

Valley Oaks News

Valley Oaks School

Spring 2008, 1st Issue

Dear Students and Parents of Valley Oaks,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for all of our Valley Oaks students, families, teachers, and staff! We have an excellent school and all of you help create our community. I encourage all of you to spread the word how wonderful Valley Oaks is. It is my belief that independent study is an excellent way to learn and grow into your potential. When you are enrolled in Valley Oaks your guided instruction is focused on your needs. Our school is a vital learning environment that provides students the flexible schedule. This flexibility increases a student's access to the community college, work experience, attending traditional classes, and other civic and community activities. All of this flexibility can be credit earning opportunities. Please share your student's success stories with us via email and spread the word to your friends and fellow citizens.

We are currently working on increasing the quality of our program. I invite all interested parents and students to attend a discussion around our program design and ideas on how to further support our students' growth and development. This discussion will be held at Valley Oaks School on **Thursday, April 3 at 5:00 p.m.** The focus of the meeting will include program development, social emotional support, and school culture. Please RSVP to Marie Park, Secretary, at 778-4794 if you plan to attend.

Within this newsletter you will find important information regarding graduation, testing, scheduling and other related topics. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. All of our staff members' email addresses are posted on our school website at <http://ValleyOaksSchool.org/>. Feel free to contact us via email.

Sincerely,

David Putney, Principal
Valley Oaks School
San Antonio High

Important Dates:

March 4	CA State Writing Assessment for 4 th & 7 th graders
March 10 to April 22	Elephant Drive (See Leadership Class)
March 12	VO Info Meeting for any new interested students/parents @ 3 p.m.
March 11 & 12	High School Exit Exam <u>Makeup</u> testing for 10 th , 11 th , 12 th graders
March 14	School Site Council Meeting @ 1:00 p.m., Bldg. 2
March 14	Deadline date for 11 th graders to register to take the CA State University Writing Assessment on 3/20-call Mrs. Park, Secretary
March 20	11 th Grade CA State University Writing Assessment 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.
March 21	Third quarter ends
March 24 to 28	Spring Break
March 31	Cesar Chavez Day presentations
April 3	Principal's VO Program Open Forum @ 5:00 p.m. Open to all parents & students. RSVP to Secretary at 778-4794
April 8	Vo Students' spring school report to Petaluma Board of Education
April 9	Sonoma County Science Fair
April 16	Vo Info Meeting for any new interested students/parents @ 3 p.m.
April 16	VO Info Meeting for any new interested students/parents @ 3 p.m.
April 16	VO College Info Night for high school students/parents @ 5:30 p.m., Bldg. 2 at VO
April 19	Rebuilding Together, Petaluma Work Day
April 22	Earth Day Celebration in Building 2
April 25 to May 3	National & Global Youth Service Days (see Mrs. Parker)
April 28 & 30	STAR Testing for 2 nd to 6 th graders @ 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
April 28 to May 2	STAR Testing for 7 th & 8 th graders @ 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bldg. 2
April 29 to May 2	STAR Testing for 9 th through 11 th graders @ 2:30 to 5:15 p.m.
May 10	The Human Race
May 16	School Site Council Meeting @ 1:00 p.m. Bldg. #2
May 19	Valley Oaks Service Ceremony at Round Table Pizza - 6 to 7 p.m.
May 21	VO Info Meeting for any new interested students/parents @ 3 p.m.
May 22 at noon	Last chance to turn in P.E., Driver Ed., & Community Service hours for spring semester
May 26	Holiday (Memorial Day)
June 3	6 th & 8 th grade Promotions @ 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
June 3	High School Graduation Rehearsals @ 9:30 a.m. (mandatory)
June 4	High School Graduation @ 7:00 p.m. Petaluma Community Center

Of Interest to All:

School Garden Project with June Nason: The winter garden is beautiful! Thank you to all of our Kindergarten to 12th grade students & parents who have had their hands in the garden

project. Special thanks to Kris C., Maggie & Teena S., and Arthur C.. If you are a high school student, you can receive elective credits for involvement in this special project. Any questions, please contact June Nason at 778-4794. Thanks!

Student Reports: Our students will be presenting a spring school report to the Petaluma School District's Board of Education on April 8,, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Please come and support our elementary and junior high school student speakers.

