

REID TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS'

Valley Academy





September 2012 Newsletter



www.ValleyAcademy.com

Volume 18: Issue 1

1520 W Rose Garden Lane Phoenix, AZ 85027

A message from the Principal...

It is with great excitement that I welcome you back to school! I have been diligently working with our staff and VAPO to plan and prepare for the 2012-

2013 school year. One of the changes you might have noticed is that we became part of Reid Traditional Schools. Our sister school, Painted Rock Academy, opened as planned on August 13th, to wonderful fanfare and an unexpected \$20,000.00 donation to start their library. Mrs. Szostak, Principal, and Miss McMillan, Assistant Principal, are anchoring the new school. You can always find the latest information on our website, and I encourage you to view it often.

Along with our teachers and staff, I am looking forward to a great year!

-Mrs. Victoria Wilher



Newsletter In an effort to minimize paper use, many informational memos about what is happening on campus will be emailed to your primary email address. Please check to make sure that

you have not inadvertently blocked Valley Academy's email.

Also, if you do not have email capabilities, please contact Mrs. Sommerfield, our school secretary, in the front office so that she can set you up to receive paper copies of all information going out via the internet.

mportant Numbers



ext. 308

Reception Desk: ext. 101 Attendance: ext. 108 Nurse: ext. 105 Principal/Asst. Principal: ext. 115 **Business Issues:** ext. 116

Important Dates

September 2012

- No School Labor Day
- Spirit Day

Parent Room (VAPO):

- 10 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.
- 11 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.
- 12 Picture Day
- 14 Cookie Dough Orders Due
- 19 Progress Reports go home
- 20 Caught Being Good Give-Away
- **21** Early Release 12:15 p.m.
- 24 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.
- 24 Book Fair begins
- 27 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 28 Book Fair Family Night

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.



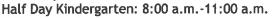
Health Office News

Mrs. Susan McIver, R.N. Mrs. Susan Elowson, R.N.

- ② 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.

Early Release

September 21st is an early release day. Lunches are served to grades 1-6 on early release days. Here are the school hours for these days:



Full Day Kindergarten-8th grade: 8:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

P.M. Preschool is from 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Help wanted: Coyote Club Aide

Our Coyote Club program is looking for someone to help out in the afternoon. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Browne, Assistant Principal, in the front office for more information.



Lunch menu update

In an effort to be more cost effective, our school lunch menu will be available online only. We will continue to have printed menus in the front office.

Note from the Cafeteria Staff:

Please remember to send your children with all the necessary items to eat their lunch. The school has had to purchase spoons, forks, and napkins for cold lunch students who come unprepared. We want to keep the hot lunch prices as minimal as possible, but the purchasing of additional items can affect that cost, if abused. If you would like to donate spoons, forks, and napkins, please just send them in to the front office. We appreciate your support.

After School Enrichment Classes

These classes are offered after school on campus by Arizona Instruction. Arizona Instruction has been offering enrichment classes at Valley Academy for the past four years and has served students state wide for two decades.

Mondays: DANCE

Tuesdays: JR. CHEERLEADING & JR. SPORTS CLUB

Wednesdays: DRAWING, ARTS & CRAFTS

Thursdays: DRAMA CLUB

For more information call 602-291-0242.

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 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.

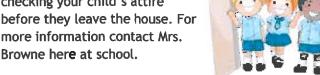
Dress Code Reminder

Students at Valley Academy should be well groomed and neat in appearance. All clothing is to be well fitted and in good repair. Upon walking the campus, several things have been noticed that need to be brought to the forefront.

- Earrings must be simple and not hang below the earlobe.
- Shorts must be no shorter than the middle of the thigh and no longer than the middle of the knee.
- Fabric sashes may not be worn in lieu of a belt.
- Students are not permitted to wear eye shadow, mascara, or eyeliner.
- Only one bracelet maybe worn at a time.
- It is recommended that boys have their hair length cut above the collar.
- Solid, uniform color socks must be worn.

Non-compliance of the dress standard will result in disciplinary action. Please help enforce the dress code by checking your child's attire

more information contact Mrs.



