



VALLEY  
ACADEMY



# Coyote News

January/February 2023

## From the Principal

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed.



February is here and with the coming of this month, I think about all of the wonderful people that I interact with each day. I think of the beautiful faces of the students on campus and the staff that leads them daily on their path of growth.

I also assess our progress as a school to educate our students so that they reach their full potential. We focus strongly on academics while not forgetting that our students are whole children needing many things to flourish.

There are many factors that make us who we are, and I truly believe in what we do here. I am proud of the work we do and of the people who are a part of our organization. Valley Academy is not just a school; it is a community. I appreciate all of you who have made the choice to be a part of our community, and I look forward to our future together.

I, again, thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you on campus at the Spring Festival, Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, if not before.

My best,

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed., Principal

## Upcoming Events

**Spirit Day** February 3rd — All students in grades PK-8 may celebrate their school spirit with wearing spirit day t-shirts.

**Progress Reports** February 8th — Students' work is assessed and reports are available on ParentVUE.

**Early Release and Classroom Parties** February 10th — 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 10th — Conferences are scheduled upon request with your teacher.

**No School** February 20th — Presidents' Day

**School Board Meeting** February 23rd — 6:15 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**.

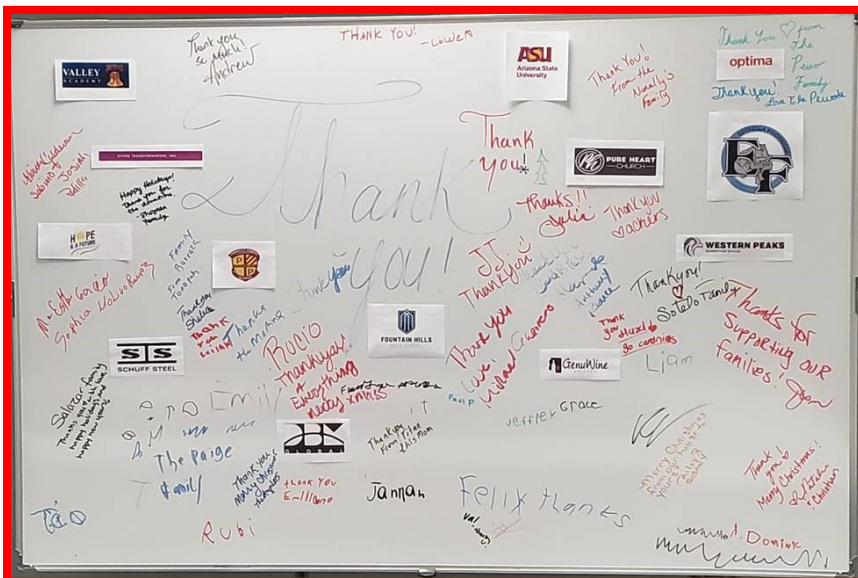
For more information, please visit our website at [www.ValleyAcademy.com](http://www.ValleyAcademy.com)

## National Junior Honor Society's December Toy Drive benefiting Arizona Department of Child Safety Foster Care kids

During the month of December, our Valley Academy National Junior Honor Society teamed up with Arizona Department of Child Safety to help foster care children aged 0-21 years old in need during the winter season. This local charity does some great work, and we love helping them out by collecting new unwrapped toys each year during our Toy Drive.

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 classroom with the most donated items received a PIZZA PARTY!

Congratulations to our NJHS students for successfully collecting thousands of toys and gift cards for the children and young adults in DSC care. Over one hundred children in kinship foster care settings were able to select a special gift for themselves while enjoying a visit with Santa and festivities.





# NEWS & UPDATES



School Choice Week was celebrated the week of January 17th. On our 100th day of school, January 18th, our students and staff were able to wear Spirit Day shirts. We want to thank you for continuing to choose Valley Academy as your choice school and for your continued support. All of our families mean the world to us!

## January 18, 2023—Our 100th Day of School!

Can you believe we have already been in school for 100 + school days? Our younger grades had 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!



## January/ February SHINE Recipients

Congratulations to the following students: Shriyan R., Imapa S., Kavya P., and Raayna S., from 4th grade. They were selected by their 4th grade teachers as their classes' "SHINE" recipients this month! 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



## 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 being entered into a drawing each quarter. Our 2nd Quarter Travel Reduction Program winner is Mrs. Gonzalez, our 3rd grade teacher. Congratulations, Mrs. Gonzalez! Thank you for your participation in helping to do our part in reducing pollution.



## Phoenix Chess Academy

Students from Valley Academy often share their trophies with us to display in the office. Students like Ramannuza K. win in tournaments at Phoenix Chess Academy. Great job and impressive.



# NEWS & UPDATES

## Getting ready to do your taxes?

### Enter our Textbooks Instead of Taxes Contest!

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!

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

- Make the donation between January 25, 2023—April 18, 2023
- Use the link below to direct you to the correct page to donate
- For each \$100 donation made, you will receive one entry for a chance to win one of three \$200 Amazon gift cards.
- Drawing for the Amazon gift cards will take place on Friday, April 28, 2023. Winners will be notified by email or telephone.
- Only donations directed toward Textbooks are eligible for this contest. Donations directed for other uses, including before/after school programs, are not eligible for this contest.

[Click here](#) for more information and contest rules.

