

## November = Video Game Release

### Like to Blow Stuff Up?

**B**attlefield 3, a multiplayer game for the Xbox 360 and PS3, was released October 28, and many people at VCHS are enjoying the game with their friends online.

They like going head to head with friends and strangers in an online battleground. Evan Gearing said he enjoys shooting people down in air planes.

"It's different from other first person shooters," Rajkamal Pandher said. "You can fly things, there's bullet drop, and the little things like seeing your legs when you are prone." He enjoys the game's impressive graphics.

The game has changed from previous installments and students are enjoying the new features Battlefield 3 has brought to the table. "I like the new guns and gun attachments," Pandher said. Gearing is a fan of the new jets that the game has added.

Some, however, enjoy the campaign of the game instead of the online multiplayer. Samantha Torres says that she likes to complete her mission and take out the bad people.



A player points his weapon at the enemy during a match.

Photocourtesyofbattlefield.com

Not everyone is a giant fan of the game, though. "I have a list: air fighting is useless, and even though it's realistic it's annoying to die in one hit from a camper, plus it's hard to get a team to work with you," Chris Rhodes said.

The students' favorite way to play the game is with friends. "I like just playing online with friends, I like the competition, and I always try to be the best," Craig Ahlstrom said.

by Zachary Sharp

### Enter the Realm of the Elder Scrolls: Skyrim

**T**he Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim is the latest game of the Bethesda Software video game franchise.

Skyrim contains many new features, including a total graphic overhaul, and the game's *pièce de résistance*, the appearance of dragons. "Dragons will be both a fun and challenging experience," Fernando Salas said.

All together the combat of Skyrim is fast paced. New features in the combat ability include dual-wielding weapons. "I'd use two swords, two axes, two of anything," Brent Williams said. The magic skill can also be a dual weapon. The ability to enchant your weapons and apply upgrades are still in the game, though a new feature that has been added: weapons no longer need to be repaired.



Along with the appearance of dragons, the player is able to use dragon shouts that he can learn throughout the game. The dragon spells include "Push," "Fire," "Ice" and "Stamina" abilities. The spells are located in ancient Nordic temples

found throughout Skyrim's massive open world.

Through the game the player will see dragons attack towns, settlements and other characters. Dragons are able to pick people up and throw them. This will happen to your player as well if you are not careful.

Another surprise is the return of the popular "Easter Egg", M'iaq the Liar, a clever NPC character who gives subtle hints about what people either have wanted in the game, or have complained about the game, that appeared in both Morrowind and Oblivion, and returns in *The Elder Scrolls: Skyrim*.

Skyrim has been nominated for game of the year, the winner will be announced at Spike's Video Game Awards in December. This is no surprise to Bethesda, for in 2006 and in 2008, their games won this award.

by Eddie Donofrio

### Long-Awaited MW3 Finally Released

**C**all of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 was released on November 8 and it broke record sales in video game history. VCHS Students were pumped up for its release.

Modern Warfare 3 takes players all around the world: New York, London, and Africa and many more exciting places. Modern Warfare 3 begins where Modern Warfare 2 left off. MW3 introduces

many new things to the Call of Duty franchise, including new guns, new perks, and new kill streaks to the game

There were many predictions about Modern Warfare 3 around school. "I expect players to do what they did in Modern Warfare 2: Hack the game and noob-tube. I hope to see respect for Modern Warfare 3 though," Chris Oranje said.

by Nathaniel Black



November: A time to Give  
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**THIS SHOT:** Performing the soundtrack to a Bugs Bunny cartoon at their November 15 concert, the VCS Radio Symphony, conducted by Mr. Ralph Martin, is doing what no other local high school band is doing. See story page 4.

Photo by Thomas Wary

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# Moodle Ups and Downs

Moodle is first and foremost a great tool that we students can use, not just on our iPads but any computer, to integrate more of the technological aspect of school and utilize less paper. Moodle enables teachers to post assignments, quizzes/tests, pdf files and files that can be saved into the iPad's iBooks library.

A negative aspect about Moodle, though, is that it doesn't allow users to easily upload documents straight from iPad to Moodle. Some students who don't have computers at home might have to find an alternate way to get assignments on Moodle turned in.

Another negative aspect with the introduction of Moodle is a change in the communication between teachers and students about assignments. Some teachers are relying a lot on Moodle and instead of reminding students when work is due, they are just telling them to "check Moodle."

This predicament about deadlines is interesting because honestly we are all high school students, so we should be responsible for ourselves and know when our work is due. This year is also the first year the student body doesn't have physical planners but the new SAIL planner on Keynote. The SAIL is a different format than students are used to, and they might be having difficulty using it well. If you need an actual hard-copy planner, then get one! The calendar app on your iPad is also really handy to put due dates and assignments in. Students need to be responsible for knowing what their work is and when it is due.