2012-2013 Valley Academy Teachers & Staff

Administration & Office

Ms. Mitchell - CEO

Mrs. Wilber - Principal

Mrs. Browne - Asst. Principal

Mrs. Sommerfield -Secretary

Ms. Uhlving - Office Manager

Mrs. Crisler - Account Manager

Mrs. Beimers - Account Specialist

Mrs. Stahura- Account Aide

Mrs. Elowson- Health Office

Mrs. McIver - Health Office

Mrs. Williams - Registrar

Mrs. George -Receptionist

Support Staff

Mr. Smith - Maintenance Manager

Mr. Carlson - Day Custodian

Mrs. Schmidt -Food Service Manager

Mrs. Wilkins - Food Service Assistant

Kindergarten

Mrs. Christopher

Miss Hageman

Mrs. Johnson

Mrs. Trotter



First Grade

Miss Faber

Mrs. Galvin

Ms. Jubb

Mrs. Mineck

Second Grade

Mrs. Calderon

Mrs. Freeland

Miss Malick

Ms. Schambach

Third Grade

Mrs. Breshears

Ms. Crabtree

Mrs. Keelv

Mrs. Mettes

Fourth Grade

Miss Gross

Mrs. McMahon

Ms. Ray

Ms. Vig

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Freeman

Mrs. Henry

Mrs. Lewandowsky

Mrs. Licano

Sixth Grade

Mrs. Biesemeyer

Mrs. Copper

Mr. Smith

Seventh Grade

Miss Cunningham

Mrs. Douthitt

Mrs. Ramsey

Eighth Grade

Ms. Brasher

Mr. Hayo

Special Area Teachers

Mrs. Watkins - Art

Mr. Crow - Computers

Mrs. Wright - Music

WILZE AALIBLIE - WITZE

Coach Mims - P.E.

Mrs. Quijada - Spanish

Mrs. Gan - Library

Mrs. Holder - Resource

Mr. Woodbury - Resource Aide/

Coyote Club

Miss McGinnis - Speech

Miss Agee- Preschool (3YO)

Miss McCartney- Preschool

(4YO)

Mrs. Ekdahl - Academic Tutor

Aides

Mrs. Berger

Ms. Berry

Mrs. Bonkoski

Mrs. Cummings

Mrs, Forsythe

Mrs. George

Mrs. Lowery

Mrs. Modi

WL2" WOOL

Mrs. Morrison

Mrs. Robinson

Mrs. Swanson

Mrs. Zollinger

Afterschool Aides

Mrs. Baczynski

Miss George

Mrs, Shimoon

Mrs. Snyder

Mrs. Wilkins



Get to Know Valley Academy Teachers

All our teachers' profiles are available in the front office for your review.

And now, a word from our Government ...

As a public school, Valley Academy is asked to make our families aware of certain state and governmental notices. Here they are, in a nutshell:

AZ HB2732-stipulates that 3rd grade students who obtain a score on the reading portion of the AIMS test that demonstrates the pupil is reading far below the third grade level may not be promoted from the third grade.

Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) - Parents are allowed to inspect school records and have an expectation of privacy in educational matters. For more information on FERPA rights, check out the Academics/Curriculum/Special Education area of our website, or ask the school office for assistance.

IRS Form 990 - A copy of the school's non-profit tax return is available in the school office upon request.

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) - The school has been inspected for asbestos and certified to be asbestos free. The required AHERA Management Plan and inspection materials are available in the school office.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - Students with disabilities are entitled to a copy of procedural safeguards. For more information, check out the Academics/Curriculum/Special Education section of Valley Academy's website, or ask the school office for assistance.

McKinney-Vento Act - Special guidelines on the enrollment end education of homeless children are outlined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. For more information, see www.ed.gov.



Stay Safe this School Year!

Some things to keep in mind as we start off the new school year:

3:15 Pick Up Areas

If your child knows that you are walking up to pick them up, then he or she should be standing in quiet lines inside the music room. Please do not pick your child up from the classroom. It adds extra bodies in the halls and delays the proper process. In addition, parents should always have their name badges on while on campus.

If you are driving up, then your child/ren will be in the M.P.R. Please leave your name placard on the dashboard until your child is in your car. The teachers on duty in the colored zones also need to see them. This speeds up the process of dismissal. Also, please keep in mind that when your child gets into your car that others are waiting to pull up. Please carry on conversations after you have pulled away from the pickup zones. We are trying to make this a safe but speedy process in order to get everyone safely on their way as soon as possible.

