



REID TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS'  
**Valley Academy**



**November 2012 Newsletter**

[www.ValleyAcademy.com](http://www.ValleyAcademy.com)

Volume 18: Issue 3

1520 W Rose Garden Lane  
 Phoenix, AZ 85027

**A message from the Principal...**



As I sit down to write my article for the newsletter, I ponder what topic to address this month. I cannot help but think of the approaching time of year, the beginning of fall, my favorite season. For me fall is the season of cooler weather, sweaters, outdoor activities, and a time of gratitude.

When I think of all of the things that I am grateful for, I think of my family, of course. Their health and happiness is so important to me. They are the ones who support me as I work late, follow my heart, and give when I have nothing left to give. I also think of the Valley Academy community, the community of faculty, staff, VAPO, and the families of children who attend here. They are so terrific. They are passionate about children, a quality education, and being involved in our excellent school.

The Valley Academy community is what supports us, makes us strong, and guides us all along the way. We have an energized and caring faculty focused on student achievement and Valley's philosophy and mission. We have parents who give of their time, talents, and skills to support their children and the school's goals and vision. We have students who thrive in an educational setting that supports individual achievement and growth. We have so much to be grateful for.

I am grateful for all of these people, qualities, and our school. As my faculty and I were sharing recently, we are truly blessed to have such wonderful jobs and to work with such amazing children and their families. It is this time of year that I love, when our focus shifts and we maybe take the time to show the gratitude we truly feel. I did not want to miss this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you for your support, for your caring, and your commitment to your children and Valley Academy.

*-Mrs. Victoria Wilber*

**Important Numbers**

<b>623-516-7747</b>	
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. Please note that the Board Meetings are now being held at Reid Traditional Schools District Office, 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 with Jeannine at extension 116.

## Health Office News

### McKinney-Vento Information

If your family lives in any of the following situations:

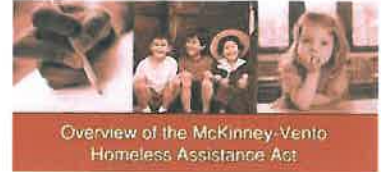
*in a shelter;*

*in a motel or campground due to the lack of an alternative adequate accommodation;*

*in a car, park, abandoned building, or bus or train station;*

*doubled up with other people due to loss of housing or economic hardship;*

Your school-age children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the federal McKinney-Vento Act. If you believe your children may be eligible, contact Mrs. McIver, our school nurse to find out what services and supports may be available. There also may be supports available for your preschool-age children.



### Waiting List for 2013-2014 School Year

Beginning December 3, 2012, we are accepting waiting list applications for the 2013-2014 school year. If you have a child you would like to place on the waiting list for next year, including incoming Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, please come in and fill out a form or go to [www.valleyacademy.com](http://www.valleyacademy.com) and fill out the online form.



### 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.



### Please Help...

Our school nurses need your help. We are in desperate need of girls and boys small/medium underwear. They must be new and in the original package. The health office gives them to students when needed. You can bring your donation to the front office during school office hours.

Thank you.

Valley Academy  
Health Office



### 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 2012. 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 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.

### Important November Dates

- 2 NO SCHOOL-Staff Development
- 9 Spirit Day
- 12 NO SCHOOL-Veterans' Day
- 13 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.
- 14 Progress Reports go home
- 15 Caught Being Good  
Spring Festival Meeting 8:15 a.m.
- 19 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.  
Turkey Trot 1st - 4th Grade 12:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
- 20 Turkey Trot 5th - 8th Grade 12:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
- 21-23 Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL

# Student Information Page



Valley Academy Art students have work exhibited at the Arizona State Fair! The fair runs Oct. 12 - Nov. 4, Wednesdays - Sundays. What a nice opportunity for our students to shine! For more information about the fair, visit [www.azstatefair.com](http://www.azstatefair.com).

## 1st Place Ribbons

Brooke M.  
Natalia G.  
Austin Y.  
Ian R.

## 2nd Place Ribbons

Jadyn R.  
Savanna F.

## 3rd Place Ribbons

Trinity T.  
Riley W.  
Samyukta A.  
Bennett E.

## Honorable Mention Ribbons

Ann T.  
Samantha B.  
Emalee O.  
Emily L.

## Participation Ribbons

Kelsey E.  
Will C.  
Broc H.  
Ulanni K.  
Adam H.  
Dominic D.  
Pranav P.

## Student Council

The first Student Council meeting was held on October 10, 2012. Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 7, 2012. Student Council is working to set up a Clothing Drive and an Adopt-A-Family event. These events will be held toward the end of November and beginning of December. We will need help and donations for these events. We look forward to your support this year! *Mrs. Licano, Advisor*

## The Science Club



We have just finished rockets and are moving on to airplanes. We will be making different types of planes, from paper airplanes to balsa wood gliders, over the next three weeks.

