



REID TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS' Valley Academy



December 2012/January 2013

www.ValleyAcademy.com

Volume 18: Issue 4

1520 W. Rose Garden Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Season's Greetings

National School Choice Week is January 25-February 2, 2013. National School Choice Week celebrates effective educational options for all children. I would like to say thank you, thank you for choosing Valley Academy as your school of choice. Reid Traditional Schools' Valley Academy is an A school because of the support of the people in our community. Our staff, students, parents, and Board members all contribute to making our school a success. Every child deserves a quality education, and we are happy to be one of many successful schools in our community participating in National School Choice Week.

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

-Victoria Wilber, Principal



Important Numbers

Main Number: (623) 516-7747
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 2012**
- 6 Spelling Bee 1:30 p.m.
Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
 - 7 Spirit Day
 - 10 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.
 - 11 VAPO hosted Staff Luncheon
 - 12 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.
 - 14 Holiday Concert North Hills Church
5:30 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.
 - 18 Band Concert 7:00 p.m. M.P.R.
 - 21 Early Release 12:15 p.m.
 - 21 End of 2nd Quarter/ Winter Break
Begins at 12:15 p.m.
- January 2013**
- 7 School Resumes
DIBELS Testing
 - 9 Report Cards Go Home
 - 11 Spirit Day
 - 15 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.
 - 17 Geography Bee 1:30 p.m.
 - 18 7/8 Grade Assembly
Early Release 12:15 p.m. /Staff Development
Polar Ice 7:30-9:30 p.m.
 - 21 No School - MLK Day
 - 24 Caught Being Good
Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
 - 25 Honor Roll Ice Cream
 - 28 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.

Winter Break Schedule

Early Release 12:15 p.m.
December 21, 2012
(No Coyote Club P.M. Session)

No School

December 24, 2012 - January 6, 2013
School Resumes: January 7, 2013

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 welcome to attend. Board Meetings are held at the Reid Traditional Schools conference room at 14841 N. Black Canyon Highway. If you wish to contact members of the Board, you may send a letter to the school or leave a message at the Reid Traditional Schools office, (623)478-2344.



Health Office News

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

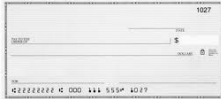
Now is the time to start talking with your friends about signing up at Valley Academy for August 2013. On December 3rd we will start accepting new student applications for next year, and we will establish a waiting list order in mid-February, so have them sign up soon.

We also need to know if your family is planning to enroll any new siblings at Valley, for kindergarten or for other grades. We are glad to reserve spots for siblings of current students; please fill out a waiting list application for new siblings so we can hold their places.

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. You can also report your child's absence online at www.valleyacademy.com. 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.

Change in Check Processing



Our office is updating the technology we use to handle the checks we receive for all payments. Please be aware that when you write us a check, those funds may be **withdrawn from your bank account on the same day** you make the payment. Please plan accordingly, and thank you for your support as we improve our service to you.

Holiday Concert

Save the date! Friday, December 14th at North Hills Church on 19th Avenue, south of Greenway.

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

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



Please help your child(ren) memorize the lyrics. The lyrics for both shows have been sent home and are available on the website under Mrs. Wright's homework helpers. 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.

Winter Band Concert

Valley Academy Band has a rich musical program filled with many aspiring young musicians, featuring the Beginning Band and the Advanced Band. The band will perform its winter concert at 7:00 p.m. Dec. 18 in the M.P.R. The band students need to report to the band room at 6:30 p.m. for warm-up and tuning. Please join us for our first performance of the year. The band students have been working really hard!

December Early Release Day

December 21st is an early release day.

Lunch will not be served on this day. Munchies may be available during classroom parties.

Early release hours are:

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

No Preschool on December 21st

January Early Release Day

January 18th is an early release day. Lunches are served to grades 1-6 on early release days.