At the same time, some help from teachers would be nice. For example, when a teacher posts when work is due into the "Upcoming Events" section of the class Moodle, then the information appears in the calendar at the top of the home page. Then it's easy for students to see what is due and when.

Students appreciate the grace teachers have given as we work through using these new technologies. Additional ways for students to see what assignments are and when they are due would help us a lot.

# Occupy Movement

Occupy Wall Street. Occupy Oakland. Occupy Sacramento. Occupy Vacaville? In its beginnings, some would say that the movement was harmless and peaceable, and demonstrating for the good of the people. "We are the 99%." The movement is saying that 99% of the people in America are being taken advantage of, and the 1% is the rich who control everything.

The First Amendment of the Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law... abridging... the right of the people peaceably to assemble; and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." Are the Occupy protestors really petitioning the government for a redress of grievances? Or are their protests actually directed toward the 1% whom they claim are acting wrongly? Although the Occupy Movement has been aimed at the richest 1% of bankers and investors, more than just the 1% has been affected by the protests. Several small businesses in New York had to be closed down due to protestors blocking entrances and disrupting traffic.

Additionally, one could also argue whether or not the protests are meeting the "peaceably to assemble" aspect of the First Amendment. On Wall Street, New York, protestors have been beaten by each other, have beaten police officers, and police officers have beaten them. In Oakland, thousands of dollars of damage was done to businesses and parks.

In the USA alone, over 50,000 people have amassed for the protests. Is the USA the only focus of the Occupy movement? No. The Occupy movement has spread to Greece, Spain, Belgium, and Germany. As the Occupy movement quickly spreads across the USA and around the world, we may be seeing more damage and disruption rather than change. Their motives may be justifiable, but their actions are infringing on the rights of others.

What does this mean to you as a student? Should we support the Occupy protestors? To make that decision, you must fully understand what it means to join, and fully understand who YOU are. Are we VCHS students actually part of the privileged minority?

# Family, Football, and Turkey!

Thanksgiving is an American holiday celebrated every fourth Thursday of November. The Thanksgiving tradition traces back to the 1600's when the Pilgrims in New England wanted to give thanks for the good harvest and the hard work of the community with a big meal. It became an official holiday during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln and he was the one who announced that the last Thursday become Thanksgiving. Today, we celebrate Thanksgiving as a way to give thanks for our families and everything in our lives. We all usually have traditions whether it is some sort of unique meal or just hanging out and spending time with family members.

What's yours?  
Raj Pandher said, "I usually invite my family over for turkey curry, a Thanksgiving celebrated Indian style."

This Thanksgiving there are also some interesting football games happening such as the defending Super Bowl champions Green Bay Packers battling the Detroit Lions, the Miami Dolphins will be travelling to Dallas to play against the Cowboys and the Baltimore Ravens will be hosting the San Francisco 49ers.

"My family from New York and LA come to

my house and we play a huge football game with a bunch of people, then eat," Justin Bonn said. "After, my mom turns on Christmas music and gets ready for Christmas."

Brock Gustafson said, "Every year, my whole family including like my cousins and uncles get together to play a huge football game. Then we gather to have a huge meal."

"My whole family goes to my great grandfather's house in Marysville and we just cook, watch football and just relax all day," Austin Gearing said. To some the Friday after Thanksgiving, known as Black Friday, is a holiday in and of itself, because stores generally have huge sales so people can get started on some early Christmas shopping.

"My family and extended family go to my grandparents' house and we all have dinner at their place, it's just a relaxing and fun filled dinner," Nikhil Saukhla said. "After, my cousins and I usually go to BestBuy for Black Friday shopping, while all the women in the family hit up every single department store in the mall!"

Everyone has different traditions, whether it's playing football or just relaxing with your family; everyone celebrates differently. But we all have one thing in common; we are giving thanks and



spending time with our families, which is what thanksgiving is truly about.

Jackie Ebert said, "I usually go to my mom's house to eat."

Terra Malcolm said, "I usually just go wherever with my family for turkey and pie; it's just a relaxing day."

"We usually go to my grandparents' house at Lake Almanor with family," Michael Gloudeman said

"Every thanksgiving, my family and extended family get together at my aunt's house or mine and we have a big dinner with everything homemade, not store bought, and everyone has to pitch in and help," Trevor Brown said.

"Well, my family usually all go over to a relative's house, it's either my aunts or my grandma in-law's house to have Thanksgiving." Michael Quatman said. "We each bring food, and before we eat, my grandfather in-law prays over our food. Then after that, we just have oodles of fun!"

by Taylor Figuera

Do your work willingly, as though you were serving the Lord Himself. Colossians 3:23



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The Talon, the student newspaper of Vacaville Christian High School, is a public forum for student expression and is published regularly by the Newspaper Production Class and Journalism Class. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the administration, student body or advertisers. The Talon staff welcomes and encourages submitted letters, stories, cartoons, and/or any other student feedback. See guidelines listed below.

