

Valley Academy Newsletter

December 2011/January 2012

1520 W. Rose Garden Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85027



Volume 17: Issue 4



www.ValleyAcademy.com

Season's Greetings

ATTITUDE... What a great word. But, what does it mean? How can it apply at Valley Academy? Someone has said "Attitude is Attitude." Webster defines attitude as, "a manner of acting, feeling, or thinking that shows one disposition or opinion."

I am convinced that attitude is the key ingredient to success for all students at Valley Academy. When a student considers the dress code and says to themselves, "I will follow this code," they rarely will be cited for improper dress. When an assignment is given in class that seems too difficult, a right attitude will cause that student to dig in, rise to the challenge, and complete the project. With a good attitude there are few, if any, limits to your success.

With the hustle and bustle of December upon us, I encourage all of us to have a positive attitude and appreciate all of the fortunes we have in our lives.

Act with positive intentions, feel with a grateful, giving heart, and think about how you can make a difference in a positive way.

ATTITUDE... What a great word!

May your winter break be restful and filled with joy.
Happy New Year!

-Victoria Wilber, Principal



Important Numbers

Main Number: (623) 516-7747
Reception Desk: ext. 101
Attendance: ext. 108
Nurse: ext. 105
Discipline Issues: ext. 115
Business Issues: ext. 116
Parent Room (VAPO): ext. 308
Principal/Asst. Principal: ext. 115

Important Dates

December 2011

- 2 Spirit Day
- 6 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.
- 8 Spelling Bee 1:30 p.m.
- 12 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.
- 14 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 15 Caught Being Good
Holiday Concert
5:30 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.
- 23 Early Release 12:15 p.m.
- 23 End of 2nd Quarter/ Winter Break
Begins at 12:15 p.m.

January 2012

- 9 School Resumes
- 11 Report Cards Go Home
- 13 7/8 Grade Assembly
Early Release 12:15 p.m. /Staff
Development
- 16 No School - MLK Day
- 17 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.
- 19 Caught Being Good
- 20 Spirit Day
Polar Ice 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- 26 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 27 Honor Roll Ice Cream

Winter Break Schedule

Early Release 12:15 p.m.

December 23, 2011

(No Coyote Club P.M. Session)

No School

December 26, 2011 - January 6, 2012

School Resumes: January 9, 2012

Board Meeting

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. Joanne Priest, R.N.

- ☺ In order to help keep all of our children healthy, please remember that children must be fever-free without the use of Tylenol or ibuprofen 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.
- ☺ If your child has borrowed a belt **PLEASE** return it. We currently have no belts to loan.

Waiting List for 2012-2013 School Year

Beginning December 1, 2011, we are accepting waiting list applications for the 2012-2013 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 and fill out the online form.

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.

Winter Classroom Parties



Classroom winter parties will be held on December 23rd at 11:15 a.m. A visitor's badge or a Valley Academy picture ID must be worn while on campus. Please remember that it is against Valley Academy's policy to bring small children, siblings, and/or friends of students on campus while visiting the classroom parties.

We ask that no red colored drinks are served at classroom parties, and don't forget that all food must be store bought. Please respect our campus rules and have fun at the parties!

Fine Arts

Save the date! December 15, 2011 at North Hills Church on 19th Ave. south of Greenway.

Valley Academy presents

"Children in Toyland".

1st - 3rd grade will be performing at 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

4th - 8th grade will be performing at 7:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



Please help your child(ren) memorize the lyrics. The lyrics for both shows are available on the website under Mrs. Wright's homework helpers and have also been sent home. Donations will be accepted at the door. If you are willing to help with the concerts, please contact Mrs. Wright at cwright@valleyacademy.com or (623) 516-7747 ext. 419.

Valley Show at Phoenix Art Museum

During Winter break, come see Valley Academy's Student Art Exhibition at the Phoenix Art Museum's Wolfswinkle Education Center! Valley Academy student art will be on display Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm during the entire month of January. There is no entrance fee. A reception will be held on a Wednesday, January 18 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. The Phoenix Art Museum is located at 1625 N. Central Avenue at the corner of Central & McDowell. There is free parking on the north side. Volunteers to help hang the show on January 2 or to donate cookies or lemonade for the reception would be greatly appreciated! Parents of students participating in the show will be notified. Please contact Mrs. Watkins at x408 or swatkins@valleyacademy.com.



