*

It is with much sadness that I announce the cancellation of our annual winter craft faire. This has always been such a warm and enjoyable evening for all, but given the short notice and proximity to the solstice festival, I felt best to cancel for this year. Thanks to all who came up with craft ideas and offered their time and energy. We can now focus on prepping for next Wednesday's solstice festival – keep an eye out for how you can help!

## Amish Quilt Raffle

All tickets are due in by 1:00 on 12/21.

The raffle will take place at our Solstice Festival the evening of 12/21.



It was never our intention that individual students/families feel pressured to sell 100 tickets and we apologize if our initial communications led to any feelings of pressure or competitiveness. Our overall goal for this fundraiser is for our school community to raise \$10,000. We appreciate every effort that our families put forth towards this goal.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ❖ DECEMBER ❖

Friday, December 16

Elsie's class play @ 5:45

Monday, December 19

VCS Board Meeting @ 5:45

Wednesday, December 21

Winter Solstice Festival

5:30 Potluck

6:30 Festival

12/22 – 1/6

**NO SCHOOL – Winter Break**

[Click here to view VCS Calendar 11/12](#)



Christian and Jake have sold their Amish quilt raffle tickets. Have you? Thank you to everyone who is putting effort into this fundraiser. We really appreciate all your hard work and effort!

## Old World Winery

(Trowbridge Family)

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This offer is good through December 31, 2011.

### Fundraiser Totals

Our most recent fundraisers brought in additional funds for VCS. Thank you to all who participated.

BareFoot Books \$123.92

Dine & Donate \$221.00

Clothing Closet \$135

### PGP DONATIONS

Don't forget you can make your payment online through PayPal.

[www.villagecharterschool.net](http://www.villagecharterschool.net)

**"DONATE NOW ONLINE"**

*Please include extra for service fees.*

## Holiday Recipes

Compliments of Charis Janda at [www.hot-panini.com](http://www.hot-panini.com)

### Cranberry Chutney

1 package Fresh Cranberries (12-16oz)  
1 tart apple – diced  
1 small onion – diced  
1 small fennel bulb – diced (or 1 Tablespoon fennel seed)  
1 heaping teaspoon mustard seed  
½ t chili flake (optional)  
¼ cup red wine vinegar  
¼ cup sugar (turbinado or raw)  
½-1 cup water as needed



Add all ingredients and ½ cup water to heavy bottomed pot. Simmer until onions have softened. Approximately 30-45 minutes. Add additional water if needed.

This recipe is tangy. When tasting for sweetness, allow to cool slightly on spoon before tasting. You can add more sugar if desired just make sure to dissolve thoroughly.

\* Optional – stir in 1 Tablespoon prepared Horseradish after chutney is done cooking and removed from the heat.

### Baked Brie en Croute

1 egg  
1 tbsp. water  
All-purpose flour  
Puff Pastry Sheets (1 sheet), thawed  
½ cup cranberry chutney or desired filling\*  
¼ cup toasted sliced almond or walnuts  
1 (13- to 16-ounce) Brie cheese round



1. Heat the oven to 400°F. Beat the egg and water in a small bowl with a fork.
2. Sprinkle the flour on the work surface. Unfold the pastry sheet on the work surface. Roll the pastry sheet into a 14-inch square. Spread the preserves on the pastry to within 2 inches of the edge. Sprinkle with the cranberries and almonds. Place the cheese in the center of the pastry. Fold the pastry up over the cheese to cover. Trim the excess pastry and press to seal. Brush the seam with the egg mixture. Place seam-side down onto a baking sheet. Decorate with the pastry scraps, if desired. Brush with the egg mixture.
3. Bake for 20 minutes or until the pastry is golden brown. **Let stand for 45 minutes.** Serve with the crackers.

\*Variation of filling:

- ~ Pesto w/ pinenuts
- ~ Fig Jam w/ toasted Pecans
- ~ Dried fruit (dates, raisins, apricot etc) mixed with a little honey or maple syrup and some nuts

### Santa Rosa Children's Chorus

*Warmly invites you to join our chorus!*

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"I love getting notes from my first grader, even those!" Kat Rosen

## Classroom Newsletters

Greetings from Miss Malika!

