



REID TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS' Valley Academy



November 2013 Newsletter

Volume 18: Issue 3

Fall, what a wonderful time of year! As I have mentioned before, the fall season is my favorite. For me, fall is the season of cooler weather, sweaters, outdoor activities, and a time of gratitude. With that in mind, I would like to thank the Valley Academy community, the community of students, parents, faculty, support staff, and Board of Directors. You are all what help make our school a success. It is also my pleasure to be Valley's school principal. I am grateful for the opportunity and for all of the connections I have made here. The people in our school community are the best, and I could not be prouder of our organization.

I would also like to specifically thank VAPO and all of the parents who help support our school. We have wonderful parents who volunteer on and off campus, those who step up when an event is in need, and parents who support our traditional values. Valley Academy continues to be one of the best charter schools in the state, partially because of our community of parents, and for that I am grateful!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wilber

Mrs. Wilber, M.Ed.
Principal



CONTACT US

1520 W. Rose Garden Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85027

www.ValleyAcademy.com
Office (623) 516-7747

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

IMPORTANT DATES

November 2013

- 1 No School-Staff Development Day
- 4 Morning Assembly
- 8 Spirit Day
- 11 No School-Veterans Day
- 12 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.
- 13 Progress Reports go home
- 15 Talent Show Rehearsal
- 16 Talent Show
- 18 Morning Assembly
- 21 Caught Being Good Give-away
- 25 Turkey Trot Grades 1-4
- 26 Turkey Trot Grades 5-8 & Kdg.
- 27-29 No School

Board Meeting

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 welcome to attend. Board Meetings are held at the Reid Traditional Schools conference room at 14841 N. Black Canyon Highway. If you wish to contact members of the Board, you may send a letter to the school or leave a message at the Reid Traditional Schools office, (623)478-2344.

School Information Page



Health Office News

Mrs. Susan McIver, R.N. Mrs. Sherrie Goesling, 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. Please do not allow your children to carry any medicine with them, including over-the-counter medications. All medicines need to be checked in and stored for your child in the Health Office. Please be sure to send a water bottle with your child on a daily basis. We want to be sure to keep the students well hydrated.

We could use donations of new boys' and girls' underwear, especially in the smaller sizes. If your child comes home in a new pair, please replace them with a new pair.

Dear Valley Academy Families,

Now that first quarter is behind us and fall has finally arrived, there are a few things that we need to remind families of to make our school safe and productive.

Safety is always a concern on campus and our classroom aides have brought to my attention an issue that could potentially be a safety issue for you and your children. It has been reported that at Drop Off in the morning we have had several distracted drivers talking on cell phones and not paying close attention to both the children being dropped off and the aides who are helping. It is so important that we are not distracted during this process for the safety of your children and our staff.

We are about to need warm clothing on a regular basis, and our Lost and Found fills up quickly. Please label any piece of clothing that your child will take off during the day. Write their name on the label or tag and that way those items can be returned to your child.

Also, please take a minute to review the Valley Academy Dress Code. It seems when school has been in session for a while our students start trying to "stretch" the dress code. Please take a good look at your child/children before they leave for school to make sure they are "dress code appropriate." This gets them off to a great start each morning and they arrive ready to learn. If you have specific dress code questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you all for your help with these issues. Working together we can provide a safe and productive campus for our students and staff.
Happy Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Browne, M.Ed.
Assistant Principal



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 2013. Use your credit card to donate through the "Support Us" tab on our website. You may print the form there and mail it or bring your donation to the office.

The Tax Credit Fund directly supports extracurricular activities. 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 say and spell the first and last name of your child clearly. If this information cannot be understood, we will be unable to excuse the absence. 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.

Student Page



Volleyball

The Coyote girls have had an excellent record this season! We have worked hard and have enjoyed an undefeated regular season. Not only have we enjoyed our success, but the girls have learned a lot of higher level volleyball techniques. I am very proud of their efforts! The playoffs will begin the week of November 4th. Come out and enjoy the postseason volleyball excitement!

Ms. Faber, Coach

Student Council

Student Council has completed another successful campus clean-up! Great job!

The Student Council clothing drive begins on November 18. Each classroom is competing to win a surprise. The items that are donated will go to the Salvation Army. You may send in used clothing, canned food, and new toys. This is done on a point system: 1 piece of clothing is 1 point, 1 canned food item is 3 points, and 1 new toy is 5 points. Let's work together to help families in need!

Advisors

Miss Cunningham

Mrs. Licano

Mrs. Simon



Art at the Fair!

The Arizona State Fair has some of our students' art on display. You may view it in the Coliseum North Hall at the fairgrounds through November 3rd. More information is available on their website: www.azstatefair.com. Thank you to Mrs. Watkins, our art teacher, for making this happen for our students!



Football

Hey sports fans, it's playoff time! That's right, your Valley Academy football team is off to the playoffs, as we begin our fight to get back to the championship. Our team will be road warriors with our first game out in Surprise. Please stay tuned to our website for specific time and location.

Calling all 5th through 8th grade basketball players! Are you interested in being a Coyote hoop star? Make sure you are looking for sign ups and grade checks coming out soon.

