

What's happening

Thursday

■ All sixth-graders are invited to the city of Davis' annual **Sixth-Grade Graduation Party** from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the Community Services Department, 600 A St., Suite C. This event sells out every year. The evening includes dancing, foosball, video games and much more. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

Friday

■ **The Grad Night venue** at Emerson Jr. High School, 2121 Calaveras Ave., Davis, will be open to the public from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday. Come see the amazing transformation of Emerson, and see the secret theme revealed for the first time. All ages are welcome.

■ **The Tween Library Group invites teens and tweens to a free "Hunger Games" event.** Come play a tag-like game based on "The Hunger Games" books, then have pizza and watch "The Hunger Games" movie. This event is free and takes place from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Stephens Branch Library, 315 E. 14th St., in the Blanchard Room. Space is limited to 30 participants so please call 530-757-5593, or stop by the library to make a reservation. Bring a pillow and wear comfortable clothes for running around.

June 16-20

■ **UC Davis baseball summer camps** for ages 6-12 still have spots available. Campers will receive instruction in all aspects of the game from UCD players and coaches, a chance to play on Dobbins Fields, and a camp T-shirt. Players will be grouped by age and ability level. Space is limited to the first 90 campers who sign up. The cost is \$200 per week or \$175 for additional weeks or siblings. Other sessions are July 14-18 and July 28-Aug. 1 — all campus run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information or to register please visit <https://ucdavis.sportscamps.com/baseball>, or contact camp director Jimmy Meuel at jdmeuel@ucdavis.edu, or 650-387-3635.

Monday, June 23

■ **The city of Davis's summer teen drop-in program, The Vault,** opens for business at 3:30 p.m. and runs through Friday, Aug. 15. The program, at King High School, 635 B St., will be open Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 3:30 to 9 p.m. Youths in grades 7-12 are invited to come hang out with friends, play video games, board games, air hockey, foosball and outdoor activities. Throughout the summer, there also will be sports tournaments, cooking projects, crafts and water games. The cost is \$2 per day or \$30 for an all-summer pass. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

■ **Teens, are you looking for somewhere fun to kick it this summer?** Come hang with **Teen Camp, the coolest camp for teens entering grades 7-10.** Spend this summer exploring Davis, making new friends, playing awesome games and going out of town once a week on our field trips. To top it all off, admission to the Vault is included for that week. All of this is available to for \$133 a week or \$45 for just the field trip. Camp runs June 23-Aug. 15, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact the city of Davis at 530-757-5626.

Next Generation goes on vacation

As students head home for a summer break, so does "Next Generation." **This feature page will be on hiatus until school resumes in the fall.** See you in September with a fresh batch of stories on the children in our community and the mentors who make a difference in their lives. Happy summer!

Students extend the hand of friendship

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

North Davis Elementary School students have extended the hand of friendship all the way to Africa, and thanks to a Davis High student and her mom, that friendship is now evident on the wrists of hundreds of children in Ethiopia.

Lauren Cordano, who graduates from Davis High School this week, traveled to Ethiopia with her mom, Pam Cordano, in April. There, for two weeks, they assisted the Bay Area organization Doctors Giving Back in providing medical relief and installing water filtration systems to some communities in desperate need of both. They also distributed more than 1,000 friendship bracelets that students at North Davis spent several months making.

As she would tie bracelets on the children's wrists, Lauren would tell them — with the help of an interpreter — that the friendship bracelets had been made by children in America especially for them.

And it is that global connection that North Davis teacher Carol Stewart loved best about the whole project.

Stewart, who was Pam Cordano's college roommate, offered up the assistance of her students when she heard that the Cordanos planned to bring friendship bracelets with them on the trip.

She involved her own class of sixth-graders, as well as the school's student council, which brought in many more students in grades 3-6.

"It just kind of blossomed at North Davis," Stewart recalled.

Students were invited to come into the library at lunch and make bracelets and Stewart also set up a desk outside her classroom with all the supplies needed so kids could work when they wanted to.

