

School News

October 2014



VALLEY
ACADEMY



From the Principal's Desk

Hello, Valley Academy Families,

[U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced](#) yesterday that [Reid Traditional Schools' Valley Academy](#) has been named a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School and an Exemplary High Performing School. In the history of Arizona charter schools, only eight other charter schools in the state have ever achieved this honor.

I will be travelling to Washington, D.C. in November to an awards ceremony for the 337 public and private schools across the nation that have been named 2014 National Blue Ribbon Schools. Mrs. Mettes, a 3rd grade teacher, was chosen by her peers to accompany me to Washington. This is truly an honor, and it is a wonderful way to commemorate RTS Valley Academy's 20th year of excellence in education.

Mrs. Victoria Wilber, M. Ed.
Principal

Parent Teacher Conferences are this month, and I would like to share with you that children do better in school when their parents are involved in their education. This year we will have parents sign up for their conferences online.

Conferences are one way to get involved. Every time you attend a parent/teacher conference, you learn more about your child and strengthen the bond with your child's teacher. So, make parent/teacher conferences a priority and take the following steps to ensure you and your child get the most out of them.

Before the conference:

- Talk with your child: Find out his or her favorite subjects or activities, and ask if there are any concerns he or she would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- Review assignments: Are there some areas where your child really shines and others that might need a little extra work? Discuss both strengths and weaknesses with the teacher.
- Check whether your child should attend: In most cases, the conferences are strictly between the parents and the teachers, so you'll probably need to make childcare arrangements.

The day of the conference:

- Be on time: The conference schedule is tight and teachers need all parents to be on time. If something comes up, notify the teacher as soon as possible. Try to reschedule, even if it has to be a telephone conference.
- Remember that conferences are brief: A typical parent/teacher conference lasts 15-20 minutes. If you need additional time, ask for a follow-up session.
- Keep an open mind: Some parents get angry when teachers discuss trouble spots. Remember these conferences are meant to help you understand your child's school performance. Working together with the teacher will help your child succeed.

Afterward:

- Tell your child: After the conference, meet with your child and discuss the teacher's comments. Remember to praise all the things your child is doing well and pass along the teacher's compliments. If you need to, talk about areas that you and the teacher will be working on to help your child improve.

Upcoming Events

Morning Assembly

Monday, October 6th & 20th 8:15 a.m. Outdoor Courts. Students in grade 1-6 are honored for classroom achievements.

Student Council Movie Night

Thursday, October 9th M.P.R. Students and their families can watch a movie together. Admission \$3.00 per person.

No School Staff Development

Monday, October 13th Teachers will participate in continuing education.

VAPO Meeting

Tuesday, October 14th 8:15 a.m. Monthly Governing Council Meeting. Parents are encouraged to attend.

School Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 22nd 6:00 p.m. District Office (14841 N. Black Canyon Freeway)
School Board meetings are open to the public, and parents are welcome to attend.

Early Release/Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday, and Friday October 23rd & 24th

All students K-8 dismiss at 12:15. Pre-K dismisses at 12:45. Report Cards are given out at conferences.

For more information please log on to our website: www.valleyacademy.com/index.php/vapo

