



# WESTERN SIERRA CHARTER SCHOOLS

MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL CHARTER & GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL CHARTER  
*Personalized Learning Public Charter Schools*

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Fresno Resource Center

# NEWSLETTER

November 2019



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR IMPORTANT DATES

### NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1 • GHS Grad Night Deposit & Form Due  
• MHS PE Day: No On-site Enrichment Classes
- Nov. 7 • GHS Central California Food Bank 9:00am - 11:00am
- Nov. 8 • Attendance 3 Due (see bottom of page 1 for link)
- Nov. 11 • Veterans Day - No School
- Nov. 12 • WSCS Board Meeting 2:30pm Oakhurst Site
- Nov. 13 • No MHS Enrichment Classes; Math Classes Still in Session
- Nov. 14 • MHS/GHS Chaffee Zoo Field Trip
- Nov. 15 • GHS Leadership Field Trip to Reagan Library
- Nov. 18 & 20 • Last day of MHS Fall 2019 Enrichment Classes
- Nov. 26 • No GHS classes
- Nov. 27 - 29 • Office Closed: No Classes
- Nov. 30 • CSU and UC Applications Due

### DECEMBER

- Dec. 6 • MHS P.E. Day: No On-Site Enrichment Classes  
• Attendance 4 Due
- Dec. 9 & 11 • Kids Gifts Workshops  
• No MHS Enrichment Classes
- Dec. 11 • Catalina \$30 Deposit Due
- Dec. 12 • Last day of GHS (Cinnamon Roll) Fund-Raiser
- Dec. 13 • Orchard Park Seasonal Caroling
- Dec. 18 • GHS Parent Submitted Grades Due
- Dec. 19 - Jan. 3, 2020 • Winter Break: No School

### JANUARY 2020 BACK-TO-SCHOOL

- Jan. 6, 2020 • School Resumes  
• MHS Math Classes (Math 1,2 and 3) Resume
- Jan. 7, 2020 • GHS Classes & MHS 8th Grade Classes Resume
- Jan. 13, 2020 • MHS Enrichment Classes Resume



**“ Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world ”**

**Malala Yousafzai**

*(2014 Nobel Peace Prize Winner)*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### WSCS BOARD MEETING

November 12 at 2:30pm • Oakhurst Campus

The agenda will be posted by the front door. Also available [wscsfamily.org](http://wscsfamily.org)  
Teleconferencing available at Fresno Campus in Rm. 3

ATTENDANCE  
FORMS





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## FEATURED FAMILY

### *The Vlahavas Family*

Diane Vaccaro



Jamie Vlahavas began homeschooling last year when her oldest son, Micah, started Kindergarten. With two younger boys in tow, Micah and Jamie entered my office ready to start this great adventure. In our initial conversations, Jamie shared that she chose homeschooling because she saw curriculum choices as opportunities to shape her children's education. Another positive for their family was the freedom to teach faith and grace alongside traditional subjects.

Jamie will be the first to share that it hasn't always been picture-perfect having school at home. It's a lot to juggle teaching and parenting, meals and errands, but that grace she wants to teach her boys, she extends to herself as well.

Another benefit Jamie enjoys through our public charter that supports this kind of personalized learning, is the connection with other families.

*"We feel so lucky to be a part of the Mountain Home School community; we couldn't ask for more encouraging, supportive, and caring staff and teachers. We have enjoyed*

*connecting with other families during field trips and outings; we look forward to meeting many more families and sharing this journey together."*

#### **JAMIE'S ADVICE TO HOMESCHOOLING FAMILIES:**

*"Your time with your children won't ever be wasted. Keep pouring life into your homeschool, but be brave enough to settle for an "imperfect" homeschool. In the midst of feeling undervalued and understaffed, give yourself grace, and focus on what brings joy and life to your teaching."*

When you see Jamie and the boys at school or on a field trip, say hello, introduce yourself, and continue the beautiful tradition our school has of building community around the common value of parent-led education.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Operation Christmas Child GHS STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROJECT

*Note: This project is not a school sponsored project, but rather the work of individual student(s)*

Here is your chance to help a child in a developing country!

Donate items that will be shipped in shoeboxes to Central America, Africa, and other places around the world. Donations must be received in our school office by November 9th, 2019.

