

# DANDELION CLUBHOUSE

[WWW.DANDELIONCLUBHOUSE.COM](http://WWW.DANDELIONCLUBHOUSE.COM)

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3: SUMMER 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

- OUR FIRST YEAR
- DANDELION POP-UPS
- UPDATE ON LIZ AND KEENA
- VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CHARLOTTE
- SHOUT OUT TO KELLY



## NEURO-DIVERSE VIRTUAL CLUBHOUSE FOR TWEENS AND TEENS

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the families who believed in us and gave us the opportunity to turn our vision into a reality. With your trust and encouragement, we launched 5 classes and had a 100% student retention and renewal rate. Students charted new territory in Brain Science and Global Mystery Adventures, used their imaginations in Puppetville, performed drama skits at the Neuro-diverse West Conference, and took a virtual trip to Pakistan. We published our first article and presented the Clubhouse model to the next generation of special ed teachers at SF State. Our greatest joy comes from working with your amazing children! They inspire us beyond words as we constantly strive to deliver a program that is worthy of them.

### DANDELION SUMMER POP-UPS

ALTHOUGH OUR NEXT ROUND OF CLASSES WILL NOT START UNTIL AFTER LABOR DAY. WE WILL BE DOING SOME DANDELION SUMMER POP-UPS. THESE SINGLE NO COST CLASSES WILL BE A WAY FOR ALL OF US TO STAY CONNECTED. A MINI-CONCERT, A MYSTERY CLASS, TRAVEL HIGHLIGHTS, FAMILY IMPROV ARE JUST SOME IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN PERCOLATING AT DANDELION HEADQUARTERS. WE WILL KEEP YOU POSTED!



## Fall Classes Starting in September

Our classes combine literacy, world cultures, SEL, drama, music and art to ignite a shared sense of wonder, boost self-esteem and fuel new friendships.

Dandelion Drama, Global Mystery Adventures and Brain Science will be back in September plus new classes in development.

We will also be launching Story Club!

- a literacy class that stems from Keena's dissertation work. Read more below!

Go to [www.dandelionclubhouse.com](http://www.dandelionclubhouse.com) for more details or send us an email at [dandelionclubhouse718@gmail.com](mailto:dandelionclubhouse718@gmail.com)



# DANDELION CLUBHOUSE

## Spotlight on Charlotte Curtin



Dandelion Clubhouse invites neurotypical teens to participate in classes to help foster the next generation of allies. Charlotte Curtin has been our most devoted volunteer! Her genuine warmth, beautiful singing voice and attuned presence make her a hit with our drama students. Charlotte told us, "I love Dandelion Clubhouse! There are so few authentic theater experiences for kids my age. I love how spontaneous we can be... like when we just break out into song. It's awesome!"

## Shout out to Kelly

Thank you to Kelly Checo for jumping in to co-lead drama this summer! And yes, we did finish class with a cat surf party last week. Kelly also started her own business this year- teaching online cooking classes. Her launch last winter was a big success! So keep an eye out for Cooking with Kelly - a fun-filled class where students learn how to make delicious meals -step by step- right in their own kitchens.



## Liz and Keena Update

After 7 years of working at The Helix school, Liz has changed course to devote her time to Dandelion Clubhouse as well as writing, presenting and consulting. Liz has presented day-long workshops on autism all over the country and aspires to teach internationally. On that note, she just started consulting for a treatment program in the UK and will be putting together a training series for therapists. She is thrilled to be part of Keena's dissertation and is eager to see what the research reveals about the power of drama as it relates to literacy. Liz will also be pursuing her own writing based on 15 years of clinical work with neurodivergent children, teens and young adults. Although she may be bouncing around geographically, Liz's first priority is growing the Clubhouse with Keena and creating new adventures and opportunities for the students.



Keena is diving into her dissertation work as the last leg of the PhD journey and couldn't be more grateful to Liz M for her expertise, insights and playful contributions, as she joins the classes each week. Keena is researching her most favorite topics: literacy, drama, and art! More specifically, she is examining how students' (with ASD and other neuro-differences) comprehension and enjoyment of a fiction book are impacted when the book is transformed into a script with simplified language, added experiential sensory learning and artwork (e.g., making props, drawing sequences, etc). Furthermore, she will investigate whether parents' perceptions of their child's comprehension and enjoyment of fiction text shifts due to the modifications. Once the dissertation is complete, Keena and Liz look forward to adding a literacy class to Dandelion Clubhouse's offerings.

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

By: GERTRUDE CHANDLER WARNER

CHAPTER ONE

The Four Hungry Children

VOCABULARY:

BOXCAR - A RAILROAD FREIGHT CAR / TRAIN

