

The Duweneck Newsletter



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Opinions

We should have more field trips every year

By: Emmy Li

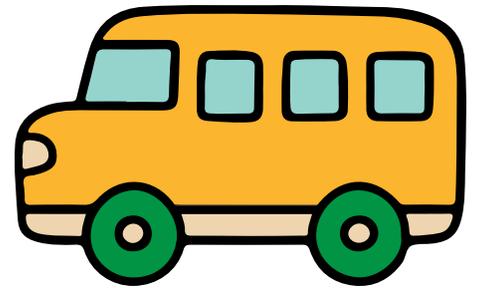
Every year, we students head off to field trips to learn more about certain topics. Evidence shows that most students adore and have passion for field trips, whether its overnight or not. Having more field trips will definitely be beneficial to our school, since it is a fun learning experience out of the classroom that lets students dive more deeper into topics.

To understand why we need more, our first example is that field trips simply help students learn. Students can experience concepts in real life, and not just read it off a thick textbook or picture it in their head. For example, learning about the first ways of hunting and the weapons our ancestors used before might be fun, but it would be more interesting if you could see the first weapons in real life in a museum. These trips are an amazing in-person learning experience for students.

Field trips are also a fun, memorable, and exciting experience to interact with classmates and friends. They allow students to talk and play with their friends without getting into trouble, while they are learning about all sorts of things.

How should we provide money for more trips? One way is if everyone helped by donating money. We would need about \$50-\$1000 per person, and the cost varies whether we go to a field trip nearby or an overnight one, like the Gold Rush in 4th grade. So, if each family donated some money, we would be able to have enough for more field trips. Also, another benefit is that the extra money could be saved for field trips for the next school year, so that parents of future students wouldn't have to start from square 1.

In conclusion, our school should have more field trips every year, because it not only lets students learn about facts they might have never known before, it also creates a memorable experience for many children.

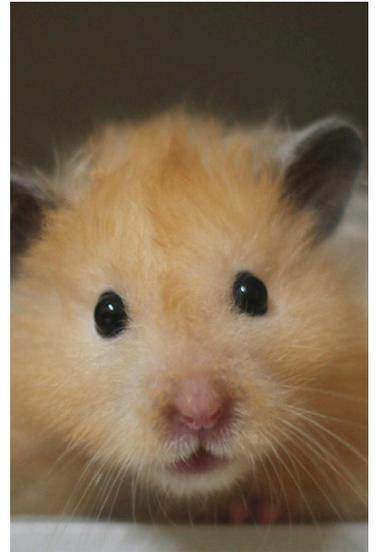


We should have a class pet

By: Weijia Kong

Imagine having a class pet! A hamster, goldfish, you name it! We should have a class pet. A class pet will benefit both students and teachers in many ways that help not only the learning environment, but can also help reduce stress. It also gives an animal a home.

Did you know that classroom pets are shown to reduce the amount of stress that is exhibited in classrooms? They provide a safe and calming environment in lots of ways! For example, when students are feeling stressed out, they can easily have access to a pet that they can look at and pet. This way of relieving stress has been shown to work, as studies have expressed. According to “The Benefits of Pets in the Classroom: 4 Ways Pets Are Transforming and Helping Kids at School” by Steven Feldman, President at Human Animal Bond Research Institute, reviewed by Veronica Higgs, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, stated, “ For some students, the calming presence of an animal can even help manage anxiety or challenges like learning disabilities and behavioral difficulties. Given these benefits, it’s no wonder animals are being incorporated into school curriculums across the country.” This shows how class pets can bring comfort and a feeling of safety into a classroom, nurturing a safe and stress free environment. Class pets can help decrease stress and can nurture a safe and comfortable learning environment.



