

Compass Chronicle

Yolo Charter | Spring 2021

A Word From our Vice Principal, Karle Roberts

The warmer weather always excites me after the cold winter and reminds me that spring is near! The flowers start to bloom, and green leaves appear, making me excited to get outside and enjoy the fresh air! It's a great opportunity to use nature for science lessons and to get active! One of the many reasons I love Compass is our flexibility to take the laptop outside for some sunshine and a change of scenery!



I am thankful for our amazing team of dedicated teachers and support staff that always put our scholars first! Let's all make a point to take our learning (and working) outside and soak up a little sunshine and enjoy the birds, bugs, and flowers emerging before us!

Forever loud and proud,

Karle

What's Been Happening at the Yolo Charter?

New Yolo Service Provider Available - Exciting news, Yolo families! Our Options scholars have a new [Mathnasium service provider](#) in Rohnert Park.

Gardening Club- Scholars have been growing their own produce! One scholar has quite the carrot crop! We learned how to use egg crates as compostable seed starters with a kit that

everyone received, and last month we transplanted them to our garden beds.

National Honor Society (NHS) - We have been getting ready for NHS induction and encouraging scholars to volunteer. Ms. Dong, one of our Yolo Supervising Teachers, has two NHS scholars on her roster who will graduate in June and have worked really hard to graduate successfully.



This has been an exciting quarter for Mrs. Lehman's seventh-grade Social Studies class as scholars learn about some of the earliest explorers from Europe to reach the new world in search of new opportunities during the 1600s. Scholars have used various digital tools to organize their learning, including keeping Cornell notes and using an [interactive digital notebook](#). During learning labs, they applied spatial thinking skills using [PearDeck](#) to identify key points on a map and draw different voyages' routes. In preparation for their unit exam, they reviewed core ideas using a [Padlet](#) to collaborate and create a study guide together.

Work Samples and Learning Labs!

A Twist on The 3 Little Pigs!

Fifth-grader Rebekah V., Ms. Lee's scholar, takes a fun and sweet twist on a classic story that we all know and love!



Rebekah Vagnerini
Language Arts
B+

good job!

Fractured Fairy Tales- The Three Little Pigs

Once upon a time there was a weary old mother pig who had three hungry pigs that were always eating up all the food. So she kicked them out and told them to fend for themselves.

The first hungry pig loved to bake, so he baked tons of bread and built himself a house out of it. The second hungry pig loved to snack, so he ^{built} himself a house out of his favorite snack, pretzels. The third hungry pig loved sweets, but he knew the forest was full of wolves, so he ^{built} himself a house out of hard peanut brittle.


The next day a hungry wolf was walking around the forest looking ^{for} something to eat. He smelled the fresh-baked bread and followed his nose to the first hungry pig's house. The wolf saw the pig inside through the window. So he knocked and said, "Hungry pig, hungry pig, let me in." The hungry pig responded, "No, no, no, not by the yeast of my bready, bread, bread!" So the wolf showed his teeth and said, "Then I'll nibble and chomp your house down!" CHOMP, CHOMP, NIBBLE! But hungry pig escaped and ran to his brother's house.

The hungry wolf continued down the road until he saw a pretzel house and heard two pigs squealing inside. This made his nose drip and mouth foam. So he knocked on the door and said, "Hungry pigs, hungry pigs, let me in." They squealed, "No, no, no, not by the yeast of my pretzy, pretz, pretzels!" Then the wolf said, "I'll nibble and chomp your house down!" CHOMP, CHOMP, NIBBLE! But the two hungry pigs escaped and ran to their brother's house and slammed the door shut.

The wolf ran after the two hungry pigs and watch them slam the door shut. He was furious and hopeful that there was a third pig in there. So he knocked on the door and said, "Hungry pigs, hungry pigs, let me in." They squealed and screamed, "No, no, no, not by the nut of my nutty, nut, nut!" Then the wolf said, "Then I'll nibble and chomp your house down!" CHOMP, CHOMP, OUCH!!!!!! The peanut brittle house was so hard that it broke all the wolf's teeth. The hungry pigs watched as the wolf agonized in pain and ran off never to be seen again.

THE END.

