

“Excellent!”

A PASSION for NATURE and CREATIVITY Giving Your Kids a Choice

K-8 • Yuba Environmental Science Charter Academy • www.yes-ca.org



Visit the YESCA ten-acre campus with room for sports fields, volleyball, two basketball courts, separate Kindergarten playground, exploration pond and pathways, planned orchards and mini-theater, outdoor class gathering circles, extensive creative free-play areas, and the in-progress community garden, raised beds, and chicken coop.



YESCA students will start to harvest kitchen garden produce from their raised beds this winter.

YESCA K-8 Public School

“Built by Parents...for Our Community’s Children”

Learning happens everywhere on the campus. The unique After School Program offers every student exploration and innovation...necessary 21st century skills!

After School programs are proving to be an important part of the school day around the country. In Edutopia, *What Works in Public Education*, educators write that policy makers understand that No Child Left Behind has led to an unfortunate narrowing of curriculum. The stressful focus on testing may also be stifling our students’ creativity, because they are taught to value getting a *right answer* at the cost of more “**exploration and discovery**” thinking. Though these restrictions have spelled bad news for classrooms, it is proving to be good news for after-school programs. At YESCA, special activities like Art, Community Choir, Ballet, Greek Language & Culture Studies (*a hit with our students!*), Computer Studies, and Homework Help happen Mon.-Fri. “after-school” — until 5:15 pm for the convenience of our families.



Volunteer parents make the Charter Academy’s beautiful school grounds and unique services possible. The new playground areas take shape, and students get a chance to watch the construction process in a learning environment with a science focus.



YESCA 4-H Club Yuba Hills 4-H

Every classroom at the Yuba Environmental Science Charter Academy is a “Learn by Doing” educational environment.

The California 4-H program is an educational effort to assist youth in their development by providing learn-by-doing experiences, developing skills that benefit youth throughout life, strengthening families and communities, and fostering leadership and volunteerism in youth and adults. YESCA offers both project focused activities for its 4-H Club members (such as animal, agricultural, and technology projects), as well as afterschool 4-H SET units (Science, Engineering, and Technology) several days a week. The YESCA 4-H Club is open to all local residents and one need not be a student at YESCA to join

this club. For more information on the 4-H Club at YESCA please contact Bruce Helft at 692 2210 ext. 2 or email bhelft@mjud.com.

The 4-H Youth Development Programs in California are overseen by the University of California Cooperative Extension which is a collaboration between federal, state, and county governments. Each county maintains a Cooperative Extension office with academic advisors and support staff. YESCA is fortunate to have the support of Megan Osbourn who coordinates the Yuba-Sutter 4-H programs.

We welcome you to stop by, call us (692-2210), or visit our website (www.yes-ca.org) to find out more about YESCA or to apply for enrollment - some grades have a few openings.

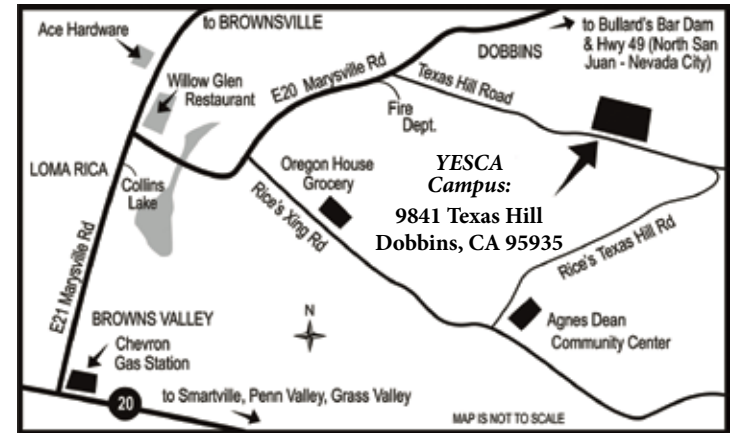
“Learning is fun!”

EXPLORATION and DISCOVERY

Success with Smaller Classes

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October Events: YESCA sponsors Waste-Watcher's Month



October speaker is Heidi Sanborn, Executive Director of the California Product Stewardship Council (www.heidisborn.com/services and www.calpsc.org). YESCA events are open to our community! Visit www.yes-ca.org for more information about our environmental science speaker's forum.

**Monday • 12:45pm
OCTOBER 26**

Educating students about the field of Environmental Science is at the core of YESCA's vision statement; what are the near and long-range consequences of our choices and actions on the total health of our bodies, family, communities, and our planet. The YESCA's principal, Bruce Helft, formed an ad hoc 'environmental science focus group' to determine ways the school could integrate projects of environmental science more consistently.

YESCA is sponsoring a series of four environmental awareness themed months that are open to the community at large: **Waste and Sustainability** in October, **Energy Consumption** in December, **Water Resources** in February, and **Bio-Diversity** in April. Each theme will offer an exploration of the issue, the problem, and some solutions; there is a school project, a family take-home activity, and a speaker of note.

Waste Watcher's Month will ask students to journal their family's use of paper or plastic, reusable bags, or other means of transporting groceries. They will weigh the waste left from lunch at school daily. They will audit the schools waste from copiers and office. These tasks will help to increase awareness of packaging choices for our students that may serve as the basis for life-long habits.



Second and Third Grade students at Yuba Environmental Science Charter Academy traced their shadows, using chalk in the morning and afternoon sunlight, in preparation for making "Shadow Clocks" with their Buddy Class, the Eighth Grade students.

Kindergarten-First Grade

Teacher Andrea Yocum uses YESCA's ten acres for nature walks and encounters with frogs, toads, tadpoles, and caterpillars. Ms. Yocum's class currently has a waiting list.

Second and Third Grades - a few available spaces

Constance Murtaugh has been teaching for 26 years; the last 17 in the lower primary grades. She was recently awarded her Masters degree in Instructional Strategies at the University of New England. Her classroom is alive with spontaneity and playfulness. Nature features prominently in her lessons, and she describes her students observing a deer, watching quietly, and then seeing the way its head came up when they made noise.

Fourth and Fifth Grades

Teacher Tara Taber says, "All day long my students are in a safe place where they can learn. I love watching my students learn." Ms. Taber's class currently has a waiting list.

Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades

Teachers Nancy Northrup and Stephen Tassone share the challenge of introducing their students to "project-based learning," which is a problem-solving approach in partnership with other classrooms and closely tied to the school's emphasis on environmental science. - Middle School has a few available spaces.

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