January 2023

The Vision Voice

VCA VISION CHARTER ACADEMY

Powderhorn Ski Trip Excursion

The sign-up and information for the Powderhorn Ski Excursion is now available on the Schoology Announcements Page.

Activities Area

The Vision Voice has a new Activities Area section! To learn more about it please check pg. 12.

MLK Day Campus Closed

On MLK Day, January 16th, the entire VCA campus will be closed.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 5th: First Day of Second Semester
Jan. 16th: MLK Day (Campus Closed)
Jan. 18th: 4-H (Exploration)
Jan. 20th: TCR Campus Tour (pg. 8)
Jan. 25th: Breakout Box (Exploration)
Jan. 27th: Delta County Museum (Field Trip)

Explorations & Field Trips are for Full Time K-8 Learners

A WORD FROM CARYN

By: Caryn Braddy

"If you must doubt something, doubt your limits" Price Pritchett

A new year and a new semester offers endless possibilities. I want to start this new calendar year by offering encouragement to believe in what you are doing, what you can achieve and allow mistakes and challenges along the way to help you grow and reach beyond your goals instead of limiting your possibilities.

Twenty years ago, I would have never thought that our school could inspire change at the state level. We were simply trying to build a local school that focuses on individualized learning that serves and supports the learners, parents and staff in their educational goals. Now we are an integral voice for the possibility of change at the state level as the Individualized Learning School Model legislation gets prepared for introduction at the Colorado House of Representatives in January. There are those who have their doubts on whether or not this bill will succeed; however, we have over 300 learners who show that this model is valid and promotes a thriving, engaged educational environment for learners, parents and staff. We are the proof of this model. Regardless of the success of passing this legislation, we will continue to challenge the limits placed within this system ensuring our efforts are centered around the possibilities for our learners.

We have also had some limitations regarding our Resource Center based on required changes needed to receive an Education Occupancy rating - which allows us to hold classes in our building. We have been diligently working to secure financing in order to begin construction that will allow us to fully utilize our Resource Center and increase the in person opportunities for our learners next year. We will keep you posted on our progress with this long term goal.

Choose to see the possibilities and not the limits. Build essential skills within your learner and yourself as you walk this educational journey together. When things get hard, doubt your limits and keep going. That is when the best learning and success is possible.

Message from the Board of Stewards

Greetings from the Board

As we welcome the new year the Board of Stewards would like to welcome you to join us in supporting VCA.

The board has worked with leadership and committees over the last two years to make sure resources for learners are efficient, effective, and well funded. Our number one resource we can offer to all is VCA's staff. A board goal for the last two years: retention and recruitment has been and will continue to lead our work.

The board is aware the cost of living has increased and focused on compensation in last year's budget. Currently we are facing declining enrollment along with our district, and state. Leadership, committees, and the board tasked ourselves with expanding revenue and increasing enrollment. Plans are to stay on our current path with resources, compensation, and relationships. Allowing the individualized education we all value.

We are currently waiting on the loan process to start the conversion of the building next door to our resource building. With this expansion we will be under one roof, finally. This space will allow our classes, explorations, resources, and all staff to be in one place expanding our ability to provide more to more families.

Here's how you can help. In this new year we will officially start fundraising for our new building. Can you donate, do you know people that can? Do you have experience in fundraising ? Have you been to cool fundraisers? Are you a grant writer? If you answer yes to any of those questions then reach out and let us know.

Together we can make this happen.
Leann Jiron
Chair. Board of Stewards VCA

Attendance Notification

Hello VCA Families,

In an attempt to improve communication regarding Learner absences VCA will be implementing a new alert system. You will now receive an automated alert to your phone and email when your Learner is absent from class, has missing assignments, gets behind in the course targets or does not submit weekly work samples. Our hope is that this new automated system will be a more timely notification to you when Learner absences are marked.

For campus classes and Hybrid classes: Absences due to illness will be marked as an UNEXCUSED absence triggering this alert unless you contact the HQC/teacher(s) before the class begins. This parent and HQC/teacher discussion will not only allow you to form a plan for making up the work, but it will enable the HQC/teacher to mark this absence as EXCUSED so that the alert will not be activated.

For in-home courses: Please note that absences will be marked when your Learner gets behind in the posted weekly targets within Schoology, however, absences will not be marked if there is an arrangement in place between you and your HQC for your Learner to get caught up. Absences will also be marked when the weekly work samples are not submitted to your HQC in a timely manner.