Mr. Woodbury, Coach

Science Club

November brings us into more chemistry and engineering theories and experiments. Students will be challenged to think scientifically and use those methods to solve problems.

Remember, there is no Science Club on November 28th due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. Smith, Ms. Brasher, Advisors

YEARBOOK CLUB WANTS YOUR PICTURES!

Yearbook is asking for you to forward any pictures you might have taken from Great Skate, the 7th and 8th grade Dance, and Valley Sports! If you have photos of your child/children performing community service, please email the pictures to Mrs. Keely at kkeely@valleyacademy.com. Be sure to include your child's name and tell what the service was. Did your child walk/run in ***The Race for the Cure***? Does your child volunteer for ***Habitat for Humanity***? Have they packed goods to send to overseas soldiers? We would love to include what incredible services our students do outside of school in this year's yearbook.

Also, look for ***Messages from Home*** to be coming out later this month!

VAPO Volunteer Page

It's November, a time to give thanks and a time to appreciate living in Phoenix. I love it here this time of year. School has been in session long enough that we have a feel for how things work in our child's classroom. We have met with the teacher at least once at Parent/ Teacher Conferences. We have a carpool figured out and know the best way to drop off and pick up our child(ren).

Now before we get too comfortable, we need to remember that this is the perfect time of year to give back. One of the many reasons why Valley Academy is AMAZING, is because of the parents. Parents sign a form at the beginning of the year that says they promise to give three hours of service a month or twenty-seven hours a school year to Valley Academy. It is my firm belief that parent involvement makes our school GREAT! Students whose parents are involved do better in school. Teachers who have involved parents can take more time to do what they are good at -TEACHING!

I am thankful for all of our wonderful, helpful volunteers who turn in the volunteer hours on the website. I am thankful for volunteers who step up when there is a need. But mostly this month, I am thankful for working parents that still honor their commitment and volunteer. We are ALL working parents, whether we have a forty-hour-a-week job outside the home, are self-employed, or are simply managing our households with busy schedules. Every parent does the best they can. I am thankful for you and for the opportunity that I had to meet those of you who stepped up to help at the book fair. THANK YOU!

Now, November is filled with Talent Show volunteer opportunities, and Turkey Trot volunteers are needed too. Please contact any of the twelve VAPO Council Members if you would like to volunteer more. We really do need you. Many hands make light work!

Have a blessed November,
Mrs. Nuttall
audranut@gmail.com
(623)261-7204

The Volunteer Family for the Month of September 2013 was the **Smith Family**. To earn this honor the Smith family volunteered over 60 hours! Congratulations and thank you so much for your dedication! We love families like you!

The following families volunteered over 25 hours:

Hansen	33.00
Brock*	42.80
Schultz	50.00
Smith	60.08
Mathur*	73.80
McKinnon*	141.75

*Denotes VAPO Council Board member 2013-14

Reminder to all Parents: Please remember when you are completing the volunteer forms you must include both first and last names of your child and yourself. Please remember to *print* legibly.

VAPO-The Parent Organization of Valley Academy



The Earn & Learn program at The Shops at Norterra is going great, and our school is leading the list of 10 schools. Thanks to all you parents for participating in this program. Earn **1,000** points when you "like" and leave a comment on Norterra's Facebook page with your school name. Limit one per Facebook fan. <http://www.norterrashopping.com/special-offers/earnandlearn/>

Your little effort earns a lot for our school.

Thank you!

The Cookie Dough fundraiser was a huge success. We raised approximately \$11,000. Thank you to all Valley parents for your participation and helping us raise money towards the Audio/ Visual system for the Multi-Purpose Room. Sydnie G. from Miss Crabtree's third grade class earned a \$50 Target gift card for the highest total sales. Thank you and congratulations to all of our participants!



High School Information Night had a great turn out! On Thursday, October 3, 2013, representatives from local high schools gave an overview of what their schools have to offer and participated in a question and answer time with the our parents. Former Valley Academy students shared their experience of transition into high school. Copies of the event's program and evaluation forms are in the front office. Thank you to all the parents who made this event possible.

The 8th Grade Car Wash was a great success!

The car wash was Saturday, October 5, 2013. 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 \$782.00 toward the 8th grade promotion. The 8th Grade Promotion Committee would like to thank all the parents who helped support this event, especially Mr. Blanco.

The 7th & 8th Grade students danced under the Starry Night!

Thank you to all the parents who made this a night to remember for the students on Friday, October 11th. New this year was the photo booth. The students had a lot of fun posing for pictures with their friends, and they received a picture memory strip to take home.

Everyone is invited to Chipotle! Two fundraisers in one! Place a dining-in or take-out order at Chipotle, mention Valley Academy when paying for your order, and Chipotle will donate 50% of all sales for 8th grade promotion. Then submit your receipt to shopandlog.com/norterra to raise points for our school in Norterra Earn & Learn fundraiser.

Where: Happy Valley Rd & 25th Ave at the Shops at Norterra

When: Tuesday, November 19, 2013 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Chipotle has food for everyone - even vegetarian options. Take a night off from cooking and support our school! See you there!



