



This issue of the newsletter features some of our graduates.

Reflections on the Real World

By Rose Hardesty



Rose graduated from Diablo Valley School in 2011.

It took me a long time to be on board with the Sudbury philosophy. I loved going to school at DVS--inevitable conflicts and boredom spells aside--but for a long time I was not sure I was learning enough or being prepared for the "real world." Over the years, many well-intentioned friends and relatives jumped in to support these doubts.

Despite enrolling at age eight, I don't think I really began to believe this type of education could sufficiently prepare me for adult life until around age 15. At that point, the benefits I saw within myself were undeniable. I had rediscovered my love of learning outside of external validation. My confidence, self-awareness, empathy, communication, and conflict-resolution skills had all improved dramatically. Given this success, I decided to read some of the Sudbury books, research child development and the psychology of learning, and dig into the history

of why the modern conventional method of schooling developed.

The more I learned, the more passionate I became about promoting DVS. As an active member of the Admissions Committee and PR Committee, I sat on family interviews, open house panels, and school booths at KidFest and the Makers' Faire. It could be a lot of work but was always rewarding. I started to realize that this was the kind of work I was interested in doing for the rest of my life. Not working at a Sudbury school, mind you, but I realized I wanted a job that was mission-driven and meaningful.

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to be a passionate
life-long learner.*

Being involved in running a school since I was eight years old had given me a lot of insight into how non-profits worked and was invaluable as I began exploring this sector. My DVS education had given me experience with project proposals, budgets, taking meeting minutes, using Microsoft Suite, creating fundraising materials, event planning, and more.

As a teen I also took several classes at the local community college, interned at a local play-based preschool, and got my first

paying job as a part-time office assistant. As graduation approached and it came time to choose the next step, full-time work made more sense than full-time school. I did not want to go into debt and was not sure yet if my life goals required a college degree.

I graduated DVS in 2011 and entered the "real world." Over the next few years I worked in some administrative and childcare positions. In my free time, I did volunteer work to build resume experience and further causes I cared about such as environmental protection, anti-poverty work, and restorative outreach for incarcerated teens.

As the passionate life-long learner DVS had freed me to be, I also spent a lot of time reading about everything from neurosexism to permaculture. I joked that my institution of higher education was the public library.

DVS had also taught me the value of having friends of all ages, and the importance of hanging out. Creating community remained deeply important to me as an adult, whether that meant hosting movie marathon watching parties or organizing carpool to cheer friends on at performances and art openings.

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Of course, living in the Bay Area makes financially supporting oneself an elusive target. I needed my paying jobs to make ends meet, but they often did not match up with my goals and values. In order to increase my qualifications and opportunities for paid non-profit work, I started researching affordable higher education options that might provide them.

In 2014, I was admitted to Antioch College and awarded a full-tuition scholarship. Antioch is a small, alternative liberal arts college. The college has a long and complicated history, but one tidbit of interest is their role in founding the Antioch School, one of the oldest democratic schools in the United States. What attracted me to apply was the small community feel, the social justice driven mission, and the opportunities for hands on

work and volunteer experiences as part of the standard curriculum.

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During orientation, I applied for and received a Miller Fellowship-- which meant an actual paid position at a local environmental non-profit. My duties included grant writing, strategic planning, assisting with events and outreach, and developing programming for preschool, K-12, and university students.

In my third year at Antioch, I completed a paid internship at a citizen science program that works with students and community members of all ages to monitor the health of the Rio Grande

watershed. I had retained a lot of the child development and learning psychology research that had been so important to my own acceptance of the Sudbury model. This was very useful to explain or defend professional decisions which stood out to parents and educators, but basically boiled down to treating children with trust and respect.

I graduated Antioch last spring magna cum laude and debt-free, with four years of paid non-profit experience under my belt and several new marketable skills.

It may come as a shock, but I now work at...a Sudbury school! Last fall I started staffing at Clearview Sudbury School in Austin, Texas. I am excited to be able to support a new generation on their journey through this model.