"They really got into it," she said. "And it was all ages, boys and girls."

Her own students would sit quietly weaving while she read aloud to them and some kids even worked on them at home, at night or over the weekend.

Lauren, meanwhile, visited the students to talk about her planned trip: why she was going, what she would be doing there and who the friendship bracelets would be given to. Stewart continued the conversation in the classroom.

"We talked about what a gift meant," Stewart said, "about weaving in the care and love."

"I saw some real leadership skills come out," she added. "And compassion."

And the results astonished Lauren and her mom, who never expected to be taking more than 1,000 bracelets with them.

It's a tradition among Doctors Giving Back to take along small toys for the children — toy planes, crayons, little teddy



Davis High School senior Lauren Cordano, left, ties a friendship bracelet on an Ethiopian girl. Two girls at a clinic in Ethiopia, top, show off their new bracelets. Translators explained that they were a gift from American children, including North Davis Elementary students, above, from left, Megan Dahlseng, Jessica Bennett, Camila Pedrosa, Zack Purnell, Robert Schacherbuer and Lyna Jiang.

bears — Lauren said. But she figured friendship bracelets would last longer.

Made in brightly colored thread — and with some intricate patterns and designs thanks to some accomplished North Davis bracelet-makers — they were a hit among the Ethiopian children, providing a bright spot in what is a difficult life for many.

"They would have been excited with a triangle of plastic," Pam noted. "They have nothing."

The Cordanos first heard about Doctors Giving Back from a friend who was raising money for the Dublin, Calif.-based organization for his bar mitzvah project.

The group, a collection of doctors, nurses and other volunteers, travels to Ethiopia yearly. This was the 12th trip they've taken, and the Cordanos' first.

Lauren called the experience "exhausting and exhilarating."

She loved the people, the language, even the food.

"You see things you never knew existed," Lauren said.

"We woke up every morning to Muslim chanting, goats and chickens," Pam added.

And then there was the immediate impact on the people they encountered.

Their mornings were spent providing medical assistance in the town where they were staying; afternoons involved driving to more distant areas.

"People there were a lot more sick," Lauren said of the villages where medical care was harder to come by.

Many suffered from typhoid, AIDS, malaria and other afflictions.

"Some of the people had lost hope," Pam said. "We were trying to not just give them medicine, but make a connection."

The poverty was eye-opening, Lauren said. And the fact that they couldn't possibly treat everyone who needed care was heartbreaking.

"You could see that people were still sick

when you're pulling out in the van," she recalled.

One long-term form of assistance they were able to provide was clean water. In addition to helping install simple water filtration systems, the volunteers would explain to villagers how to use them and how to clean the filters.

"We explained the reason you're sick and you have parasites and typhoid is because of the water," Lauren said.

The difference the simple filters made in the people's lives was clear.

"You could see right away if a village had clean water," Pam said. "In villages without filters, there is more disease, they're thinner and more lethargic. The villages that had never been visited were in really bad shape."

As they dispensed medication and care, the Cordanos gave out friendship bracelets as well. Both wore them on their own wrists and would point to them before tying them on the children's wrists.

Lauren planned to return to Stewart's classroom before the end of the school year to tell students about the trip and show them photos of the Ethiopian children wearing their friendship bracelets.

There's much to show and tell.

"The energy they brought back with them was incredible," Stewart said. "Story after story of people they made connections with. In the pictures, there is this humanity in that connection."

And they already want to go back.

Pam said she may return with her younger daughter next year and Lauren, who will be a freshman at Cal Poly, wants to go, too.

"It really is a great experience," Pam said.

Doctors Giving Back is always seeking donations and volunteers. Learn more at www.doctorsgivingback.org.

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COURTESY PHOTOS

Use summer to get organized for application season

Making a list and checking it twice...

No, it is not the winter holiday gift-giving season yet. It is a summer holiday that requires a different type of list — a to-do list. From a college admissions standpoint, the summer break is the ideal time to endure a little short-term pain for some long-term gain ... a chance to take care of a bit of college admissions business so these tasks don't overwhelm you in the future.

