

On any given day

Recently, the school shared space with a researcher story teller. In Germany, where she's from, the government does not approve of Sudbury education. Ironically enough there is a large group of families waiting for a change in policy so they can start in this particular school. There are more groups: In the Netherlands, parents who chose to enroll students in a Sudbury school were prosecuted by their government--they stayed anyway and the school still stands. In some places schools have started underground in opposition to the law. The stories go that this has brought up interesting discussions in the school meeting, such as why should we follow the school's laws if the school is not following the laws of the community at large. Brings me back to the opening of our own Declaration of Independence (if you don't know what it is, GO READ IT!). We let things lie and take our freedom a little too much for granted around here in Anglo-America.

Monika is doing her part as a member of her start-up group to help people, and thus the government, understand that this kind of education is worthy of acceptance. It's so much more. She goes about like the



Monika Wernz photographed DVS students running a hamburger business and learning sign language.

rest of us doing her thing; her path is yet one more of beauty seeded in this kind of soil. She enriches our culture by capturing little moments of our

everyday activities, reminding us with every shot of the untriviality of every second spent here.

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On any given day, students can be found playing with friends, solving a problem or trying a new skill.

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Click! A game of Munchkin is captured forever. One of the five-year-olds reads through the complex language on the cards. Another remembers the conditions from the picture. From the kitchen the aroma of a successful business fills the environment. Maybe that student did not learn how to read until 10 or 12 years of age. Somehow he can philosophize about free will and understands the value of the dollar in depth. He does his research for his purchases first through YouTube and then through reading. His product is grass fed -- he further understands that he can turn a profit and do the right thing while he's at it. I wish more adults had picked up that skill when they were younger. Who knows when and how he learned to read, moreover, who cares. He does it superbly now, and will do it as superbly as his

capabilities allow him to without pressure or damage to his self esteem. Like the Munchkin player or the singer in the Big Room, the ones learning sign language for the blind, or the chatters working on the difficult and priceless skill of developing a unique yet social personality, he goes about doing his thing.

The synaptic pathways being formed here are enriched with love and the strength of being self initiated. These connections will provide a solid foundation for the unknown challenges the future will bring. Like a game of Munchkin, they will tackle calculus class, design a new computer chip, or figure out a complex schedule for their kids' soccer games and plays while balancing a successful career.

Click! Time starts up again, we go about doing our thing. Click!

Some are frozen outside while dancing in the hail -- frozen in appreciation for the moment. As they mature, they will understand that the "moment" consists of our past and our future and all these other intricate little details like quadratic equations, aging and taxes. In order for them to organically learn that, the curriculum on this particular day is that they shall dance, sing, argue and play whenever they want with whomever they want, for as long as they want. Click!

By Vicente López, staff member

Open House
at Diablo Valley School



Saturday, April 16
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Critical Thinking

*Learning is something they do,
not something they receive*

My daughter Rose started DVS at eight years old and will graduate this year. It was not an easy decision to enroll her in this school. I spent every night of her visiting week tossing and turning, imagining the horror of every member of my extended family when I explained the kind of school I had chosen for my child.

This last year, watching her look at and evaluate potential colleges, I saw the powerful gift

this school had been. She really looked at everything a college had to offer. She questioned whether or not she would get her money's worth there. She is brainstorming ways to keep the cost minimal.

Last week I heard a professor at NYU claim that college students are graduating without mastering critical thinking. Yet, there was my daughter looking at her college education in a deep and critical way.

She opted to do admissions interviews at two colleges to get her questions answered. At her age, I was too terrified, but she is

accustomed to adults treating her with respect, so even though she had some nervousness it was manageable. At one interview she was complimented on her maturity.

At a recent DVS open house, a visiting parent asked how children learn to read and write without being taught. Not only do they learn to read and write, but they learn something even more powerful which is that learning is something they do, not something they receive. What I am seeing in Rose is that she has mastered the critical thinking to be an effective adult in the larger community.

By Evelyn Hardesty, DVS parent



Observing



Focusing



Making decisions



Making music

Diablo Valley School

A Sudbury School

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Thank You

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

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Our Wish List includes these items that will benefit everyone at our school.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Drum kit in excellent condition | Guitars, acoustic and electric |
| Computers, new within last two years | Flat screen monitors |
| Outdoor storage unit | Free-standing basketball hoop |
| Armchair in excellent condition | Shelving |

If you have something else you think we could use, please contact the Donations Clerk.

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You have a choice in education.
Come talk with us.