

Laura Ramirez
East Palo Alto Charter School
1286 Runnymede Street
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
August 30, 2004

Vida Verde Nature Education Center
1 Tunitas Creek Ranch Road
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Dear Everyone at Vida Verde,

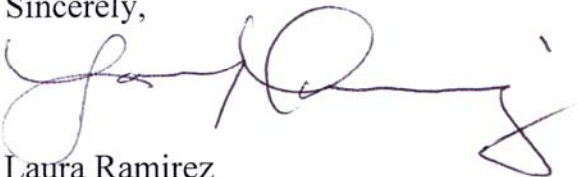
Thank you so much for the incredible experience at Vida Verde Nature Education Center! There was so much anticipation around this trip for most of last school year and the experience you gave to us surpassed anything I or the 26 third graders that attended your program from our school ever imagined it would be!

Laura, Matt, and B+ organized and taught an amazing outdoor program to my students. My students loved the Natural Fibers class and worked on their bracelets on the bus ride home. We all learned plenty about goats, goat milking, and the bonding that comes from trying new things together (specifically tasting fresh goat milk right from the source!!) from Goat Milking and Cheese Making. Our students also learned priceless lessons of community, kindness, self-sufficiency, and love for nature during your program. This all came from spending a night away from home and only having your friends to comfort you, going on a night hike and encouraging one another, and from sharing a table during all of our meals. It was truly a bonding experience for all of the students and adults.

Words can not thank you enough for offering such a wonderful program to schools like our own. It is an inspiring program and I am thankful that donors have been able to support it. I have written them letters thanking them for their generosity and encouraging them to continue to fund Vida Verde. The kids also wrote thank you letters and I made sure to enclose pictures so that your donors could see first hand what an incredible program you run.

The third grade class at East Palo Alto Charter hopes to make the overnight trip to Vida Verde an annual tradition. Since I am a 2/3 loop teacher and currently on the second grade part of the loop, I won't get a chance to visit this school year. I will definitely be there to help the current third grade teachers (Rachel Rosenberg and Kate Shoemaker) in their planning to visit Vida Verde this year. But, I'll be back next school year (2005-06) with my third graders! Hopefully none of them will lose their pants on a night hike this time. By the way, thanks for mailing Guillermo's pants back!

Sincerely,



Laura Ramirez
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Enclosure: Letters and pictures from our trip to Vida Verde Nature Education Center.