

chartervision.org

happenings liberty high goes to italy

Kristyn, Liberty High

"Make sure you have your passports in your passport holder and around your neck so you do not get pick-pocketed!" I warned my students while traveling through Italy.

"Ya ya, we won't get pickpocketed," my students replied.

"I'll bet you \$5 that you all will get-pick pocketed before I do..."

Well, that was a stupid bet to make...

While traveling in Rome, Florence, and Venice one should always be aware of where their passports, credit cards, and cash is at all times. There are people in Italy who make pick-pocketing their career – and a very well-paid one at that.

I found out the hard way that there are indeed pick-pocketers in Italy, and might I add, very good pickpocketers. Usually, I have my passport holder (which is a wallet on a string that you wear around your neck and under your clothes), containing my passport, credit cards, travel tickets and cash, around my neck and out of sight. Yet, when walking into the market area in Florence (which is a crowded outdoor "sidewalk sale") I did not have my passport holder around my neck, but tucked away at the bottom of a large over-the-shoulder bag (which I kept in front of me). Just as we entered the market, I reminded the kids that "This is an extremely popular hangout for pick-pocketers, so make sure that you have your passports around your neck!"

Just then I realized I should take my own advice; I checked

Blue Sky Guide

my neck and noticed that I did not have my passport where it should be. At this time, I was not panicking because I have only been in the crowded market area for about thirty seconds, but that is when I looked at my bag and saw it was unzipped.

I was not quite panicking at this moment, so I started digging through my bag, and low and behold, they got my passport holder containing my cash, credit cards and of course my only proof of U.S citizenship, my passport. It was at this moment that I began to panic.

When in Rome... and when losing your passport...

Don't panic! I panicked for about 30 seconds, and then I realized I have a few things that I need to take care of. First thing's first: cancel your credit cards! If they use your credit cards, chances are they will use them immediately after they steal your items. Next, you need to report your stolen passport to the police. This will make reissuing your passport much easier.

In order to get a new passport, you need to go to the U.S. Embassy. I was lucky and there was a small embassy in Florence, otherwise I would have had to take a three hour train ride to Rome, take a cab to the embassy and sit there all day, and maybe even the next to get my new passport.

It was actually pretty easy to get a new passport. Well, it was easy because I had a copy of my passport (thanks to a very nice young lady back in the states who found an old copy of my passport from previous "trip"

files" and faxed it to my hotel in Florence). Without the copy of my passport, my stay at the embassy would have been much longer than it was. The only thing I had to do was go and get two photo ID pictures taken, meet with an employee and come back six hours later to pick up my new passport. Pretty easy, right? The key to convenience when traveling outside of the country is to make sure that you have a copy of your passport that you keep at the hotel, carry your passport with you at all times (around your neck) and always be aware of your surroundings, but most of all: enjoy your trip! For further advice, never bet your students that they will get pick-pocketed before you because that is a for sure "foot in mouth" mistake (and not only did I lose my cash in Italy, but then I was out \$45 U.S. to my students when we got home!). Also never make announcements such as "This is a popular hang out for pickpocketers" or "Make sure you have your passports around your neck" in crowded areas, because that is when they are going to strike.

But most of all, take advantage of having the opportunity to travel. I will never forget my trip to Italy, not only because of the wonderful passport incident, but also because of the incredible sights and the amazing experience I had!

cv from our past

We did not credit the December 2005 cover image. It was taken at the Como Zoo by Alyssa, a Northfield School of Arts and Technology student.

The Haunted Night did not list an author. It was written by Damara, a 5th-grader at Sojourner Truth Academy.

The paper also referred to *Charter Vision Minnesota* as a 501(c)(3).Thougharegistered non-profit, *Charter Vision* is not a 501(c)(3) organization.



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experiences roller coaster

Alexandria, 9th Grade, Blue Sky

This summer, my sister Natasha and I with our church youth group, were able to go on a trip to Six Flags Great America in Chicago.

On the morning that we were to go to "Six Flags" I was unsuccessfully trying to convince Natasha that roller coasters were really not all that bad; because I had just recently become a roller coaster rider myself; but as the bus turned the corner... all thoughts of riding any roller coasters vanished from my mind, and Natasha and I then and there decided that we were not going to go on any roller coasters at Six Flags that day and possibly any other.

Unfortunately, people that we had been sitting next to had overheard our conversation and when we had made up our mind that we were not going on any roller coasters Matt Clark (one of the leaders on this particular trip) said, "Oh no you don't you two are sticking with me and you are going on every signal roller coaster here."

