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# February Tattler

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## Important dates coming up!

**Over;**November 29, 2018: Parade of Lights

**Over;**December 15, 2018: All Star Event

Las Juntas Elementary School, Martinez

**Over;**January, Day TBD, 2018: Project Skills Day

Held at Korematsu Middle School, El Cerrito

**Over;**January 18-20, 2019: Bay Coast Summit

The theme this year is Be the Change, at Walker Creek

**Over;**January 26, 2019: Presentation Day

Held at Korematsu Middle School, El Cerrito

**Over;**February 9, 2019: Food Fiesta

March 16, 2019 Showmanship Clinic

Borges ranch, Walnut Creek

April 9, 2019: Fashion Review

Location to be determined.



April 12, 2019: Movie night at the Grange

-Movie: Shrek

May 16-19 County Fair

June 26-29, 2019: 4-H Camp

-Registration by June 16th

-Chaperone registration due March 1



Cooking in the Kitchen

~Meru Sashikanth Age 8



## The Bay/Coast Youth Summit

On January 18-20, members ages 11-19 from all over the Bay/Coast area were able to attend the youth leadership summit in Petaluma, CA. At the summit, sessions were led by county all stars and outstanding leaders from any of the 13 Bay/Coast counties. These sessions covered topics such as how to work with different personality types, team building, emotional regulation, listening to group members, and how to communicate without technology. We also listened to keynote speaker Suzanne Cherek, who talked to everyone about personal leadership. On Saturday night, we also had a recreational time and night activities; the night activities were a choice between a dance, a movie, or a Super Smash Bros tournament. Lastly, we did a leadership lab (hands-on leadership experience) where we were split up into small groups of varying age groups and were instructed to create one piece of a large painting and then as a group we put it all together. From my club, Tassajara 4-H, there were four members who attended, as well as one chaperone. I counted 6 members in total from Contra Costa County, as well as two chaperones and one member on the summit planning team.

My personal favorite session at the summit was the keynote speaker; I enjoyed how she told us many different stories and interacted with the group, rather than reading off of a script. One of the memorable things she said was, “the leader of one can become the leader of many, but if you can't lead yourself, you can't lead any”. This followed along with her personal leadership theme and is also a catchy rhyme!

I also had a lot of fun with the non-leadership portion of the event, during rec time I played beach volleyball with some other members and we accidentally hit the ball down a canyon, but we had a lot of fun playing! Another one of the rec time activities was dodgeball; normally I am not good at dodgeball so I was not looking forward to it, but I actually ended up getting the other team's best player out. I had a great time at the dance with two other Tassajara members and our new friends from Santa Clara county; they taught us different line dances and I had never done one before but it was so much fun! The food at the event was also pretty good, I actually think my favorite was the pink lemonade (which is



technically a drink but was so delicious), but we had a lot of yummy meals, including; french toast, fajitas, nachos, potatoes, and fruit!

This was my second year attending this event and I was very surprised to see how many more people came this year, and the different counties that were represented. There was a lot of members from Sacramento and Yolo counties, and a large amount from Santa Clara county as well; it was really cool getting to talk to everyone and hear about their 4-h experiences in comparison to mine. I made some friends that I am going to continue to talk to, as well as some more that I am looking forward to seeing next year. It was cool to see how everyone had so many random 4-H stories and it turns out that one of the friends I made actually had 40 goats at one point! Overall, I would highly recommend any eligible 4-H members to attend this event next year and experience all the fun that I had.



Two other Tassajara members and I pose for our “Silly” picture





Our group photo of everyone who attended the conference, along with our finished painting from the leadership lab.

~Nikhita Dhamrait

## Valentines Day

Love: an intense feeling of deep affection. Love this 4 letter word holds much significance to couples, crushes, families, and friends. We gather to celebrate love on February 14th, but why does this holiday exist? Historians named this holiday after Saint Valentine a priest around 270 ce. Although there were many priests named Valentine historians have narrowed down the candidates to two priests who may have even been the same person. The story goes Saint Valentine would defy the emperor and secretly marry young couples to save womens' spouses from war. This being the reason the holiday is associated with love. Formal messages, or valentines, came into effect by the 1500s and commercially printed cards appeared in the 1700s. The popularly used phrase "from your valentine" is believed to first used from Saint Valentine. When he wrote and ended a letter addressed to the jailer's daughter before his death. Since the beginning of this holiday traditions changed into what we have today. Cupid, the god of love, and hearts quickly became an icon for the holiday in the mid-1800s when the first t.v. commercials appeared. Currently many see flowers and chocolates as symbols of Valentine's day. Whatever traditions people may have we all enjoy this holiday and celebrate it with the people they love.



## Roses

Red, yellow, peach, pink and white  
Blossoming in a colorful sight  
Entangled and thriving  
They grow to look inviting  
Soft petals but sharp thorns  
Warning people they are not to be torn  
Put in vases they light up a room  
Immediately erasing any lingering gloom  
Buds that bloom after the cold winters fright  
Bring in warm springs delight  
Bouquets given to loved ones  
Tells them “you love them a ton”  
Red, yellow, peach, pink and white  
Roses are a beautiful sight