Please deliver all submissions to the Talon box in Room 102 by posted deadline.

- The following policies apply:
1. Unsolicited articles and suggestions for story ideas are welcomed, but no guarantee is made as to whether they will be printed in the Talon.
  2. Letters to the Editor are to be signed when submitted to the Staff. Names may be withheld from publication only with the approval of the Editorial Board and Adviser. The Board will select the letters to be published.
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# Meet our New Teachers

## Miss Russ Enjoys a Warm Welcome

"I love it here," said Miss Russ, geometry teacher. This is Miss Russ's first year here teaching at VCHS, and she is very much enjoying the experience.

"Yes, it's a completely different environment here," said Miss Russ regarding the comparison between VCHS and public schools nearby. She thinks that the students here are much better behaved, are hard workers, and she is overall very impressed with the students.

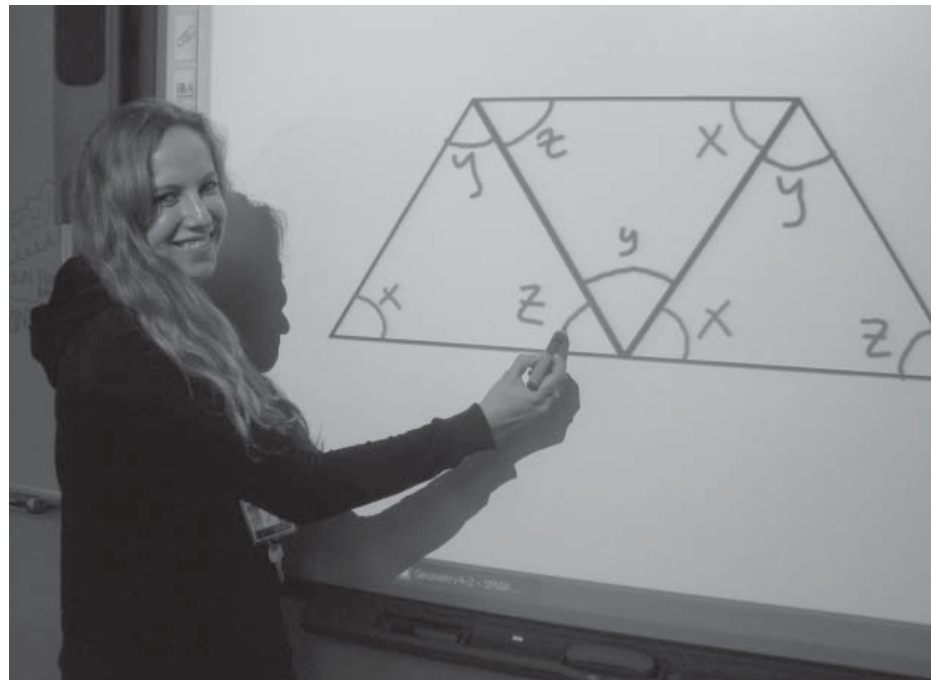
Miss Russ also likes how the staff has treated her so far this year. "Oh, yes the staff is extremely welcoming," she said. One thing that she very much liked is that she gets the opportunity to study God's word with her fellow teachers, and to have weekly devotionals with them.

Public schooling does not allow teachers to pray in front of, or for their students in the classroom, but Miss Russ much enjoys the opportunity to do so.

Miss Russ's walk with God is helped by teaching at a Christian school. "I grew up in a Christian home, and I was a professed Christian, but that is all that it was, just a profession."

She started to walk away from God, and did not fully understand what it meant to be a Christian until college. At the time she was attending UC Davis, and attended Grace Valley Christian Center in Davis, and there she began to fully understand what it meant to be a Christian.

The preaching there was powerful to her and impacted her to change. She saw people actually taking their Christian faith seriously, and that set



photobyEmreBasaran

Miss Russ shows a diagram of triangles for a geometry proof in her classroom

her heart on fire. She had a burning passion to read the Bible, the entire Bible. She then truly realized who God was, and that was when she really became a Christian.

She got a degree in math, and got her teaching degree as she finished up her schooling, but

she wanted to stay close to home, and continue to attend her church, so she came here to VCHS.

"I like math because it's almost magical to me the way everything works out perfectly, and everything fits together."

by Daniel Ewing



Photo by Daniel Ewing

## Mr. Wilson Likes Math & VCS Technology

Mr. Andrew Wilson is the new Algebra II and Pre-Calculus teacher this year at VCS.

Mr. Wilson is originally from Southern California and he attended Biola University where he received a complete Bachelor of Science Degree in Math and with a minor in Philosophy.

Math however, wasn't his first choice originally. Initially, he attended Business School. He discovered that he found it "easy yet boring," and he didn't really want to spend a lot of his time and money on something he didn't find interesting.