Natasha and I looked at each other and new we had no other choice; and as soon as we got off of the bus we started to go in a different direction he caught up to us and reinstated the fact that we were sticking with him for the day. Quickly one of our youth pastors stepped up and said, "You don't really have to go on the roller coasters, if you don't want to."Then our other youth pastor walked up and said "Don't listen to him, you need to go on the roller coasters and concur your fears!"

The next thing we knew we were standing in line for one of the biggest, most twisted, roller coaters we had ever seen! As we agonized in line for the next hour, our fellow students and leaders talked to us about how ter-

rified they had been on this same trip only a year before and about how we really just needed to get over our fears and ride this roller coaster!

We slowly inched toward the boarding point of the ride. I had several thoughts about turning around; but no such luck. The next thing I knew it was our turn next. My hands were getting sweaty, my heart was beating fast; some of our other friends had just gotten off. Then it was our turn! The people who worked there strapped us into our seats; I knew there was no turning back. My stomach went down into my feet as the roller coaster started to move. I looked over at my sister who had her eyes tightly closed I wondered if she had the right idea and then all of a sudden we were off...

Down the first steep hill we went, up again, now going upside down doing loopedy-loops! The next minute and a half I don't think I will ever be able to describe. Then the ride slowed to a stop and I realized I had done it!

I again turned to look over at Natasha who still had her eyes closed to convinced her that the ride really was over. The ride pulled to a complete stop and our friends burst into a cheer! For we had ridden the roller coaster.

Later, when I was back home, I was reflecting on my "roller coaster" of a trip, I was in the end very, very glad that I had faced my fears and I now realize that most thing aren't as bad as they first may seem.

writing dear diary

Alexandria, 9th Grade, Blue Sky

Dear Diary,

Sometimes it gets so hard to please my dad; he has always wanted to have a boy... and then when I was born it dashed all of his hopes.

So like I've told you before I try to act as much like a boy for my dad as I can I even took up baseball... But sometimes it gets really hard!! Like a few days ago.

I went downstairs to grab a snack before I had to go to the game, my dad walked in with a huge smile on his face...

"Ready to go to your big game slugger?" my dad said as he walked into the kitchen.

I sighed and nodded my head.

Every once in a while my mom will try to talk to my dad about what I really want to do which is gymnastics but when ever my mom starts that conversation with him he always just says "Nonsense; Ashley loves baseball!" And that's pretty much where the conversation stops.

But as I nodded my head this particular time something inside me snapped even as my head was going up and down I decided to tell my dad the truth!

"No Dad, I'm not ready for today's game." I said "What?" My dad said with shock. "Are you sick or something?"

"No, I just don't want to play." I said frankly.

"You, You don't want to play?" My dad said with just maybe it was disappointment.

why don't you want to play? Asked my dad -- still in disbelief.

baseball!" I shouted. My dad just stood there stunned.

that I had just crushed him. He just stood their looking at me with a blank expression on his face.

"I, I'm going to go take a walk." he finally said. "No, Dad I want to talk." I said frantically play baseball. What is there to talk about?"

"I didn't want to let you down dad, you always seem like I'm not good enough for you or something, is it really that bad that I'm girl and not boy?" I blurted out starting to cry. "What are you taking about?" Asked my dad with a much more caring tone in his voice. "I love you just the way you are!" said my dad with great compassion.

At this point, I was crying pretty hard. Then my dad swept me into a great big hug.

the slightest hint of anger... or

"I can't believe you Ash,

"Because I don't like

"Dad?" I said fearing

. "What?" said my dad coldly, "You obviously don't want to

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After that, my dad and I went for a very long walk and we talked about everything! We got everything all sorted out, and looking back on it I'm so glad that I finally told my dad what I really wanted to do, and I feel so silly for thinking that my dad wouldn't love me or something like that just because I wasn't a boy.

Speaking of what I really want to do I have to go. I have gymnastics!

-Ashley

cv meet the new chartervision.org

Sean, Charter Vision Editor

We're making big changes to the online edition of this paper (www.chartervision.org). Starting later this spring, you'll get every article from the print edition in an easily browsable, ad-minimal interface.

Not only will the articles be viewable within the interface, we'll also make available PDF copies of each of our print issues.

We're also in preliminary planning for the Charter Vision Network, which will allow any charter school newspaper get their online presence. The service will be

provided for free. If you're involved in a charter school newspaper and would like information on this program, please e-mail network@chartervision.org or visit www. chartervision.org/network.

Lastly, our website will begin to feature our new weekly advice column for charter students. Ask J. will premier in the next print issue. To read the column, visit www.chartervision.org/advice or send questions to advice@ chartervision.org.