Early Drop Off In an effort to minimize traffic congestion on and off campus in the morning, Valley Academy offers free early drop off at 7:30 a.m. Please drop your child off on the east side of campus so that they may enter the M.P.R. where Valley Academy staff will supervise them until our teachers are on morning duty and they may enter the playground areas. We are providing free student supervision on campus at 7:30 a.m. in order to widen the window of our free drop off time. We hope that you will take advantage of the extra time and bring your children all the way around to the east side for drop off. Remember that the drop off area on the west side of campus is to be used only by families of kindergarten students; all others are to be dropped off on the east side behind the M.P.R. Please be respectful and mind the school's traffic procedures. If earlier drop off is needed, the Coyote Club is open as early as 6:30 a.m. Coyote Cub fees will apply from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. Please just leave 5-10 minutes earlier each morning in order to keep our students safe and out of harm's way! We really appreciate the parents who have made the effort to follow the school's rules. Together, we can improve the efficiency and safety on campus!

Late Pick Up 1st and 2nd grade students who are not picked up by 2:30 p.m. will be registered into Academic Arcade and parents will be billed monthly. Students who are not picked up by the end of the 3:15 p.m. dismissal process will be registered into Coyote Club and billed accordingly. Preschool students must be picked up promptly at dismissal time. Students who are not picked up will be escorted to the office and parents will be called.

<u>Early Pick Up</u> Parents, please remember that the end of the academic day is just as important as the beginning. Please refrain from pulling your children out of school early. It is distracting to the whole class, and your child is missing necessary academic time.



Chess Club -We are looking for adults willing to host the Chess Club on Thursdays each week. We have two teachers willing to share their classrooms for the club. We will have two clubs, one for grades 2-5 and one for grades 6-8. Please contact Mrs. Sommerfield in the office if you are interested.

Chorus-Do you like to sing? Come join chorus on Mondays after school until 4:15 p.m. We have fun singing and performing around town. Chorus starts on September 10th and has a once a year after-school fee of \$40.00. Come check us out.

Science Club-There will be a meeting for those interested in joining Science Club on September 6th in Ms. Brasher's room. Students will pick up a club extracurricular activities form and will need to pay the club fee before Science Club officially starts on September 13th. For our first activity we will be making a rocket!

Than The Valley Academy Parent Organization

Welcome Valley Academy parents!

My name is Sherri McCulloch, and I'm so glad to have this opportunity to serve as your Valley Academy Parent Organization (VAPO) president for the 2012-2013 school year.

Valley Academy is a school that welcomes parent involvement. VAPO provides many opportunities for parents to help out, both at home and at school. If you have not completed your parent volunteer checklist, please take a moment to do so and turn it in to your child's teacher. There is lots of work to do, and you have talents and abilities that will benefit our school.

While on campus, please be sure to come by the VAPO room. It is located in the kindergarten area, room #8. This is a room available to parents to work on campus, grade papers, help with VAPO projects, attend VAPO meetings, and more. If you have small children, that's no problem. The VAPO room also includes a children's play area.

As a parent of a Valley Academy student, you are automatically a member of VAPO, so jump right in and let us know where you'd like to help. We're glad you're here!

Mrs. McCulloch Valley Academy Parent Organization Governing Council President

<u>Carpool....</u> Do you need to carpool and wonder who you can connect with and how to do it? It's easy! Just visit our school website at www.valleyacademy.com and click on the "VAPO" icon. Then click on "Carpool Information" and that will direct you right to a free 'Carpool Connection' website that our school uses. It's safe, easy to navigate, and easy to connect. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. McCulloch at 623-780-8228 or sherrzi@aol.com.

LOST AND FOUND



Items will be kept in the M.P.R. until the last day of each month, then they will be moved to the VAPO room. Items will be Kept there one more month, then they are donated to Goodwill Industries.

Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night is scheduled for the last day of the Book Fair, the evening of September 28th. We are looking for volunteers to help make this event great. Contact Mrs. Stradling at 480-213-9604 or grinnie99@yahoo.com.

The Homeroom Parent Breakfast will be Tuesday, October 2nd at 8:15 a.m. Invitations will be sent out soon. Mark the date now!

This is a breakfast that will introduce you to the expectations for the classroom and Spring Festival. If you have any questions contact Mrs. McCulloch at 623-780-8228 or sherrzi@aol.com

Spirit Day



It's not too late to purchase your Spirit Day Ice Cream cards! The next Spirit Days are Friday, September 7th, and Friday, October

5th. You can also bring 50 cents if you do not have an ice cream card. You can purchase the card for \$3.00. Order forms are available in the front office. Spirit Day Ice Creams are sold during your child's lunch time. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Mrs. Palomo at 602-200-4918.