#### What is Needed

- Personal Items:** Tooth brushes, washcloths, bar soap, band-aid packs, lip balm (only stick), hand-crank flashlights, deodorant, nail clippers/files
- School Supplies:** Marker packs, pencils, pens, pencil sharpeners, erasers, notebooks, pencil pouches, scissors, gluesticks, small tape rolls
- Clothes/Accessories:** Children's shirts, pants, pillowcases, dresses, shoes, socks, wristwatches, hats, scarves, bows, hair bands
- Small Toys:** Yo-Yos, balls, puzzles, Lego sets (no weapons please), dolls, small stuffed animals, (no military toys or objects please)

*\*Shoe boxes are provided:*

*We are only requesting the items above*

Donation boxes are located in both buildings.  
For referral to student leader, contact Diane Vacarro at:  
[dvacarro@wscsfamily.org](mailto:dvacarro@wscsfamily.org)



### MHS P.E. Days

Our next P.E. days will be November 1st and December 6th! (no classes on-site).

In November, we will be working on team building activities using a variety of sports equipment.

In December, weather permitting, we will be teaching and playing soccer! All activities will be age-appropriate and aligned with typical development.

November and December P.E. Days will be held at Railroad Park (Peach/Alluvial in Clovis), from 9:30-11:30 a.m. PE Days may be canceled due to air quality or poor weather conditions. These decisions will be made by Thursday evenings. Please watch for Parent Square alerts. RSVP requested via Parent Square as well.

If you have not already filled out a release form, please do so, and turn into Mrs. Llanos (see box in West Building office).

High school helpers are still welcomed! Please contact Brook Llanos at [bllanos@wscsfamily.org](mailto:bllanos@wscsfamily.org) or Nancy Flynn at [nflynn@wscsfamily.org](mailto:nflynn@wscsfamily.org) or via Parent Square.

Hope to see you there!





## FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS



### Costa Rica Trip for 7th-12th Grades

April 4-10, 2020

**REMINDER:** I will be leading a group of Glacier High School and Mountain Home School (7th and 8th grade) students on a WorldStrides program to Costa Rica in April, 2020. This once-in-a-lifetime adventure, will provide students the opportunity to explore some of Costa Rica's twelve ecosystems, discover a rich culture and tradition and participate in an incomparable educational experience. This will be a trip that your child will be talking about for years to come!

#### Additional Benefits:

- High school students have the opportunity to earn up to three college credits
- Ziplining through the rainforest canopy filled with rare and exotic wildlife
- Hiking through a cloud forest and across hardened lava flows from an ancient volcano
- Riding the rapids of one of the cleanest rivers in Costa Rica

I have chosen to travel with WorldStrides because of their 50 years of exceptional service and safety record

that includes all precautions. I will chaperone the program with other teachers and throughout the program our group will be guided by a certified Course Leader 24 hours a day.

*Note: This not a school sponsored trip; school staff will not be attending as representatives or employees of the school*

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**COST:** Students \$2,819

Parents/Guardians \$3,242

(parents/guardians are not required to attend)

*Note: WorldStrides offers income-based scholarships and/or payment plan options so please don't let finances be an obstacle!)*

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I look forward to enjoying this amazing adventure with our students!

For more information, contact Grace Reeve at:  
[greeve@wscsfamily.org](mailto:greeve@wscsfamily.org)



## FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

*continued*



### Fresno Chaffee Zoo Trip November 14 • 10:00am

Please join us on November 14th for a day of fun and exploration at this local gem!

Enjoy time with school friends and take advantage of the zookeeper chats.

Meet at the Zoo's Main Entrance at 10:00 a.m.

**Cost:** \$3.00 Children  
\$6.00 Adults

Watch for more information on Parent Square following the October Break or contact Amanda Patterson at: [apatterson@wscsfamily.org](mailto:apatterson@wscsfamily.org) or on Mondays at 248-0471 ext. 216.



### Orchard Park Caroling December 13 2:00-3:00 pm Orchard Park

Come join us as we ring in the season with the senior residents at Orchard Park!