Vacations: Please contact your HQC(s) before leaving on vacation to form the plan to make up the targeted work. These planned absences will not be marked if this communication with your HQC occurs before your planned vacation dates.

Unfortunately we are unable to configure the alert to identify the name of the class that the absences are submitted for. If you receive one of these automated alerts for your K8 Learner please promptly contact your K8 HQC. If you receive one of these alerts for your high school Learner, please communicate with your Learner as to which class the absence is for and promptly contact that HQC/teacher.

Here is the link to our attendance procedure chart.

The importance of the communication with your HQC can not be overstated. We want to maintain as much flexibility for our families while also keeping parents informed in a timely manner. We ask for your patience as we implement this new system.

By: Tammy Nelson

Notes From Registrar

Fall Semester Grades

All grades for fall semester may be viewed in Schoology. We will post a video with instructions for accessing your learners' grades. Grades may also be viewed in PowerSchool through the parent or learner portal. If you do not already have a parent account set up in PowerSchool and would like to have one please send an email to registrar@visioncharteracademy.org and we will provide you with the information you need to get your account set up. If you need an official report card (K - 8th grade) or transcript (high school) please fill out the Transcript Request Form on the VCA website or click here.

Proof of Residency

We are requiring a proof of residency for ALL learners this year. If you have not submitted this documentation for your learner yet, please scan, email, mail, or drop it off as soon as possible. We will be sending out notifications in the coming weeks to anyone who has not submitted this necessary documentation.

By: Angela Valentine

Essential Math Skills

VCA is excited to add a new tool to our resources for assessing essential math skills for our younger learners. Our K-8 HQCs recently began training in the administration of Acadience Math assessments. Like the Acadience Reading, these assessments are made up of several brief assessments and a couple of longer ones. The skills assessed include number recognition, counting, number comparison, and computation.

Over the next few weeks the HQCs will complete their training and begin giving the assessments during regularly scheduled family meetings. Our goal is to complete the assessments with every K-2 learner by the end of February so we can identify areas where we may need to provide additional support. If you have questions or would like more information, please talk to your HQC.

By: Angela Valentine

Middle of the Year Testing

VCA completed two middle of the year assessments in December. All K - 5th grade learners took the Acadience Reading assessment. The 3rd - 11th grade learners completed the Galileo ELA and Math assessments. Staff are busy reviewing individual assessment data to identify skills mastered and areas where reteach or intervention are needed. You can expect your HQC, teachers, or the academic specialist to discuss the results of the assessments with you in upcoming family meetings. We will also be analyzing the data on a school level and will share some of the highlights with you in next month's newsletter.

Thank you to all our families and staff for making sure all of our learners completed the assessments so we have the data available to help provide the academic support our learners need to be successful in mastering skills.

By: Angela Valentine

Parade of Lights

Vision was fortunate to participate in Delta's annual Parade of Lights, which both staff and families thoroughly enjoyed. This year's theme was Christmas Candy so we created a Peppermint Wonderland by adorning our float with Giant Candy Canes and Peppermints that learners created themselves; see the previous edition for more information on that. A special thanks to Shannon White for being the float captain and the Hardin family for donating the trailer.

VCA Staff and Families assembling the Parade of Lights float.

By: Christian Alires-Gallegos

Read-a-thon Final Update

Most Read:
Cassidy Bellew
(2791 minutes)
Most Money Raised:
Nathan Conant
($285)

READERS:
Madalyn Gray
Klint Gray
Nathan Conant
Kyprien Kennedy
Alejandra Simmons
Annalise Brown
Barnabas Simmons
Elizabeth Clagett
Sonya Kennedy
Kimari Stevens
Zane Pulver
Bryce Pulver
Rylee Branham
Bradley Pfleuger
Samantha White
Colby Johnson
Adelaide Branham
Cheslee Waugh
Adelynn Waugh
Charles Wright
Penelope Waugh
Augustus Withouse
Goku Riewe
Tristan Vincent
Anden Wynne
Tyler Koch
Theodore Keener
Eris Condon
Micah Wesonga
Jaycion Wagner
Adeliah Wagner
Winston Stutzman
Kuiper Wolfe
Aspen Wolfe
Janeth Corral
Grace Nydell
June Pulver
Cassidy Bellew
Hunter Pulver
Wylie Gray

After waiting for the final update from the servers that crashed, the VCA Read-a-thon has finally come to an end. Unfortunately, the Read-a-thon team was unable to recover all of the lost data, so we do not know the exact number of minutes or donations that each participant raised. There are, however, two pieces of good news for everyone involved. One is that VCA will receive all donations because they were the only ones saved from the servers, so everyone who donated can breathe a sigh of relief. Second, I, like to keep records, so I took the liberty of tracking everyone who participated and the rewards they will receive before the servers crashed. All of the learners who participated in the Read-a-thon are listed on the side, with Cassidy Bellew reading the most minutes (2791) and Nathan Conant raising the most donations ($285). Everyone who participated will be notified via email when their prizes are ready to be distributed at the RC Front Desk. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Overall, we as a school raised $1275, which will be going to funding for our clubs.