I'm impressed w/ your ideas!
First of all, replacing building materials w/ food was new then making them cry out "Not by my (god)" was very creative.
Be on the look out when to add commas and apostrophes



The Forgotten War

Mrs. Guerrero's third-grade scholar researched the Korean War as well as interviewed his great grandfather who served in the war. In doing so, he met both his English language arts and social studies standards.



The Forgotten War
REMEMBERING KOREA 1950-1953
Daphne Rothstein | Language Arts, Social Studies | February 20, 2020

Corporal Roland Kusrow (Great-Grandpa)

On February 3, 1955, my Great-Grandpa Roland Kusrow turned 20. That same month, he got drafted into the United States Army! He was headed for Korea, but first, he had to do basic training. He was sent to Fort Ord, near Monterey, but they lost his papers for two months! He had to stay on base the whole time, and it must have been boring. He didn't get to go to the beach or anything! But once they found the papers, he was sent on to Camp Roberts to train to be an infantryman.

At Camp Roberts, he had to train from early in the morning until midnight, sometimes. He learned how to use a gun, how to respond when under attack, and all sorts of things! The commanding officers yelled at everyone a lot, and that wasn't too fun, but when you're in the military, you have to do whatever they say!

Once Grandpa finished his training, he was promoted to corporal. I think that's pretty cool! Then he had to travel on a huge ship overseas for 14 long days; they didn't get to travel on airplanes back then so much. The ship was so full of GI's, there wasn't any room to turn around. Grandpa didn't get sick, but a lot of guys did, and they weren't given any medicine to help. The guys just threw up all over the decks, and it was a mess. Grandpa said the ocean must have been a "tough son-of-a-gun," 'cause the ship tossed and turned like crazy!

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Did the war really end?

The U.S. and South Koreans dominated the sky, heavily bombing North Korea. The Chinese and Russian-backed North Koreans dominated the land and mountainous areas. Thus, the war came to a stalemate, and in July of 1953, the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. However, a peace treaty was never signed. This means the Korean Civil War was never officially ended and is still unresolved all these years later.

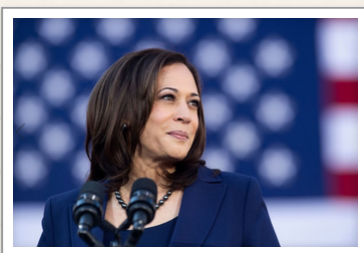
The Cold War was full of tension and constant espionage, and largely overshadowed the Korean War. People soon forgot about the bloody conflict in Korea that took so many lives. Thus, it is known as the "Forgotten War."

But the Koreans haven't forgotten, the veterans who fought in it haven't forgotten, and now, after doing this project and hearing my Grandpa's story, I will never forget.



This is me PROUDLY wearing my Grandpa's Army jacket!

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Kamala Harris Paper

Victoria R., a sixth-grader of Ms. Dong, wrote a biography on Kamala Harris in celebration of Vice-President Harris' election. She took inspiration from Vice-President Harris' accomplishments.

Kamala Harris

Did you know that we now have the first woman vice president who is also a woman of color? Well, her name is Kamala Harris, and I am going to tell you all about her.

Kamala Harris was born in Oakland, California. Her mother, Shyamla was born in India and her father Donald was born in Jamaica. Kamala's mom is a scientist and her dad is a teacher at Stanford, they met and got married in Berkeley. When they weren't working they marched for civil rights. Kamala also has a younger sister named Maya. Kamala and Maya would always visit their grandma and grandpa in Zambia.

In middle school Kamala moved from California to Canada where her parents nursed her on the civil rights movement, but she couldn't wait to get back to America because she wanted to make things better. So after middle school and high school she went to college in America at Howard University and came out a winner.

On her first day of college she was helping, she gave flyers to the students for the Liberal Arts Student Council. She really focused on her future. She went on the debate team to get her speaking skills better and she interned at the Federal Trade Commission, she did some research at the National Archives to study how the government worked, and even joined the students at the National Mall in Washington, DC to protest apartheid in South Africa. Kamala wanted to help make things better.

After Howard University, Kamala came home so she could study at the Hastings College of the Law. There were court cases and some contracts needed to be filled by Kamala and she changed the lives of others and it filled her heart because she was happy to change lives.