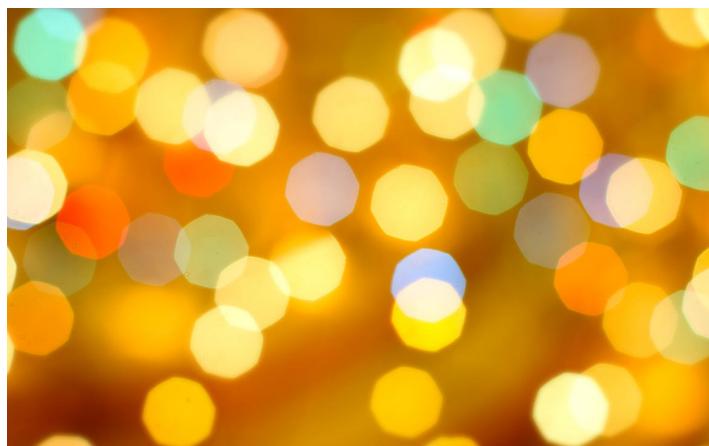
Students will also have an opportunity to pass out seasonal cards to residents.

Don't miss out on this exciting community outreach!

**When:** Friday, 12/13 from 2:00-3:00 pm  
**Where:** Orchard Park  
675 W Alluvial Ave  
Clovis, CA 93611  
(Cross Street: Willow)

Open to both MHS and GHS Families: Children must be accompanied by a parent.

Please contact Mrs. Hirata at [bhirata@wscsfamily.org](mailto:bhirata@wscsfamily.org) to RSVP by Dec. 11th.



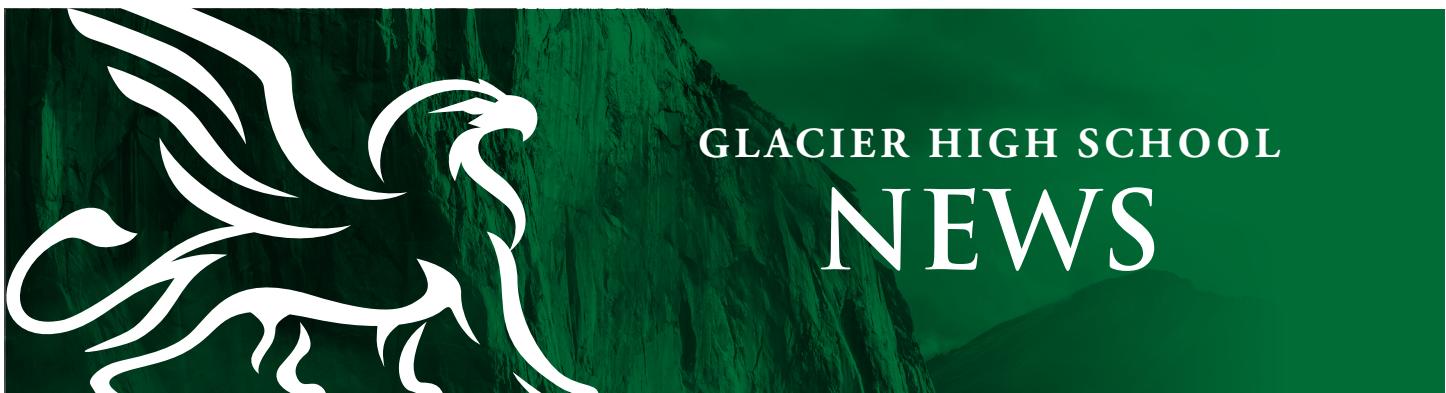
### STEAM FAIR January 22, 2020

### SAVE THE DATE!

We will be hosting our first Western Sierra Charter School **STEAM FAIR**

On January 22, 2020. Students will have an opportunity to share Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math projects. More details to follow in the December Newsletter!

Open to both MHS and GHS Students.



# GLACIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# POETRY OUT LOUD



**Poetry Outloud**  
**December 4th, 2019 • 2:30pm**  
**The Oakhurst Site, Module A**

Be a part of...

**POETRY OUT LOUD**   
at GlacierHigh School this year!

- Discover poetry in a new light
- Meet new people
- Compete with peers in a relaxing, enjoyable forum
- Top 2 or 3 Poets will go on to the Madera county competition in February (date TBA)

**When:** Wednesday, December 4th, 2019 at 2:30 p m  
**Where:** The Oakhurst Site, Module A

*Note: Coaching will be available at both the Fresno & Oakhurst sites in November (Dates TBA soon)*

To RSVP or for more information contact Mrs. Friesen at [kfriesen@wscsfamily.org](mailto:kfriesen@wscsfamily.org) or Ms. Broussard at [sbroussard@wscsfamily.org](mailto:sbroussard@wscsfamily.org) or on ParentSquare by November 4th, 2019



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

with  
Greg Hill

### Important dates/deadlines:

#### CSU/UC COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

California State University & University of California applications opened on October 1st! They are both due on November 30.