On-Going Fundraiser: We collect all empty printer cartridges, used cell phones and laptops. Our request is to all VO families to bring their empty printer ink cartridges from their home printers and fax machines, old cell phones, and laptops to school. Our site will be collecting all year long. There is a drop-off box in Building 1 at VO. This program enables our school to raise funds and also help the environment.

STAR Testing:

We want to let everyone in our school community know that our State-mandated testing program for grades 2 to 11, STAR, will be administered by the Valley Oaks teaching staff in April. We ask that families plan ahead so that no appointments, trips, or other times away from school are scheduled during this testing window. It is important that all students be well rested, nourished, and present at school during this time of testing. For our high school students who are working, you will need to make arrangements with your employers to have the afternoons off during the week of testing. Thank you for your support, and for all you need to do to facilitate this process. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Zavala at 778-4794.

STAR Testing for Grades 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11:

Grades:

7 th & 8 th	April 28 to May 2	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
9 th	April 29 to May 2	2:30 to 5:15 p.m.
10 th	April 29 to May 2	2:30 to 5:15 p.m.
11 th	April 29 to May 2	2:30 to 5:15 p.m.

STAR Testing for Elementary Students:

Grades:

2 to 6	April 28 & 30	9 to 11:30 a.m.
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Please mark your calendars!!

High School Highlights

Summer School 2008: High school summer school applications are now available at the sign in counter in Building 1 at VO. Any interested student who wishes to attend should complete and turn application form in ASAP. Classes fill quickly. Summer School dates are June 16 to July 18, 2008. School hours are 7:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Summer School location is Kenilworth Junior High School, 800 Riesling Road, Petaluma.

Congratulations to our recent graduates: Gabriela D., Marlene C.-W., Dominique H., Garrett P., Sally I., Michelle D., Mark D., Natalie J., Barbara H., Rachel T., Kayla S., and Julianne C.

High School Exit Exams for 10th, 11th, & 12th graders: *This Make-up testing* is available at VO on March 11 & 12, 2008. Tuesday is the English/Language Arts portion of the test, while Wednesday is the Math portion. Letters have recently been sent out to students who need to participate in makeup testing. Testing will be conducted at Building 2 at Valley Oaks. Testing begins promptly at 9:00 a.m., so please arrive by 8:45 a.m. All students must pass this test to obtain a high school diploma from this school district.

11th Grade California State University Writing Assessment: The Early Assessment Program is an opportunity for students in grade 11 to obtain information about their readiness for college-level English. One of the benefits of this program is earning an exemption from the CSU English placement tests upon admission to the CSU. This essay writing exercise/assessment is one of the components of the Early Assessment Program. Letters have been mailed out to all 11th graders. **All students interested in participating must RSVP by March 14. Please reserve your spot with Mrs. Park, Valley Oaks Secretary by 3/14/08.** The testing date info is as follows:

March 20 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. at Valley Oaks in Building 2.

Community Service Program: Students are welcome and encouraged to get involved in community service activities! Students, please ask a staff member to set up an appointment with Mrs. Parker, to get started. Students may earn elective credit for their community service work. Mrs. Parker has lots of suggestions for Individual Service Projects!

Students doing community service are encouraged to also become a member of the Leadership Class. Leadership Class students sign a contract to complete each semester at least 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours of service that supports the Valley Oaks student community. We'd love to have you join us! If you have a very high overall grade point average (GPA), you may be invited into the National Honor Society. Students are currently doing engaging, exciting, and fulfilling Individual Service Projects! Here are some of the Individual Service Projects that students enrolled in the Community Service Program are doing right now: Kayla S. just finished 45 hours at the Petaluma Kitchen. Jack F. just organized a band and has been giving free concerts. Dylan C. is

at the local library. Dylan C. & Liz N. are both working on painting large banners for the Leadership Class. Hannah H. & Kristina F. are creating the first edition of the new online *Maverick Monthly Magazine*. Hannah H. is working regularly at the Mary Isaac Center for the homeless. Joey W. is getting ready to serve his 2nd year as a camp counselor at Walker Creek Ranch; Ryo P. is volunteering at a kindergarten class and Sarah K. is a 1st grade volunteer and works in a comprehensive school gardening program. Mina F. had to write an intention paper and be screened to begin the Animal Shelter's community service program this semester. Animal Shelter Volunteers do the fun jobs but Animal Shelter Community Service people do all the most difficult jobs.

