

Valley Academy Newsletter



November 2011



1520 W. Rose Garden Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Phone: (623) 516-7747

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www.ValleyAcademy.com

A message from the Principal...



As you may have heard, Valley Academy has been honored with being one of the three finalists for Arizona's Charter School of the Year Award. We believe this is a great honor and are thrilled to be one of the great schools considered. We appreciate everyone's contribution to our school and hope that we will win this prestigious award. The winner will be announced on Friday, November 11th at the Arizona Charter Schools Conference in Tucson.

This year, for the first time, the Arizona Charter Schools Association (ACSA) is pleased to offer parents the opportunity to attend the Annual Conference. Parents are an important part of the public education community. This is especially true when it comes to charter schools since charters often require parents to take an active role in everything from academic accountability to participating in school governance issues. The in-depth knowledge parents possess about their child can provide meaningful input for creating charter schools and ensuring that they thrive.

With that in mind, the Association has developed three sessions geared specifically for parents. During these sessions parents can engage with charter leaders and education experts, discover how to evaluate their school's performance, and learn more about how state legislation can impact their student's education.

You can learn more about the parent sessions at the upcoming ACSA Conference in Tucson at the Arizona Charter Schools Association web site: <http://2011annualconference.wordpress.com/parent-sessions/>.

Again, I thank you for all of your support and commitment to our students, and most of all, being a part of the Valley Academy Community.

—Mrs. Victoria Wilber

☎ Important Numbers ☎

Reception Desk:	ext. 101
Attendance:	ext. 108
Nurse:	ext. 105
Principal/Asst. Principal:	ext. 115
Business Issues:	ext. 116
Parent Room (VAPO):	ext. 308

Board Meetings

The Board of Directors meets on the fourth Thursday of each month unless otherwise posted. All regular meetings are open to the public, and parents are encouraged to attend. If you wish to contact members of the Board, you may send a letter to the school or leave a message with Jeannine at ext. 116.



Health Office News

Mrs. Susan McIver, R.N. & Mrs. Joanne Priest, R.N.

- ☺ In order to help keep all of our children healthy, please remember that children must be fever free for 24 hours before they may come back to school.
- ☺ We started the year with more than 20 belts; now we have none. We are requesting donations at this time. If your child has borrowed a belt, please return it.
- ☺ We could use donations of new boys' and girls' underwear, especially in the smaller sizes. If your child comes home in a new pair from the Health Office, please replace them with a new pair.



REDUCE YOUR TAXES BY SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Donate money now to Valley Academy, and reduce your Arizona state tax by that amount. Single filers may donate up to \$200 and married filers may donate up to \$400 for the tax year 2011. Cash or check donations can be mailed with the easy tax credit form available on our website. You can also drop your donation off at the office. Donations must be postmarked by *December 31st.*

Attendance

If your child is absent, please remember to call the attendance line at (623) 516-7747 ext. 108, by 9:00 a.m. Please leave and spell the first and last name of your child. If you wish to request homework, please do so at that time. Teachers must be given appropriate time to gather the work. Homework requested after *11:00 a.m.* will not be available until the next day. The homework can be picked up in the office at the end of the school day. Thank you.

Our students won 16 Ribbons in the 2011 AZ State Fair Student Art Competition:

Michaela M. won 'Best of Show' for 5th grade!
 Shivan C. won 'Best of Show' for 7th grade!
 Kayla C., Shivani D., and Brady M. won 1st Place Ribbons.
 Natanael M. won a 3rd Place Ribbon.
 Amy Z. and Hugo M. won 4th Place Ribbons.
 Michael D., Daksh G., Yusuf K., Randy L., Holly M., Nathan N., Seth N., and Claudia S. won Honorable Mention Ribbons.

While these students did not win a place ribbon, they will receive a State Fair Participation Ribbon. They are all good artists and just getting in the fair and being considered one of the 'best in state', as I tell them, is awesome Ben A., Chantal B., Lindsay G., Jake M., Christian P., Katie R., Brandon S.