During high school Mr. Wilson had excelled in math, because it is a subject that requires serious analytical thinking.

"I want to teach math because it is an area where I can put my skills to use while providing a service to society," Mr. Wilson said.

"I want to work at VCS, because I wanted to relocate to the area. Also the technological equipment seemed exciting," Mr. Wilson said.

He currently attends Faith Presbyterian Church in Sonoma.

A life lesson that Mr. Wilson wants the students at Vacaville Christian to keep in mind is "At your age you guys should be pretty humble, because as you get older you find out you didn't know as much as you thought you did."

by Ali Howard

## The Great Talon Survey

The Talon Editorial Board would really like your answers to these questions. When you finish, bring this sheet to Room 102 & place it in the Talon box, just to the left as you walk in the door. Results will appear in future issues of the VCHS Talon.

1. How much sleep do you get most school nights?

- A. 8 - 10 hours
- B. 6 - 8 hours
- C. 4 - 6 hours
- D. less than 4 hours

2. How much sleep do you get most weekend nights?

- A. 8 - 10 hours
- B. 6 - 8 hours
- C. 4 - 6 hours
- D. more than 10 hours

3. What time do you usually wake up on school days?

- A. before 5 a.m.
- B. around 6 a.m.
- C. around 6:30 a.m.
- D. after 6:30 a.m.

4. What time do you usually wake up on weekends?

- A. before 7 a.m.
- B. before 10 a.m.
- C. before noon
- D. after noon

5. Have you ever fallen asleep in class because you didn't get enough sleep the night before?

- A. never
- B. once or twice
- C. more than 2 times this year
- D. nearly every week

Would you be willing to talk with a Talon reporter about the importance of sleep? If so, please give us your name: \_\_\_\_\_

6. How much homework do you usually have per night?

- A. Less than 1 hour
- B. Between 1 and 2 hours
- C. Between 2 and 3 hours
- D. More than 3 hours

7. Where do you usually do your homework?

- A. In my bedroom
- B. In the kitchen
- C. In the living room or family room
- D. At school or the library

8. Is your homework an important part of your learning?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Sometimes

Would you be willing to talk with a Talon reporter about homework at VCHS? If so, please give us your name: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you have a job?

- A. Yes. Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many hours per week? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. No.

10. Why is it good for a teenager to have a job? It's OK to select more than one answer.

- A. To have their own money
- B. To help their family
- C. To get real-life experience in the workplace
- D. Independence

11. Why is it bad for a teenager to have a job? It's OK to select more than one answer.

- A. Schoolwork might suffer
- B. Social life might suffer
- C. Adults need jobs more than teenagers
- D. Teenagers need to stay kids longer and not take on adult responsibilities

12. What's the most common job for a teenager?

- A. Fast food restaurant
- B. Retail store
- C. Babysitter or Nanny
- D. Yard work

Would you be willing to talk with a Talon reporter about jobs? If so, please give us your name: \_\_\_\_\_

13. What is the best thing about the VCHS Talon?

- A. I might be in it
- B. My friends might be in it
- C. It's all about our school
- D. It's created by fellow students
- E. \_\_\_\_\_

14. What is the weakest thing about the VCHS Talon?

- A. Grammar and spelling mistakes
- B. Boring stories
- C. Not enough photos
- D. My friends & I aren't in it enough
- E. \_\_\_\_\_

15. What kinds of topics should the Talon cover? It's OK to select more than one.

- A. Only stuff about VCS
- B. Stuff about high schoolers everywhere
- C. Current California news
- D. Current US news
- E. Current world news

16. What issues should the Talon look into for future editions? It's OK to select more than one.

- A. Teen relationships
- B. Music
- C. Influence of the media
- D. Family problems
- E. Hazing
- F. Emotional issues
- G. \_\_\_\_\_

17. What would be a good thing to ADD to the Talon? It's OK to select more than one.

- A. Technology section
- B. Health & fitness section
- C. More photos
- D. Out-of-school activities students are involved in (martial arts, ballet, bands, etc.)
- E. Comics or cartoons
- F. Games or puzzles
- G. Contests
- H. Poems or drawings by students
- I. More student opinions
- J. Letters to the Editor
- K. Music reviews
- L. Book reviews
- M. Movie reviews

18. Give us a recommendation for the online Talon:

- A. More photos
- B. More news stories
- C. More sports stories
- D. More video
- E. More opinion stories
- F. More student features
- G. More polls
- H. There's an online Talon???

19. When was the last time you visited www.vchstalon.com?

- A. 30 minutes or less ago
- B. Today
- C. This week sometime
- D. Last school year
- E. There's an online Talon???

20. Have you LIKED the VCHS Talon on Facebook?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. There's a VCHS Talon on Facebook???