Spirit Day T-shirt order forms have been sent home

VAPO Announcements

A Look Ahead



September

Sept. 7 - Spirit Day

Sept. 11 - VAPO meeting 8:15 a.m.

Sept. 12 - Picture Day

Sept. 14 - Cookie dough orders due

Sept. 20 - Caught Being Good Give-Away

Sept. 24-28 Book Fair

Sept. 28 - Book Fair/Family Fun Night

October

Oct. 2 - Homeroom Parent Breakfast

Event Fundraising Needs Your Help!

The Event Fundraising Committee plans and runs fun events on campus that raise money for our school. Our next fundraising event is our annual Talent Show. Volunteers are needed to help the Event Fundraising Chair with auditions and rehearsals. If you are able to help, please contact Mrs. Hammond at 602-481-9375 or email her at libandtim@yahoo.com.





We are proud to bring back for the 9th year Arizona Gold Gourmet Cookie Dough!



COOKIE DOUGH - VAPO is excited to announce our 9th year of Cookie Dough Sales with Fiesta Fundraising. Our last cookie dough fundraiser helped raise money for document projection systems for classrooms. This year, we are working toward purchasing audio/visual equipment for the M.P.R. We love being able to help our school, and cookie dough sales are a tasty way for everyone to be involved. Year after year VAPO hears compliments on Arizona Gold Gourmet Cookie Dough. There are so many great flavors to choose from-one favorite flavor is white chocolate macadamia. Yum! Please support VAPO and your school by participating in this fundraiser. Here are some important dates to remember:

- Packets were passed out Thursday, August 30th.
- Sell 5 items that first weekend and turn in the "coupon" located in the packet by Wednesday,
 September 5th, and your name will be entered in a drawing to win one of 10 prizes!
- ORDERS DUE Friday, September 14th
- DELIVERY DAYS Wednesday, October 3rd, last names A-L, and Thursday, October 4th, last names M-Z.

Volunteers are needed to help with cookie dough distribution on October 3rd and 4th. If you are able to help, please contact Mrs. Mathur at 480-241-6489 or meghnamathur.az@gmail.com.

QUICK START CONTEST: Sell 5 items by Wednesday, September 5th and be entered into a drawing for one of five special prizes!

Sell 10 or more items and you will be entered in to win one of five different COOL PRIZES such as a \$30 gift certificate to Castles and Coasters, a \$25 Target gift card, or movie tickets, to name a few!

Win multiple prizes too! The more you sell, the more prizes you win!

VALLEY ACADEMY PARENT ORGANIZATION GOVERNING COUNCIL

President	Mrs. Sherri McCulloch	Phone: 623-780-8228	Email:	sherrzi@aol.com
Vice President	Mrs. Audra Nuttall	Phone: 623-261-2704	Email:	audranut@gmail.com
Secretary	Mrs. Meghna Mathur	Phone: 480-241-6489	Email:	meghnamathur.az@gmail.com
Treasurer	Mrs. Shannon Day	Phone: 623-266-9731	Email:	shannonLday@cox.net
Fundraising	Mrs. Libby Hammond	Phone: 602-481-9375	Email:	libandtim@yahoo.com
Student Recognition	Mrs. Patricia Odgen	Phone: 480-686-7561	Email:	patyno@hotmail.com
Athletics	Mr. Rick Harford	Phone: 623-619-7896	Email:	rick.harford@gmail.com
Library	Mrs. Tracey Snyder	Phone: 602-722-9092	Email:	tracey@traceybsnyder.com
Special Events	Mrs. Cheryl Stradling	Phone: 602-734-5255	Email:	grinnie99@yahoo.com
Volunteer Communication	Mrs. Shannon Day	Phone: 623-266-9731	Email:	shannonLday@cox.net
Curriculum	Mrs. Donna Padilla	Phone: 623-516-1920		
Coyote Pride	Mrs. Valeen Palomo	Phone: 602-200-6293		

Picture Day is Wednesday, September 12th! Mark the date and don't forget to look your best! All students are photographed in their school uniforms. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Mrs. Palomo at 602-200-4918. More details will come home with your children.



Fry's Barcode

Have your checker at Fry's Grocery Store scan this barcode to link with your Fry's card, and earn money for Valley Academy.