Early release hours are:

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

VAPO Announcements

Dear Valley Academy Families:

It's that busy time of year again. Schedules fill up, vacations are on the way, and school takes a break for a couple of weeks. When you find a few minutes in your schedule, please remember, help out wherever possible at school. Homeroom parents are busily planning winter parties, and they would probably love your help with party preparations. A staff luncheon is planned on December 11, 2012, and the Staff Appreciation Committee would definitely appreciate your help. Spring Festival planning is already underway, and the Event Fundraising Committee would love your help. DIBELS testing is coming up the first week back to school in January 2013, and the Volunteer Communication Committee needs help escorting students to and from testing. We gladly welcome your help whether from home or at school. *Involved families make all the difference.*

Mrs. McCulloch
Governing Council President

Scheduling Change:

The December VAPO meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 12, 2012**. The date has been changed to accommodate the Staff Appreciation luncheon the day prior. All are welcome to attend the meeting.



It's that time again: DIBELS Testing! The dates are January 7th-11th 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 Mrs. Day at 602-266-9731 or at shannonlday@cox.net to volunteer.



Lost and Found

Have you lost something? Lost and found items are kept in the M.P.R. until the first of each month, then they are transferred to 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 a little different. Items from the M.P.R. will be brought to the VAPO room on December 3rd and donated on December 21st. Items will be collected again from the M.P.R. on January 7th and donated January 31st. If you would like to look for your items in the VAPO room, you can check out a key out from the office.

Classroom Parties

Hi to all those Homeroom Parents out there! Our class parties are coming up! Here are a couple of reminders 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 Mrs. McCulloch at sherrzi@aol.com.



Thanks to all the great Valley Academy families who have submitted Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education, and Prang Power UPCs.

For the month of October the top 5 classes are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Ms. Jubb | 368 |
| 2. Mrs. Lewandowsky | 334 |
| 3. Mrs. McMahan | 331 |
| 4. Mr. Smith | 298 |
| 5. Mrs. Calderon | 219 |

The top five classes in November are:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Mrs. Lewandowsky | 334 |
| 2. Mrs. McMahan | 331 |
| 3. Mr. Smith | 298 |
| 4. Mrs. Calderon | 219 |
| 5. Miss Crabtree | 210 |

In our ongoing year-long label collection contest, the leaders are:

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| 1. Mrs. Freeland | 1439 |
| 2. Mr. Smith | 988 |
| 3. Mrs. Breshears | 969 |
| 4. Mrs. Lewandowsky | 952 |
| 5. Mrs. McMahan | 785 |

Remember to save those Box Tops and Labels over the holidays. Box Tops can be found all sorts of items like Ziploc bags and storage containers, Betty Crocker cake and cookie mixes and frosting, Pillsbury refrigerated dough items, Hefty plates, Kleenex, and Green Giant fresh vegetables. Labels for Education can be found on Campbell's Soup, Swanson broth, Pop Secret popcorn, Emerald nuts, Pepperidge Farm cookies and goldfish crackers, and more! The VAPO Fundraising Information page on the school website has links to lists of all participating products.

VAPD Fundraising Page

Spring Festival Information

Spring Festival Art Contest: Calling all students! We need your help naming and designing a logo for this year's luau themed festival. Please turn in all entries by December 6, 2012. The Spring Festival is Saturday, March 2, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Spring Festival Meetings

December 13, 2012

January 10, 2013

January 24, 2013

February 7, 2013

February 21, 2013

All meetings are on Thursdays at 8:15 a.m. in the VAPO room. There is a lot to do, and all are welcome. If you need ideas on how you can help, contact Mrs. Hammond at

libandtj@yahoo.com.

Come one and all! If you enjoy cooking, baking, decorating, serving, and are in need of volunteer hours, please think about becoming a part of the Staff Appreciation Committee. We prepare food, serve, decorate the staff lounge, set up, and clean up for the monthly staff breakfasts and lunches. If you are a working parent (like a lot of us) you can always prepare food at home or purchase items for our functions and drop them off at the school. Our next luncheon is on Tuesday, December 11th at 10:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Whatever support you can provide will be greatly appreciated! For more information or if you would like to participate, please contact Mrs. Evans at 602-799-6593 or at tamaradevans@gmail.com.



The next 8th Grade Committee Meeting is Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Mrs. Nuttall's house. Want to be in on planning details? This is the meeting where we will be dividing up duties like centerpieces, rental organizer, and much more. T-Shirt and themes will be discussed. The 8th graders will be submitting their t-shirt design ideas after winter break. Don't forget to ask your eighth grader about the t-shirt form sent home the first week in December.