Mrs. Watkins, Art Teacher

Lunch Update

The Peanut Butter and Jelly Project helps kids who, in an emergency situation, need a lunch. They receive a sandwich and a milk for a minimal fee of \$1.00. We are able to charge only this minimal fee because the bread, peanut butter, and jelly are all supplied by donations. If your child has received a sandwich, please send in a dollar. If any parent would like to make a contribution to the cafeteria to help kids with lunch, we are always in need of spoons, forks, straws, bread, smooth peanut butter, and grape jelly.



Library

Our librarian, Mrs. Gan, has a "Book Hospital" for any injured books. Please get them to her, and she will repair them with the proper instruments. Mrs. Gan works very hard to repair, clean, and catalog books that are turned in to our Library.



Important November Dates

- 2 Make-up Picture Day
- 4 Spirit Day
- 5 Talent Show 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- 8 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.
- 10 NO SCHOOL-Staff Development
- 11 NO SCHOOL-Veterans' Day
- 14 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.
- 16 Progress Reports go home
Spring Festival Meeting
- 17 Caught Being Good
- 21 Turkey Trot 1st - 4th Grade 12:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.
- 22 Turkey Trot 5th - 8th Grade 12:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.
- 23-25 Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL
- 28 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.

Student Information Page



Coyote Volleyball Ladies are leading the East Conference with 5 wins. The team has worked extra hard with 8 new team members. Their drive and desire has been heightened by the opportunity to participate in the upcoming tournament.

Come cheer us on!



Hello, ladies and gentlemen! Welcome to your first sports update of the year. Valley Academy football has come out with a winning mentality this year as they have stormed out of the gates to a 6 and 2 record. Our boys have practiced hard and played harder as they are gearing up for tournament

October 31st through November 4th. They are going in as the number 1 seed in the East and hope to make a deep run and bring home the trophy. Come out and root the boys on to victory! Any questions please call Coach Ray at extension 519 or email him at rwoodbury@valleyacademy.com.



Caught Being Good Redeem your Caught Being Good tickets November 17th during lunch. It is also a Grand Prize Giveaway for 4th through 8th grades. Bring your tickets!

Honor Roll All students who made the honor roll for the first semester were given an ice cream for their hard work!

Student Council Elected Officers

President: Taylor L.
Vice President: Ariel S.
Treasurer: Kristin S.
Secretary: Ulani K.
Historian: Amy Z.



Student Council is preparing for the holiday season with a fundraiser to support our military families. Please support "Packages from Home" and your Valley Academy Student Council by donating new or gently used toiletries. We will be accepting donations beginning November 1st.

Miss McMillan, Facilitator



The Science Club is participating in a state wide competition We are making moon bases and getting ready to present it to the Honeywell Group. Wish us well! We meet Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Mrs. Brasher's room.

Mr. Smith, Facilitator



Picture Retake Day

On November 2nd, Inter-State Studios will be on campus to photograph students who were absent on Picture Day, need to retake their photo, or who are new to our school since then. If you have any questions, please call the office.

Basketball Season

Calling one calling all! It's time again to hit the hard wood with Coyote basketball. This year's tryouts will be the week of November 8 & 9 for the boys and November 14-16 for the girls. For all those interested in trying out, please make sure you have a player conduct form and either a physical or physical waiver form on file with Coach Ray. Also please make sure you have proper running shoes and gym shorts for tryouts. Bring a water bottle! Any questions, please call Coach Ray at extension 519 or email him at rwoodbury@valleyacademy.com.



Ray Woodbury, Coach

Music

Please remember to save the date. The Holiday concert is set for December 15th at North Hills Church. This year's theme is "Children in Toyland" and students should be working on memorizing their words for the concert.



Mrs. Wright, Music Teacher

Turkey Trot

The 2011 Turkey Trot will be held at Valley Academy on November 21st and 22nd. First through fourth grade will race on the 21st. First and second grade will begin at 12:00 p.m. and third and fourth at 1:30 p.m. Fifth through eighth grade will race on the 22nd beginning at 1:30 p.m. Come out and cheer on the students and turkeys!



Please contact Rachael Smith at deserteyecare@yahoo.com or 623-594-0077 if you would like to volunteer at this event.