21. Who creates the VCHS Talon?

- A. Editors and members of the Journalism Class
- B. Mrs. McFadden and Mrs. Golden
- C. Mrs. Fogh
- D. I have no idea.

# Radio Symphony Performs at VPAT

VCS Radio symphony had been planning for their concert for weeks. Tickets for the performance were \$10 a person for the concert that was held Tuesday, November 15 at 7 p.m.

"The rehearsal process itself takes many weeks; it requires much concentration, patience and endurance. But, there are many levels of study and work required before the first rehearsal starts," Mr. Martin said.

The Radio Symphony students performed a mix of Antonio Carlos Gomez, Johann Strauss, and they also performed the music for a Bugs Bunny animation; what early 20<sup>th</sup> century animators did to provide music to their shows.

"For the VCS years this season, it would be either Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" or Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. Rhapsody is a Jazz Piano feature with the VCS radio Symphony. Since we're using Pyrotechnics for the Overture along with the music, it's all very hard." Mr. Martin said.

The bands practiced hard for the performance to give the best they could. "It shows that hard work pays off" Bill Dong said.

by Thomas Wary



Photo by Thomas Wary

Current and alumni members presented their concert on November 15. Christopher Rhodes, Michael Lytle, Carson McKern, Ed Donofrio and Nick Martens are shown here.

# Sun Shines on VCS: Solar Panel Installation Begins

On October 19 and 20 the machines of Renewable Energy Generation at Vacaville Christian Schools broke ground to put inserts for big poles into the parking lot to make way for the new solar panels.

"They should have done it over the summer; it's causing parking problems in the HS parking lot," Keanna Carter said.

The work will be finished during Thanksgiving break "weather being a factor" Facilities Director Mr. George Allen said.

The school will benefit from the new solar panels. One benefit is the school will receive financial relief in energy costs. "We will buy power from the seller at a reduced rate," Mr. Allen said. For example, if the going rate is 25 cents per kilowatt, our rate might be 22.5 cents per kilowatt. Mr. Allen said that this is an example only.

Mr. Allen also said that the great thing about this project is that it's not costing the high school or any part of the school one dime, because we are what is called a "solar host."

"It should save our school some money," Casey Smith said.

Additional panels in other sections of the school are planned to be completed by early 2012.

by AJ Hearn



Photo by AJ Hearn

Barricades indicate where the post supports are already installed in the parking lot.

## Things to DO This Week:

### Christmas Festivities in Vacaville to Attend

Vacaville annually holds a family-friendly, holiday festivity downtown in what is called Merriment on Main. It's a great way to get in the holiday spirit.

Merriment on Main is a highly-attended gathering downtown where many businesses set up booths where they can sell services or give out special holiday deals. There are numerous performances by different clubs, musical groups, or churches. Hot chocolate and cookies are sold, and stores located downtown offer exclusive holiday deals. Finally, toward the end of the event, the great Christmas tree lighting occurs. This marks the moment when Santa Clause arrives in Vacaville for the holiday season.

Merriment on Main is located in downtown Vacaville, on Main Street, and will take place on Tuesday, November 29, lasting from 5 to 9 p.m.

Festival of Trees is an annual charity event in Vacaville. It's a display of decorated trees donated by many individuals or organizations.

The group or individual decorates a Christmas tree with a theme they've selected. Families can come and see the trees and bid on the tree of their choice. Proceeds are given to Vacaville's Opportunity House.

The Festival of Trees will take place from November 29 to December 1, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily at the Vacaville Skating Center.

by Tessa Moore

# Cross Country Finishes the Year Strong

In their meet as a team against other schools in the league, and in their first meet as a team, the team took second place to go on to sub-sections.

After not being able to put a full team of runners through to playoffs in the past years, our cross country team has pushed through to sectionals for the first time since 2006, as they compiled impressive runs in sub-sections on November 5.

For the first meets of the season they were unable to pull together a full team to run, but only had three or four runners until the last meet. In the subsections they were able to run five, the minimum for a team.

Racing on the sub-section course at Frogtown near Angels Camp, captain Justin Ellsworth achieved 23<sup>rd</sup> place, followed by Emre Basaran in 27<sup>th</sup>, Carl MacLean in 44<sup>th</sup>, Daniel Ewing in 55<sup>th</sup>, and James Aguilar in 56<sup>th</sup>. In the girls race, Payton Sperring placed 7<sup>th</sup> and team co-captain Summer Richardson achieved 17<sup>th</sup>.

The team raced in sectionals on Friday, November 11, which took place near Folsom at Willow Hill. "For sectionals I think we will all do well, it will be a challenge because it is a hard course," James Aguilar said.



PhotobyChelseaGritten

Carl Maclean sprints to the finish line followed by another racer at the sub-sectionals meet in Angels Camp.