Although some college counselors and families may start earlier (course-planning, etc.), the process really revs up the summer before junior year of high school. So let's begin there.

Summer to-do lists for college admissions

■ Rising juniors

1. Visit, visit, visit; see as many schools as you can. Use a family vacation as a jumping-off point to tour some campuses or plan a series of tours to colleges in a general area — the Bay Area, Southern California, Oregon. If travel is not an option, research colleges online and keep track of what interests you.

2. Start making your college list; zero in on about eight to 12 colleges that interest you. Sign up on their websites to receive information. Private schools in particular track this "demonstrated interest."

3. Brush up on testing requirements. The junior year is the year of standardized testing (or as I call it "the Year of Living Dangerously"). It is worthwhile to familiarize yourself with the content of the various tests (PSAT, SAT, ACT, APs, Subject Tests) to better understand



what will be expected. Consider your strengths and weaknesses and whether or not you want to do test prep (either with a class or online for free) over the summer to be prepared for the rigorous testing schedule.

■ Rising seniors

In addition to visiting colleges and doing test prep if needed, rising seniors actually can get applications started over the summer. I know this is not what you were dreaming of doing this summer. But trust me, it's worth it.

1. Work on essays. Many essay topics are available now. Begin these essays over the summer. Having time to develop drafts and make revisions dramatically improves the end result; besides, it is often challenging for students to set aside the amount of time needed to complete essays of high caliber once senior year heats up.

2. Put together a résumé. This is helpful for two reasons. First, some colleges ask for a résumé as part of the application process so it's nice to have it ready to go. Second, you will need to have your activities, awards and achievements summarized for many applications and for letters of recommendation. Much better to get it done ahead of time rather than scrambling at the last minute.

3. Plan whom to ask for letters of recommendation. Most private school applications and

some public school applications require several letters of recommendation. Brainstorm whom to ask, and be ready to ask when high school starts in the fall. It is best to ask recent teachers from core subjects.

4. Begin applications. For the first time, the UC application will be available online on Aug. 1. The Common Application (which houses more than 500 schools' applications) is also available then. I strongly recommend (and yes, even beg!) that students set up these accounts and fill out as much as possible in August. How nice to have all this input saved and ready for those finishing touches to be easily added once fall comes around and life gets busy.

■ **Graduating seniors** (Sorry. There is still some housekeeping to do.)

1. Finish up strong and send in a final transcript. Keep grades up and remember to order an official transcript to be sent to your college before high school is over. The UCs, for example, require it by July 1.

2. Meet entry-level placement exam requirements. All two-year, most public four-year and some private colleges and universities require students to meet some minimum English, math and writing criteria before school begins. If students do not meet these standards, they may have to do remediation in the summer or take certain entry-

Exempt from CSU/UC entry-level requirements

- CSU EPT (English placement test):** Need 500 on SAT CR; a 22 on ACT English test; or a 3 or above on the AP composition and literature or AP language and composition
- CSU ELM (entry-level mathematics):** Need 550 on SAT math; 23 ACT; or 3 on AP calculus AB, BC or AP statistics
- UC entry-level writing requirement:** Need 680 on SAT CR; 30 on ACT English/writing test; or 3 on AP English

level classes in the fall. Check each college's website for more information. See box for details on in-state public schools.

3. Tie up loose ends. Confirm that your housing situation is squared away. Go through your financial aid package and make sure you have met all the requests. Get a physical. You may need vaccinations. (Recall the meningitis outbreak at UC Santa Barbara and Princeton last March and April.) Introduce yourself to your roommate. Have fun!

Until next time

With summer just around the corner, I will be taking a July hiatus and will return to College Corner when school starts. Enjoy the summer and remember, there is a right college out there for you!

— Jennifer Borenstein is an independent college adviser in Davis and owner of *The Right College For You*. Her column is published on the fourth Tuesday of the month. She lives in Davis with her family. Reach her at jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org, or visit www.therightcollegeforyou.org.