By: Christian Alires-Gallegos

FFT Update

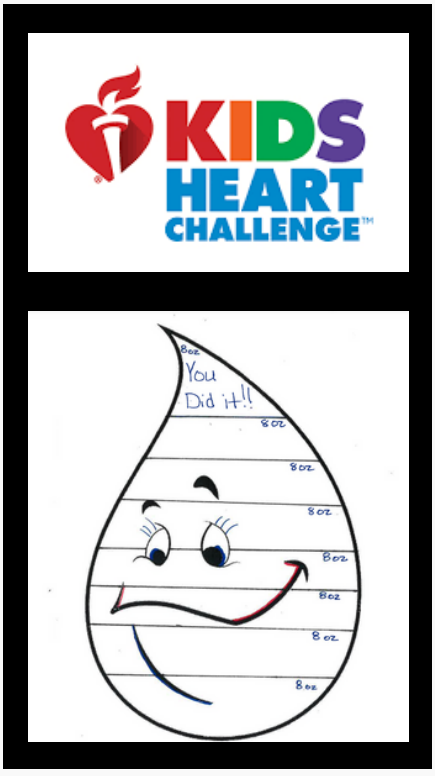
Food for Thought is ready for the New Year, and while we have some goals we hope to achieve, we'd like to reflect on the work we did last year. First and foremost, our application to collaborate with the Food Bank of the Rockies has been completed and is ready to be presented to our Board of Stewards. After it has been reviewed, it will be sent to our contact at FBR, where we hope to be approved to receive food donations. This will help our program grow, allowing us to continue assisting families in the most effective way possible. Stay tuned for an update on our application process in next month's issue.

The program looked very different this time last year than it does now due to all the hard work we put into it. We had many complaints about the bags prior to our changes, and with only two people regularly handling bagging/distribution responsibilities, the model we were using was inefficient. Food for Thought is now running like a fine-tuned assembly line, with more volunteers, a better distribution method, and little to no complaints. We hope to expand further as we work to eliminate childhood hunger in our community.

Food for Thought has a new email address so if you have any questions please feel free to email **fft@visioncharteracademy.org**.

By: Christian Alires-Gallegos

Kids Heart Challenge



VCA has partnered with Kids Heart Challenge to help our learners live a healthier lifestyle in the New Year. We are holding a Water Drinking Challenge, and anyone who participates will receive a VCA water bottle. Each water bottle contains a picture of a water drop on it. After coloring the drop once the learner drinks 56 oz of water, they can return it to the RC front desk and receive a sticker to decorate their bottle. At this point, learners can grab another sheet and repeat the process. Each filled out picture will be hung in the RC to see how much water was drank over time. If you wish to participate, please speak with your HCQ and go to the RC Front Desk/Library/Learning Center to obtain your bottle. Everyone who enters is eligible to win the Grand Prize. **Challenge ends the first week of March.**

By: Christian Alires-Gallegos

High School Happenings

News you can use for all High School Learner 2022-2023

Hello 2023!

You are climbing the Summit towards Graduation and getting closer to the Peak. All Juniors are required to take the ICAP Junior Summit Class 2nd semester Virtually Each Friday at 10:00am Via Google Classroom starting Jan. 13 to May 19, 2023
At VCA we are always striving to meet the needs of all Learners on their individual pathways toward Graduation and your future goals.
The Summit Class will offer resources to help you prepare for Senior Year and Graduation and is your required ICAP credit for the year.
Questions, contact Darci Hellman, **dhellman@visioncharteracademy.org**

TCR TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES
Where Careers Begin

CAMPUS TOUR JAN. 20, 2023 @ 1:00pm
Learn more about earning Industry Trade Certifications at the Technical College of the Rockies by signing up for our campus tour on January 20, 2023 at 1:00pm.
TCR Tour Sign Up
Sign up today! Meet in the TCR Lobby at 12:45pm.