Scoring works like this: The team with the least amount of points wins. Each runner in a team runs and whatever place they get is their score. If a runner gets first, then he will get one point and so on. The points received by each runner on a team are added together, resulting in the final score of the team. Runners can progress to the next level

as members of a team or as individuals.

Co-Captain Justin Ellsworth said that the hardest difficulty the team faced was keeping a good mindset and mentality, like in any other sport.

The team, led by Coach Isaac Bartsch, practiced everyday during the week in order to prepare for sections. Justin Ellsworth said that he joined Cross Country because he had run track and field before and thought it would be fun to do a sport in the fall. Runners were excited that they were able to assemble a full team and that they made it to sectionals.

Most of the runners did not place high enough at sectionals to qualify for state. Payton Sperring was the only one to qualify for state, which is going to be held on November 27<sup>th</sup> in Fresno.

by Nick Russell

# Tough Game Closes Volleyball Playoffs

The girls varsity volleyball team has had a phenomenal season this year and made it to the Sac-Joaquin Division V playoffs, but lost in the first round to Le Grand. They have an overall record of 18-9 and 9-3 in the Sierra Delta League.

"Throughout the season they've bonded as a team and played as a team, and don't let themselves get down in a game," Coach Courtney Salamone said. "They have all stepped up to fill positions that were needed."

Their most recent game was held in the VCS gym against Le Grand as their first playoff game. Four games were played, with Le Grand scraping a victory to continue in playoffs.

"I think that during the game we had our ups and downs, but as a team we remained focused and tried our best," Lauren DeCarlo said.

"We're a family," Cassandra Powell said.

Three junior varsity players joined the team for playoffs—Alex Wolfsberger, Lauren Gotschall, and Tea Scott.

In the first game, the Lady Falcons pulled out a 25-20 victory after the Le Grand Bulldogs hit the ball into the roof, knocking out a ceiling tile. Another close match followed when the Lady Falcons fought to get back into the game after losing their advantage and scored five consecutive points in a row while Le Grand was a single point away from



Photo by Annie Knitter

Keanna Carter and Lauren Grabowski jump up for a block in a playoff game against Le Grand

winning. The resulting score was 17-25, Le Grand victorious.

As the third game started, Amber Cooper, an injured varsity player, started a Falcons chant that

the whole VCS crowd carried on. The final score of the third match was again 17-25. The fourth game was 23-25, Le Grand winning the whole game and the Falcons finishing their playoff run.

The team has come a long way according to Coach Salamone. They practiced two to three times a week and fought numerous injuries. "I feel really good about our season," Coach Salamone said. "It was my first season coaching, but the girls really stepped up and even the teams that beat us, we weren't far behind. I'm really proud of their encouragement throughout the season towards each other and their motivation."

Captains Lauren Grabowski and Lauren Johnson led their team all season with Grabowski setting the record for blocks (146 for the season) and kills (154) and Johnson holding the team record for aces (69) and assists (321) according to Maxpreps. "Lauren Grabowski and Lo have really stepped up and led the team on and off the court," Coach Salamone said.

The Lady Falcons varsity team has had a successful season with a first year coach who was a previous VCS volleyball player. Last year the varsity team had also made it to playoffs, and this year they carried on that tradition. "They motivate each other," Coach Salamone said. "And they really motivate themselves."

by Annie Knitter

# Soccer Reaches Playoff Finals

The VCHS boys soccer team has had a remarkable season. They made it to the playoffs, then they defeated Forest Lake Christian 3-1 and Gustine 2-1. They played in their very first section championship ever.

The game that was played on Thursday, November 3, against Forest Lake, began with a serious incident. During warm up, as Andrew Grabrowski was in the goal getting ready for the game, he fell to the ground having a seizure. The coaches rushed over to him as the team quickly gathered together and prayed. The ambulance and fire truck arrived minutes later and he was rushed to the hospital, along with his parents. Luckily, he was okay and went home that night.

"I was really happy that Andrew was okay, and that he could cheer on his team at the rest of the playoff games," Alex Wolfsberger said.

Before each practice all season long, the team did a devotional together as a team. From there they warmed up, did drills, and then scrimmaged offense versus defenses. "During devotions we read a scripture, usually from Romans, Psalms, or Proverbs and it helps us with our daily problems," Stephen Gloudeman said.

When you are sitting in the bleachers at a game you hear the fans screaming and jumping

when a goal is scored. The fans are so supportive and will even cheer on the team during their hard times. Many students and also teachers like to attend these games, even when it is 40 degrees outside.

"It feels great to make it this far because all the running and hard work finally paid off, but a huge struggle our team had was losing to Encina," Raj Pandher said.

