



VALLEY  
ACADEMY



January/February 2022

# Coyote News

## From the Principal

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed.



We are so grateful to be able to share our newsletter with you, and hope you enjoy reading the updates. This school year has been unlike any other and will continue to be that way until June. In light of all the turmoil and stress, however, the students have done what kids do—they have listened, trusted, flexed, and adapted to all of it without incident. Being in the school building with the students has been incredibly fulfilling; the benefits of being in-person are too many to list. As COVID-19 levels trend upwards again, we recognize the critical importance of having children in school and will maintain as many health and safety precautions as necessary to maintain our current fully-in-person model. Thank you for doing your part to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep everyone safe and healthy.

I want to acknowledge the incredible work our teachers and staff have done to get us to this point. Living in a pandemic is not what any of us expected in our lifetimes. Their willingness to work in these uncertain times and provide meaningful learning opportunities for students despite the health and safety guidelines is greatly appreciated. I am so grateful for the entire staff and community—thank you for being a part of it and supporting the work we're doing with kids. Have a wonderful month and please be safe.

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed., Principal

## Upcoming Events

**Spirit Day** February 4th — All students in grades PK-8 may celebrate their school spirit with wearing spirit day t-shirts.

**Progress Reports** February 9th — Students' work is assessed and reports are available on the Parent Portal.

**Early Release and Classroom Parties** February 11th — K-8 Valentine's Day parties will be held in the classrooms from 11:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m., and students in K-8 will dismiss at 12:15 p.m.

**Parent Teacher Conferences** February 11th — Conferences are scheduled upon request with your teacher.

**Intent-to-Return Forms** Due February 18th

**No School** February 21st — Presidents' Day

**School Board Meeting** February 24th — 6:00 p.m., Reid Office (14841 N. Black Canyon Freeway) School Board meetings are open to the public, and parents are welcome to attend.

**More Events Listed on Calendar Page**



The month of February is **Heart Health Month** and to show our support, Valley Academy staff donates to the **American Heart Association**. Staff will also be wearing **red** on a designated Friday in February to show our support of **Heart Health Month**.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.ValleyAcademy.com](http://www.ValleyAcademy.com)

# NEWS & UPDATES

During the month of December, our Valley Academy Student Council teamed up with Mom's Pantry to help those in need during the winter season. This local charity does some great work, and we love helping them out by collecting the items they need each year.

Of course, our students do this to help our community, but it doesn't hurt to be rewarded for good deeds as well! The winning classrooms with the most donated items in K-4th grade AND 5th-8th grade received a PIZZA PARTY in January!

Congratulations to Mrs. Keely's class for bringing in 445 items and to Mr. Smith's class for collecting 1,071 items. In total, there were over 7,405 items collected for Mom's Pantry! Thank you to all the families that donated non-perishable items to a great cause.



## MOM'S PANTRY







School Choice Week was celebrated the week of January 18th. On our 100th day of school, January 19th, our students and staff were able to wear Spirit Day shirts and yellow School Choice scarves. Mrs. Brooks visited each lunch and passed out some scarfs to students. We know that the past couple years have been difficult for our students and parents. We want to thank you for continuing to choose Valley Academy as your choice school and for your continued support during this unprecedented time. All of our families mean the world to us, and we wish you continued health and wellness.

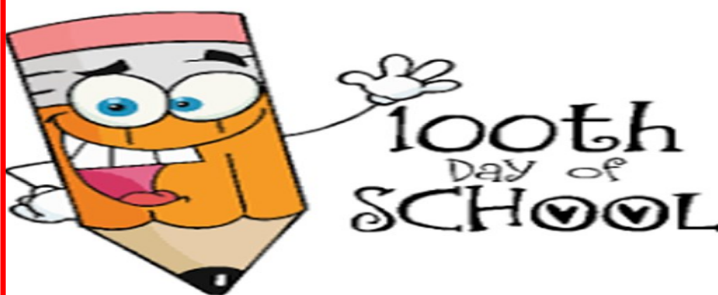


For School Choice Week, Mrs. Brooks asked students to write short essays on why they were glad to be Valley Academy students, to be entered into an essay contest. In addition to awarding a winning essay, many entries were drawn for prizes, and three essays were selected for Honorable Mention. Those students were Addison M. from Mrs. Johnson's class, Siddhiksha P. from Mrs. Ford's class, and Nureen K. from Mrs. Copper's class. Congratulations to all three Honorable Mentions for the wonderful essays that you each wrote! The overall winner of the essay contest won a prize and a gift certificate and has their essay featured in this month's newsletter, below. Congratulations Zoya N. from Mrs. Licano's class for a great essay!

## "Valley Academy"

I love my school! It is a very clean and bright two structure building. We are always greeted with beaming smiling teachers at the gate in the morning. All of the teachers are nice and always ready to help. Our principal is also very friendly and available if we need her. All the classrooms are bright and each one is unique. The hallways are neat. They are maintained quiet which helps us with our learning. Our school has a well-stocked library with many different kinds of books for all the grades to enjoy. We enjoy our recess in a vast ground with sanitized gear. All the grades have different areas. Kindergarteners enjoy an enclosed, shaded area with special equipment. The school provides us with a well-equipped spacious gym and also a music room with all kinds of instruments. Our art and craft room have everything to assist us in a wide range of creative interests. Valley Academy has amazing field trips and fun activities organized throughout the year. Spirit Day is one such activity that is planned on the first Friday of every month. This day we can wear our special school logo t-shirt and get ice cream on campus. The teachers and school regularly reward the students for their behavior and efforts which makes us strive even better. I love my school and am proud to be a Valley Academy student. Go Valley Academy Coyotes!