Student Information Page



This year's 2011 Scripps National Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2011. If your child is a classroom Bee Winner or alternate, please encourage them to study their word lists. Please also encourage them to study words from other resources such as the Merriam-Webster's Dictionary! Parents of all school-wide Spelling Bee participants are invited to be part of our audience. We have a special front row reserved for our parents! Please call x409 if you have any questions,
Señora Quijada

Well sports fans, another year has come and gone for Valley Academy Football. This year's team showed great heart, determination, and willpower. They entered the playoffs as the number one overall seed in the tournament. After a scare, and a miraculous last second win in their first playoff game, they found themselves in the championship game. They faced football power house Champion who had remained undefeated since 2009. Your Valley Academy Coyotes came out strong and held them off to win the championship for the first time in many years. Great job Coyotes!! Still in need for sports action? Come out and support our Valley Academy basketball teams as their season begins December 7th.



Science Club is finishing up on rockets! Now we are working on astronomy. Kids are having a great time with their rockets and the club has loved watching them take off!

Mr. Smith, Facilitator

Polar Ice Come skate with us on January 20, 2012, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$8.00 includes your skate rental. Come out and support the 8th Grade, and bring your neighbors too!



"**Caught Being Good**" prize giveaway days will be Thursday, December 15th and January 19th at lunch. Remember to bring all the tickets you have earned!



The beginning and advanced band students have been making great progress! Both groups will be performing on December 15th at intermission for the Winter Concert. We hope that you will be able to attend!

Ms. Petrich, Band Director

Ms. Petrich, Band Director

Congratulations Lady Coyotes! The volleyball team completed their **fourth consecutive** championship season. Their outstanding skills and teamwork is undoubtedly known throughout the IYAC League.

Fantastic job, Ladies!




Don't forget:

The Spring Festival art contest entries are due on Wednesday, December 14th. **Think Farm!** Contact Audra Nuttall at 623-581-8883 or audranut@gmail.com.

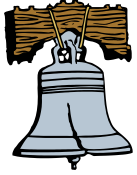


Valley Academy Student Council has extended the deadline for the Packages From Home collection! You still have time to donate items. Collection bins will be around campus until Tuesday, December 6, 2011.

Valley Academy Student Council



VAPO Announcements



Open Invitation

I would like to invite you to consider turning in an application to join the 2011-2012 VAPO Governing Council.

We have a Governing Council seat open and you're urged to consider to fill it.

Applications can be picked up in the office.

The council seat open is Special Events.

Please log on to www.valleyacademy.com to see what events this committee handles.

You would be a great asset and it would be an honor to work beside you this year. If you can handle conducting a little bit of business, having a whole lot of fun, making new friends, and making a difference in your child's school, then this is the position for you!

- Vicki Lowery
VAPO President

Classroom Parties

Hi to all those Homeroom Parents out there! Our class parties are coming up! Just as a reminder for planning your class party, remember that it is a school-wide rule that red or orange colored drinks and home-made food are not permitted. Parties are kept low key, and while we appreciate your help with the parties, it is school policy that younger siblings, friends, or former students do not attend. Your December class party is a great time to let parents from your class know what basket theme you have chosen for the Spring Festival so if they choose to, they can start shopping while some great deals are in the stores. Please remember, soliciting businesses for donations for class parties and class baskets is not allowed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Vicki Lowery at dtccjl@hotmail.com.



Lost and Found Reminder

Have you lost something? Lost and found items are kept in the MPR until the first of each month then lost articles and items are transferred to the 'Lost and Found' section in the VAPO room and held until the end of the month. Lost items that have not been found will be donated. With the holidays around the corner and having extra days off from school the lost and found schedule will be slightly different than our usual schedule. Items from the MPR will be brought to the VAPO room on December 1st and donated on December 23rd. Items will be collected again from the MPR on January 9th and donated January 31st. If you would like to look for your items in the VAPO room, a key may be checked out from the office.



It's that time again: DIBELS Testing! The dates are January 9th-13th from 8:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (morning session) and from 11:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (afternoon session) each day. Times are subject to change. If

anyone would like to help escort students from their classrooms to the testing room, your help would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Shannon Day at 602-670-0518 or at shannonday@cox.net to volunteer.

Please join us!

Our next VAPO meetings are on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 and Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 8:15 a.m. in the VAPO room. All are welcome to attend.