The game against Encina was to determine the section champions in Division VI. VCHS had previously beat Encina 2-1 on October 3, and had lost to them 1-3 October 26 (their only league loss), so the teams were fairly evenly matched, though Encina had played in the section final



Braedan Pilcher shakes 2 defenders from Forest Lake Christian School Photo by Kyle Oxford

game in previous years while the Falcons were making their first appearance. The game ended with a Falcon loss, 0-1 and an injury to co-captain Braeden Pilcher.

by Kendra Rowland



Photo by AJ Hearn

James Aarhus runs the ball while Kyle Pazdel recovers from a block

# Football Falls

This 2011-2012 season the VCHS varsity football had an interesting season yet in the end they still qualified for playoffs. Friday, November 11 was their first game of playoffs. They played Jim Elliot Christian High School from Lodi, and came out with a 74-14 win.

James Aarhus contributed his biggest rushing game of the season, with 278 yards and 5 touchdowns. Alec Gregorich connected with receivers for 5 of 8 attempts, including a 34-yard pass to Nigel Powell.

Justin Bonn how he found out they made it to playoffs, "James called me, and told me the good news and it was such an awesome thing to hear. Even though we lost to a couple teams we definitely should not have, we have another shot to prove who we are in playoffs."

Alec Gregorich shared his feeling on the season: "Going into the season we knew we had a good team, and we knew it was in our potential to make playoffs. Going into the playoffs we knew that if we execute the way we should, we can definitely come away with a championship."

Fans enjoy watching Falcon football. "I am very excited at football games because I am able to hang out with friends outside of school, even though we're at school, It's still a fun time," Nikhil Saukhla said.

Friday November 18, the Falcons played at Foresthill High School for the Division 6 section semi-finals. Despite the cold, wet weather, the teams gave fans an exciting game. Falcons were ahead at the half 22-21 but mistakes in the third quarter were costly. The game ended with a score of Falcons 30, Foresthill 43. Foresthill will play Bradshaw Christian for the championship on November 26.

by Taylor Schubert

# Sneak Peek into High School

## 8th Graders to Visit VCHS on November 29

Many high school students remember when they were eighth graders, coming up to the high school and hanging out with their high school buddy. Eighth grade visit day is set for Tuesday, November 29. VCMS students will shadow older students from chapel throughout the school day.

Eighth graders will move from class to class seeing who their future teachers might be and what classes their seven periods might include. They will make many observations of the high school and how the high school students are. The bustling halls will be stuffed with students trying to get to their class and just trying to get around.

When this date comes around, high school students should remember that the halls will be more crowded. This day is a chance for the eighth graders to see what high school is like, and also a day to test getting-to-class-on-time-skills.

"It's pretty interesting seeing all the reactions on all the eighth graders faces when they see how jam-packed the school actually is," Summer Richardson said. "It's always cool to see all these little middle school students making faces at us!"

This year will make the third time eighth graders have visited VCHS for a day. "It's just a peek into the high school life for these eighth graders. So just be happy it's for one day!" Darius Javan said.

by Georgette Belland

Deck the Halls Spirit Week is just right around the corner from November 29 - December 2. Deck The Halls is a way of celebrating Christmas.

During Spirit Week, students get to dress up with friends and cheer on their grade level at the Spirit Rally on Friday. "It's probably one of the best spirit weeks of the year. It's not like other regular spirit weeks where you just hang posters around," Shelby Evans said.

Each year during Deck the Halls, every class also picks a theme that has to do with Christmas and decorates one of their teacher advisor's classrooms. "Everyone comes together from your own grade to decorate a pretty room. You get to be creative and make things bright! We basically just took random things from around the house such as lights and wrapping paper. Not a lot of

money was spent. Our room had cotton everywhere as snow, paper snowflakes, lots of string lights, a Christmas tree, and box presents," Shelby Evans said.



Graphic by Anya Vollstedt

Not everyone finds Deck the Halls to be their favorite spirit week though.

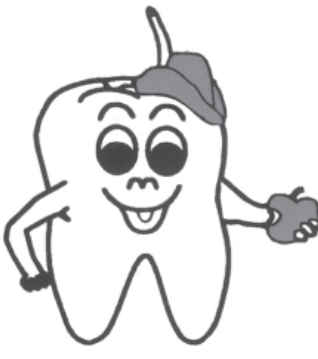
"I found it pretty boring. Not a lot of people showed up and helped decorate last year. We did buy a few lights and tape but almost all of the

wrapping paper was from home so we didn't spend a lot of money. We probably spent around twenty dollars total. We decorated Mr. Oshima's vent hood like a fireplace, taped the shower rods with red and white tape to look like candy canes, and all of the desks were covered in wrapping paper," Nathan Lester said.

The freshman's theme is "By the Fireplace," freshman representative Zoe Martin said. Sophomores are going for a "Winter Wonderland or White Christmas" theme in Mr. Oshima's room, according to sophomore representative Andrew Grabowski.