#### Apply online.

CSU: [www2.calstate.edu](http://www2.calstate.edu)

UC: [www.ucop.edu/pathways](http://www.ucop.edu/pathways)

Private University: Deadlines vary

#### Local Community College Applications

Seniors interested in attending one of our local community colleges should apply with priority registration through the "Registration To Go" Program:

SCCCD (Fresno City, Oakhurst Center, Madera Center, Clovis Community, Reedley College)

#### Local Community College "Registration To Go" steps

1. Application: October
2. Online Orientation: December
3. Counseling / Advising with Student Educational Plan: Feb/March
4. Registration for classes: April if above steps are completed

#### FAFSA AND MONEY MATTERS

All seniors planning on attending any college or a career technical school:

FAFSA application opens October 1st. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

#### Seniors: Grant Opportunity

EECU's 2020 Student Grant Program will open on October 1. The grant application will be posted on myEECU.org October 1.

Up to 50 \$2,000 grants will be awarded for the 2020-2021 academic year. The deadline to apply for a grant is December 6, 2019.

#### Seniors/Parents

Please email me at [gill@wscsfamily.org](mailto:ghill@wscsfamily.org) with a good time/date to meet to go over your student's Educational Plan and future after high school.



# MOUNTAIN HOME SCHOOL NEWS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



### The Mountain Home School Spelling Bee

#### SAVE THE DATE!

The Mountain Home School Spelling Bee  
February 28, 2020!

Sign up via ParentSquare or email Kathy Specht at [kspecht@wscsfamily.org](mailto:kspecht@wscsfamily.org).

Please include the name and grade level of your child.  
Official word lists will be distributed as soon as we receive them.

#### Spelling Bee Format/Procedure

- Students study grade level word lists at home
- Families meet at the Oakhurst MHS school site on Friday morning, February 28, 2020 (Exact Time TBA). \*Note: Families must provide transportation to and from the event.
- Students use whiteboards to spell words that are presented verbally by Bee Official. \*Note: Students do not present orally
- Students that place (more info to follow), move on to the District Spelling Bee (date TBA)

*Additional Note: Parents may watch students during the competition or wait in the lobby area.*

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Specht at [kspecht@wscsfamily.org](mailto:kspecht@wscsfamily.org) or Nancy Turner at [nturner@wscsfamily.org](mailto:nturner@wscsfamily.org)



### KIDS GIFTS WORKSHOPS December 9th & 11th, 2019 Kindergarten - Eighth Grade

Choose one day and one time slot  
Sign up with your advising teacher!

**Monday,  
December 9th, 2019**

9:00am - 11:00am  
or  
1:00pm - 3:00pm

**Wednesday,  
December 11th, 2019**

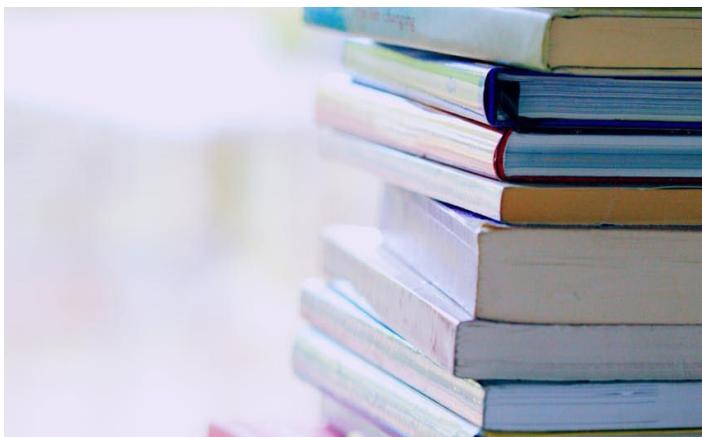
9:00am - 11:00am  
or  
1:00pm - 3:00pm



# TIP OF THE MONTH

## Introduce Students to a Wide Variety of Literature

*Sandra Hammond*



Most of our students report that they prefer a specific type of book over others in our initial conversations with families. This is a good starting place when developing an individualized Language Arts curriculum. There is ample research to describe that nothing matters more than encouraging what the author of "The Power of Reading", Steven Krashen calls Free and Voluntary Reading (FVR). Textbooks designed to provide practice are useful, but cannot compare with the experience of seeing words in context; and especially in a book a child is enjoying. This theory is based on landmark studies related to the Constructivist Approach (Vygotsky). However, our hope is that in developing a value for one genre of literature, another will be added; and then another.

