

Valley Oaks News

Valley Oaks School

Fall 2007, 1st Issue

Welcome back to school!

We are so glad that you have chosen to attend the best alternative school available. We are confident that you will agree that we provide a high quality rigorous high school program. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome James Metzger to our school. He is our new math and history teacher. Keep reading to learn more about our new amazing teacher!!

I invite all of you to share your thoughts about Valley Oaks. We are here to serve you and your students in their pursuits of graduating from high school and preparing for post secondary education. We love to receive the feedback. In fact, we are starting a new web page dedicated to parent and student testimonials. This will offer the larger community access of learning more about our school and increase our own self awareness of our school. Please feel free to email or drop off letters to be submitted for posting. In addition, I welcome any questions or concerns that you may have. Drop by or call to arrange a meeting with me if you so desire.

Students remember, what you put into Valley Oaks is what you get out! Work hard and you will learn amazing things and impress your friends and family with the grades that you will earn. May this be the best year yet!

David Putney, Principal

Important Dates:

Sept. 21 9a.m.-noon	Campus Blood Drive, help save lives by donating blood
Oct. 2	Superintendent's Lay Advisory Meeting (need parent rep.)
Oct. 15	Staff Development Day (No school)
Oct. 16 to Nov. 17	Petaluma Kitchen Project
Oct. 20	PSAT Testing (11 th graders)
TBA	School Site Council Meeting (student/parent reps needed)
Nov. 6	Superintendent's Lay Advisory Meeting (parent volunteer)
Nov. 6 & 7	High School Exit Exams (CAHSEE) for 11 th & 12 graders only
Nov. 8	Picture Day at VO (Student Body cards) @ 10:45 to 11:30 a.m.
Nov. 12	HOLIDAY (Veterans' Day)
Nov. 21, 22, & 23	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec. 3	Valley Oaks Service Ceremony @ 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 6 by 12 noon	Last chance to turn in P.E., Driver Ed., & Community Service hours for the Fall semester
Dec. 4	Superintendent's Lay Advisory Meeting (parent volunteer)
Dec. 11	VO students' school reports to Petaluma Board of Education @ 6pm
Dec. 14	Holiday cheer & goodwill delivery to neighbors @ 1 to 2 p.m.

Dec. 20	End of 1 st Semester
Dec. 21 to Jan. 4	Winter Break
Jan. 8, 2008	Superintendent's Lay Advisory Meeting (parent volunteer)
Jan. 21	HOLIDAY (Martin Luther King, Jr.)
Jan. 22 to Feb.22	Students' <i>Leukemia & Lymphoma Society</i> Campaign
Jan. 25	Sonoma County Science Fair
Jan. 31	Staff Development Day (No school)
Feb. 1	Staff Development Day (No school)
Feb. 5	Superintendent's Lay Advisory Meeting (parent volunteer)
Feb. 5 & 6	High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) for 10 th graders only
Feb. 11	HOLIDAY (Lincoln's Birthday)
Feb. 18	HOLIDAY (Washington's Birthday)
March 4	Superintendent's Lay Advisory Meeting (parent volunteer)
March 10 to Apr. 18	<i>All For Elephants</i> Drive
March 24 to 28	Spring Break
March 31	Cesar Chavez Day activity
April 1	Superintendent's Lay Advisory Meeting (parent volunteer)
April 8	VO Students' spring school report to Petaluma Bd. of Education @6pm
April 19 @ 6 a.m.	Rebuilding Together, Petaluma Day
April 22	Free pizza with movies on Elephants for Earth Day @ 1 to 2 p.m.
April/May (TBA)	STAR Testing
May 6	Superintendent's Lay Advisory Meeting (parent volunteer)
May 10	The Human Race
May 19	Valley Oaks Service Ceremony @ 6 to 7 p.m.
May 22 by 12 noon	Last chance to turn in P.E., Driver Ed., & Community Service hours for the spring semester
May 26	HOLIDAY (Memorial Day)
June 3	Superintendent's Lay Advisory Meeting (parent volunteer)
June 3	Rehearsal for High School Graduates (mandatory)
June 4	High School Graduation, Petaluma Community Center
June 6	Last Day of School in the District

Disclaimer: *Regarding the Valley Oaks Service Ceremonies, the Petaluma Kitchen Project's day at the Kitchen, and the Sonoma County Science Fair, and any other implied off-campus activities:*

"These activities are not District sponsored activities and are not mandatory parts of the curriculum. If District staff is participating in these activities they are doing so as private individuals and not as an employee of Petaluma City Schools."