Kamala graduated law school, that meant one more exam to take and that was The California Bar. Without passing it, Kamala couldn't practice law. Kamala didn't pass, that taught Kamala something new, failure. So she tried again and SHE PASSED!

Kamala was finally ready to make her dream work. Well first Deputy District Attorney. Next the first Indian-American woman voted into the US Senate and the little girl named "lotus flower" turned into something people can call on. As senator, Kamala was fighting for laws so the laws can help workers make more money. She joined the women's march on Washington for equality and civil rights. She traveled very far but not far enough, so on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on the TV show Good Morning America, Kamala told everybody she was going to run for president.

Kamala realized running for president cost a lot of money and she didn't have enough money and it was sad but she had to drop out of the race. Kamala was looking forward to the work she could get her hands on and make great ideas to help America.

Kamala then teamed up with our Former Vice-President, Joe Biden. He was running for president too and needed someone to be his Vice-President and he picked her. Kamala kept trying and reached her dreams. She is now Vice-President. So, no matter what...

NEVER GIVE UP!

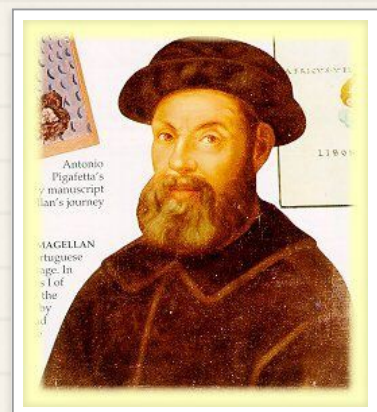
Fun With Foam Shapes!

Second-grader Moryah G., in Mrs. Valdez's class, learned and created her own patterns with foam shapes.



Magellan's 255-Day Voyage!

A seventh-grade scholar is learning about the Americas' first European explorers in Mrs. Lehman's Social Studies class. In this journal entry, scholar G.F. recalls what it might have been like to be a seaman on Magellan's 255-day voyage around the world. Magellan and his crew were the first to circumnavigate the world.



GF

7th gr

Assignment: Magellan And Drake
circumnavigate the World

3/9/2020

It was 1519 when I began the voyage to sail around the world with Ferdinand Magellan. We had 5 ships and I was one of the 250 men aboard them. Magellan wanted to find a westward route to India and Asia. I certainly didn't think that it was possible to sail around the world. After all, the world is flat. Everyone knows that! But I will give him the benefit of the doubt. He was the one of the sailors who found the Philippine Islands.

We did not have shiny new ships. So that worried me. The ships looked like they would fall apart in a storm. But Magellan said that they were perfectly fine. He said King Charles of Spain helped him get ready for the voyage. I will be on the ship Magellan himself will be sailing. The ship was called the Trinidad. We had wine and water stored in barrels and the only way to preserve food is to dry and salt them. To me, that sounds gross, but it's the only way to make them last. I am one of the crewmembers that need to check the food and water to make sure they didn't go bad. If some food was going to go bad, the crew members have to eat it before it does. It's how to save food. The way we cooked was to boil water on the deck and the food was served

on the deck too. People get diseases really easily on these ships. And everyone got a little scurvy from the lack of food. Especially me.

We set sail on September 20th, 1519. We spent months on the sea and *still* didn't achieve Magellan's goal. By then I had given up and told him multiple times that the world was flat. We can't sail around the world! But he still didn't listen to me. I nearly died in the winter when we anchored in the icy waters of the Atlantic Sea because I got pushed overboard. Magellan helped me as always. He was always nice and kind to the crew members and mourned over the death of ships that sank while we were voyaging. We stopped immediately and watched the ships go down. It was heart sinking.

Finally, after a year and a half, we achieved Magellan's goal of finding a waterway to Asia and India. I got sick multiple times and got pushed overboard multiple times, but it was worth it. Magellan called the waterway, "The Strait of Magellan." I did not like it at all. I would rather have called it: "The waterway of doom." The winds were violent, we lost a couple of our ships, the water was fast and deep, so we had no way to anchor. A month later, we reached the end of the waterway. I would never want to go in there again. We endured many months of adventure. Magellan discovered a new ocean and named it: "Pacífico." I thought that was a pretty good name.