WELCOME TO OUR VAPO FUNDRAISER PAGE!



eScrip:

Please be sure to go online to www.escrip.com to renew your Safeway card link to Valley Academy. This link with eScrip needs to be renewed each school year for Valley Academy to receive donations. Friends and family can also link their cards, even if they are out of town. Many out of state chains participate in the eScrip program such as Dominicks, Pavillions, Piggly Wiggly, Vons, and many more. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and loved ones can help Valley Academy from all over the country by just having their card registered with eScrip. Donations are totaled automatically every time you shop, so it's the perfect way for friends and family to help out. All you need to do is help them register.

Fry's Cool Cash:

Please make sure you have asked your Fry's cashier to scan our school barcode to link it with Valley Academy. This needs to be re-scanned for each school year.

Here is a handy copy of our barcode that you can print and take to the store with you. Share it with friends and family, and have them link it to their cards too. More people = more money for our school.



Did you know that you can help our school earn even more from Labels for Education? If you register your Fry's and Safeway cards online with www.elabelsforeducation.com you can earn extra points for our school IN ADDITION to the labels, Fry's Cool Cash, and Safeway e-Scrip you are already earning, and TRIPLE dip. For example, if you register your Fry's and Safeway cards with www.elabelsforeducation.com and purchase a participating Labels for Education product such as goldfish crackers, microwave popcorn, soup, broth, etc., you earn money for our school through:

1. The store (Fry's Cool Cash or Safeway eScrip),
 2. Through eLabels for Education, tracked automatically every time you shop.
 3. By turning in the labels from the products through your child's classroom.
- That's earning three times on the same purchase!



Congratulations to Mrs. Crahan's first grade class for submitting the most Box Tops and labels for the month of September. They submitted 646 Box Tops and labels in one month. Wow!



Our year-long Box Tops and Labels contest is now in full swing, so keep those Box Tops, Labels for Education, and Tyson package tops and flaps coming in. Our great Valley families have turned in over 12,000 Box Tops and labels just since the beginning of this school year. That's over \$1000 for our school in just two months. Keep up the great work! Here are the results for our year-long Box Tops/Labels contest so far:

- 1st Place Mrs. Keely's third grade class with 1014
- 2nd Place Mrs. Vig's fourth grade class with 898
- 3rd Place Mrs. Trotter's kindergarten class with 780
- 4th Place Ms. Jubb's first grade class with 692
- 5th Place Mrs. Christopher's kindergarten class with 630

There are awards and prizes for the top 10 classes who submit the most Box Tops and labels through the year, so keep sending them in! Remember to also include bonus Box Tops and eLabels register tapes that may be printed in the checkout line. These can be submitted with Box Tops and labels for credit as well.

Spring Festival Planning Meeting November 17th at 8:15 a.m.

Preparations for the Spring Festival are underway. We would like your help! Meetings will be held on Nov. 17th, Dec. 15th and Jan. 19th. All meetings will take place in the VAPO room at 8:15 a.m. Have questions? Contact Libby Hammond at 602-481-9375.

The 8th Grade Car Wash was a great success.

The car wash was Saturday, October 29, 2011 and it was a big success! The 8th graders would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who purchased a ticket or made a donation! The car wash earned over \$1140 toward the 8th grade promotion! The 8th Grade Promotion Committee would like to thank all the parents that helped support this event, especially Mrs. Chokshi.



VAPO Announcements

Governing Council Information

Please join us!

Our next VAPO meeting is Tuesday, November 8th, at 8:15 a.m. in the VAPO room. All are welcome to attend.

What you missed at the last VAPO meeting:

Audra Nuttall, VAPO's Vice President, and I had the honor of interviewing with the Arizona Charter Schools Association because we are one of three charter schools finalist for the prestigious award of Arizona Charter School of the Year! The winning Charter school will be announced on November 11th at the Arizona Charter Schools Association annual conference. Thank you to all of our Valley Academy families who are making this school a great community for us all to be a part of. Have you ever wondered what VAPO's bylaws are? We will be adding a link of VAPO's bylaws on the Valley Academy website for our Valley Academy families to view. Be on the look out for them. The bylaws are not just for the VAPO Governing Council to know. As a parent or legal guardian of a student here at Valley Academy, you too, are a VAPO member!
- Vicki Lowery, VAPO President

It's Time for the Annual Talent Show!