You can get started too! Why not celebrate National & Global Youth Service Days (4/25, 4/26, & 4/27) or National Volunteer Week (4/27 through 5/3) by committing to yourself to a cause?

Leadership Class: Check out our Individual Service Project window display for 3rd Quarter by Hannah H.! The Leadership Class display windows are outside on Building 1.

Thank you very much for participating in the Leadership Class' Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Campaign. This was our third year. We raised \$75 two years ago and \$230 last year. This year donations totaled \$200!!!!

During the month before Earth Day, the Leadership Class works to help endangered species by educating students, raising awareness, asking for coins for the Elephant Jar, and collecting bottles and cans to recycle for money. We call this activity the Elephant Drive. Valley Oaks is a "foster parent" to an Asian elephant, Jokia. The money raised will go toward purchasing Thailand habitat for Jokia and other rescued Asian elephants.

National Honor Society: Congratulations to our three N.H.S. candidates: Kayla S., Dylan C., and Hannah H.! They will become official members at their induction on May 19.

Science - Mrs. Parker: We have a record number of participants in the County Science Fair this year!!! Congratulations to Jack F., Tessa M., Hannah H., and Dylan C. who are planning to participate. Thank you for preparing to represent Valley Oaks. We are proud of you!!! All students through 12th grade are encouraged to participate in this annual Spring event. Students do not need to be taking a science course. Please leave me, Mrs. Parker, a note, phone message, or email.

Driver Ed: Congratulations to Brittany F. and Dylan C.! These students completed the 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour course and received 88% or higher on all five of the course's tests. Joey W. is almost done! This course has lots of required memorization. It is a lot of work! Good luck to our other 13 students currently taking Driver Ed! Be very patient with yourselves. Believe that you'll see this course to its end and take home your DL387 certificate. Try studying with a partner.

www.ValleyOaksSchool.org: Thank you to a wonderful parent volunteer, Mrs. Jackie Turner, for creating a website for our school and for continuing to help Mrs. Parker make changes and do updates! Please check out the website's newest changes and additions! Click on the webmaster link to email in any ideas or comments. They will be carefully considered and very much appreciated.

Do you have some positive things to say about Valley Oaks? Could we post what you have to say in our Testimonials page? Email your testimonial, long or brief, to the webmaster.

Students, do you have a piece of written work or art work that would be fun for you to have posted in the online *Maverick Monthly Magazine*? Email it to the webmaster. The Magazine editors will prepare it for publishing in the next edition.

Seniors: Santa Rosa Junior College: All students attending SRJC fall 2008, should be contacting college in March & April to speak to a counselor about registering for classes, taking CTEP assessment tests and get details on their Counseling 370 orientation course. Students will receive priority registration for completing Counseling 370. This orientation course is offered in spring or summer. This course is being offered at the Petaluma Campus. Check their spring catalog for dates and times.

Seniors: Cap & Gown Orders: Cap & gown orders have been sent to Jostens. Student will be notified when they arrive at site for pickup.

Seniors: High School Graduation: Graduation is set for June 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Graduates must arrive by 6:15 p.m. The ceremony is held at Petaluma Community Center, 320 N. McDowell Boulevard. Due to limited space at this facility, each graduate will be issued between 4 to 6 guest entry tickets. On June 3 at 9:30 a.m. there is a mandatory rehearsal for all graduating seniors.

Work Permits: In order to have jobs, students are required to have work permits. In order to have a work permit, a student needs to be doing satisfactory work in school. To obtain application forms for obtaining a permit, see one of your teacher. Work Experience elective course credit is available for 11th & 12th grade students.

SAT Testing: The scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is given several times through the school year. Brochures on the SAT Subject and SAT Reasoning tests are available. Students can also obtain information and register online at www.collegeboard.com. Our school code number is 052456.

Junior High School Highlights

March 4 CA State Writing Assessment testing for 7th graders only
@ 2 to 3 p.m. in Building. 2 (See Mrs. Brosius for details)
April 28 to May 2 STAR Testing for 7th& 8th graders @ 9 am to 1 p.m., VO, Building 2
June 3, 2008 8th Grade Promotion on site @ 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Elementary Highlights

March 4 CA State Writing Assessment testing for 4th graders only
April 28 & 30 STAR Testing for grades 2 to 6 @ 9 to 11:30 a.m.
June 3, 2008 6th Grade Promotion on site @ 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.