Of Interest to All:

Valley Oaks High School welcomes our new teacher Mr. Jim Metzger!!!

Mr. Metzger comes to Valley Oaks after teaching two years in Pittsburg, California. With a credential in math and a supplemental credential in history, Mr. Metzger is excited to be teaching here at Valley Oaks. One of the things students will quickly notice about Mr. Metzger is how much he loves math and history. For example, he hopes to expand our math department to offer new and innovative courses such as a *Math Exploration* elective into the joy of numbers. In our social science department, Mr. Metzger is hoping to engineer a team teaching approach to U.S. History and American Literature, two 11th grade requirements. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Metzger join our learning community. He brings a fresh, positive professionalism to Valley Oaks. Mr. Metzger's teaching area is in Building 1 right behind the *Great Wall of File Cabinets*, stop by and say hello.

Website: Thank you to a wonderful parent volunteer, Mrs. Jackie Turner, for creating a website for our school! Mrs. Parker is the webmaster with Mrs. Turner's assistance. Please check out the website www.valleyoaksschool.com if you have not already. Your ideas and comments will be carefully considered and very much appreciated.

Valley Oaks Sweatshirts: We have a few in stock. They are maroon sweatshirts (pullover with hood @\$35.00 or zip-up with hood @ \$30.00). If you are interested in purchasing one, see Mrs. Park, Secretary.

School Site Council: We need student and parent representatives to participate on this council. The council helps provide direction for Valley Oaks and oversees a budget that is used to support the students and teachers. The council only meets **one** time per quarter. Parent representatives from both elementary and secondary (grades 7-12) levels are needed, as well as student representatives from the secondary level. If you are interested, please call Mrs. Park, Secretary at 778-4794. Our first meeting date is still open.

Student Reports: Our students will be presenting a fall school report to the Petaluma School District's Board of Education on December 11 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to support our students. Our site's spring presentation to the Board is set for April 8, 2008.

Superintendent's Lay Advisory Board: VO needs a parent representative!

A parent volunteer is needed to serve as our representative on the Superintendent's Lay Advisory Council. This group consists of parent representatives from all schools in our district. This council meets monthly (Tuesday mornings) with Superintendent Greta Viguie. We need a parent to represent the interests of Valley Oaks students, parents, and staff. The first meeting of SLAC is set to begin in October 2, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Petaluma Schools District

Office, 200 Douglas Street. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Park, Secretary at 778-4794.

Photo Day: Student Photo Day is set for November 8, 2007 at Valley Oaks. Steven Yeager Studio will be taking photos beginning at 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **Student body cards photos are to be taken at this time.** Photo packets are available in early October. Photo packets are available as follows: Elementary students see June Nason, Junior high students see Mrs. Brosius, and high school students can pick up a packet at the sign-in counter in Building #1. Any questions, call Mrs. Park, Secretary at 778-4794.

On-Going Fundraiser: We collect all empty printer cartridges, cell phones and *new this year* laptops and PDAs. Our request is for all VO families to bring to school empty printer ink cartridges from their home printers and fax machines. 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.

High School Highlights

Science: Posted at Mrs. Parker's door is an opportunity for students to easily win a dollar coin! I hope to see a note from you in my box and in return, I'll find you & give you your prize!

Sonoma County Science Fair- Mrs. Parker: Please don't miss this year's opportunity to participate in the County Science Fair! You don't need to spend more than 15 or so total hours and you will earn elective credit. The Fair occurs in Santa Rosa on January 25, 2008. It is fun and a very positive experience. Congratulations to (3 student names withheld from website) who are planning to participate. All students through 12th grade are encouraged to participate. Students do not need to be taking a science course. Please leave me, Mrs. Parker, a note or phone message.

Community Service Program- Mrs. Parker: Students are welcome and encouraged to get involved in community service activities! Students may ask a staff member to set up an appointment with Mrs. Parker. Students may earn elective credit for their community service work. Mrs. Parker has lots of suggestions! Students are encouraged to become a member of the Leadership Class. Leadership class students sign a contract to complete each semester at least 12 ½ hours of service that supports the Valley Oaks student community. We would 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.

Leadership Class: The Leadership Class members have individually signed up to spend 2 hours this month weeding, tilling, and grooming the little landscape areas in front of our school. Each student's touch of TLC and toil has added a little polish and school pride to Valley Oaks. It is looking much sharper out there—thanks to (5 student names withheld from website). We're

looking forward to seeing how the area looks after (5 more names withheld from school website) come in the next two weeks? Thanks to all of you.