VAPO-The Parent Organization of Valley Academy

Welcome all Talent Show participants! The Talent Show is fast approaching!

Come enjoy performances by our very own talented students, teachers and staff.

Mandatory Dress Rehearsal

Friday, November 15th
All approved participants 4:00 p.m.
Valley Academy Multi-Purpose Room

Please bring a snack, book to read or other activity items to help keep the performers quiet while waiting for their time to perform.

Announcers and stage hands need to be present for the dress rehearsals show.

The Talent Show is for entertainment and not a competition.

Talent Show

Saturday, November 16th
Valley Academy Multi-Purpose Room

Don't forget to bring your camera!

Tickets will go on **sale** November 4th. Ticket orders are due on November 12th.

Refreshments and concessions will be served for a minimal fee.

Volunteers are needed to help with the rehearsals and the Talent Show.
If you have any questions or are able to help, please, contact Mrs. Combs at

jodykay5@gmail.com,
or by phone: (480)254-6612.

Turkey Trot

Our annual Turkey Trot will be held on November 25th and 26th. First through fourth grade will race on the 25th. 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 26th beginning at 1:30 p.m. Before that our kindergartens will race at 10:15 a.m. Come out and cheer on our students and turkeys! Please contact Mr. Harford at rick.harford@gmail.com or (602)619-7896 if you would like to volunteer at this event. Thank you!

Box Tops for Education Leaders

Monthly Leaders-October

1. Mrs. Henry 751
2. Miss Gross 512
3. Mrs. Vig 274
4. Ms. Schambach 271
5. Mrs. Calderon 265

Top Leaders

- | | | | |
|------------------|------|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Mrs. Keely | 2128 | 6. Mrs. Freeland | 658 |
| 2. Mrs. Henry | 1467 | 7. Mrs. Breshears | 628 |
| 3. Ms. Schambach | 869 | 8. Mrs. Mettes | 528 |
| 4. Mrs. Calderon | 711 | 9. Mrs. Douthitt | 525 |
| 5. Mrs. Trotter | 694 | 10. Miss Gross | 512 |



November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 No School Staff Development	2
3	4 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	5	6	7	8 Spirit Day	9
10	11 No School Veterans Day 	12 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.	13 Progress Reports	14	15 Talent Show Rehearsal 4:00 p.m.	16 Talent Show
17	18 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	19	20	21 Caught Being Good	22	23
24	25 Turkey Trot Grades 1-4	26 Kindergarten Turkey Trot 10:15 a.m. Turkey Trot Grades 5-8	27	28 No School	29	30
Thanksgiving Break						

Arizona Tax Credit

Valley Academy Extracurricular Activities

Frequently Asked Questions

Valley Academy is a K-8 public charter school with approximately 800 students. Your tax credit donation will expand opportunities for extracurricular activities.

How much of a tax credit can I get?

The State of Arizona will allow you a direct tax credit of up to \$400.00. The credit is equal to the amount contributed or the amount of fees paid by individual taxpayers to a public school or charter school located in Arizona. If you are married filing jointly, you qualify for up to \$400 in tax credits. Married taxpayers filing separately can claim only one-half of that amount on each return. Single or head of household taxpayers can claim up to \$200 in tax credits.

Can a taxpayer receive a refund of these credits?

No. Tax credits can only be used to the extent they reduce a taxpayer's state tax liability to zero. The advantage to the tax credit is that your money can be directed specifically to Valley Academy programs, rather than to the general Arizona State Tax. You can actually see where your tax dollars are going! Another bonus is that any unused tax credit may be carried forward up to five years.

Must a taxpayer have a child in Valley Academy in order to claim this credit?

No. There is no requirement that the taxpayer have a child enrolled in a public or private school in order to claim the credit. Encourage your family (hint to grandparents), friends, and colleagues to support Valley Academy and enjoy a tax credit at the same time.

What are extracurricular activities?

Extracurricular activities mean school sponsored activities that require enrolled students to pay a fee in order to participate. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, use of band uniforms, use of equipment, uniforms for athletics, or use of scientific laboratory equipment and materials. Generally, any educational or recreational activities that supplement the educational program of the school are considered to be extracurricular activities. Valley Academy has a tax credit fund for extracurricular activities. You can even specify which program you would like to support.

How can I contribute?

You may pay online with a credit card on the "Support Us" page of our website, www.ValleyAcademy.com. You may also use the form below to mail or bring your donation to the school office.

<p>Yes! I wish to donate to Valley Academy's Tax Credit Fund Enclosed is a check or money order for \$_____.</p>		
<p>Please send my tax receipt to:</p>		
<p>Name: _____</p>		
<p>Address: _____</p>		
<p>City: _____ Zip _____</p>		
<p>I would like my donation to be used for:</p>		
<p>____ Greatest Need</p>	<p>____ Band</p>	<p>____ Chorus</p>
<p>____ Sports (you may specify sport)</p>	<p>____ Afterschool Clubs (you may specify the club)</p>	
<p>*Tax receipts will be mailed by February 2014*</p>		