Any other questions regarding the Charter Vision website should be sent to webmaster@chartervision.org.

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writing if i could do it over

If I could do it all over again, I Gone to school more, would have:

Spent more time with my grandma, Gone to school every day, Saved my money better, Done my school work, Tried charter schools sooner, Been nicer to the people I love, Eaten more cheese pizza, Listened more in school, Tried harder in the ninth grade,

Exercised more,

Applied myself more in high school so that I could have had better opportunities in col-

Re-done my freshmen year, Passed my classes, Bought a cat, Spent more time with my ex and less time with my car, Worked harder at school,

poem sunrise

Made better choices,

The night is a blur of silence a waking dream,

The break of day has made you feel as if you've wasted away, The bright light is no comfort to the fear in your mind, In your isolation you hide and sigh,

In the early morning the sunrise hurts your eyes, The sun is bright and warm yet you still feel cold,

You look to the sky trying to say goodbye,

You plan to give up your youth because you refuse to face the truth,

Finished school, Practiced more before taking my driver's license test, Tried to smile more, Been nicer to the people I love, Switched to a smaller school

Put my money in Apple Computer stocks 3 years ago, Done my homework in school, Stayed out of trouble, I wouldn't change a thing!

Not drink and drive, Have not gotten into drugs, I wouldn't drive a Dodge, Not fight with my father over little things, I wouldn't have tried to run away, Never quit karate, I wouldn't have started smoking, I would not get so stressed out about life, Not have done drugs, Never upset Santa - he's been angry with me since I was three.

Because of all your regrets that your trying so hard to forget, But you haven't given up quite

A tear runs down your cheek, Your future you feel is so bleak,

You feel as if you don't know yourself,

Who you are and who you will be,

You think your existence is not needed,

Afraid of your own desperation,

You condemn your memories, Why try and forget them?

poem my plea

Trisha, Discovery School

I will always love you... That's what we said it to be. But instead you left me... Alone and oh, so scared. Now I sit, my mind filled with wonder, my heart filled with fright.

What to do in this light? There's nothing I can do, but be strong and encouraging... Help my-

self get over you only cause you didn't wanna get too attached. Oh, how I wish we could have one more chance to be. I miss you so much it hurts.

Yes, it's true, I love you. So if you'll take me back then you can have my heart. But please don't break it or my whole world will fall apart!

Calling to you ready to catch What has happened in the you when you fall,

I want you to see me before you can't recall,

I hope that you can hear my plea even if you feel so small, I wish you will be happy and I know you can be,

Happier than you' ve ever been before,

Living is something you just can't ignore,

All that you suppress to me you may confess,

My persistence will not disappear,

And you won't either as long as I am here,

I will transform your fear until it is no longer alive,

I know that you are so afraid, But I still want you to stay, This will not be your last day, I can be your inspiration, But the real truth lies in your

heart, And we will be together not apart,

Even if we are far away, Distance cannot destroy us, Because we are true friends even if you're So weighed down by pain, Feeling lost and betrayed, But the end is a cost you can

not pay,

Ron Newel

Leisa Irwin

Jaci Lageson

past,

Can not cripple you in the future,

You shouldn't try to run away, When you are lonely, Know that you are not the only

one, Can't you see that you aren't done?

I will be there to save you from the dark,

And know that no matter how you feel,

It will all be ok if would just stay,

Which is why you must go on, Until the darkness is gone, If everything seems so wrong, You must still remain strong, As long as you do you will be renewed,

I Just want to hold you, Until you can be just ok, Finding solace in my embrace, Know that I will never leave you,

I will always be there to hold your hand,

And help you to always stand, Because I know you can cope, There is always hope to carry you through,

And you know that I will always love you,

Even if you do want to forget,

You must always remember, So that after the break of day

> you can find your way, Walking down the path to salvation,

And then all your fears disappear,

away into the sunset, So in the early morning you will be there,

Until finally your pain fades

Then you can move on and find your way home,

To see another sunrise and never be cold.