The juniors are "going for a 'Candy Land' theme in Senora Stitt's classroom this year," junior rep Anakin Ueng said. The seniors are going all out with a "Random Christmas" theme, according to senior rep Kristen McFadden.

by Alison Fortin



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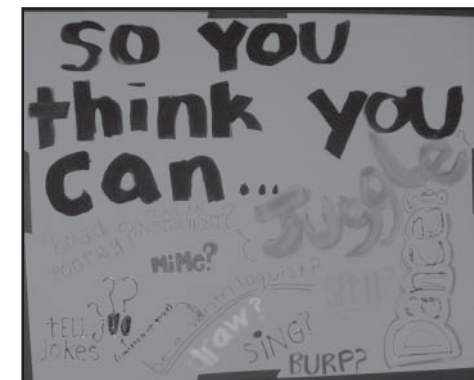


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## Talent Show & Dance on Friday, December 2!

*It's called*

# Thanks **giving** (& VCHS Gives Back)



*Shelby Evans, member of the Bible Impact class, sorts through clothing donated at VCHS.*

As winter is slowly but surely coming around, cold weather is close on its heels. What if you didn't have a warm jacket or coat? What if you didn't have cozy warm socks?

Impact class was in charge of organizing, advertising and counting up for the clothing drive. "The clothing drive is for the San Francisco Academy; it provides clothing for those in need," Impact class teacher Mr. Scott Oshima said. Meeting this necessity has sparked our partnership with San Francisco Academy, a school sponsored by the San Francisco Rescue Mission.

"I do think it's important to give back to others because at VCS we are fortunate and blessed; so we shall give to those less fortunate and in need," Ashley Hall said. We didn't excel in getting as much clothing donations as we would like, but however we did get some donations.

**by Devyn Baum**



The food drive is one of the most long-standing traditions at VCS. Mrs. Fogh has been at VCS for sixteen years and couldn't remember a year when there wasn't a food drive. Mr. Oshima and his Bible Impact class organized it for the first time this year.

"It is important to us because as Christians we need to remember to give to the needy. And that's exactly what we are doing here with the food drive," Mr. Oshima said.

The food drive took place from October 31 to November 4, and dozens of food items were collected. The Bible Impact class hosted this week-long event as a competition among the four grade levels. The seniors brought in the most items.

"It's a really good feeling to know that you helped out someone that you don't even know and know that they really appreciated it," Mr. Oshima said.

"I think the food drive is a really good idea, because some people need help because maybe they can't afford food for their family one week. And that's what the food drive is about, helping people out without asking for anything in return," Georgette Beland said.

Items will be divided in food baskets for distribution to families in need in our local area.

**by Antoinette Owens**



The Spanish Club has been organizing a charity drive: Operation Christmas Child. "Operation Christmas Child is a program that gathers small gifts that are stuffed into boxes," said Mrs. Zarbo.

"Operation Christmas Child is a charity that gives Christmas presents to those that may not be able to get gifts otherwise," said Justin Ellsworth, the president of the Spanish club. Shoeboxes are filled with toys, candy, soap, and other things that children in under-developed countries might want or need.

"Operation Child is a ministry created by Franklin Graham that delivers Christmas gifts to needy children from all around the world who wouldn't get a Christmas gift otherwise. The children get to learn about God's love through a Christmas gift. This is my third year running it with the VCHS Spanish club," said Mrs. Stitt.

Franklin Graham's ministry helps children all around the world, but this year the Spanish Club will be helping the children in the South America. These children in South and Central America will be receiving these gifts along with a letter of encouragement. This letter will help the children get a better idea of the Lord.

"This is a way for the children to feel God's love" says Nikhil Saukhla, the vice-president of the Spanish Club.

**by Shyanne Lum**



*Brittany Simmers donates blood in the Bloodmobile in the parking lot on November 16.*

On Wednesday, November 16, our school hosted a blood drive for Blood Centers of the Pacific, a non-profit, community-based organization that helps nearly 50,000 patients per year. This is the eleventh blood drive that VCS has hosted with Blood Centers of the Pacific; and according to some of our office staff, it wasn't a good one.

The total blood received was eleven units, which is a very small amount compared to other school blood drives in our area. One of the blood drives our school hosted 3 years ago resulted in 42 units donated. However, not all students are choosing not to donate due to their eligibility or choice.

According to some students, the reason why they're not giving blood is because they feel sick whenever they see it. Other students like Payten Silva, aren't giving blood because of the Blood Center's age requirement. The Blood Center requires that donors must be 16 years old if they have a parent signature; without a parent signature donors must be 17 years old.

In fact, all of the freshman class and a large majority of the sophomore class are not able to donate blood due to this age rule. But despite the disappointing donation results, someone did profit off the blood drive.

One of the few donors, Ivon Cox-Boone, donated for the first time and said, "I'm giving blood because it's for the good of other people and I get a free t-shirt." So while the drive was not as successful as planned, blood was donated.

**by Garrett Parker**