Classroom pets also often make a perfect opportunity for learning. Pets can teach real life responsibilities, such as caring for an animal, that the learning curriculum lacks in. This is a great way to incorporate this into a learning environment. For example, you can make this a fun and interactive lesson by having students feed the class pet. It not only gives students responsibility, but it is also a phenomenal way to get students to pay attention in class. With a class pet, everyone would be quiet and behaved, if it meant that they got to pet the little critter. In addition to this fact, it is also shown that data from teacher surveys that are conducted by Pets In The Classroom Grant Program, (2023-2024 school year) has shown that several teachers, if not many, have said that class pets enhance learning experiences for students. Another piece of evidence is from “Teacher Survey Shows Classroom Pets Enhance Learning Experience to Students”. It quoted, “Ninety-nine percent of respondents said that having a pet in the classroom has been a positive experience, and teachers reported that interacting with classroom pets helped improve attendance, reduce anxiety levels, foster empathy and compassion, enhance test and academic performance, develop social skills, boost self-esteem, and decrease disciplinary measures. The data, coupled with the comments that teachers shared through the survey, demonstrate the impact classroom pets are making attendance:

80 percent of teachers saw an improvement in attendance due to their classroom pet. One teacher shared, *“I have a student who has had a terrible attendance record. This year, she has missed very little; her mother told me it is because she is responsible for taking care of our classroom animals every day.”* This evidence clearly shows that having a class pet makes students more responsible and have a motivation to go to school. Class pets can benefit a teacher’s curriculum and teach responsibility.

However, there are also cons to exposing students to pets. Some students may be reckless with it, and do not treat it as a living creature, instead, a toy to play with. This can be prevented by simply implementing a rule; no one who misuses the class pet gets to feed the pet, or pet them. This will prevent people misusing pets because students will be motivated to feed or pet the pet. But, some students might still continue being reckless with classroom pets. This is cruel to the poor animal, but there should be many careful considerations that will prevent these types of things from happening before getting a class pet. People also might say that class pets increase the amount of hyperactivity in the classroom and make children unable to focus. This resides as a valid concern. Nevertheless, there are also many ways to solve this. For example, teachers can put the pet away when the teacher is talking. There are many ways to prevent the cons of being reckless and not focusing when there is a class pet around. As long as students do not break rules and show that they are mature enough, if there is a class pet, they probably will not harm it.



To sum it all up, class pets can make a great learning experience and relieve stress, and it will be a great benefit to the learning environment if we have a class pet. If we had a class pet, it would make school a lot more interesting. There are also cons about having a class pet, but it can be easily avoided if students abide by the rules.

Credits to Abigail Hasson - Atanassov and Sara Palanki

Get more balls in the ball closets!

By: Kayla Liu

We should have more medium balls in the 3-5th grade ball closet because 5th graders get dismissed at lunch later so getting a medium sized ball (or really any ball) is hard. The first reason is when playing wall-ball with a big or egg ball is hard. Also, playing 4-square with a big or egg ball could hurt if hit by. Finally there are only around 4 balls in the 3-5th grade ball closet. Without a doubt, having more good sized balls in the 3-5th grade closet will be a great investment.



The Scars of the Field

By: Rhiya Vijai

Are you wondering why our grass has more dirt showing than grass? We have so many generous donors that donate thousands of dollars, yet none of it goes to how our grass looks. Another thing is our garden. There are so many weeds that we **NEED** to get rid of. Let's raise awareness of this together and make our school better looking.

Our field is used for many activities and games. Football, kickball, soccer, goldrush and Mr. Lubbe and Mr. Benson use it sometimes for PE. All of these use the Duveneck school grass. Imagine there is a rainy day and someone forgets that they can't go on the grass. Because of the bald spots on the grass, the student will slip or get mud on their shoes and clothes because of a puddle. This is why we need to help our school field.

The Duveneck school garden is supposed to be a beautiful, calm corner for studying about plants but also for getting away from the playground chaos. How can it be peaceful if there are weeds everywhere? We need to prune and weed the garden. It could even be a couple of students or an entire class, or the whole school! But either way, we should work together and make our garden more enjoyable.



Sharing snacks should be allowed

By Leyton Chevsky

To sum it all up, class pets can make a great learning experience and relieve stress, and it will be a great benefit to the learning environment if we have a class pet. If we had a class pet, it would make school a lot more interesting. There are also cons about having a class pet, but it can be easily avoided if students abide by the rules.

