

Valley Oaks News

Valley Oaks School

Spring 2007, 1st Issue

Dear Valley Oaks Community,

We believe that it takes a village to raise a child and that we all have responsibility to support the growth and development of our students. We have the highest regard for the wonderful students and families that we serve here at this site. This school year some students have already graduated and we anticipate more to come. Congratulations to our graduates and their parents on a job well done. Our students are very inspired not only academically but also with resources of time and energy. They have been supporting a number of community agencies including the Food Kitchen with a food drive and community service hours, Petaluma Ecumenical Project as well as the Leukemia Society. They are also growing a community garden. Ms. Nora Parker has led the drive to create service-learning projects where students serve local agencies. Ms. June Nason has had her students working on the Community/Village Garden. Many students participated in the creation of a beautiful winter garden that we will be sharing with the Petaluma Ecumenical Project. PEP offers housing for senior citizens and our students will be providing fresh vegetables for them. Ms. Parker also has a student creating a tri-fold brochure for our site and it is wonderful to see the talent of our student. Ms. Parker has also been working on the creation of a website for our school. We want everyone to know how proud we are of the village that we call Valley Oaks School.

Currently, we are in the third round of the CAHSEE (high school exit exam) testing. A small number of students are affected but this is an important test to pass and we are offering tutorial periods to support this. We are quickly entering the time when we do the federally mandated standardized tests (STAR). This is given to all students grades 2-11. This is an extremely important program for the testing provides a reflection of the intelligence and academic readiness of our students. It is extremely important for all our students to take part in this process because it assists our schools and teachers to have a feedback model in order to continue to provide rigorous coursework and continued academic growth. Please support your student as they take part in the testing this spring. You will be provided with more information as the time gets nearer. We are confident that our students will continue to develop academically and it will be demonstrated on this test.

John F. Kennedy once said: "Some people see things that are and ask why, I see things that never were and ask why not." The staff at Valley Oaks School feels very much this way. As they continue to nurture and nourish students with rigorous academic challenges, they teach our students to see things that never were and ask why not. We are proud of the work of our staff as they support our students and teach them to look at the village and the world and ask "...why not."

Linda Hansen, Interim Principal

Important Dates:

March 6	CA State Writing Assessment for 4 th & 7 th graders
March 14	VO Info Meeting for any new interested students/parents @ 3 p.m.
March 20 & 21	High School Exit Exam <u>Makeup</u> testing for 10 th , 11 th , 12 th graders
March 23	Third quarter ends
March 26	CA State University Writing Assessment for 11 th graders
March 26	<i>Recycling in the Garden</i> Workshop w/June Nason 2:30 to 4 p.m.
March 27	VO Students' spring school report to Petaluma Board of Education
March 27	School Site Council Meeting @ 1:00 p.m., Bldg. 2
April 9 to 13	Spring Break
April 19 & 20	Sonoma County Science Fair
April 23 to 27	STAR Testing for 9 th through 11 th graders
April 23 - 27	STAR Testing for 7 th & 8 th graders @ 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bldg. 2
April 30 -May 2	STAR Testing for 2 nd to 6 th graders @ 9-11:30 a.m., Bldg. 2
May 15	School Site Council Meeting @ 1:00 p.m. Bldg. #2
May 28	Holiday (Memorial Day)
June 5	6 th & 8 th grade Promotions @ 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Bldg. 2
June 5	High School Graduation Rehearsals @ 10:00 a.m. (mandatory)
June 6	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 who have had their hands in the garden project. If you are a high school student, you can receive elective credits for involvement in this special project. All students (K-12) are invited this spring semester to participate in the Workshop: **Recycling in the Garden on Monday, March 26 in the Valley Oaks Garden, at 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.** Students will learn how to make soil by creating compost. Students will learn the concepts of decomposition and the nutrients of compost ingredients. This is a collaboration project with students of all ages. NOTE: **We need a parent volunteer to weed wack the garden area ASAP.** 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 March 27, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Please come and support our high school student speakers!

On-Going Fundraiser: We collect all empty printer cartridges, used cell phones and laptops. Our request is for 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 June Nason at 778-4794.

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

Grades:

7 th & 8 th	April 23 to 27	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	V.O., Building 2
9 th	April 23 to 27	2:30 to 5:15 p.m.	Room 8 at SAHS
10 th	April 23 to 27	2:30 to 5:15 p.m.	Room 6 at SAHS
11 th	April 23 to 27	2:30 to 5:15 p.m.	Room 2 at SAHS

STAR Testing for Elementary Students:

Grades:

2 to 6	April 30 to May 3	9 to 11:30 a.m.	V.O., Building 2
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Please mark your calendars!!

High School Highlights

Congratulations to our recent graduates!!!