I was recently introduced to the Greater Good Science Center website. It is full of wonderful articles, talks and pod-casts. I am including a link here to a wonderful 10 minute talk given by two woman/mothers on happiness and the holidays. I really enjoyed it. There are several of these pod-casts by these two that are very good!

[http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/gg\\_live/happiness\\_matters\\_podcast/podcast/holiday\\_traditions/](http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/gg_live/happiness_matters_podcast/podcast/holiday_traditions/)

Can you believe there are only 8 more school days this year? It is so amazing how fast the time flies.

Well, in the next 8 days your children will continue their study of the Temperate Forest. We will have a in-class field trip from the Fawn Rescue Organization. They will bring in several real-stuffed forest animals for the children to see. They discuss the particular features of these animals and how they use them for protection and survival. This is always a wonderful experience for the children! How often do you get to see a fox or a bobcat up close?

We will be saying goodbye to the Harris family this Friday. We wish them well with their new life in Southern Ca. We will miss Marc very much.

The children have been working hard practicing their poems for the Solstice Festival. The theme for the festival is the moon. If you can dress your children in blue and white that would be great and please remember, no logos or picture on their shirts. We have been working with our buddies on painting 12 moons that we will use in the performance.

We will be making Latkes on Dec. 20th, the first day of Hanukkah. Thanks to Lauren for helping with this project.

Winter break is a good time to take home your child's extra clothes bag and restock. Be sure you exchange the shorts for long pants and please remember to return when you come back!!

This is also a great time to get out the book your children have make and read them. Do you know where your child's "Global Address" book is?

Thanks to all the parents who have been helping in the classroom. It makes such a difference, just like Rebecca said in the Voices- It is what makes us special!

Blessings- and I hope you all have a wonderful break. Cuddle, read, play and go outside!

Miss Malika

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Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you well. The holiday season is in full swing here at VCS and our class has been enjoying some holiday crafts.

On Friday we took our Kindergarten buddies to see Posada Navienda in the Ruth Finley Theater. The music and colors of Mexico were so much fun to watch. The elder students did a great job with the youngers in the theater and it was a very sweet and memorable experience.

This next week we will continue with holiday crafts and preparing for the upcoming solstice festival on December 21st. This is a potluck evening event and your child will be performing a skit for the community.

We are making props for said skit and I'm wondering if anyone can bring in some liquid starch for paper mache and extra newspapers? It's been forever since I've paper mached and I have no idea where to find liquid starch. I am hoping to do this Monday, so if you can grab some over the weekend, will you reply back to this email and let me know? We will also be needing extra thick paintbrushes and orange and yellow paint. Please let me know if you have any of these items or would be willing to pick them up over the weekend.

Our class decided to do a small service project and buy gifts for one family in need for Christmas. Mason and Sire are collecting \$5 from each student and other students have volunteered to go shopping and wrap the gifts for the families next week. Please check in with your child to see how you can support them while they give back to their community.

The Village Voices this week outlined how charter schools give flexibility and small class size to students who thrive in a community-based environment. We have to pay for other costs that public schools do not. This severely limits our funding. This year is especially challenging because the school has grown in size and I needed to purchase books and lab equipment, etc. The Amish Quilt Raffle is one of many ways we are trying to raise money for necessary supplies. The raffle tickets are due on Wednesday the 13th of December. Please encourage your child to contact friends and family to buy a ticket to support their classroom.

Warmly  
Nancy Carter



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# Kinder News

December 5, 2011

Hello and I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and well as we head into winter and prepare for the coming months ahead! Our Village Charter School Solstice Celebration is coming near and the children are aware that the holidays are fast approaching. We've begun to talk about the season as a time to give back and to acknowledge all the blessings in our lives and on our earth.

## *I Am An Artist!*

We have finished our *Unit of Inquiry* exploring Water Systems and are slowly transitioning to our next Unit of Inquiry, *I Am an Artist*. Our Central Idea is....**People express themselves through a wide variety of art forms**. This Unit is an inquiry into how we express ourselves; an exploration of the ways in which we discover and express our nature, ideas, feelings, beliefs, and values through language and the arts. It is perfectly fitting for the holiday season and over the next six weeks we will wonder, inquire and learn about a variety of artists and art forms. This is inevitably a magical exploration for our Kindergartners as they innately love expressing themselves through different art mediums.