On a Tuesday afternoon, I held a fruit roll in my hand. My friend had a pack of choco pandas. Our hands moved forward to do the swap, but then I heard the dreaded noise, “NO TRADING FOOD!!!” Noooo, I was so close. I don't get why we can't trade food. We both know we don't have any food allergies, but we still got punished. I think this school rule doesn't make sense because most people only trade food with their close friends, and when they don't, they're usually very careful. In the six years I've been at this school, I've never seen anyone have an allergic reaction to food trading.

Another reason this rule doesn't work is that many students think it's unnecessary, so they ignore it anyway. Last year, things were better when we got to fourth grade. We were allowed to trade food again before it was banned.

I even went around the school asking people what they thought about the no-sharing-food rule. This is what one of them said:

“I think the no-sharing-food rule is dumb. I've known some of my friends for six years. I know they have no food allergies, but the teachers still get mad when I trade food with them. This rule is useless, barely anyone follows it, and you almost never get caught.”

Another person I asked said this:

“I get the no-sharing-food rule, but you should be able to ask the yard duties if you can trade with your close friends. The rule makes sense for random people or people you're not friends with, but if you know them well, you should be allowed to ask teachers and trade food with your friends.”

This shows that I'm not the only one who disagrees with this rule. I know this probably isn't enough evidence to change it, but hopefully the school can listen to my argument and consider making a change. That's why I think Duveneck should get rid of the no-sharing-food rule.

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Facts

Should homework be banned?

By: Jennifer Zhao

Let's be real, homework is boring and terrible, well that may be just the opinion of about three fourths of our fifth grade students at Duveneck. Many people have different opinions. Some people think that homework is not needed and is a waste of their time. Others believe homework is a benefit for all. But should homework be actually BANNED? If you want to know then keep reading this text to know all the evidence that may hold the answer.

Let's start with why homework might be bad. One of the reasons homework may be bad is that it can cause stress and anxiety. Some students get the wrong idea about making their homework "perfect" and they work harder than expected but still get something wrong. This might make the student feel frustrated or stressed. Another way homework can be bad for students is some students might be already really busy and trying to fit in homework may even cause students to cut off time with their family and friends which can be harmful to their social life. Homework might even cut off some of your sleep time which can lead to a downfall in your health.



Even though evidence shows that homework may be bad for you, there are also some reasons that homework is beneficial in many ways. One reason is that homework allows you to be able to do things independently without a teacher guiding you throughout the way. Evidence also shows that homework is like a refresh of what you learned in class to ensure that the things you learned throughout the day sticks to your brain and doesn't just fall off into a ditch. Homework also shows to your teacher and YOU what you know and what things you need to work on in class to help you gain more knowledge. It also builds a strong learning habit that prepares you for harder learning times in college and high school.

In conclusion, homework is good and bad in many different ways, it's just about YOUR opinion.(hey readers, just because you don't like homework does not mean you shouldn't do it.)

Bearded Dragons!

By: Ruoqi He

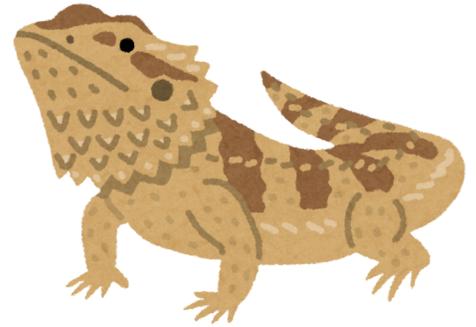
Do you want to learn about or have a pet bearded dragon? Well in this essay, you will learn all about them and how to keep one as a pet.

Bearded dragons have spiny skin and scales and are very good pets. They are the #1 pet lizard and are ranked at beginner reptile care level. They are also affectionate and cute and are gentle creatures. Like in their name, they are known for the skin that is located under their necks that when they are angered, it is flared to look like a beard. Now you can see why they are such cool pets.

Bearded dragons eat a lot of things. They mostly eat insects and fruit such as strawberries, blueberries, potatoes, lettuce, watermelon, crickets and mealworms. When they are young, bearded dragons get fed 2-5 times a day and for adults you only need to feed it once. Now you see the varieties of food the bearded dragons eat.