A mandatory dress rehearsal will be on Friday, November 4th. Preschool-3rd grade will rehearse at 4:00 p.m. and 4th-8th grade at 7:00 p.m. The Talent Show is Saturday, November 5th. There are two shows 4:00 p.m. (Preschool-3rd grade) and 7:00 p.m. (4th-8th grade) on November 5th. Save the date and come watch our students display their talents.



Are you needing to carpool to school and wonder how you can connect with other Valley Academy families who are needing to carpool also? Just visit our website at www.valleyacademy.com and click on the "For Parents" icon, then click on the "Carpool Information" icon. From there, you will automatically be directed to a free 'Carpool Connection' website that our school uses to allow families from Valley Academy to connect. It's safe, free, easy to navigate, and easy to connect. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki Lowery at 623-434-0847 or dtccj@hotmail.com.

Valley Academy Volunteers

There were 2,001 hours & 40 minutes volunteered during September! Good Job!

Let's try to top that during November!

The "**Volunteer Family of the Month**" for September is the **Family of R. Jackson** who so generously spent 82 1/2 hours on school related work! Congratulations and thank you!

Those families who volunteered over 25 hours during the month of September are:

Nuttall Family*	165 ¼ hours	Webb Family	38 ½ hours
Schulte Family*	78 ¼ hours	Padilla Family*	35 hours
Lowery Family*	69 2/3 hours	McCulloch Family*	33 1/4 hours
Ben Snyder Family	56 hours	Yellamarju Family	30 hours
McGraw Family*	53 ¼ hours	Early Family	29 ½ hours
M./T. Evans Family	48 hours	Ogden Family*	28 hours
Pape Family	40 ¼ hours	Prapti Jain Family	28 hours
Waters Family	40 hours	Siddiqui Family	27 ¾ hours

* denotes VAPO Governing Council Member

Please remember – only the new volunteer form will be accepted! Complete the form in its entirety always including everyone's **last** name.



Greetings Earthlings,

A cosmic-sized thank you goes out to all the extra-special volunteers who helped to make "To the Book Fair and Beyond" a stellar event. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, students, faculty, and others who helped us raise over \$5,300 for the library. We are planning to purchase a new set of encyclopedias with some of the money we raised.

Our Valley students favored the movie "Monsters vs. Aliens" over "Planet 51" hands down.

Books for One donations totaling over \$191 allowed us to purchase 25+ new books from the fair for our library and allowed Scholastic to provide a charity with \$191 worth of quality reading materials as well. Thank you for your generosity!

We completed a successful mission with hundreds of aliens being captured by our intergalactic readers in the Alien Invasion reading contest. Miss McMillan's class was the winner of the *Out of This World* snack box with Mrs. Breshears' class trailing close behind.

The student winner of the *Brain Quest Guessing Jar* Contest was Nathan R. of Mr. Bauer's 7th grade and the teacher winner was Ms. Crahan, 1st grade teacher. Congratulations to you both!

The winners of the grand prizes for the following categories were:

K-2nd grade category: Bryan Y. of Mrs. Freeland's class

Ananya K. of Mrs. Mueller's class

3-5th grade category: Evan K. of Ms. Crabtree's class

Anja R. of Mrs. McMahon's class

6-8th grade category: Nolan P. of Mrs. Hileman's class

Paula D. of Mr. Smith's class

Many lucky students won prizes during the daily prize giveaways. In the end, we were all winners because we had a lot of fun, raised a lot of money, and beamed our readers up to a higher level of intelligence! Thank you all for sharing in our alien experience!

Salutations,
Queen Asil of the Galaxy of
Yrabil

**TO THE BOOK FAIR
AND BEYOND!**
Reading Is Out of This World!

November 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	October	1	2	3	4	5
	31 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	Packages From Home Collections begins 	Picture Make-Up Day Lunch Orders due		Spirit Day Talent Show Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Talent Show 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
6	7	8 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.	9	10 NO SCHOOL Staff Development	11  NO SCHOOL Veterans' Day	12
13	14 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	15	16 Progress Reports Spring Festival Meeting 8:15 a.m.	17 Caught Being Good	18	19
20	21 	22	23	24 	25	26
	TURKEY TROT 1st - 4th 5th-8th Grades		NO SCHOOL ~Thanksgiving Break~			
27	28 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	29	30			