



REID TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS'  
**Valley Academy**



**October 2012 Newsletter**

[www.ValleyAcademy.com](http://www.ValleyAcademy.com)

Volume 18: Issue 2

1520 W Rose Garden Lane  
 Phoenix, AZ 85027

**What is Traditional Education?**

Do you believe in a basic and limited curriculum? Do you believe that parents are teachers, too, and should have a say in the educational process? Do you believe that children should be held accountable for their actions at school even though it means establishing "tough" consequences? Do you want a safe environment that features a warm, congenial atmosphere that is also firm and fair? If you answered "yes" to these questions, you probably believe in basic education. But, there is more to it than this.

Valley Academy is established as a traditional alternative school. It gives parents an alternative to the regular neighborhood school. We have a "back to the basics" format. Much emphasis is placed on reading, writing (penmanship and creative writing), and mathematics. Following are some of the principles guiding Valley Academy as a traditional school:

- Valley Academy will teach students to read, write, speak, spell, and compute accurately and effectively.
- Students will know and understand our history, heritage, and governmental structure.
- We will challenge students to do their best by requiring that all work be done properly and on time.
- Students will learn the fundamental principles of citizenship, discipline, respect, and personal responsibility.
- The school will help students grow in moral and character development.
- Valley Academy will help students develop a spirit of individual achievement and appropriate competition.
- We will create an atmosphere conducive to the pursuit of academic excellence and student achievement.
- We will train students in the logical application of scientific method.

*(continued on next page)*

**Important Numbers**

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

**Board Meetings**

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.

# What is Traditional Education?

(continued from front page)

Many parents and teachers want to know how we will apply these guiding principles. These are the methods that set us apart from other schools and form the heart of traditional education. These methods include:

- We offer an alternative curriculum. Our reading program and language arts program is based on an intense phonics system, which has proven to be highly successful.
- The curriculum is standard throughout the grade levels. The teachers use the same techniques and textbook series throughout.
- Drill and practice is a regular part of the educational program.
- Emphasis is placed on dictation, memorization and recitation, and whole-group teaching techniques.
- Parental involvement in the development and implementation of school programs is critical. A strong parent organization is the key to the success of the traditional school.
- We offer self-contained, structured classrooms which emphasize appropriate student behavior. Each classroom will provide a quiet, orderly atmosphere in which learning can occur.
- Homework is a regular part of the school day for all students. It is meaningful homework that has been practiced in the classroom so that students will be able to experience success along with challenge.
- A strong dress code is established and is strictly enforced.
- Sufficient practice is given to each concept to ensure that it has been mastered.
- Traditional schools provide a safe, wholesome environment. Discipline is strictly enforced in a "team" setting, as it is a job for all teachers.
- Creative writing is encouraged. Teachers grade the mechanics as well as the content.
- Class interruptions are kept to a minimum. Pull-out programs are avoided. Announcements are scheduled.
- Classroom arrangement is structured, highlighting individual achievement and accomplishment.

## Important Dates October 2012

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>2</b> Homeroom Parent Breakfast 8:15 a.m.   | <b>18</b> Caught Being Good Give-Away                               |
| <b>3</b> Cookie Dough Delivery 2:00-7:00 p.m.<br>Last Names A-L  | <b>19</b> 7/8 Grade Dance 7:00-9:30 p.m.<br>End of 1st Quarter      |
| <b>4</b> Cookie Dough Delivery 2:00-7:00 p.m.<br>Last Names M-Z<br>HS Information Night 6:30-8:00 p.m. | <b>24</b> Picture Retakes<br><b>Report Cards</b>                    |
| <b>5</b> Spirit Day<br>Great Skate 5:00-7:30 p.m.  | <b>25-26</b> Early Release 12:15 p.m.<br>Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| <b>8</b> NO SCHOOL-Staff Development   | <b>25</b> Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.                                   |
| <b>9</b> VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.<br>Talent Show Auditions 3:15 p.m.                                     | <b>26</b> Talent Show Dress Rehearsal<br>4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.      |
| <b>10</b> Talent Show Auditions 3:15 p.m.  | <b>27</b> Talent Show 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.                         |
| <b>13</b> 8th Grade Car Wash 10:00-2:00 p.m.   | <b>29</b> Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.                                |
| <b>15</b> Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.   | <b>30</b> Honor Roll Ice Cream Give-away                            |



## **A message from the 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. 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.
- Follow up: In the days that follow, let your child's teacher know that you are following through on what was discussed, and that you'd like to hear how things are progressing in the classroom.