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experiences abnormally yours

Natasha, 10th Grade, Blue Sky

To Whom It May Concern:

I just wanted to set the records straight about living in a large family. In my option the view that most people who live in "normal" families have about large families, is pretty much shaped and tarnished by Hollywood. First of all I have to admit our numerically soaring household is pretty chaotic and there is definitely never a dull moment. Dinner time is an incredible feat all in itself. If all eleven of us are there at one time that's even more incredible. The scene pretty much plays out this way:

One of the four oldest members in our household is making dinner. Some of the kids are doing homework, some are doing chores, some are wondering around asking when dinner will be ready. And then the littlest ones (it never fails)

are running up and down the in kitchen with the riding toys, which they are conveniently only interested in, at dinnertime. Sooner or later someone else thinks that making noise running up and down in the kitchen looks fun to them too, so before you know it you've got five kids creating an environment so that it is almost impossible to hear your dinner burning on the stove. But there is one magic word that the eldest members of my family know that will almost certainly quiet the mass chaos going on around them. The word is highly effective, but you must use it wisely because if you calm the madness too soon they will soon begin to get restless and the word is a one time deal. So with a expertise that only comes form being with a large family 24/7 the cooker will sing out "wash up!" and suddenly the calm is restored as

a lot more people to feed and a lot more people to take care of. But there is also a lot more people to hug, more to share laughter and good times and most of all a lot more love.

> -Abnormally yours, Natasha

cv contribute

If you're interested in becoming part of Charter Vision or want to contribute an article, send an e-mail to contribute@chartervision.org

Submission deadline is May 12th.

poem the shadows call

Stephanie, 9th Grade, Blue Sky

A shadow sits slowly staring at the sky Below the evergreen tree

Its resistance to light
Its stay-cool attitude

Mocking me as my feet pitter patter on the black tar city streets

A cool breeze blows boastfully Unusually for a day like today Sending chills through my soul

Its screaming
All the wind wants is to be heard

Will you listen

Its sunset
The sun slowly dips below the
horizon line

And then I see it

The last dove flies beyond the reach of even...

The shadows darkness

It flies far beyond

The winds reach

And now... we are left with

Darkness and disaster



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the newly washed crew sit up at the table anxiously awaiting their feast. I think that my parents thoroughly enjoy meal time because we are all silent as we sit at the table enjoying the food in our closed mouths.

But the thing most people miss about our family is that we do not live in just unorganized chaos, we do have an order to almost everything and everybody helps out. Older members helping the younger ones and we are all "pros" at cooking and doing laundry. There is a lot more people in our house to make it messy, a lot more people to get mad at,

review smackdown v. raw

Lance, Blue Sky

Smackdown v. Raw 2006 is one of the best wrestling games since Smackdown HCTP (Here comes the pain). The gameplay is the same as last years you press the circle button to execute a multiple of different moves to inflict damage on your opponent. The new and latest addition to SvR2006 is the stamina system; it prolongs the match and makes it much more fun and difficult if you are playing with another player. The stamina system allows players to get a feel like a real wrestling match. The players' stamina is fully charged. During a match big moves like powerbombs, full nelson slams and other types of powerful moves will begin to deplete your stamina making your wrestler lose stamina, which result in him being much slower in the match. If both players keep losing stamina simultaneously both players will drop in the middle of the ring and the referee will begin to count, and there will be a mini game that you have to accomplish so that you can regain your stamina. It is a really fun new addition to SvR2006. There is also a new momentum system in the game. In other Smackdown games you can keep doing moves over and over again hit your special and win the match. In this year's SvR2006 it is not like that anymore.

With the brand new momentum system, If you do the same move type over and over again the crowd will get bored and your momentum will go up but not as fast as you would want it to, so you will have to do a variety of different moves so that your momentum will rise and you could finally reach a special. Another brand new system in this year's SvR2006 is the submission system. It is still the same as last year's button mashing to make your opponent tap is still here

in this year's. But it makes it much easier for people like me who are not good with the fast button mashing. In this year's SvR2006 all you have to do is make the green bar end in the blue bar. There is some submissions that you will be able to reverse and to accomplish that you have to end the green bar in the red bar. But it's won't be as easy because your opponent will be adding pressure to the designated spot and you won't be able to always hit it in the right places. All of these new additions will give the players' a feel of a real WWE match, and you will have to use strategy which is fun.

All of last year's match types are here like single, tagteam, and hell in a cell. The game developers at Yukes decided to add in some new matches, that gamers have been anticipating. There is a fulfill your Fantasy Match, I personally don't really like the match and don't know why Yukes added it but that still doesn't take away from the excitement of the game. My favorite match that is new in the game is the Buried Alive match. The name may strike some people, but like the name says you are trying to bury your opponent alive. Yukes finally put it in the game and that makes me happy because I've wanted it since the first smackdown game for the PS2.