*Mr. Smith, Facilitator*



Our very own Band is working hard on their Holiday concert on December 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. Come join us for a wonderful evening of music, song, and merriment. More information to follow.

*Mr. Laird, Band Director*

## Coyotes are Champions!

That's right, once again the Valley Academy Coyotes end the season as champions. Our volleyball team once again brought home first place. They fought a tough Estrella Arts team into a third game before coming out victors and being crowned IYAC champions. Our football team upset the number two team overall to make the championship. They came up short in the championship game after battling back in the second half. Our team far exceeded all expectations. Valley Academy was then represented by two girls, three boys, and both coaches for their respective all-star games. They all put up a great showing bringing home wins for their respective teams. Great job to all our student athletes for a phenomenal season! Well, fans, we are now onto basketball. Watch our website as schedules will be released soon. Make sure you schedule a time to come out and cheer on your Valley Academy Coyotes.



## Music

Holiday Concert December 14, 2012 at North Hills Church (19<sup>th</sup> Ave. South of Greenway)

Be sure to check the homework for dress code information.

Grades 1 – 3 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Student should arrive between 5:00 – 5:20 p.m.

Grades 4 – 8 7:15 – 8:30 p.m. Students should arrive between 6:45 – 7:05 p.m.

\*Chorus will perform at the 2<sup>nd</sup> concert.



*Mrs. Wright, Music Teacher*

## Turkey Trot

The 2012 Turkey Trot will be held at Valley Academy on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. First through fourth grade will race on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:30 p.m. Come out and cheer on the students and turkeys!



Please contact Mr. Harford at [rick.harford@gmail.com](mailto:rick.harford@gmail.com) or (602) 619-7896 if you would like to volunteer at this event.

Thank you!

VAPO

# 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](http://www.ValleyAcademy.com). You may also use the form below to mail or bring your donation to the school office.

Yes! I wish to donate to Valley Academy's Tax Credit Fund

Enclosed is a check or money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please send my tax receipt to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my donation to be used for:

\_\_\_\_ Greatest Need

\_\_\_\_ Band/Chorus

\_\_\_\_ Academic Arcade

\_\_\_\_ Sports (you may specify sport)

\_\_\_\_ Full Day Kindergarten

\_\_\_\_ Coyote Club

\_\_\_\_ Clubs

\*Tax receipts will be mailed by February 2013\*





# WELCOME TO OUR VAPO FUNDRAISER PAGE!

## eScrip:

Please be sure to go online to [www.escrip.com](http://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](http://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](http://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:

1. Through 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 Mr. Hayo's class for submitting the most Box Tops and labels for the month of September. They submitted 782 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 9500 Box Tops and labels just since the beginning of this school year. That's almost \$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 Mr. Hayo's 7th/8th grade with 782
- 2nd Place Mrs. Lewandowsky's fifth grade class with 368
- 3rd Place Ms. Schambach's second class with 311
- 4th Place Mr. Smith's sixth grade class with 271
- 5th Place Mrs. Calderon's second grade class with 251

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 15th at 8:15 a.m.

Preparations for the Spring Festival are underway. We would like your help! The first meeting will be held on November 15th. The meeting will take place in the VAPO room at 8:15 a.m. Have questions? Contact Mrs. Hammond at (602) 481-9375.

## The 8th Grade Car Wash was a great success.

The car wash was Saturday, October 13, 2012, 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 \$1575 toward the 8th grade promotion! The 8th Grade Promotion Committee would like to thank all the parents who helped support this event, especially Mrs. Ekdahl.



# VAPD Announcements

Dear Valley Academy Families,

I hope your school year is going well. One of the things that makes our school great is all the wonderful volunteers who help make things happen. Our Book Fair had the highest sales ever, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Car Wash was a huge success. Thank you so much to all our dedicated families who donated their time and efforts.

As we enter into this busy time of year, I'd like to ask you to take a few minutes to help out whenever possible at school. There are many events that go on at the beginning of the year, but start planning right now. Spring Festival is a great example. Did you know that Spring Festival planning meetings start in **November**? That's right. Our fabulous Event Fundraising Committee starts working five months ahead of time to make a great event for our children. This event takes an army of volunteers to run successfully, and even though we may be thinking about apple cider, cool (80 degree) weather, and holidays, your Event Fundraising committee is already hard at work on springtime happenings. This is also a great time of year to be thinking about donations for your classroom basket for Spring Festival. Check with your class homeroom parent(s). They can fill you in on the theme for this year's basket, and you can shop for items when they are on sale.

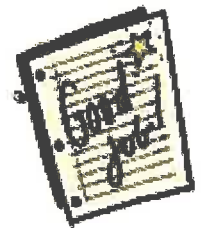
Other areas where you can help include Turkey Trot and DIBELS testing. The Turkey Trot is held the week of Thanksgiving, and it is organized by the Athletics Committee. The Volunteer Communication Committee organizes volunteers to help with DIBELS testing, which occurs the first week back from Winter Break in January. If you are able to help, please contact any VAPO Council member. We're happy to put you in touch with the right people.