When we got back to Spain, I had learned a few things from the adventure at sea. One, the world is round, not flat. Two, Magellan is a noble captain. He became my best friend. And three, I am never going on a boat again.

Coding!

Danya, a sixth-grader of Mrs. Rachel Domino, has been learning how to code in Python for her technology elective.

Team Sort

Code with Explanation



```
from random import choice
```

1. First import random (a function to pick things from lists random) from a library called choice

```
players = []
```

2. Creating a variable called players which just holds an empty list (for now)

```
file = open('Players.txt', 'r')
players = file.read().splitlines()
print ('Players:', players)
```

*Players.txt is a list I created earlier. It just contains names of random people.

```
1 Bob
2 Joe
3 Danya
4 Rachel
5 Meg
6 Beth
7 Tim
8 Any
9 Tom
```

3. Creating players to sort:

- a. Open Players.txt and read it
- b. Split list into separate lines (because the computer reads it as on long line)
- c. Print the list of players

```
winner = choice(players)
```

4. The computer chooses a random player from the list of players and assigns it as the winner of something. This isn't needed until later.

```
teamA = []
teamB = []
while len(players) > 0:
    playerA = choice(players)
    teamA.append(playerA)
    players.remove(playerA)
    if len(players) == 0:
        break
    playerB = choice(players)
    teamB.append(playerB)
    players.remove(playerB)
```

5. Sorting the players into Team A and Team B:

- a. Create 2 variables (teamA and teamB) containing two empty lists (for now)
- b. While loop: the following process will keep repeating while there are more than 0 players not sorted into teams yet.
- c. Choose a random person from players (ex: Danya)
- d. Add 'Danya' to teamA
- e. Take 'Danya' away from players
- f. If there are no more people in players, end the loop
- g. Otherwise, repeat the process except put the person into teamB

The loop will keep repeating, switching back and forth between putting a player into Team A and B until there are no more players.

```
print('\nHere are your teams:\n')
print ('Team A', teamA)
print ('Team B', teamB)
```

6. Print the complete teams (If there was an odd number of people in the list, Team A would have one more person than Team B)

```
print ('\nThe winning player is ', winner)
if winner in teamA:
    winning_team = teamA
    print ('The winning team is Team A!')
else:
    winning_team = teamB
    print ('The winning team is Team B!')
```

7. Figuring out the winner and whose team they're on:

- a. Print the winning player that was chosen in the beginning
- b. If the winner is in Team A, that is the winning team
- c. Otherwise, the winner must be in Team B, so that is the winning team

Scholar Spotlight: Meet the Flint Family!



We Are The Flint's!

Leon, Ashleigh, Waylon, Evalyn, and Matthew.

Compass has given us so much opportunity. We have been able to have the most amazing school supplies and materials! And we have been able to afford school supplies that we otherwise would not have access to.

Our kiddos are our greatest joy. Being home with them and encouraging their gifts and talents is such a priceless gift. Especially this year, during quarantine, we were able to keep a positive rhythm and a strong schedule to bring peace and comfort to our children during these challenging times.

All three kids participate in sports and after-school activities. Waylon and Matthew love Brazilian JiuJitsu, being outdoors, and caring for our eclectic mix of animals. Evalyn loves cheer and choreography. We spend hours at the skate park, bike riding, visiting our local creek and hiking spots, hunting for lizards, and making friends at just about every spot we visit.

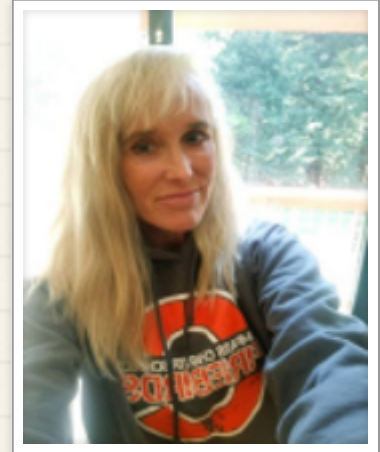
Homeschooling is the best lifestyle choice that we've made as a family. Our supervising teacher Kristin Valdez has been an asset to our success. Not only does Compass supply us with amazing vendors, but we also have a strong resource in Kristin, and she always answers texts and emails and is helping our kids and myself.