The Volunteer Family of the Month for October 2012 is the **Schulte Family**. To earn this honor the Schultes volunteered 40.7 hours! Congratulations and thank you so much for your dedication! We love families like you!

Those families who volunteered over 25 hours for this period were:

E. Smith Family (vom 8/12)	48.5 hours	Webb Family	38.5 hours
Skow Family	41 hours	Padilla Family*	37.75 hours
Mathur Family*	40.1 hours	Pape Family	34.5 hours
Zollinger Family	39 hours	Begay Family (vom 9/12)	34.4 hours
T/M Evans Family*	38.6 hours		

*Denotes VAPO Council member 2012-13

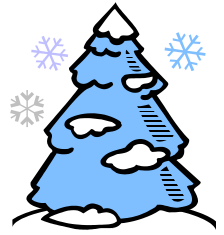
Reminder to all Parents: Please remember when you are completing the volunteer forms you must include both **first and last names** of your student and yourself and print legibly.

Mrs. Reiker, Coordinator





DECEMBER 2012



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

2	3	4	5	6 Spelling Bee 1:30 p.m. M.P.R. Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	7 Spirit Day	1/8
9	10 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	11	12 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m. Room 8	13 Spring Festival Meeting 8:15 a.m. Room 8	14 Holiday Concert No. Hills Church 5:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	15
16	17	18 Holiday Band Concert 7:00 p.m. M.P.R.	19	20	21 Holiday Parties 11:15 a.m. Early Release 12:15 p.m. End of 2nd Quarter	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29
<div data-bbox="350 1522 1305 1740" data-label="Text"> <p>No School - Winter Break December 22, 2012 - January 6, 2013</p> </div>						



JANUARY 2013



Sunday

Monday



Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

6	7 School Resumes	1/8	2/9 Report Cards Go Home	3/10 Spring Festival Meeting 8:15 a.m. Room 8	4/11 Spirit Day	5/12
13	14	15 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m. Room 8	16	17 Geography Bee 1:30 p.m. M.P.R.	18 7/8 Grade Assembly Early Release 12:15 p.m. Staff Development Polar Ice 7:30-9:30 p.m.	19
20	21 No School  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22	23  100th Day + 100% Attendance = 100% Funding Please make every effort to be in school today!	24 Caught Being Good Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	25 Honor Roll Ice Cream	26
27	28 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	29	30	31		
<div data-bbox="237 1715 428 1749" data-label="Text"><p>NATIONAL</p></div> <div data-bbox="237 1749 724 1848" data-label="Text"><p>SchoolChoice WEEK</p></div> <div data-bbox="535 1860 774 1890" data-label="Text"><p>JAN 27 - FEB 2, 2013</p></div> <div data-bbox="826 1749 1338 1841" data-label="Text"><p>Shining a spotlight on effective education options for every child</p></div>						

Support After School Activities with Your Tax Dollars

Wouldn't you just love to have control over exactly how Arizona spends your tax dollars? If you could, wouldn't you tell the state that we've got a great school, and that they should send your money right to Valley Academy for after school activities? You can actually do that, in a way.

When you donate to the Valley Academy Tax Credit Fund before December 31st, you can reduce any tax you owe to Arizona by that amount, up to \$200 if filing individually or \$400 filing jointly. That's the maximum credit you can get, but you can donate any amount; every dollar given towards extracurricular activities helps us build our programs to benefit your children. You can even earmark your donation to a specific after school program or let us use it where it is needed most.

If cash is short right now, pay online; it's like being able to pay your taxes with a credit card. Even if you can't donate yourself, you can still help the kids by encouraging your relatives to make a donation that will reduce their Arizona tax too.

The process is easy. Click "Support Us" on the school website or bring a check to the office. We will send you a tax receipt by February first to use when you do your tax return. After that, it's up to the kids to enjoy the benefits. Thank you for your participation in this valuable program.

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

___ Greatest Need

___ Band/Chorus

___ Academic Arcade

___ Sports (you may specify sport)

___ Full Day Kindergarten

___ Coyote Club

___ Clubs

Tax receipts will be mailed by February 2013.