

Buckingham misses Mr. Perkins

IN BRIEF

Vacaville's charter high school is just not the same without this favorite campus supervisor on the job.

By Angela Ernst
Honorable Mention, Feature Writing
Division: High School

'Good morning kids! Terrific Tuesday!" was the kind of welcome Buckingham Magnet Charter High students received every morning from their campus supervisor Ron Perkins. Recently, Perkins was hospitalized because of a blood clot in his leg. Buckingham's students, staff, and parents are all collaborating together to show their appreciation for Perkins.

In the halls, students put up a huge banner saying, "Get well soon." Many of the students signed the banner with personalized comments such as, "God Bless, and come back soon," and, "We miss you Ron." Staff have been visiting Perkins and have been in contact with him throughout the hospitalization. Staff have also come together to purchase a DVD player for him so he can watch

movies in his leisure.

Janet Dosker, attendance clerk, has noticed a definite change in the students since Perkins has been out. "The one thing that I've noticed is that the students here at Buckingham have shown a great deal of respect for Ron by behaving exceptionally well while he's been out."

Parents are also sending Perkins unique gifts and cards. Parent Marie Ray sent in a devotional book with her child, along with a card stating how much Perkins means to the school and his students.

"He's such a great man, he treats every student at BCMHS like his own child." Ray said. "He deserves to know how much this school misses him."

Some students express their opinion about the disinterest that the new workers have for them, compared to Ron. "The new workers taking the place of Ron don't care about us as much as he does; he's known us

all through the course of the years," said Lauren Lavin, a junior. Others try to make light of the situation. "He's not here to bother me about being late anymore," said Bethany Dillon, a senior.

It's apparent that everyone at Buckingham misses Ron and wants him to come "home."

"It's just not the same not seeing him every day. He provides such a positive atmosphere around here," said student Stephanie Napoletano. Unfortunately, no one is certain of when Perkins will be able to return back to school and be with his students and staff. But one thing is for certain: the campus won't be complete until he is.

The author was an eleventh-grader at Buckingham Charter Magnet High School in Vacaville when she submitted this entry in the Campus Star competition.

Horses deserve respect

By Kimberlee Giggey
3rd Place, Opinion Writing
Division: 3-4

People love animals. They feed them and give them water, keep them sheltered, healthy and love them. Currently I am witnessing animal abandonment and abuse of two young horses in a nearby pasture.

The horses have no shelter from the elements and have been without water.

Also, last summer during the extreme heat, one of the horses had a badly infected leg. During the summer my dad had to fill his tractor bucket with water and drive to the pasture to fill the empty water trough.

Animal Control was called and the neglect of the horses was reported.

The horses are still not being cared for. My parents take our own hay to them and feed them and look after them. Still, Animal Control has done nothing.

While experiencing this sad situation, I wonder how long these horses have to suffer before the authorities will help these animals.

Not only horses, but all animals should be treated with dignity and respect.

The author is a fourth-grader at Notre Dame in Vacaville.

A day in the dirt

Ben Kroes walks the motocross track in Dixon. It was a great start to a day in the dirt, according to photographer Garrett Joseph Adams who captured this image in January 2007. It earned an honorable mention for Garrett, who was a senior this past year at Buckingham Charter Magnet High School in Vacaville. He was a student in Jared Austin's classroom.



Courting the next wave of tennis greats

By Max Usón
Honorable Mention,
News Reporting
Division: 5-6 Grade

Have you ever turned on the TV and seen Roger Federer? Roger Federer is the No. 1 tennis player in the world. When I see Roger Federer play, it makes me want to play the game better. I think everyone should give tennis a try. All you need is a tennis racket, a can of tennis balls, and a place to play.

That's easy in Vacaville. We have a lot of sports stores, such as Sports Authority, Big 5, and Sport-Mart to purchase the necessary equipment.

You can play tennis at the Millennium Sports Club on Browns Valley or go to public tennis

courts. There are public courts off of Alamo next to the Graham Aquatic Center, Alamo Park, and near the Horse Creek Complex next to the Little League fields.

I like the tennis courts next to the Aquatic Center because they have lights so you can play at night.

If you are a beginner, you can take lessons at the Millennium Club or at the Vacaville Recreation Department. When you get good enough, you can play tournaments all over California. Tournaments are fun because you can make friends, win big trophies and the better you play the better your ranking will be.

Rankings are based on points won in each tournament to play. The better you do and the harder

the tournament, the more points you get. If you are a beginner you might want to play in novice tournaments. Some people like to play for fun and others want to play on their high school tennis team.

So, the next time you turn on the television and see Roger Federer holding up another Grand Slam trophy, remember there might be the next world's No. 1 coming from Vacaville.