Wanna know how to care for a bearded dragon? Well I'll tell you how. Bearded dragons do not need vaccines and just a checkup once a year. Bearded dragons need a desert-like habitat (but not too dry) topped with a UV lamp to keep warm. Bearded dragons need 3 baths every week to stay healthy and clean. Another thing is cutting their nails but a simple clipper will do. One very important thing is enrichment for your bearded dragon. Toys and activity resulting in rewards will keep it happy. Bearded dragons live up to 9-12 years average so you will have plenty of time to bond with them.

In conclusion, bearded dragons are amazing lizards that bring joy to the people that own one. So now you see that they are such amazing pets.



California facts

By: Evelyn Fei

Did you know that California is the third largest state? It covers about 163,695 square miles. It also became the 31st state on September 9, 1850. California is an amazing state.

As you know, California is famous for gold. Some classes are learning about it. It's called the gold rush. The gold rush started in 1848 and ended in 1855. Gold was discovered in Sutter's Mill on January 24, 1848 sending many people to San Francisco with their hopes of getting rich. It was hard to get to California in the 1800s. Some people rode a wagon. That took about 4-8 months. Other people chose sea. That took approximately several months to even two years! The last route is the Panama canal. It is the most efficient and only takes a few weeks. Unfortunately it is also one of the most dangerous. What route would you choose?

California is also famous for its national parks. These parks include Channel Islands, Death Valley, Joshua Tree, Kings Canyon, Lassen, Pinnacles, Redwood, Sequoia, and Yosemite. Here are some of the most famous. Yosemite is known for its beautiful waterfalls, and granite formations. It is located near Nevada. Another famous national park is Lassen Volcanic. Many people like to see its hydrothermal features including mudpots and fumaroles. The last one is Death Valley. Over one million people go there each year. Part of Death Valley is also in Nevada. It is known for its hot weather. The hottest temperature recorded was 134 degrees F(56.7 degrees C) in 1913. Each of the National Parks are known for different things.

As you can see California has a lot of interesting places and history. It's time to plan your next trip. California is full of knowledge and nature!



Staff Sessions

Q and A with Ms. Sinclair



By: Emmy Li

Q: Why did you want to become a teacher?

A: I love singing, and when I got into middle school I had a really amazing choir teacher. I continued for high school and learned instruments like the piano, and my voice teacher told me that I should continue as a career

Q: If you could be any animal, what would you be?

A: I would be a panda, since they are super cute and chubby. They also get to eat all day and be fine.

Q: If you had to teach a different subject, what would it be, and why?

A: I would teach science, because I love to learn about how things work in nature and it's very interesting how many things are made in the world.

Q: What's the most challenging part about being a teacher?

A: The most challenging part would be disruptive behavior when other students are trying to learn.

Q: Who is/are your role model(s) and why?

A: My role model is my former boss, since she taught me how to be a leader by listening to people's ideas with compassion, and also not trying to solve every problem.

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: My favorite food is sushi, since it has many different foods in a small bite.

Q: What are you most scared of?

A: I'm most scared of going to jail on something I did not do.

Q and A with Ms.Ali



By: Evelyn Fei

Q. Why did you want to become a teacher?

A. I really loved being in school. Because I moved so much, school was a place that I can rely on and I really liked my teachers. I thought that teaching would be a fun career.

Q.What are you most scared of?

A.I'm terrified of **RATS**. My students tried to encourage me to watch the movie Ratatouille.

Q. If you could be any animal what would it be?

A. I would be an otter because they are very resourceful animals and have great survival skills.

Q. What is your favorite hobby apart from teaching?

A. I love getting to know neighborhood dogs. I don't have one so I like to look at others! I also love to bake, read and ride my bike.