More information about Technical schools and programs can be found in the High School Happenings Newsletter.

Prepare for the SAT: Practice for the SAT—Students complete a Diagnostic Quiz or Timed Mini-Section on Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy®.
PSAT9, PSAT10, SAT Tests for ALL 9th, 10th and 11th Grade Learners will be on **April 12, 2023.** Plan Test Prep time into your weekly schedule, which can also count for ICAP hours. SAT Test Prep Class will be offered in the second semester. More details to come.

By: Darci Hellman

Colorado Kids Create

Calling all young artists grades K-12. Woo-Hoo!! Yippee!! Win Big in 2023 and celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the annual, state-wide, Colorado Kids Create Inc. drawing contest!!
Learners have the opportunity to become a published illustrator! Remember to carefully follow the instructions found in the Contest Details. Be proud that YOU are doing your part to see Art education flourish in the beautiful state of Colorado.

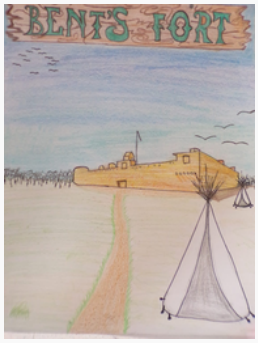
Vision Charter Academy learners have been entering and getting published for the last 4 years; including a grand prize winner and cover of a book! I would like to invite all our learners to join with my HS art class to make this the biggest VCA submission to CKC to date! I am available to answer any questions you may have as well as to artistically consult on learner artwork. Please reach out to me via email and I'll be happy to assist you.

Christy Hill
VCA Art Instructor
chill@visioncharteracademy.org

Contest Details
Be inspired by Colorado's rich, Western heritage. Read the 2023 contest stories here!

Contest requirements:
1. All children must be residents of Colorado.
2. Children must be between the ages of 5-18 years old.
3. Artwork must be horizontal (landscape).
4. Artwork must be done with markers or paint. We like bright and colorful images!
5. Artwork must be scanned and electronically submitted through our submission form. Please scan and upload at the highest possible resolution. DO NOT SEND PHOTOS OF ARTWORK. ARTWORK MUST BE SCANNED AND SENT AS PNG OR JPEG. (Submit pictures to Christy Hill at VCA but turning them in at the front desk and she will upload and submit them to CKC for you)
6. Teachers must sign an electronic permission form for entry to be valid.
7. Deadline – March 1st, 2023
8. There will be a grand prize winner, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place winner for elementary, middle, and high school entries. Awards will be sent through the mail to the participant's Art Teacher.
9. Winning artwork and honorable mentions will be posted on this website on April 3rd, 2023.
10. Mail in option: send to Colorado Kids Create 852 Welch Ave Berthoud Colorado 80513 along with signed permission form.

Some of Our Past Submissions



By: Christy Hill

January Exploration and Field Trips

January 18th: 4-H Exploration @2pm	• 4-H will be visiting VCA to inform learners about all of the available services and programs.
January 25th: Breakout Box Exploration @2pm	• Some people believe that all fairy tales are as sweet as gumdrops, but can you solve this difficult puzzle before time runs out?
January 27th: Delta County Museum Field Trip @TBD	• There was a high demand from learners for a field trip near campus, so we planned a visit to the local museum to learn more about our community's history. **VCA pays for the learners.**

By: Christian Alires-Gallegos

Do you have an Exploration Idea?

Do you have a particular interest or ideas for our future explorations? Please use the link provided below to share any exploration ideas you may have. If you lead an exploration, you will receive a stipend of up to $50, and VCA will cover the costs of any materials you may require or reimburse you if you supplied the supplies. If you want to lead an exploration, you must first fill out a volunteer form. Please contact **cgallegos@visioncharteracademy.org** if you have any questions.

We can't wait to see what you come up with!

Explorations Form
Volunteer Form

By: Christian Alires-Gallegos

December Explorations

With Galileo and Acadience Testing taking place in December, we were unable to hold our usual type of explorations, instead opting for a quick event where learners could take a break from their long days of testing. While these were brief, students enjoyed decorating their own cookies and Christmas ornaments.

Learner Whiskey Bowers and his mother Julia decorating cookies at the exploration.