High School Exit Exams for 10th, 11th, & 12th graders: *This Make-up testing* is available at VO on March 20 & 21 2007. 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. The testing schedule is as follows:

March 26 at Valley Oaks in Building 2.

Students whose last name ends in letters A-L test 9:00 to 10:30 am.

Students whose last name ends in letters M-Z test 10:30 am to 12 noon.

Leadership class with Mrs. Parker:

Thank you to everyone for participating in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society campaign! We raised \$230.00! This was far more than we had ever expected. Some students brought in jars of coins they had been saving for a long while! Many people donated bills and some donated with checks. This was extremely generous! The people at the San Francisco office like to say that every penny counts and helping with even a penny is still helping. So thank you! The leadership class did a great job advertising and trying to teach their classmates about the issues involved. The leadership class most likely will be mailed free Dominos Pizza certificates by the San Francisco office in appreciation.

The Leadership class' Elephant Drive starts on March 12. This activity runs the month before Earth Day. Be looking for the advertising posters and please be sure to ask a leadership student to explain what this Elephant Drive is all about.

Our Leadership Class Ceremony is Monday, May 21, at 6:00 p.m. at Round Table Pizza in the Excalibur Room. Leadership class students will be honored for their service to the school and in their individual service projects. National Honor Society nominees will be inducted. Recent graduates will continue to be asked to participate in some VO leadership activities as alumni.

The student room with the red chairs has a place to post service events that you know of or any message for classmates as long as you get staff approval. This room also has a wall for students to add to the VO mural that it is becoming. Ask Mrs. Parker for the bag of colored pens to write your name, a drawing, a quote, etc.

Science - Mrs. Parker:

The County Science Fair is on Friday, April 20. Students set up the day before but you can have Mrs. Parker set up your board for you. Many efforts are made to make this a memorable experience for you. It is a lot of fun. There are gifts, food, entertainment, and many categories so there are many winners. Come see Mrs. Parker. You can work on your project in addition to your regular two courses and receive elective credit.

There is a new dollar coin series coming out. The coins will have each of the U.S. presidents. George Washington was released for 2007. Would you like to win a George Washington dollar coin? Put your answer to the Science Question into Mrs. Parker's box. The question is in her room on the wall. If your answer is correct you will win a dollar coin.

Seniors: Santa Rosa Junior College: All students attending SRJC fall 2007, 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 on April 21 - 28. from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call SRJC to register.

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 6, 2007 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. On June 5 at 10:00 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 Mrs. Duggin or Mrs. Parker. 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 6	CA State Writing Assessment testing for 7 th graders <i>only</i> @ 2 to 3 p.m. in Building. 2 (See Mrs. Brosius for details)
March 26	Recycling in the Garden Workshop w/June Nason 2:30 to 4 p.m.
April 23 to 27	STAR Testing for 7 th & 8 th graders @ 9 am to 1 pm, VO, Building 2
June 5, 2007	8 th Grade Promotion on site @ 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., V.O. Building 2

Junior High Update:

We have made it through the holidays and are well into our second semester. Parents, continue to follow through with your child's lessons and appointments. Statistics show that a child's overall success in school is directly related to parental involvement! Student/parent discussions about the lessons and standards (integrated into the students' assignments) have been a great strategy to reinforce content covered, keep parents updated with what their child is studying, and provides "quality time" and a "springboard" for other discussions that are so crucial at this age.

GREAT NEWS! We have grown in junior high. We still have some openings left. If you know of a family that has a child of junior high age and might be looking for an alternative to the traditional junior high, please have them call Mrs. Brosius at 778-4794.

The 6th & 8th grade promotion celebration this year will be on Tuesday, June 5 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Please watch for further details. Also, the STAR testing for junior high students will be the week of April 23-27, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It is so important that your child

attend each day. These test results show your child's progress in school as well as provide the state with data used to measure student/school academic progress. Please do not plan other appointments, vacations, or other activities that might cause your child to be absent on these dates.

I want to take this time to say how pleased I am to be working with you and your children in junior high. Your support means so much to me and the success of your child! Have a great second semester.

Mrs. Sandie Brosius, Junior High Teacher

Elementary Highlights

March 6	CA State Writing Assessment testing for 4 th graders <u>only</u> (held at student's set appointment time)
March 26	Recycling in the Garden Workshop at 2:30 to 4 p.m.
April 20 to May 2	STAR Testing for grades 2 to 6 @ 9 to 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 2 at Valley Oaks

School Garden Project: The winter garden is beautiful! Thank you to all the elementary students who had their hands in the garden project. This spring semester, there will be a workshop offered "Recycling in the Garden" on March 26 at 2:30 to 4 p.m. All students are welcome. Students will learn how to make soil by creating compost, decomposition and about nutrients of compost. Note: Looking for a Parent volunteer to weed wack the garden area ASAP. Contact person is June Nason.