I would like to involve our parents as much as possible in this *Unit of Inquiry* and am always amazed and eager to find out about the talents of our parents and families. I've learned that among our own parents we have musicians, dancers, drummers, gardeners, authors, singers, photographers, visual artists, educators, apparel designers, seamstresses; the list goes on and on. So, please consider how you can contribute and what activity you might be open to doing with the children in class. Even a short story and a little conversation about the passion you have for an art form is fitting. As an example, Barbara (Kristopher's Grandma) will be coming in this week to make mosaic tiles with the children. She was a teacher herself for many years. We would love to have you share your passion or talent with our Kindergarten community!

## *I Love H<sub>2</sub>O*

The children loved exploring water, its composition, how we access water around the world and different attributes about water. As closure to our *Unit of Inquiry*, the children dictated to me what they learned and enjoyed most about this Unit of Inquiry. This was an incredibly valuable Unit and such a wonderful way to understand and realize how interconnected living things are and our responsibility with water. Here is what they had to say....

We made a water volcano. The hot water went up! ~ Bryson

I learned that you can't live without water. ~ Sara

We all need water and water is everywhere you are. ~ Josephine

A molecule of water is two hydrogens and one oxygen. ~ Holden

Plants need water to grow. It is inside of them. ~ Mahdi

The water cycle means that water can be a gas. ~ Asheriana

We need water to survive. ~ Adah

Rain is water as a liquid. ~ Kristopher

Water comes down from the sky as rain. ~ Nathan

I can help make water clean. ~ Annie

Things that float on water are buoyant. ~ Nuha

Water; it turns into ice, it condenses into clouds, it rains, and then evaporates again. ~ Avi

Water doesn't leave the earth, it comes back. ~ Jalen

People save water by using less. ~ Theo

Water is H<sub>2</sub>O. ~ Phelan

The water cycle is always there. ~ Alexis

## The Holidays and VCS's Winter Solstice Celebration

The Winter Holidays are fast approaching and the children are well aware that 'that time of year' is here again. I am making a point to study and celebrate many Winter Holidays in our classroom, primarily Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. We have already begun decorating our classroom and talking about these holidays and their meanings and their connection to our earth and societies. We read a beautiful book called *Babushka* about a woman who was an incredible perfectionist and on her journey to meet a new baby laying in a manger, ended up letting go of some of her idioms and giving back to those in need. It was a gorgeous look at Compassion, Caring, Flexibility and being a Risk Taker. It had elements of the Judeo-Christian view of Christmas without actually being a Christmas book. We will continue to enjoy stories, foods, histories and arts that are connected to these holidays. If you would like to come into the classroom and share a story, activity, food, etc. about how you celebrate at home, please let me know!

**I've asked each of the Kindergartners to contribute towards decorating for the Holidays by each bringing a special book, decoration, picture or tradition to our classroom. Please let me know if you need support with this!**

We now have a Yule tree and today made Boughs from the Redwood Branches that fell in our play yard this past week. I think they turned out beautiful and I hope they become a welcome addition to your winter and Holiday decor!

Our all school Winter Solstice Celebration ~ this year a Moon Festival ~ will be held on Wednesday, December 21, with the potluck beginning at 5 pm and the performance beginning at 6 pm. I will need some support that night with our children in preparation for our performance. We will be doing a special Moon song and poems and we will be dressing as the phases of the Moon. More information to come on that! If you can help make our costumes (probably just a stencil on a white shirt, please let me know ASAP.

### This and That and our Field Trip this Friday!

I am still seeking a parent to fix all three doors on our Wood Kitchen and am also seeking more wood food and utensils if anyone has them at home and can donate them. Also, we are in need of Black Sharpies, Lysol Wipes (not Clorox), Kleenex and Hand Soap.

**We have a field trip this Friday at 9:30 am to see Posada Navidena here at the Well's Fargo Center. This beautiful show includes dance, music, poetry and song from Navidad. This should be a wonderful show and will help us lead right into our unit on expressing oneself through art forms. It is a reenactment of the search for an Inn the night Christ was born.**

"Tis the season to celebrate the folkloric dance and music traditions of Mexico with a delightful performance for students of all ages and cultures. A rainbow of shimmering color on stage, Posada Navideña will charm your students with Mexico's unique holiday customs and traditions."

Thanks again for your continued support! Any questions, queries or ideas....let me know.

Warmly, Mrs. Buckles

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