

Spring Ahead

by Vicente López, staff

The smell of the upcoming spring is in the air. We cheer for the rain. Some dance under it. Some bring it in with muddy feet. Rain means snow. We talk about scheduling a trip to the mountain. But there is one excitement that takes the cake. The first drafts of the graduation theses were turned in.

We have a relatively large group of graduation candidates this year. Half of them have been in this school all or most their lives. They're getting ready to move to the next level. The energy in the environment is powerful. The thesis committees have been meeting nonstop, with small breaks in between for food and goofy teen talk. The Staff Hiring Committee met two days ago to plan out an individual set of questions for an intern interview yesterday that happened between two thesis committee meetings and the Judicial Committee. Today we have to schedule an Admissions Committee meeting to discuss our database creation and fit in two more thesis meetings. All of these committees have a large overlap of all the older students. One student is in all the committees, and some hold positions of responsibility: School Meeting Secretary or Chair or Judicial Committee clerk.

When people from the outside ask me how are these students going to adapt to sitting in a college lecture for two hours or manage a complicated scheduling situation, I smirk inside. A phrase from another Sudbury school's graduate comes to mind: "Doing things in the outside world is easy; getting things done here is hard." Another phrase that comes to mind is a comment from another Sudbury school parent who said that you know you are



in a Sudbury school when "Your child is just so happy living this life and can't wait for tomorrow to come."

The graduation candidates are not the only ones excited around here. The rest of the population goes by in their own little worlds, not as oblivious as is superficially apparent, excited about the "smaller things" and all the intricate conversations and activities that will weave into the canvas that will someday include their thesis. A young'un does a short sprint to the office door as it is closing, peeks in and smiles. One day he'll be in here hashing out a deep philosophical conversation about his future and the world in general. All is as it should be.

I read through the theses and am choked up with inspiration from the potential that youth carries with them. I see insights and setting of priorities, introspection and social analysis. I see pieces clicking into place that will provide a solid foundation for a successful adult. It's not easy; they manage to own that puzzle with a smile. I read about obstacles and family situations overcome. I become detached from time, and the confused teenager in me grows and understands vicariously through them.

Five minutes before the end of the day we stop way short of our intended goal. We reschedule the next meetings, and some agree to come in early. Some have an overloaded schedule and are going to have to miss some of the meetings. So it goes.

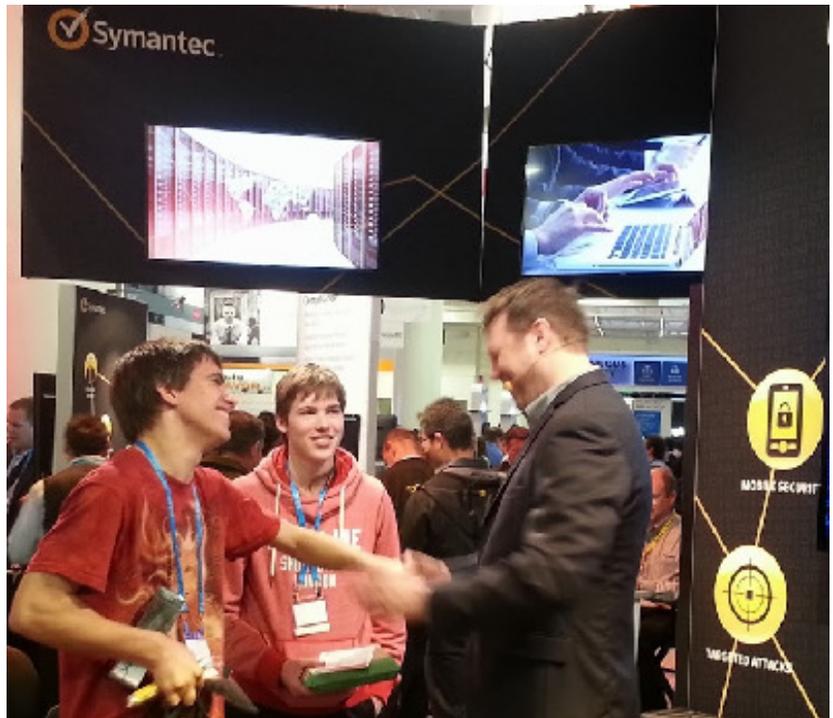
It's a rainy morning. The growing sound of traffic tells me the first students should be walking through the door any moment. If I remember correctly the first order of business is to finish off the incomplete thesis meeting, then a quick Staff Hiring meeting. Bureaucracy is glue around here. As chaotic as I am, I understand, respect and endorse it. Then another thesis meeting and so on and so forth.