Check out our Individual Service Project window display for First Quarter! (student name withheld) spent over 20 hours working at the Wildlife Rescue Center here in Petaluma last semester. The Leadership Class display windows are outside on Building 1.

During the month before Thanksgiving, please support the Petaluma Kitchen with the Leadership Class by bringing to school three types of items: 1) non-perishable food 2) egg crates & 3) novels. If you're up to it, stop by the Kitchen on 11/17, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. to work.

PSAT Testing: 11th grade students who intend to go to college (4-year institutions) should consider taking the Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test (PSAT) on October 20, 2007. Most 4-year colleges require S.A.T. test scores as part of their entrance requirements. Taking the PSAT gives students an introduction to the S.A.T. If interested in participating, please sign up on the reservation list. This list is located on counter in Building #1 where all high school students sign in. Any questions or PSAT guides with tips on preparing for test, please contact our Counselor, Joe Zavala.

High School Exit Exams (CAHSEE) for 10th, 11th, & 12th Graders: Testing will be available at VO for 11th & 12th graders on November 6 (English) & November 7 (Math). Testing for 10th graders is scheduled for February 5 & 6, 2008. All students must pass this test to obtain a high school diploma from this school district. If there are any questions, please contact our counselor, Joe Zavala at 778-4794. More information will be mailed out to 11th & 12th graders before the November test dates.

Want to do well on the Math Portion of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)?
There is a class offered at Valley Oaks School!

Who: All 10th graders taking the test for the first time in February, and all make-up test takers planning to take the test this November. All are welcome!

What: The California High School Exit Exam is mandatory. All California students are required to pass the CAHSEE in order to earn a diploma.

When: Class time is Thursday mornings 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Where: Valley Oaks Building #2

Why: To freshen up your math skills before you take the math portion of the CAHSEE and earn elective credits.

How: Call Valley Oaks and leave a message for Mrs. Abelli-Amen confirming that you will attend.

Driver Education - Mrs. Parker:

Congratulations to (six student names withheld from website)! These students completed the 37 ½ hour course and received 88% or higher on all five of the course's tests last year. This course has lots of required memorization. It is a lot of work! Good luck to our 8 students

currently taking Driver Education! Be very patient with yourselves. Believe that you will see this course to its end and take home your DL387 certificate. Take your time and study with a partner.

High School Counselor We have a new Counselor! Welcome Joe Zavala! If any students would like to make an appointment to see Mr. Zavala, please sign up on roster board located in Building #1 at front counter where Sign-In Sheet is located. Mr. Zavala will contact you to set up your appointment with him.

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 your high school 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. See our counselor for schedule of dates, times, and test prep booklets.

Junior High School Highlights

Welcome back! In junior high we have a great group of motivated students and involved parents. I appreciate the involvement many parents are taking to help organize their child's work samples during their appointments. All 7th grade students and new 8th grade students need to have a parent or guardian accompany them to their appointments. As time progresses and a student becomes independent in the Valley Oaks program, the parent and teacher will decide if a parent is to attend the appointments weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. **REMEMBER: Parent Involvement equals student success.**

This year we will continue to offer **math labs and workshops** in order to help students achieve greater academic success and independence. Math labs and workshops will be on **Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.** There will be **approximately two math labs and one workshop each month**. Math lab is for extra support and/or math "buddy" support. This is for math help only! It is not to turn in any work or for any other subject. The workshops provide an extra learning experience in a group setting. This time will be used for learning computer skills/programs (i.e. Power Point, group discussions/activities, viewing videos/DVDs on a subject currently being studied, an art lesson, etc.). PARENTS, if you would be willing to volunteer to share with our students any special talents/abilities you might have (art, music, computer skills, etc.), please call Mrs. Brosius at 778-4794.

We also have openings at the junior high level. To inquire, please contact Mrs. Brosius (Junior High teacher) or Mrs. Park (Secretary) at the above number.

Elementary Highlights

October Workshop Schedule: October Workshops are scheduled for **Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. or Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.** June Nason, will be the teacher and facilitator of these workshops. Parents may stay and observe, or drop their student off for an hour. I do ask that you please call the school to let June know if you are or are not coming to a workshop so that she knows who to be looking for. Call 778-4794.

- October 2 Tuesday, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
6th Grade **Art Lesson**
- October 16 Tuesday, 2p.m. to 3 p.m.
1st & 2nd Grades **Art Lesson**
- October 17 Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Kindergarten **Art Lesson**
- October 24 Wednesday, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
All Grades **Pumpkin Carving**