By: Christian Alires-Gallegos

Eureka Science Museum Field Trip

VCA went on a field trip to the Eureka Science Museum on December 2nd, and everyone who went had a great time. Our most popular field trip of the semester allowed students to delve deep into the world of science. They had everything from electromagnet to topography and zoology as students got to see many cool animals, some of which you might not see every day or at least hope you don't! The Space Shuttle Simulator was not operational, but this gives VCA something to look forward to on our next field trip.

Learners and their families enjoying all the fun exhibits that Eureka had to offer. VCA had 51 participants making this our biggest field trip of the year.

By: Christian Alires-Gallegos

Activities Area- January Edition

2		7	1		9	3		4
		8		4	7	9		5
		9	3	6			8	7
	9	5				4	7	2
7	4		9	2	8	5	3	
		2	7	5	4			8
	2				6			
				3		7	4	
5	7				1	6		3

Name:_____

There is now an interactive section in the Vision Voice newsletter! Solve both the Sudoku and the Word Search and you could win a cool prize. If you submit all of your Activities Area pages from the semester, you may be eligible for the Grand Prize.This section was made for learners to complete, but it is encouraged for family members to help. Please submit your completed pages to our Engagement Coordinator who is located at the Resource Center's Front Desk.

D I F D B R N B B H S X I Q L U D Z G J
B O I P G E C T Q U R Z I P P W M E W X
Q S E M U L H Y X E E T R D J C G J V T
C F G S H U O Z T O N U V E K T D C J T
I J G E Q L U R D C R U C Z E G R P P K
J I B C Y A T Z D W A W V I X D M T U R
C T D R U G H I U D E N U L P B A L U U
O V A U D D B Q I K L B X A L Z G J M S
J L E O T O O Z X Z A T K U O J J V P W
W L I S V I C F G H O T A D R K J G S Q
B E F E T M U N O M G G Y I A R U F F F
Y Q U R V X W S I V U U M V T F P Z Z V
R Y X D T Q B C O I B C I I I K K G W V
N C G N V V I H I S V Y O D O H E I E G
B O N D A H I O T I S D K N N B I B W M
U O F Q N Q B O Z O Y B U I O V L K Y T
P C E D B Y W L R N A X G W Z Q I T B U
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Individualized
Exploration
Schoology
Resources
Learners
Vanguard
Vision

Spotlight Zone - Staff

Christian handing out goodies at the Trick or Treat on Main Street Event.

Christian Alires-Gallegos

Christian has been with VCA for nearly a year as he has filled the role of Engagement Coordinator. Growing up in Delta and having graduated from Delta High School as a First Generation High School Graduate in 2015, Christian attended the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. It was there he discovered his passion for working with communities and children. Since Christian always wanted to travel the world, he applied and was accepted to the Peace Corps in April 2020 to serve as a Youth Facilitator in Peru. Unfortunately, we all know what happened in 2020, so the Peace Corps returned everyone to the States, which led to his return to Delta.

There aren't many topics that Christian doesn't enjoy discussing. It can be about anything, including movies, television shows, books, music, and sports. You name it, and he'll find something to talk about. If you ever want to stop by and say hello, you'll most likely see him when you enter the front door of the Resource Center.

If you believe there is someone who deserves to be recognized in our Spotlight Zone please email cgallegos@visioncharteracademy.org with a small paragraph and a photo of that person.

Kudos Korner

For the Month of December We have the Following Staff Highlighted for Kudos!

Stephanie Barnnet: By Kim Signs, Vanessa Ryser

- Stephanie is always fantastic when it comes to assisting her students, going above and beyond for them.
- Bringing in her learners for in-person presentations and engaging them. The students gave fantastic presentations, and many brought food, snacks, and posters. Stephanie's feedback for the students was fantastic.

Shawn Joyce: By Marketing Committee

- Shawn, thank you for your time and effort in preparing the presentation for the Marketing Committee. The marketing segmentation information and data about our school, website, and social media were extremely beneficial.

VCA Staff: By Marylee Hauze

- I'd like to thank everyone at VCA, including the faculty and students. I've been made to feel so welcome!

Nicole Peterson: By Kim Signs

- Nicole worked tirelessly to ensure that Talview was operational and ready for learners to use with Galileo. She is concerned that learners have a choice in testing and has worked to ensure that this occurs. Nicole, thank you!

Wellness Committee: By Darci Hellman

- Thank you for providing meaningful wellness events for the staff. Your efforts to look after us all are greatly appreciated!

Want to earn a shot at winning a $5 gift card of your own? Send kudos when you catch staff going above and beyond to: **hrdocuments@visioncharteracademy.org**

YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU DON'T PARTICIPATE!