What you missed at the last VAPO meeting:

VAPO's 10 committee members that I work along side of, are doing an excellent job on the council. I couldn't be prouder of how hard they are working and the things that they are accomplishing. The Curriculum committee is working on a rotation schedule to allow classrooms the opportunity to replace or order class sets that they are in need of. The 8th Grade Promotion committee is currently working on a fundraiser to raise money for promotion gowns to be used by all of our students! Our Event Fundraising committee just finished with the Talent Show which showcased our talented students here at Valley Academy. The Office Fundraising committee has been sending in our box tops and we're expected to receive a check this month for over \$1700! The Athletic committee just finished up the annual Turkey Trot and this year kindergarteners participated in their own Turkey Trot for the very first time! Student Recognition and Staff Appreciation committees are working hard to recognize our Valley Academy students and staff. The Coyote Pride committee just finished with Picture Retake Day and it went very smoothly. Our Library committee is gearing up for our next book fair and the Volunteer Communication committee is gearing up for the next DIBELS testing. Thank you, to the 2011-2012 VAPO Governing Council for all the hard work you do for our school! You truly make a difference.

- Vicki Lowery
VAPO President

VAPD Fundraising Page

- Spring Festival Art Contest: Calling all students! We need your help naming and designing a logo for this year's farm themed festival. Please turn in all entries by December 14, 2011. The Spring Festival is Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Details coming in February's newsletter!
- The Spring Festival Committee NEEDS YOU! We are looking for more volunteers to help plan the festival this school year. We are having Spring Festival meetings on the following dates: December 15th, January 12th, January 26th, February 9th, and February 23rd. All meetings are at 8:15 a.m. in the VAPO room.

VAPO would like to thank all who supported the school in raising money for the purchase of gowns. This benefits all future 8th grade promotion classes. The Harkins' fundraiser and your donations brought in more than \$550.



The next 8th Grade Committee Meeting is Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 8:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the VAPO room. We are offering the two meeting times, with the same agenda, to accommodate all 7th and 8th grade parents. We will be discussing all the important promotion events in detail!

Everyone was so proud of our volunteers for September, who accumulated a whopping total of 2001 hours! Let's get out there and offer to help wherever we can!

For October the "**Volunteer of the Month**," is the **Family of E. Smith** who so generously spent 50 1/2 hours on school related work! Congratulations and thank you!

Those families who volunteered over 25 hours during the month of October (listed by last name, except when there are multiple families with the same last name):

Lowery Family*	63 hours	Diaz de Leon Family	28 1/3 hours
Waters Family	46 hours	Jain Family	27 hours
R. Jackson Family	45 1/3 hours (VOM 9/11)	Hansen Family	26 1/25 hours
McCulloch Family*	35 1/2 hours	Palomo Family*	26 1/6 hours
Webb Family	35 1/4 hours	Skow Family	25 hours (VOM 8/11)
Pape Family	30 1/2 hours		



* denotes a VAPO Governing Council Member

Please remember – only the new volunteer form will be accepted!
Complete the form in its entirety always including everyone's **last** name.

Mrs. Reiker, Coordinator



DECEMBER 2011



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1	2 Spirit Day  Deadline	3
4	5	6 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.	7	8 Spelling Bee 1:30 p.m. M.P.R.	9	10
11	12 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	13 Band Concert 7:00 p.m.	14 Board Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Staff Lounge	15 Spring Festival Meeting 8:15 a.m. Caught Being Good Give-away Holiday Concert 5:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Early Release 12:15 p.m. End of 2nd Quarter	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
No School - Winter Break December 26, 2011 - January 6, 2012						



JANUARY 2012



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>No School - Winter Break December 26, 2011 - January 6, 2012</p>						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	School Resumes		Report Cards Go Home	Spring Festival Meeting 8:15 a.m.	7/8 Grade Assembly Early Release 12:15 p.m. Staff Development	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	No School  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m. Room 8		Caught Being Good Give-away	Spirit Day Polar Ice 7:30-9:30 p.m.	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Spring Festival Meeting 8:15 a.m. Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. Staff Lounge	Honor Roll Ice Cream	
29	30	31				
	Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.					

Valley Academy and the Arizona tax credit

Frequently Asked Questions

Valley Academy is a K-8 public charter school with approximately 800 students. Your donation will expand opportunities for extracurricular activities.

How much of a tax credit can I get?

In exchange, 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 your contribution to support.

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

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:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Need | <input type="checkbox"/> Band/Chorus | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Arcade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports (you may specify sport) | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Day Kindergarten | <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clubs | *Tax receipts will be mailed by February 2012.* | |