Maintaining a School

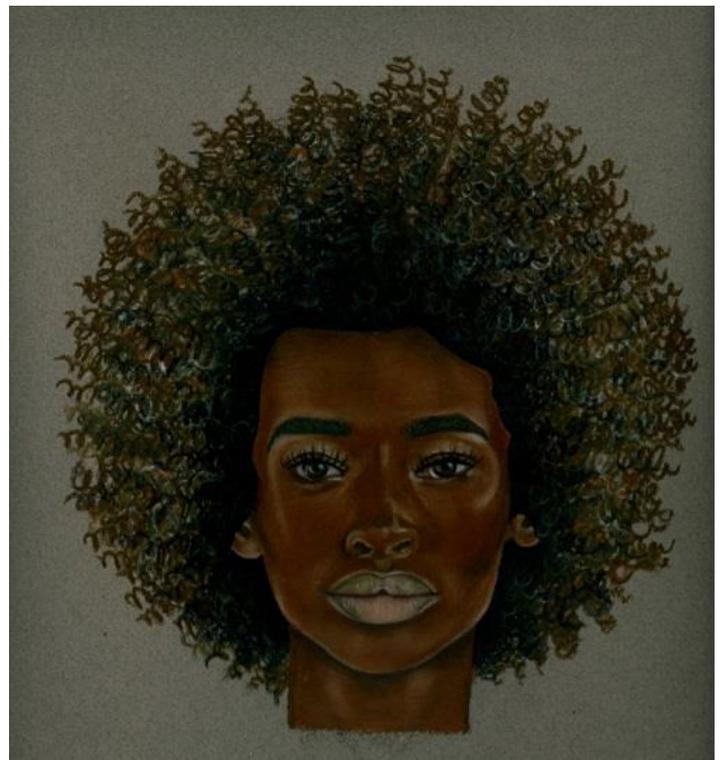
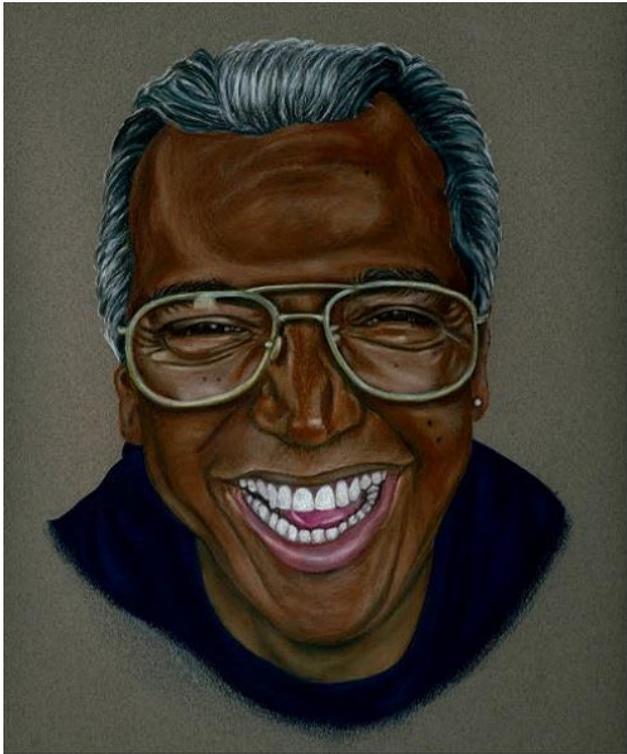


Alumnae Anna Kate Moore (left), Joanna Hardesty (center), and Adriana Noe (right) took time out of their busy summers to help with projects to spruce up the school.

All three graduates are currently pursuing college studies. Adriana and Anna Kate are enrolled in Great Books liberal arts programs, while Joanna is delving into her interest in astrophysics.

“There were chores at DVS, but I certainly had no interest in cleaning when I attended,” mused Adriana. “Now I’m able to appreciate how much work goes into maintaining a school. I’m grateful for what DVS gave me, and I want to give something back.”

Art by Camilla Gomes
DVS Graduate 2018



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WISH LIST

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Thread spool holder
Electric pencil sharpener
Shimmery & glittery paints
Good erasers
Oil paints

Kitchen

Americraft round cake pan

Music

Piano bench

Electronics

High-quality headphones

DIABLO VALLEY SCHOOL
2924 Clayton Road
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Visit our school at an
Open House

January 26

March 2

April 6

11am – 2pm