Mrs. McCulloch  
Valley Academy Parent Organization  
Governing Council President

The VAPO Governing Council is pleased to welcome Mrs. Chapin as our Special Events Chair. Mrs. Chapin has been a Valley Academy parent for six years, and she will make a great addition to our council. If you are able to help with Special Events activities such as lock down kits, Spelling Bee, and Spring Family Fun Night, be sure to get in contact with Mrs. Chapin at [hiedi.chapin@cox.net](mailto:hiedi.chapin@cox.net).

**Caught Being Good** Redeem your Caught Being Good tickets November 15th 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 earlier this week!



Thank you to all the Valley Academy families who participated in the Cookie Dough fundraiser. We were able to raise over \$11,000 towards audio/visual equipment for the MPR. Even small efforts go a long way in helping our school. Every order made a difference. Special thanks to Mikayala H. of 8th grade for selling the most cookie dough! Thank you also to all the wonderful volunteers for pitching in every step of the way. Your help is very much appreciated.

The Volunteer Family of the Month for September 2012 is the Begay Family. To earn this honor the Begays volunteered 77 hours! Congratulations and thank you so much for your dedication. We love families like you!

Those families who volunteered over 25 hours for this period were:

Snyder Family*	96 hrs.	Zollinger Family	37 hrs.
Schulte Family	74 5/6 hrs.	Adurthi Family	36 1/2 hrs.
Mathur Family*	63 5/6 hrs.	Day Family*	34 hrs.
McCulloch Family*	51 1/4 hrs.	Harford Family*	30 3/4 hrs.
E. Smith Family (V.O.M. 8/12)	47 1/2 hrs.	Hansen Family	29 1/6 hrs.
Webb Family	45 hrs.	Ogden Family*	27 1/4 hrs.
M&TJ Evans Family*	41 1/6 hrs.		

\*Denotes VAPO Council member 2012-13



**Reminder to all parents:** Please remember when you are completing the volunteer forms you must include both first and last names of your student and yourself. Also, if you are signing in at the office and know that you will be there after the office closes it is very important that you either: 1) estimate how many hours you will be there; or, 2) submit your additional hours on a volunteer form rather than on the sign-in sheet. We have no way of knowing whether you were there one hour or five hours! With everyone's cooperation, we can make sure you get full credit for your volunteer time.



Hello, readers!

For our new readers, please make sure you are filling out the book review form completely. It is important that you choose either “yes” or “no” for the Approved Reading List and not leave that box blank. If you check “no,” please make sure you write a note on the form to let us know what concerns you have about the book.

If you have just started reading with us, we will be including an Expectation Form in the first envelope we send home to you. Please sign the form and return it with your completed book review form. We must have this on file for you to continue reading for us for the duration of the school year.

Please be aware that we do our best to match our readers with books that are close to the age of your child. This is not always possible due to the books that are available to be sent out on any given week. If you receive a book that is for an older reader than your child, please take that into account when you read the book and fill out the review form.

If you receive a book that does not interest you, please feel free to send it back with a note stating you were not interested. We understand and do not want you to feel that you have to read a book that is not enjoyable. You will find the list of books approved at the October VAPO meeting on our website.

Thank you for all you do to support the book review process and getting books added to the Approved Reading List.

Sincerely,

The Curriculum Book Review Team



THANK YOU



We had a great Fall Book Fair. First, I want to thank all the wonderful volunteers. Without you we couldn't do it! Also, I want to thank everyone for their generous support of our Library. We raised \$3,002.13. This money will be used to purchase new books and resources for your students to use.

I would like to announce the winning class for All Star Reading Contest. Mrs. Mettes' 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade read 213 books from September 1-September 26. They won a big box full of treats.

Each fair we have a contest to raise money for the All for Books charity fund raiser that Scholastic sponsors. This year we had a contest between Cheer/Volleyball, Soccer/Football and Basketball/Baseball. **Cheer/Volleyball won by a landslide.** We raised a total of \$120.20 for All for Books. We were able to purchase \$120.20 in books for our Library, and Scholastic will match monetary donations from all book fairs with a donation of up to one million books to two national, non-profit organizations - Kids in Distressed Situations and Kids in Need Foundation.

There were 95 candies in the guessing jar. We had two winners, A. Brown and B. Smith.

# November 2012

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> NO SCHOOL Staff Development	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Spirit Day	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  NO SCHOOL Veterans' Day	<b>13</b> VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.	<b>14</b> Progress Reports	<b>15</b> Spring Festival Meeting 8:15 a.m.  Caught Being Good	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.  TURKEY TROT 1st - 4th Grades	<b>20</b>   5th-8th Grades	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>   NO SCHOOL ~Thanksgiving Break~	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	