### TRANSITIONS

If we have students that we find lounging on the same yellow bean bag, in the same corner, with the same encyclopedic volume of "Medieval Armor" week after week, we might assign the reading of "Redwall". This is the story of a medieval mouse warrior (fantasy, in case you were wondering), that is beautifully crafted by Brian Jacques. By the same token, if our 12-year-old is a huge fan of Harry Potter and recycles each book in the series

year after year, we might assign a research project that includes not only an investigation of J.K. Rowling's writing life, but also the reading of three other biographies.

### BUILDING SHELVES

Donalyn Miller, author of "The Book Whisperer", describes that she requires her 5th graders to read 42 novels a year (Eek! We might begin with 22!) from a multitude of options that she provides. This includes more than a few from each genre of literature. Because there is an excitement about books that is contagious, the results are astounding.

Alice Ozma, author of "The Reading Promise", recounts a wonderful journey through books with her librarian father (this lovely story is also full of great book recommendations for children). These are just a few books about the joy of reading and the connections that are created through the process. You can find more books about books and people whose lives are dedicated to sharing a wide variety of literature sprinkled and scattered throughout the first few you choose. The references are endless. There is no arguing that through a wide variety of literature, we make connections to historical events, places, people from diverse cultures, science and art.

### START TODAY

It is never too late to begin a new quest with literature. Start by creating a chart using a simple list of the 10 most common genres for students: Mystery, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Biography and Autobiography, Historical Fiction, Traditional Literature, Informational Text and last but not least, Poetry. Create bookmarks for each and go on a scavenger hunt at the library! Model moving out of what might have become a comfort zone in your own world of reading and try a new genre! One book, one pen, one teacher or parent, one child...one choice might make all the difference.

# STAFF DIRECTORY

*Fresno Resource Center*

777 Shaw Ave • Fresno, CA 93704

**Phone** 559-248-0471   **Fax** 559-248-0482

NAME	EXTENSION	PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT
Eric Hagen	203	Fresno Principal/Tech Admin
Nancy Garcia	202	Co-Principal Fresno
Marianne Lord	200	WSCS Admin Secretary
Rosanna Carrasco	222	WSCS Receptionist
Amanda Patterson	216	Mountain Home Teacher
Brandon Mallard	229	Adjunct Teacher - MHS and GHS
Brook Hirata	204	Mountain Home Teacher
Christine Neptune	210	Mountain Home Teacher/Special Ed
Diane Vaccaro	206	Mountain Home and GHS Leadership
Grace Reeve	201	Glacier High Teacher and MHS Science
Greg Hill	220	Guidance Counselor
Irina Buca	205	Glacier High Teacher
Kathy Specht	225	Mountain Home Teacher
Margaret Den Hartog	207	Mountain Home Teacher
Nancy Flynn	228	Math Adjunct Teacher/Tutor
Nancy Turner	217	Mountain Home Teacher
Phil Blas	218	CTE Teacher/IT Coordinator
Sandra Hammond	215	Mountain Home Teacher
Sonny Yang	208	Glacier High Teacher
Stacey Broussard	224	Glacier High Teacher
Stephanie Ganzenhuber	209	Mountain Home Teacher
Susan Huey	226	Mountain Home Teacher
Michael Cox	(559) 642-1422 ext. 102	WSCS Director
Jody Jeffers	(559) 642-1422 ext. 117	Chief Business Officer
Cheryl Wilhite	(559) 642-1422 ext 100	Administrative Secretary
Machelle Arrington	(559) 642-1422 ext 120	Special Ed Administrator
Sarah Zimmer	(559) 642-1422 ext 123	Speech

Email addresses for all staff are: first initial and last name @wscsfamily.org (no spaces)

## SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs. Gaviria - Spanish • Mrs. Llanos - K Teacher • Mr. Mena - Music

Ms. Kelly Lord - Office and TA • Mr. McGough - Integrated Drawing/Art • Bee Lor- Custodian