Spring will come and go, and with it this group of graduation candidates will go towards what I'm sure will be an awesome future. I shall wave them goodbye with a tear and a smile, and this incredible moment will be just one more article, one more panel in our epic story.

DVS students stand out at computer security conference

Three students who share an interest in computers contacted parent volunteer and IT professional Jesper Jurcenoks with a request that he teach a class on Computer Security. The class has been meeting on Tuesday afternoons. Informally called "The Hacking Class," the group has learned about security, the weaknesses that exist in computer systems, and how nefarious actors on the internet exploit such weaknesses. The class includes practical examples of penetration testing against safe targets on the internet, and identification and classification of vulnerabilities. The students have learned about the vulnerabilities that led to famous data security breaches such as the recent breach at Target stores.

Class field trips have included the Bsidess Security Conference in San Francisco, where the students attended sessions in advanced security subjects and had lunch with famous security analyst Adrian Sanabria. At the RSA Conference in San Francisco, the world's largest security conference, the DVS students competed with computer security professionals from all over the world in a Symantec-sponsored security quiz and scored the top three winning spots.



DVS student is congratulated by Symantec representative on taking first prize in computer security quiz.

Professional conferences, virtual meeting attendance, deadlines ... sounds like the real world to us.

Getting things done...



Thesis committee members are hard at work reviewing draft theses to provide candidates feedback in time for the graduation deadline.

A student had to stay home sick, but participated in the Spanish class via FaceTime (see the face in the phone?)

Make a Difference

Diablo Valley School — the oldest Sudbury model school in California — has blossomed through the years because of the dedication and generosity of founders, staff, and families. Our Board of Trustees recommended launching an annual capital campaign to help ensure that our school will be able to serve more children and continue to thrive long into the future. Consistent with our democratic process, the School Meeting has approved this campaign. Trustees and Assembly members have already donated funds to get this important effort started.

Join our committed supporters and help write the next chapter for Diablo Valley School! **Every donation, of any size, will help** to make our school an even stronger place where young people can decide what they want to learn and who they want to be.

While donations are gratefully accepted at any time, donations received by **March 31** will count as part of this year's capital campaign.

Clip the form below, fill it out, and mail it with your donation. An addressed envelope is provided with the print version of this newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact office@diablovalleyschool.org.



Donor's Name _____

Email or street address for your confirmation letter

Phone number in case we need to clarify your wishes for your donation

(_____) - _____ - _____

Donation : Please enter your amount and select your choice of method:

- \$ _____ lump sum attached
- \$ _____ lump sum pledged to be paid on (specify date) _____.
- \$ _____ per month from (start date) _____ to (end date) _____.

Instructions: Select where you would like your donation directed.

- Scholarships based on financial need
- Site improvement
- Endowment - creating a "nest egg" to guarantee continuous delivery of Sudbury education at Diablo Valley School into the future
- Greatest need as determined by School Meeting

Checks payable to Diablo Valley School.

Mail to: Diablo Valley School - Make A Difference, 2924 Clayton Road, Concord, CA 94519.

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Special thanks to ImageSales.com for their friendly and professional production of our student ID cards.

Wish List!

Electric dual oven cooking range • Acoustic and electric guitars • Puzzle rack • AED (automated electronic defibrillator) • Dress form • Quality drum set • Computers (current models) • Sturdy outdoor furniture • child-size brooms • iPod charger that plugs into the wall • Spatulas (off-set and rubber, bowl-scraping)

*Open House**March 15**April 12**11:00 am – 2:00 pm**Tour the school.**Meet families and staff.**Children welcome.*