Caught Being Good Give-Away

Students in 1st – 8th grades are awarded for good behavior and courteous acts with Caught Being Good tickets, which are given randomly as staff members notice students being good. These tickets can be traded for prizes on Thursday, September 20th. The Give-Away will take place during the school day.



DIBELS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

DIBELS testing for our younger children is fast approaching. We are in need of parents who could help escort students between their classrooms and the testing room. There are two shifts available: 8:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. or 12:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. Any time you can donate will be gladly welcomed! Please call Mrs. Day at (623) 266-9731 to volunteer.



VAPO FUNDRAISING INFORMATION:

FRY'S COOL CASH: Be sure to scan your Fry's Cool Cash barcode! It was included in your Meet the Teacher Day packet and will help our school earn money each time you shop at Fry's. You only need to scan the barcode once each year to earn money for our school for the entire school year. You MUST re-scan every school year for our school to receive donations. You can also pass the barcode along to friends and family so they can help earn too!

SAFEWAY/ESCRIP: If you have a Safeway Club Card, be sure to register online at eScrip.com to renew or begin donations for our school through eScrip. If you have previously registered with eScrip, you MUST renew each school year for our school to receive donations. You can also register debit/credit cards online with eScrip to earn money when you shop or dine. If you have questions regarding this program, please contact Mrs. Mathur at 480-241-6489 or meghnamathur.az@gmail.com.

BOX TOPS/LABELS: Keep collecting those box tops and labels for our Back to School Label Contest. The class with the most labels turned in by Friday, August 31st will have an ICE CREAM PARTY! We will continue with a monthly label contest throughout the school year with lots of great awards for the classes who submit the most box tops and labels. Remember, Box Tops and Labels are on ALL KINDS of products, not just food items. Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that is easy and doesn't take a big time commitment? Contact Mrs. Mathur at 480-241-6489 or meghnamathur.az@gmail.com to help with Box Tops and Labels. Many opportunities are available to help, and all of your efforts help raise money for our school.









Labels



VAPO VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

The Volunteer Family of the Month for April 2012 was the Family of B. Snyder with 31 hours! Congratulations and thank you so much for your dedication! We love families like you!

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

Nuttall Family* 27.25 hrs Skow Family (VOM 8/11) 56
Ogden Family* 29.3 E. Smith Family (VOM 10/11) 60
Hansen Family (VOM 3/12) 31.6 Schrage Family* 68.75
Lowery Family* 35.5 R. Jasckson Family (VOM 9/11) 78.9

*Denotes VAPO Council Board member 2011-2012 VOM=Volunteer of the Month

The Skow Family volunteered an amazing 395 hours during the 2011-2012 school year, and were named Volunteer Family of the Year 2011-2012! They were presented with a \$100 gift card as a token of thanks.

Reminder to all Parents: When you registered your child(ren) at Valley Academy you agreed to volunteer a minimum of three hours per month. Let's all make a concerted effort during this new school year to fulfill this obligation. Also, it is extremely important that the sign-in sheet in the office and all volunteer vouchers are completed in their entirety to ensure your volunteer hours are recorded.

Be an All-Star this year at the Book Fair

Now is a great time to fulfill your monthly volunteer commitment. We need help with the Book Fair and Family Fun Night. The Book Fair will be September 24-28, 2012, and Family Fun Night will be September 28, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. There will be lots of great books, fun, games, entertainment, and yummy food. Look for more information coming soon! Meetings will be Thursdays at 8:15 a.m. starting on August 23, 2012 in the VAPO room. Join us if you can. Contact Mrs. Snyder at 602-722-9092 or tracey@traceybsnyder.com for Book Fair and Mrs. Stradling at 602-734-5255 or grinnie99@yahoo.com to help with Family Fun Night.







September 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 No School Labor Day	4	5	6	7 Spirit Day	8
9	Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	11 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m. Room 8	12 Picture Day	13	14 Cookie Dough Orders Due	15
16	17	18	19 Progress Reports go home	20 Caught Being Good Give-Away	21 Early Release/Staff Development Grades K-8 8:00 a.m12:15 p.m. Morning Kindergarten 8-11:00 a.m. P.M. Preschool 1:00-3:30 p.m.	22
23/30	Assembly 8:15 a.m.	25	26 Book	27 K Fair Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. Staff Lounge	Book Fair Family Fun Night	29