Remember that at Valley Academy, parental involvement is welcomed and encouraged through the year. Feel free to schedule a phone or in-person conference any time you think there is a need.

—*Mrs. Victoria Wilber*

**Reid Traditional is now on Facebook!** "Like" our page to keep current with news that affects both Valley Academy and Painted Rock Academy. Just posted: In honor of Painted Rock's opening, Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction, Mr. John Huppenthal sat down with Mrs. Cuyler Reid, Valley Academy's founder. View this informal, friendly discussion of their work together since 1993 to improve education in Arizona. Then share our page with your friends and family so they are aware that the quality, traditional education that you experience at Valley Academy is also available to them at a Reid Traditional School.

**Clean out your closet and help our schools.** Make room for holiday gifts! Reid Traditional is accepting donations for Valley Academy's and Painted Rock Academy's after school programs. We are also accepting donations for the toddler play area in Painted Rock's Parent Room. Some items we would appreciate are: board games; books; videos; card games; televisions; a refrigerator; puzzles; a chalk board; video games and/or players; Little Tykes toys like a clubhouse, kitchen or workbench; toddler toys; a couch and storage bins or shelves for the Toddler Room; ride-on toys; kids furniture; crayons; crayons and coloring books. Just bring your items to your school's front office, and we will put them to good use!

Thank you for your generosity.

# Student Information Page



Coyote Ladies continued the season with a double-header win against the Desert Heights Coyotes. We would love to feel the support of our school and encourage you to check out the school website for game times and schedule. Hope to see you there!

*Miss Faber, Coach*



Hello, football fans! Welcome to another exciting year of Valley Academy football. We are off and running this year with a lot of new talent and exciting speed. Valley Academy is gearing up to make its final push to be defending IYAC champions. Please visit [www.valleyacademy.com](http://www.valleyacademy.com) to see our schedule and come out and support this year's Valley Academy Coyotes football.

*Mr. Woodbury, Coach*

Valley Academy Band would like to welcome Mr. Laird, director for the 2012-2013 school year. Advanced Band meets Monday and Wednesday from 7:00 a.m.-7:45 a.m. Beginner Band meets on Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:00 a.m.-7:45 a.m. Welcome, Mr. Laird!



## Yearbook Photos Wanted!

If you have any great pictures of school events and would like them to be considered for this year's yearbook, please send them to Mrs. Keely at [kkeely@valleyacademy.com](mailto:kkeely@valleyacademy.com) please include the event in the subject line. Thank you, Mrs. Keely



A B C D E F G H I J K L M

## Scrabble Club News:

The Scrabble Club is off to a great start. Students meet every Thursday from 3:15-4:00 p.m. in Room 122. Students in grades 4 through 8 are welcome to join.

*Mrs. Freeland, Facilitator*



## Science Club News:

We have 40 students ranging from 5th to 8th grade who have a love of science and a desire to experience science in a "hands on" environment. A lot of great experiences are being created.

*Mr. Smith, Facilitator*



## 7th/8th Grade Dance

October 19th  
7:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.  
\$3.00 presale  
\$5.00 at the door

Remember to turn in your permission slips and your money to the office, Friday, October 12th.

**Dress Code will be enforced!**

## Congratulations 2012-2013

### Student Council Representatives

President, Sam R.  
Vice President, Wyatt D.  
Treasurer, Mark M.  
Historian, Erin L.  
Secretary, John W.



Classroom representatives are in the process of being selected and approved. We look forward to a great year in Student Council.

## Music

Welcome to another exciting, musical year at Valley Academy. It is not too late to join us!