**EARLY RELEASE Friday, February 10th.**

**School dismisses at 12:15 p.m. for K-8 grades.**



### Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, February 10th 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 16th.

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

in observance of Presidents' Day.



### Field Trips This Month

5th Grade, Thursday, February 9th

1st Grade, Thursday, February 16th

Kindergarten, Friday, February 17th

4th Grade, Friday, February 17th

children's  
museum  
of phoenix



## Re-registration Information for 2023-2024

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 17th to hold your child's spot for the 2023-2024 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!



### Valentine Candy Gram Sale!

**What:** Valentine's Day candy with a special message written by you!

**When:** Sold Feb. 1st – Feb. 9th

**\*They are delivered to that special someone at the Valentine's Day party on February 10th by a Student Council Member.**

**Where:** Students can buy two ways:  
(1): Sold on our campus in front of the flag pole at 7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.  
or (2) from your teacher, or from Mrs. Simon, Mrs. Lander, or Mrs. Ferris.

**Cost:** \$1.00 - The cost will include a 2x4 label affixed to the candy with a message.



## Classroom Valentine's Day Party Friday, February 10, 2023

All K-8 classes will participate in Valentine's Day parties from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Friday, February 10th. All students in K-8 will dismiss at 12:15 p.m.





### Meet your Student Council

Top row from left to right : Zane C., Emilio M. Z., Naisha M., Chole B., Brooklyn B., Charlee F., Jadon R.

Middle row: Michelle B., Surya K. N., Dominic B., Heni D., Neha D., Baani A., Kashvi R.

Bottom row: Hansha M., Sameeksha G. S., Lily C., Srivatsa G., Rishaan R.

Student Council has been working hard this year and are now selling Candy Grams. Facilitators are Mrs. Simon, Mrs. Lander, and Mrs. Ferris.

## Yearbooks Now On Sale!

Our Yearbook Club is working hard on putting together a beautiful yearbook for purchase. See below for details.

Yearbooks are on sale for \$25.00 and orders are due on Friday, March 10th. Order forms have been sent home and are available in the front office. To order online, visit: [inter-state.com/order](http://inter-state.com/order) and enter code: 72479R.

In no particular order, Yearbook Club members are; Kalila A., Aqsa A., Neha D., Charlee F., Sameeksha G. S., Zayden H., Azlynn H., Lyra J., Naetra J., Nureen K., Manasvi K., Surya K. N., Dishna M., Naisha M., Meenakshi S. K., Donovan S., Sophia S., Basmah S., Eliana W. Manoritha D. is also in the club, but was absent for this picture.



Pictured are students Caleb N., Sahil G., Shreyas D., Krishna B., Sachin D., Aashrith G., Greeshma S., and Jaivant K.

## 8th Grade Civics Exam

Every year in 8<sup>th</sup> grade the students have a chance to take the ADE Civics Exam with Mrs. Simon in her Social Studies class. This is a high school graduation requirement for the state of Arizona, and if they pass it at Valley, this will fulfill their high school requirement in most cases. They also have to take a four-month long government unit, and at the end of the unit they must also take a unit exam. If they get 100% on both the Unit Exam and the ADE Civics Test they receive a medal and a certificate from Mrs. Simon for their hard work and achievement. This year there were eight students who achieved that honor. We are so proud of their accomplishment! Way to go!



## First Grade Reads a Whopping 17,385 Pages!

Our first grade classes held a winter break reading contest. Students recorded the number of pages they read from chapter books (a big deal as we are moving into the third quarter). The winning class got an ice cream treat! The results are totaled below.

Ms. Schambach	5,480
Mrs. Francisco	4,625
Mrs. Zahariades	4,275
Mrs. Torta	3,005



That's a whopping 17,385 pages read over winter break!



Arizona Instruction's afterschool program's Dance class is featuring it's student's all dressed to perform. They look ready to impress a crowd!



Miss Block's 5th grade class during their Special Area class, World Languages.

## Our Featured Team

### The Fourth Grade Team Sticks

**Together.** In fourth grade, the students are adapting to increased expectations and workload. There are four great 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers who all bring their strengths and experiences to the team: Ms. Ray, Miss Hilgendorf, Miss Magnusen, and Mr. Beckham. Mr. Beckham and Miss Magnusen are both former Valley Academy students. We are thrilled to be working with a wonderful student group this year and looking forward to a strong second semester!



Pictured are our fourth grade team members. From left to right; Miss Magnusen, Ms. Ray, Mr. Beckham, and Miss Hilgendorf.



### World Languages Special Area Class




Becoming a polyglot one Disney movie at a time! This week we worked on our conversational language skills by using Disney movie clips as a tool. By doing this method the students are able to pick out simple words and phrases in multiple different languages even without taking that specific language (Spanish, French, Italian, and German). This round we worked on identifying the similarities of each vocab word between the different languages. I love that it's a way to share something nostalgic from my childhood while making it educational at the same time. It's also really rewarding to see the students enjoying a lesson that you created and grasping the concept so quickly! - Mrs. Ferris

The Fun Run results are in, and the classes that can participate in Crazy Sock day on Friday, February 3rd are: All of 7th/8th grade, Mr. Smith's class, Mrs. Freeman's class, Mrs. Keely's class

AND The winner of the teacher gift card is Miss Amanda Ekdahl! Congratulations to all of our winners, and thank you for raising funds for our school!



# February 2023

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