We have also had an awesome experience with testing one of our scholars, and I'm so grateful for how that experience has gone for our family.

We love Compass!

Staff Spotlight: Meet Kristen Winter, Online High School Teacher

My name is Kristen Winter, and this is my seventh school year teaching with Compass! I am a high school PE teacher with Compass online high school. I have been teaching in public or public charter schools since 1996. This is my fourteenth school year teaching online.



I have always had a calling to help and work with people. I started babysitting at 11-years-old and continued to care for children throughout high school and college. In college, I started tutoring my peers and found a lot of satisfaction in helping them achieve better grades and reaching their academic goals.

In addition to helping people in an academic capacity, I also enjoy helping others reach their fitness and health goals. I am a certified personal trainer and have run a small fitness business working with people of all ages.

At Compass, I enjoy working with families all over California and helping them be successful in their academic pursuits. I appreciate that scholars have the opportunity to choose the academic path that fits their needs.

The advice I would share with scholars and learning coaches is always to keep communication lines open with each other, your teachers, and your counselor. We are all a team working towards each scholar's success.

One thing about me that very few people know is that I am a huge animal lover, and I am obsessed with dachshunds. I currently have two miniature dachshunds and have had four other dachshunds over the past twenty years, including two rescues. I love the breed and would have more dachshunds if I could.

My family and I can be found either at a pool or the ocean in our free time. My two teenage daughters are competitive swimmers, and my husband and I are both masters swimmers. We also love to surf and prone paddle throughout the year. My husband and I also love to work in our garden and complete home improvement projects.

Staff Spotlight: Meet Sandra Valladares, Options Supervising Teacher!

My name is Sandra Valladares, and this is my second year as a Supervising Teacher at Compass Charter Schools. I have been teaching since the year 2000, but I knew I wanted to be a teacher at the age of 14. Here at Compass, I love assisting and guiding my families to succeed in their venture of learning at home.



At 14, I started teaching piano to my younger cousins for some extra money. Soon I was teaching piano to all of the neighborhood kids, including kids my own age. I continued throughout high school and loved how teaching made me feel. Being responsible for sparking understanding and knowledge in someone was incredible.

For the first 10 years of my professional teaching career, I taught everything from preschool to eight-grade. After having my children, I began the Spanish program at their elementary school. From there, I found virtual learning and began teaching Spanish virtually to students from Transitional Kinder to seniors in high school. Once again, I fell in love with how teaching made me feel, and teaching virtually made it so much bigger. Once I was lucky enough to join Compass, I saw an opportunity to help families find that feeling. I now get the chance to see learning coaches spark that understanding in their own children, and it makes me feel lucky that they let me be a part of it.

I don't consider myself an expert on anything because I know that there is ALWAYS more to learn from anyone and everyone. For me, teaching, as in life, is all about perspective. How we handle any given situation is because of the perspective that we have. I would advise scholars and learning coaches always to keep these seven perspectives of life in mind:

- Always be present
- Avoid getting overwhelmed over what you should and shouldn't do.
- See things as they are and avoid blowing them out of proportion.
- Be courageous and begin facing your fears.
- Don't rush things.
- Things are not always about you, so stop assuming what others think.
- Be grateful in life.

Something many people do not know about me, and it is my go-to relaxation activity, is that I love to do puzzles. I can get puzzles done very quickly. I once did a 5000-piece puzzle in 3 days. Of course, I get so obsessed with finishing them that I can only work on them during vacations.

I love to spend time with my family! We love swimming, riding our bikes, and having movie nights. My ten-year-old and my seven-year-old are super energetic and so, so funny. We love to laugh with each other and make up silly lyrics to well-known tunes.

Working at Compass has been a dream come true, and I am so grateful for all of the opportunities I have had to grow.



Sandra and her family.





SHARE YOUR STORY






Are you enjoying the educational experience at Compass? Tell us! We want to hear from you. Why did you decide to join the Compass family? Or, what do you love most about being part of our community? Share your comments and all of your wonderful experiences at Compass with us! [Click here](#) to share.



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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_3jyxoCWVU



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