Save the Date  
**Friday, December 14th,**

**North Hills Church, Holiday Concert**

Please help your children memorize the song words for December's performance. They will be bringing the words home this week.

*Mrs. Wright, Music Teacher*



## Beep-Beep, Car Wash Coming!

October 13th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The committee is asking for a \$5.00 donation for each car to help raise funds for the 8th grade promotion expenses.



Dear Valley Academy Families,

I hope your school year is off to a fun start. The beginning of the year is always a busy time of settling in to a new routine. With that in mind, have you found your volunteering "groove" yet? There are so many ways to help, on and off campus. Many times help is needed with setting up or tearing down an event. Sometimes help is needed organizing games or activities at special events like Family Fun Night. Cookie dough orders will be delivered on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and volunteers are needed to help with assembling orders for pickup. Our annual Talent Show is coming up. Parents are needed to help with auditions on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and rehearsals on October 26<sup>th</sup>. VAPO is also organizing a dinner on October 25<sup>th</sup> for teachers when they stay late for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Help is always needed with setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Even helping for an hour or two can make a huge difference when we are short on volunteers. If you aren't sure where to help, contact any member of the VAPO Governing Council. We're happy to answer questions and help you find your "niche." We're looking forward to working with you!

Mrs. McCulloch  
Valley Academy Parent Organization  
Governing Council President

The Volunteer Family of the Month for the period of May/August 2012, was the Family of E. Smith with 66 1/2 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:

McCulloch Family*	149.75 hrs
Webb Family	101.75 hrs.
Day Family*	94.25 hrs.
B. Snyder Family*	78 hrs.
Nuttall Family*	72 hrs.
Lowery Family	66 hrs.
Mathur Family*	55.5 hrs.
Schulte Family	54.5 hrs.
Palomo Family*	47.5 hrs.
Stradling Family*	45 hrs.
Hansen Family	43.5 hrs.
Harford Family*	43.25 hrs.
TJ/M Evans Family*	41.16 hrs.
R/R/N Padilla Family*	35.25 hrs.
D'Elia Family	33.34 hrs.
Garrison Family	32.25 hrs.
Walker Family	30.5 hrs.
Madrid Family	30.25 hrs.

\*Denotes VAPO Council member 2012-13



Are you available to help at the VAPO Teacher Dinner on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>? The Staff Appreciation committee provides dinner for our dedicated Valley Academy teachers while they stay late for Parent/Teacher Conferences. If you are available to help between 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on October 25<sup>th</sup>, please contact Mrs. Evans at [tamaradevans@gmail.com](mailto:tamaradevans@gmail.com) or 602-799-6593. Volunteers are needed to help decorate, set up, serve, and pick up afterward. Volunteers are also needed to prepare and bring food items. Check with Mrs. Evans for details!

**Reminder to all parents:** When you registered your child(ren) at Valley Academy you agreed to volunteer a minimum of 3 hours per month. Let's all make a concerted effort during this new school year to fulfill this obligation. Also, it is extremely important that the sign-in sheet in the office and all volunteer vouchers are completed in their entirety; *first & last names are required!*

## WELCOME TO OUR VAPO FUNDRAISER PAGE!

Please help us with each of these fundraisers! Each fundraiser brings a lot of money and educational items to our school and requires minimal effort and almost no cost to you! Thank you for your continued support.



### A+ Making the Grade...

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to take the Valley Academy Fry's Cool Cash barcode to your nearest Fry's and have your cashier link it to your Fry's card. Your card needs to be re-scanned each school year for your purchases to earn money for our school. You can also register (or re-register) your Safeway card and even your debit card with eScrip at [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com). Your registration with eScrip also needs to be renewed each school year. Your purchases at Safeway earn money for our school, and if you register your debit card as well, additional purchases at restaurants, online retailers, and more can also benefit our school. These are just a few simple steps to help our school earn money when you shop.



Mrs. Freeland's 2nd grade class was the winner of the Box Tops and Labels collection for the *Back to School Contest*. The class collected a total of 1045 points from 714 Box Tops and 331 Labels for Education. Congratulations! Mrs. Freeland's class will have an ice cream party to celebrate.

