

## Rolling with the times

by Vicente López

"Life is what happens to you when you're busy making other plans" John Lennon

It's a cute quote. I believe life is heavily a result of our plans and our capacity to make them happen. The other part is knowing how to deal when things do not go according to plan. Those are two of many skills students pick up at DVS.

This piece is my insight as I deal with the unplanned: putting together this newsletter. We got carried away with other school tasks and did not submit articles and pictures in time for our regular awesome editor to put it together over the weekend. I jump into it sorting through information figuring out what to choose. After six years of working here, I'm still refreshed by the sheer volume of intellectually fulfilling activities that are constantly taking place. But not only here. As I look through other Sudbury model school blogs I see it reflected in articles written by students, staff and parents about what the school means to them. For time and space conservation, I settle for cutting and pasting something from the SVS facebook page. They also post some great articles, you should check them out. The post and some following comments:

### **You know you're a Sudbury <student/parent/staff member> when**

- The soles of your children's feet are black from the spring thaw until the first snowfall.
- When you tell people you've been certified to use certain equipment.
- Your kids are very sad when the school year ends and are not afraid to tell this well-meaning grown-ups who say things like, "Are you so excited for school to be out?" Um, no, no I'm not.
- You love school!
- You are willing to be in a car for hours each day just to get to school and back.
- YOU enjoy the fact there is no homework as much as your kids...
- They try to "fake well" so they don't miss school when sick.
- Your wife wants to move to Framingham!
- You do not accept authority as a premise



*What better place to understand achieving victory despite interrupted plans than the Settlers board?*

- Something about you "knows," even before you know you know, that that person you met three days ago also went to SVS.
- When 40 something years later you still talk to the friends you went to school with and consider them family
- Work doesn't feel like work, but rather an opportunity to spend your days with friends and family.
- Your child is just so happy living this life and can't wait for tomorrow to come.
- The hardest part of your day is trying to get your kids to LEAVE school at the end of the day.

And two more articles worth reading :

- [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/catherine-gobron/alternative-schooling\\_b\\_3756253.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/catherine-gobron/alternative-schooling_b_3756253.html)
- [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-nelson/the-world-needs-uncommon-children\\_b\\_3931076.html?ir=Education](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-nelson/the-world-needs-uncommon-children_b_3931076.html?ir=Education)



*Beautifying the empty cup to be filled with rules, meeting minutes, JC reports, pets and music information; forging the structure of our cutting edge school.*

## Play on!

by Vicente López

Random students asked me a mathematical question. In an role playing game (RPG) they are making, they wanted a power with certain characteristics. My asking story details would have been irrelevant and a whole other conversation. They had the algorithm in mind quiet clear. They wanted an answer to a pattern that I vaguely remember as a geometric series that could be solved by limits.

I asked parents I knew to be mathematically prepared passing by if they remembered their calculus and yea, to keep it short, good thing for the internet. We sat and in a period of 5 to 10 minutes found the answer to the question by just typing in the repeating expression with an "..." at the end. Their search engine knowledge was instrumental and my math knowledge was more of a small assistance. They verified by adding some very long decimals, by hand and calculator, were satisfied with the connection and moved on. I had a surge to dive in and refresh the knowledge that came rushing at the sight of the sigma sign, but I moved on as well. There was a school to close, students and parents to run out; every one out by 5.

That's how it happens around here. The day is usually a collection of moments like this, not all so "academically" obvious. There is cooking and meetings and board games to schedule, passwords to type in, rules to read in small type and hit points to subtract. All of them are little pockets of communication, information transfer happening constantly among us unhindered by fear or inequality brought about by titles and positions of authority or age.



Sam voting on the JC- Democracy does not shut down around here.

## 13 Memorable Moments at DVS

by Sam Wright

1. Watering the cat (while watering the plants)
2. Kidnapping the tissue box from the dining room and escaping to the cries of, "Help! Thief!"
3. Playing with the rats and marveling at the incredible vibrating energy coming from their tiny bodies
4. Breaking into song on multiple occasions- harmony and percussion included
5. Learning ridiculously complicated games and getting thoroughly beaten (Flux \*cough cough\*)
6. Marathon JCs
7. Eating my first actual peach (no cans or artificial flavoring in sight)
8. Being amazed again and again at the community's generosity with food-present spoils including peppers, beef and cheese on toast, spice cookies, homemade bread, sour skittles, roast chicken, banana bread, and fresh fruit-only to name a few
9. Gender expectations crossed without notice or effort-boys exclaiming over stuffed animals, girls making wooden knives
10. Visiting Hoffman's and naming King worms
11. Discussing politics, experiences with discrimination, and the undead
12. The jump after you've been startled with the excited exclamation of, "Blam!" followed by the sweet satisfaction of realizing you're in the office-and thus in the demilitarized zone.
13. Never knowing what is going to happen next.



# Off to a passionate start



*It should literally be called hot chocolate and... but "Tea and Tolkien" has such a sophisticated and euphonious ring to it.*



*Knock knock. Who's there?... Doctor.*



*Gathered from the garden. Grown organically with compost from our would-be waste.*



*Paving the road towards a logical and mutually agreeable future.*



*Halloween is not just a 1 day thing around here.*



*Bread, pizza, muffins and cakes. A high focus, mathematical group activity: Baking is tasty from the bottom of the mixing bowl to the aromatic after effects torturing parents at pickup time.*

**Diablo Valley School**

A Sudbury School

2924 Clayton Road  
Concord, CA 94519PHONE:  
(925) 676-2982E-MAIL:  
office@diablovalleyschool.org

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2924 Clayton Road  
Concord, CA 94519*Thank you*

*We are grateful to these wonderful supporters who have made gifts of funds or materials to help our school.*

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Nicky Tenney

*Wish List We would be grateful for the donation of any of these items.*

Electric dual oven cooking range, acoustic and electric guitars, AED (automated electronic defibrillator) puzzle rack, bowl mixer, dress form, sturdy outdoor furniture, computers (current models), quality drum set, iPod charger that plugs into the wall.

*Open House**Saturday**October 19<sup>th</sup> 2013**11:00 am – 2:00 pm*

*Tour the school.  
Meet families and staff.  
Children welcome.*

