

School News

February 2015



VALLEY
ACADEMY

From the Principal's Desk

As February arrives I reflect and am grateful for all of the wonderful people that I interact with each day in our community. I think of the smiling faces of the students on campus that I have the honor to connect with and the staff that leads them daily on their path of growth. I am also reminded that the school year passes quickly and that there is no time to waste before state testing begins in April.

This year Valley Academy and all of the other public schools in Arizona will be participating in AzMERIT (Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching), which is Arizona's new statewide achievement test. Arizona is partnering with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to develop tests that are unique to Arizona.

In 2010, the Arizona State Board of Education adopted new standards in English language arts and mathematics for all students in Arizona. These academic standards outline what students should know and be able to do at each grade level to be college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school. With the adoption and implementation of new standards, a new test was necessary. Students in Grades 3 through 8 will take AzMERIT in English language arts and mathematics at their grade level. The Arizona Science Standards did not change, however, so students in Grades 4, 8, and high school will still take the AIMS Science test. In addition, there is no longer a state assessment for second graders. Our second graders will continue participate in our campus-wide benchmark assessments and the post-test through Galileo.

In conclusion, I am confident that our students will continue to do well on the state assessments and look forward to what the future holds for Education in Arizona.

Wishing you a healthy and happy February,

Mrs. Wilber, M.Ed., Principal

Upcoming Events

Spirit Day

Friday, February 6th all students in grades K-8 may participate in our monthly ice cream to celebrate Spirit Day!

VAPO Meeting

Tuesday, February 10th 8:15 a.m. Monthly Governing Council Meeting. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Progress Reports Go Home

Wednesday, February 11th. Students' work is assessed and presented a progress report.

Early Release/Staff Development

Friday, February 13th at 12:15 p.m. All students K-8 dismiss at 12:15. Teachers will offer Parent Teacher Conferences

Presidents' Day No School

Monday, February 16th

Morning Assembly

Friday, February 23rd 8:15 a.m. Outdoor Courts. Students in grades 1-6 are honored for their classroom achievements.

School Board Meeting

Thursday, February 26nd District Office (14841 N. Black Canyon Freeway) School Board meetings are open to the public, and parents are welcome to attend.



Valley Academy celebrates National School Choice on January 26, 2015.

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NJAHS & FAMILIES



National Junior Art Honor Society

Valley Academy's chapter of the National Junior Art Honor Society inspires students who have shown an outstanding interest in art. The NAHS strives to aid student members in attaining the highest standards in art scholarship, character, and service. Members meet Tuesdays after school in the art room (except for the first Tuesday of the month). Contact Mrs.

Watkins or Mrs. Trotter, faculty sponsors of the N.J.A.H.S., for more information.

Yearbook Information

Our Yearbook Club is hard at work getting ready for yearbook sales. The club is pictured with previous yearbook editions. Yearbooks will be \$14.00 for presale, and the sale will get going soon. Watch for more information to come home with your child.

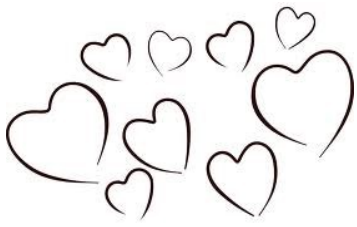


Mrs. Jubb, enjoying her students' handiwork in the classroom. First graders are learning many things including Spalding phonograms, and proper handwriting. Sentence composition, and science discoveries help to round out their school day.



Student Council

Valentine Grams will be sold before and after school February 5-12. Each one is a dollar! All proceeds will be used for Student Council sponsored activities.



February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
1 Week 24	2 108	3 109 Spring Festival Meeting 8:15 a.m.	4 110	5 111	6 112 Spirit Day	7
8 Week 25	9 113	10 114 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.	11 115 Progress Reports	12 116 VAPO hosted Staff Breakfast	13 117 Classroom Parties 11:15-12:15 Early Release 12:15 Dismissal No Specials Parent Teacher Conferences	14
15 Week 26	16 No School Presidents' Day	17 118	18 119	19 120 Caught Being Good	20 121	21 Training for Kindergarten Screening Volunteers
22 Week 27	23 122 Morning Assembly	24 123	25 124	26 125 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. District Office	27 126	28