2nd Place	Mrs. Licano	565
3rd Place	Mrs. Biesemeyer	563
4th Place	Mrs. Breshears	497
5th Place	Miss Hageman	496

Thank you to everyone who participated, and keep clipping!  
Mrs. Mathur

Who knew you could get all this from a few soup labels? Last year, our great Valley Academy families collected approximately 30,000 Labels for Education points just by turning in labels from items you were probably already using. It may not seem like much when you turn in a label, but they all add up to something really great for our students. We redeemed these points for the items pictured in the photo above. Here's what we received:

- 24 8.5" playground balls
- 8 10" playground balls
- 8 13" playground balls
- A total of 32 basketballs, volleyballs, soccer and footballs
- 48 8' jump ropes
- 12 16' jump ropes
- 4 24" super spring balls

Keep up the great work!



# VAPO Announcements

## A Look Ahead October



- 2 - Homeroom Parent Breakfast
- 3 - Talent Show tickets on sale
- 3 - Cookie Dough pick up A-L
- 4 - Cookie Dough pick up M-Z
- 5 - Great Skate 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- 9 - VAPO meeting 8:15 a.m.
- 9 - Talent Show Dress Audition 3:15 p.m.
- 10 - Talent Show Dress Audition 3:15 p.m.
- 13 - Car Wash 10:00-2:00 p.m.
- 18 - *Caught Being Good* Give-Away
- 27 - Talent Show 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- 24 - Picture Retakes
- 25 - VAPO-hosted Teacher Dinner
- 26 - Talent Show Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- 30 - Honor Roll Ice Cream Give-Away

## A Look Ahead November



- 13 - VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.
- 15 - Spring Festival Meeting
- 19 - Turkey Trot
- 20 - Turkey Trot

**"Caught Being Good"** prize giveaway day will be Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at lunchtime. Remember to bring all the tickets you have earned!



## Valley Academy Talent Show

Welcome all Talent Show Participants! The Talent Show is Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, in our M.P.R.

Come enjoy performances by our very own talented students, teachers, and staff.

4:00 p.m. Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

7:00 p.m. 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Staff will be performing at both shows!

Refreshment will be served for a minimal fee.

Don't forget your camera! Tickets go on sale October 4<sup>th</sup>.

### MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL

Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Hammond at [libandtim@yahoo.com](mailto:libandtim@yahoo.com) or at 602-481-9375



## Thank you, Cookie Dough Sellers!



Results of this year's profits from cookie dough sales will be announced in

November's Newsletter. At this time, we would like to congratulate the winners of the quick start contest. Congratulations to Dani L. in Miss Gross' class and Jacob W. in Mrs. Bisesemeyer's class. We're not done with prizes yet. Those students who have sold 10 or more items have a chance to win additional prizes in a drawing to be held October 5<sup>th</sup>.

## October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> - Delivery Dates 2:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday  
Thursday

Last Names A-L  
Last Names M-Z

# October 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Cookie Dough Pick Up A-L	4 Cookie Dough Pick Up M-Z  High School Night 6:30-8:00 p.m.	5 Spirit Day  Great Skate 5:00-7:30 p.m.	6
7	8 No School for students Columbus Day  Staff Development	9 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m.  Talent Show Auditions 3:15 p.m. PreK-3rd Grade	10  Talent Show Auditions 3:15 p.m. 4-8th Grade	11	12	13 Car Wash 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
14	15 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	16	17	18 Caught Being Good Give-Away	19 End of 1st Quarter  7/8 Grade Fall Dance 7:00-9:30 p.m.	20
21	22	23	24 Picture Retake Day  Report Cards Go Home	25  Parent/Teacher Conferences Early Release (12:15 p.m.)  Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. Staff Lounge	26 7/8 Grade Assembly 8:15 a.m.  Talent Show Rehearsal 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	27  Talent Show 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
28	29 Morning Assembly 8:15 a.m.	30 Honor Roll Ice Cream Give-Away	31			