The season mode is better and I really like it. You can go through season as a wrestler and there are multiple storylines. If you create a wrestler and want to take him through season they finally have voices you can choose from which makes the season all the better. Every wrestler has a voice also the voice acting has gotten better than last year's game. The commentators have much more to say also during a match about a wrestler and can be funny at

cv join us and help build charter vision

Sean, Charter Vision Editor

It's been about two and a half years now since I started working with Charter Vision Magazine. I remember asking to do a logo mockup for an, at the time, anonymous newspaper. Though I no longer feel the same way about the design, I was smitten with my first product, which contained a large "Charter News" on the left and an inverted "Minnesota" on the right. Those who saw it appeared pleased with my work, but informed me that the name of

the paper would be "Charter Vision" – we were more than just news.

And today, that message seems more relevant than ever. Some of our best content has been charter experiences and charter law, but, as I said in the previous issue of Charter Vision, "there is more to charter schools than charter schools alone."

History is built not only on events, but ideas. Charter schools were an idea, a desire for something new. Likewise, each charter student is an innovator – capable of great ideas. But ideas are not necessarily "Ms. Johnson's 5th Grade Field Trip" – ideas are opinions, and passions, and creativity. So I'm asking you – charter school students – express those ideas and those opinions. Let's show the world what charter schools – and their students – are capable of.

P.S.: If you – parent, student, teacher, community member – have any questions about Charter Vision or what's appropriate for an article, I'd be happy to field them personally. Send me a message at shayfordoleary@chartervision. ora.

General Manager Mode is another new addition to this year's SvR2006. You go through a full length season managing expenses and keeping the wrestlers happy. You can also play the mode on multiplayer and compete with a friend or sibling to see who has the better brand and can show Vince McMahon they are the best GM around.

The Roster for SvR2006 is bigger and better. You have wrestlers from The Undertaker to John Cena. They also have added more legends, 3 different Hulk Hogan's, The Rock, Stone Cold, and The Mouth of The South Gimmy Hart. Every wrestler has their own move set on the roster also.

THQ Yukes has once again given wrestling fans another great game for the Playstation 2, I will recommend this game to any fan of wrestling and ask anyone who either isn't a fan of wrestling to at least try it out. So if you haven't checked out SmackdownVsRaw2006 you should check it out when you have the time because it is by far the best wrestling game for the PS2.



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poem if i were in charge

Megan Rothstein, 11th Grade, Great River Education Center

If I were in charge of the world, I'd cancel peas, Stinky bathrooms, Liars, and also Monday mornings.

If I were in charge of the world, There'd be brighter stars, Healthier people, and Fewer bad choices. If I were in charge of the world, You wouldn't have STDs, You wouldn't have HIV, You wouldn't have drugs, Or even anything close.

If I were in charge of the world, A snowboard with fluffy snow would be school,

All preps would be gone, And a person who is not perfect, would still be in charge of the world.

poem can you imagine?

Megan Rothstein, 11th Grade, Great River Education Center

Can you imagine...

My block without gangs, My words without slang.

Me a "normal" teen, Me without having a dream.

My life without attitude, My life without gratitude.

T.V. without Insider,
A baby with no mother beside
her.

A dad who doesn't care, My life that is so bare.

Someone loving me,

A flying bee.

My life without getting sent away,

Me dying today.

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poem i can't fly

I have to run, through the cold air and crusted snow.

Anonymous, Discovery School

Trying to escape my past, my life and reality.

Tripping over the thoughts in my head, I don't know where to go.

Hatred urges me on to an unknown destination.

I believe I am hurt, but the cold wind makes me feel numb.

Stumbling onto a lighted property, I keep running; no refuge can be taken at a gas station.

Down the street, and to my left, something cold and towering is coming into view.

Slowing to a walk, now hardly taking any steps.

I need to keep going, inside I'm screaming, "No!"

This is too hard, I'm afraid of heights.

I'm too high up but I continue to climb to the top of the rail.

Why do I feel this way? Is this my last night?

It was many years ago, I think back on how the snow was so

white.

And how the rushing water wasn't frozen even though it was very cold.

I will never forget the moment in which I almost took flight.

cv contribute

If you're interested in becoming part of Charter Vision or want to contribute an article, send an e-mail to contribute@chartervision.org

Submission deadline is May 12th.



Editor's note: This photograph was taken in Fall 2005 by Emily, an 11th-grader at SAGE Academy.

With the seasons changing, there have been many good photo opportunities for me. Here I would like to present my display of winter's fierce beauty to you. I will include a comment from my best friend and photo critic, Jeni.

This upward-view photo was taken in my front yard. I stood staring at the leaves from a bush hanging down, barely alive, as the cold of winter began to set in. I decided the best view would be from the ground, which is where I laid to achieve this shot.

Jeni's comment: With the focus on one lone leaf surviving the end of fall, and a completely barren winter tree blurred in the background, the transition between seasons is shown beautifully.

Minnesota's Charter Schools

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