Zoya N.  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Mrs. Licano



## January 19, 2022—Our 100th Day of School!

Can you believe we have already been in school for 100 + school days? Our younger grades have the most fun celebrating the 100th day of school. Classes celebrated in many ways from counting 100 items to doing special projects in the classroom. What a great way to celebrate the day!

# NEWS & UPDATES

During the month of January, NJHS organized and promoted a blanket drive for the Headbangers Barn Sanctuary, an animal rescue run by our very own 7/8 literature teacher. Mr. Bauer and his wife run Headbangers from their home, and the sanctuary is home to goats, pigs, turkeys, rabbits, and newborn piglets! The Valley community came together in support, and we were able to collect 70 blankets to help keep the animals warm during the chilly winter nights. The baby piglets are especially grateful. Thank you, Valley families, for the outpouring of support with the blanket drive. Here is a photo of the adorable baby piglets snuggling up in some of their new blankets. Thank you again for your participation!



## NJHS Blanket Drive

### Getting ready to do your taxes?

If you are an Arizona taxpayer, you can choose to send some of your tax dollars directly to our school.

Wouldn't you like to support our school – for free???

If you're getting a tax refund, your school donation of \$400\* will give you \$400 more in your refund check. Even better, if you **owe** taxes, your \$400\* donation will reduce the check you write to the IRS by \$400. That's right – you get 100% of your money back!

[Click here](#) for more information.

\*\$400 limit for joint filers, \$200 limit for individual filers

### Re-registration Information for 2022-2023

An Intent to Return Form has gone home with your students in kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Please complete this form and return it by Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> to hold your child's spot for the 2022-2023 school year. If you are aware of a situation that means you will not be returning to Valley Academy, we appreciate knowing that in advance as well. If you have any questions please contact the front office. We hope to see each of you back next year!



**NO SCHOOL on Monday, February 21st**

in observance of Presidents' Day.

**EARLY RELEASE Friday, February 11th.**  
**School dismisses at 12:15 p.m. for K-8 grades.**



### Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, February 11th upon request only

### National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Congratulations to those students who have earned academic honors! The NJHS Ceremony will be by invitation only on February 7th via Zoom.

### Classroom Valentine's Day Party Friday, February 11, 2021

All K-8 classes will participate in Valentine's Day parties this year; however, our campus will remain closed to parents, and we will only be allowing one parent (homeroom parent) to be on campus and in the classroom during the Valentine's Day party. All students in K-8 will dismiss at 12:15 p.m.





## Travel Reduction Program

Valley Academy participates in the Travel Reduction Program, and one of the perks to using an alternative mode of transportation to work is getting a chance to be entered into a drawing each quarter. Our 2nd Quarter Travel Reduction Program winner is Ms. Rohr, our 8th grade math teacher. Congratulations, Ms. Rohr! Thank you for your participation in helping to do our part in reducing pollution.



Our Spring Concert has been postponed and re-scheduled for April 28th. Watch for more information from Mrs. Loveless, our Music teacher.

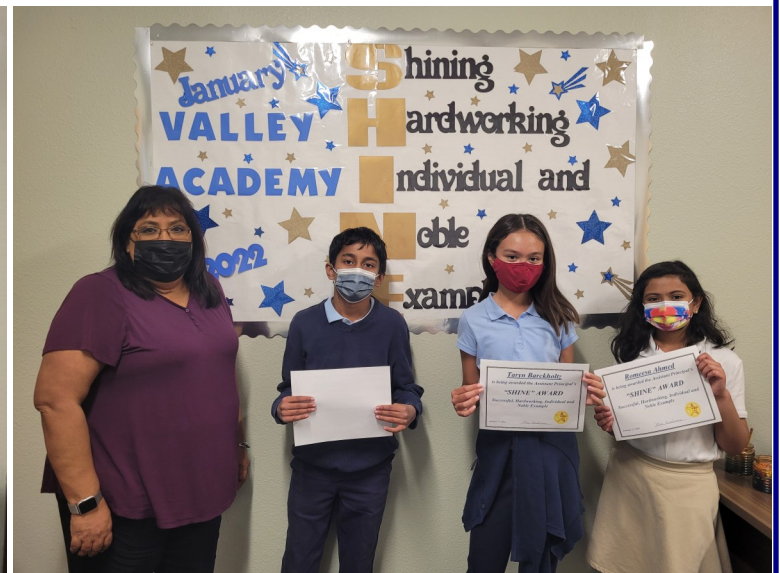


## December and January SHINE Recipients

Congratulations to the following students: Wesley M., Akhil Sai P., Dishna M., and Maci M. They were selected by their 4th grade teachers as their "SHINE" recipients for their class during the month of December! Congratulations also to the following students: Yogith S., Taryn B., and Romeesa A., who are the 5th grade recipients for January. SHINE stands for Successful, Hardworking, Individual, and Noble Example. I am so thankful to them for being shining examples for others to follow. This is a special award, and I am so proud of them. Way to go, students!

Mrs. Breshears, M. Ed.

Assistant Principal





## Valentine Candy Grams

On Sale Now through February 10th for \$1.00

Sold through teachers between 7:45-8:00 a.m., during first and second lunch recesses, and after school in front of the office.



# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Spirit Day	5
6	7	8 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.	9 Progress Reports	10  Candy Gram Sales End	11 Classroom Parties 11:15-12:15 Early Release 12:15 Dismissal No Specials Parent Teacher Conferences	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Intent to Return Forms Due 	19
20	21 Presidents' Day No School	22	23	24 Board Meeting Reid Office	25	26
27	28					