The author was a sixth-grader at Notre Dame School in Vacaville when this article was submitted in the competition. At the time, he was a student in Laurie Brunke's class.

Plumber works on new hospital

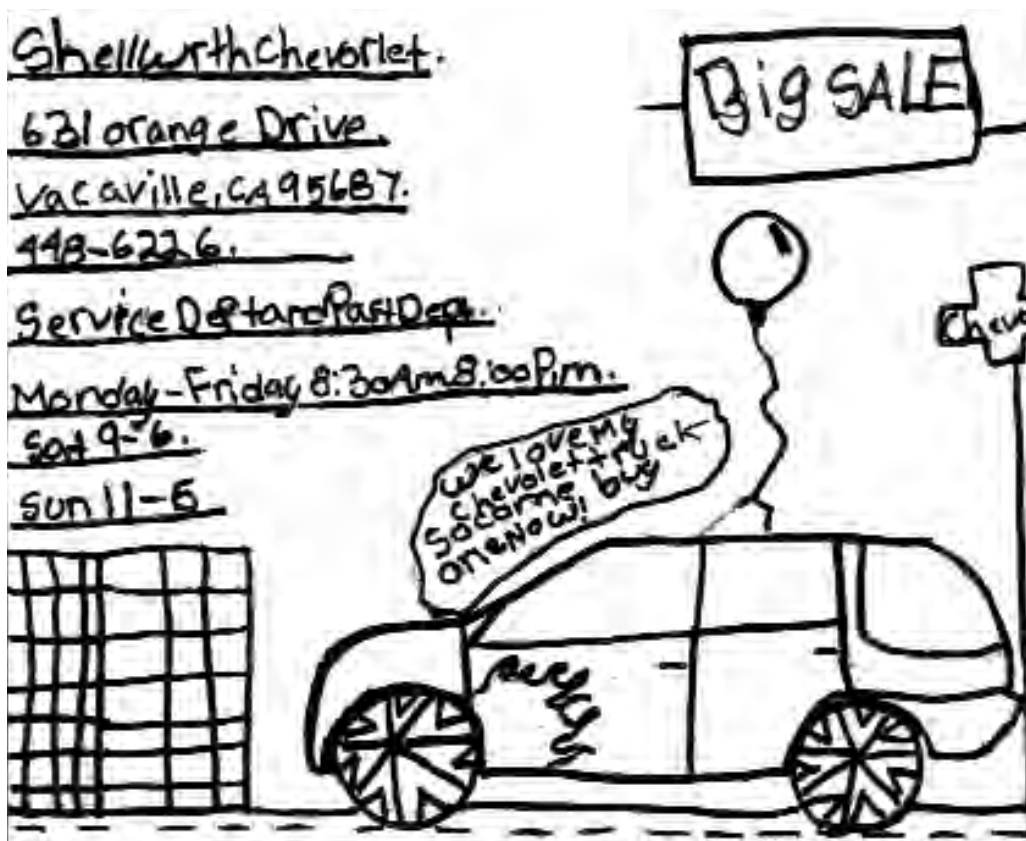
By Sara Maldonado
2nd Place, News Writing
Division: 3-4 Grade

Hugo Hernandez works at Marelich Mechanical Co. He's a plumber; that means he connects pipes for factories and other places. He's building a Kaiser Hospital in Vacaville. There are four floors in the hospital. He's making it out of concrete and steel.

He is on the third floor, just one more floor and he's done. He's been working on the hospital for four months now. Some 110 people are working on it. It will be done in spring 2008. It's about 70 feet high.

The author is a fourth-grader at Dan O. Root II Elementary School in Suisun City. She is a student in Mrs. Carranza's Class.

Design-an-Ad winner



Cristian Peña, of Jepson Middle School in Vacaville, earned an honorable mention for this advertisement designed for Shellworth Chevrolet in The Reporter's Campus Star student journalism competition.

Dan O. Root II begins fitness testing

By Cindy Ulloa
1st place, News Writing
Division: 3-4 Grade

School is starting physical fitness tests for February. In the morning, students have to walk around the playground until the bell rings and in P.E. (Physical Education) they start their testing. They do exercises one by one or sometimes with partners and at the same time.

This program helps kids from Dan O. Root II Elementary get in shape and get healthier.

This program also earns students a certificate. They can get a certificate for how many of the situps, pullups and laps (time) they do. Kids from Dan O. Root II and parents say it is hard, but at the same time, useful.

The author is a fourth-grader at Dan O. Root II Elementary in Suisun City.

Puzzles, Games, Comics winner



Nick Williams, of Notre Dame School, earned an honorable mention for this cartoon he entered in the Puzzles, Games and Comics category of the Campus Star student journalism competition.