Q. What is the most challenging part of being a teacher?

A. The most challenging part of being a teacher is when I lose track of time.

Q. Who are your role model(s)?

A. My dad was my role model. He was a very wise person and I always followed his advice.

Q and A with Ms. Gerfen



By: Kayla Liu

Q. Why did you want to be a teacher?

A. Mainly like helping kids when they're struggling. Plus it's fun to work with a lot of people and kids.

Q. What is your favorite hobby?

A. Collecting heart rocks.

Q. What is the most challenging subject to teach?

A. Math , because when I was a student , it was hard for me.

Q. Who are your role models?

A. MLK Jr. and my students.

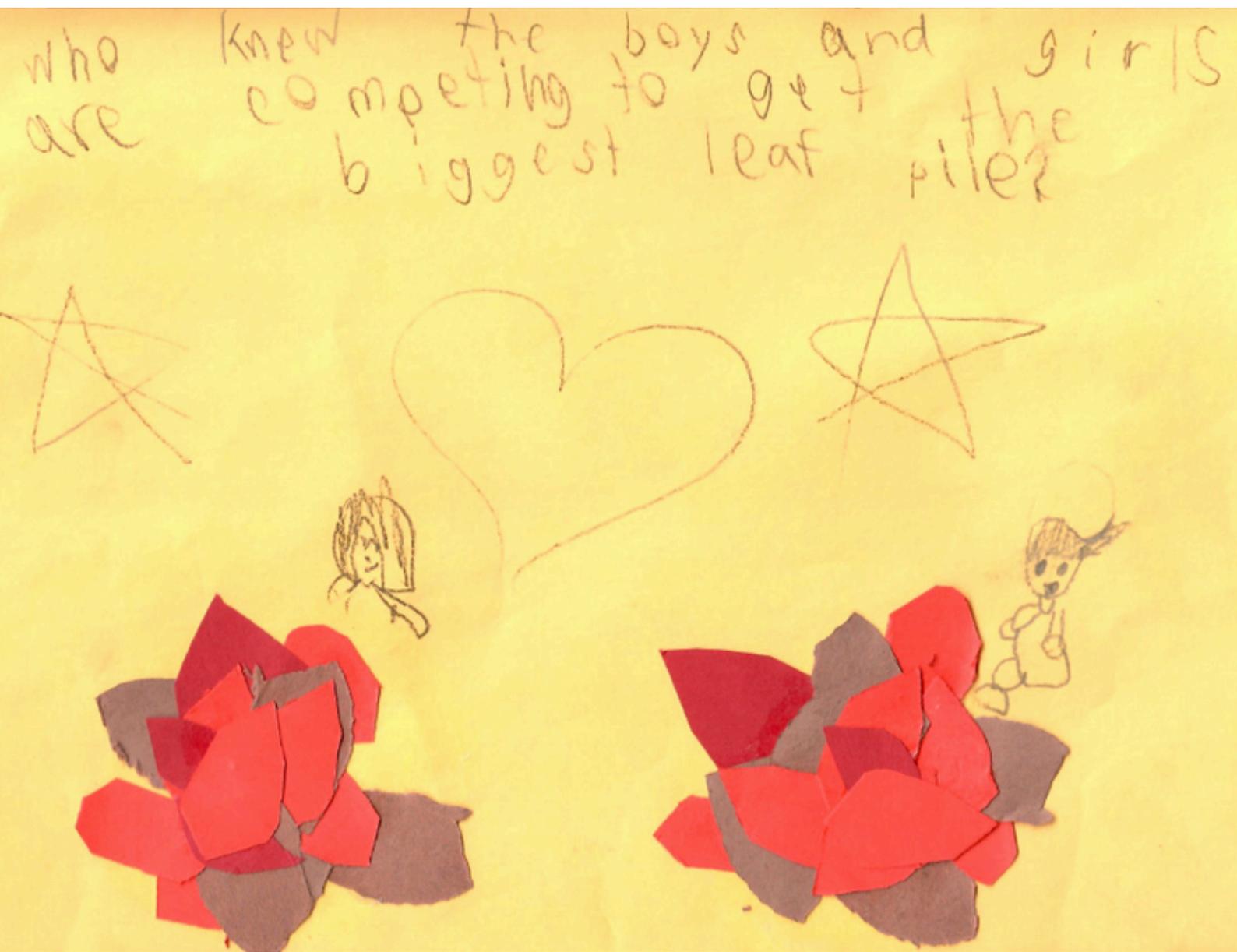
Q. What is your favorite food and why?

A. Salad because it's crunchy and full of veggies.

Q. What are you most scared of?

A. Failure but I'm learning to accept my mistakes.

ART



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