

Valley Oaks Charter School

Volume 1, Issue 5

January - 2019

Brannon's Broadcast

Message from Mrs. Brannon



New Year! New Beginnings! While New Year's resolutions are not usually a part of my New Year, I always look forward to a fresh start! In an effort to start off 2019 on a good foot and in preparation for a good start to the 2019-2020 school year, the staff already is beginning plans for the future. You can help us with those plans by sharing your ideas and giving us input as to what we can do to better serve your students and you. Take time at your table meetings to give your resource teacher feedback about whatever . . . enrichment classes, clubs, field trips, VOPTAC, competitions, camps, parent workshops, etc., etc., etc. Tell your resource teacher what is on your mind and how you think VOCS can improve, what you think we are doing well, what is or is not working for your child. Our goal is to provide opportunities and programs that will help you achieve academic success with your student! And, in keeping with new beginnings, Valley Oaks has begun the re-charter, which is the beginning of another five-year chapter in Valley Oaks history. (Re-charter is required by the state every five years.) Currently, Valley Oaks is taking a look at possible changes for our 2020 re-charter that will keep our school current, sustainable, accountable, progressing, and successful. Feedback from all stakeholders regarding these changes is welcomed and we encourage you to express your views to me or any staff member at any time. At the Town Hall meeting in December, we heard from a number of parents who are grateful for the VOCS "parent choice" philosophy and who advocated strongly for maintaining the right to choose as a foundation of our charter. Preserving those parent choices is utmost in our minds as we move forward. So send us your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions ... we are anxiously waiting!! And, good luck with those New Year's resolutions!

Creative Corner

Calling all artists! Do you have an original story, poem or piece of artwork you would like to share? Contact the VOCS Elementary front desk for more information at (661) 852-6700.



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<http://valleyoakscharterschool.org/elementary/>
T: 661-852-6700

Upcoming Events

February 7th

Farm Workshop –
Animal Husbandry

February 7th

VOCS Children's
Choir

February 7th

VOPTAC Meeting

February 7th

Make and Take -
Parent Workshop

February 11th

Lincoln's Birthday –
NO SCHOOL

February 13th

Family Picnic

February 13th

VOCS High School
Parent Orientation

February 13th

Valentine Card
Exchange Party

February 13th

Social Studies
Review

February 18th

Washington's
Birthday –NO
SCHOOL

February 20th

Physical Fitness
Testing

February 20th

AR Reading Hour

February 27th-28th

2nd/3rd Grade
Science Camp



Picture Day



Date: March 13, 2019

Time: During Enrichment Classes

Location: VOCS Campus

You don't want to miss VOCS Picture Day! We will be taking pictures of the Enrichment Classes for the school yearbook.

Staff Spotlight: Ms. Duncan

Contributed by Dean Babb

This is Ms. Duncan's 17th year with Valley Oaks. When she was younger she wanted to be a lawyer because she loves the law. She became a teacher because one of her friends was a teacher and asked her to help set-up her classroom and Ms. Duncan just fell in love with it. In addition to working at Valley Oaks she also tutors math at Sylvan Learning of Bakersfield AND she teaches psychology and math at Santa Barbara Business College. She's a very busy lady.

I asked her about some of her favorite things. Her favorite color is blue which is also my favorite! Her favorite food is avocado and her favorite drink is flavored iced tea. Her favorite television shows are Criminal Minds and Golden Girls. If she had to pick a favorite movie it would be A League of Their Own. Her favorite genre to read is biographical or autobiographical. Her favorite book as a kid was The Story of Ferdinand.

In addition to a busy work life she is also a world traveler. She has been to LOTS of places but her top 5 destinations have been Poland, Japan, Denmark and 2 places in the U.S., Chicago, Illinois and Seattle, Washington because her brother lives there.

She is an animal lover and has a lot of pets. Her two dogs are a Black Lab named Wyatt after Wyatt Earp and the other is a Great Dane named Harper Lee after the famous author. She also has four Fire-Bellied Toads named Phoenix, Ajax, Edgar Allen Poe and Annabelle Lee, along with a Gecko Lizard named Milo.

I asked her if she had a piece of advice or pearl of wisdom to share with the students of Valley Oaks and she said, "Knowledge is power, never stop your education but, remember to play hard, get dirty and have fun."



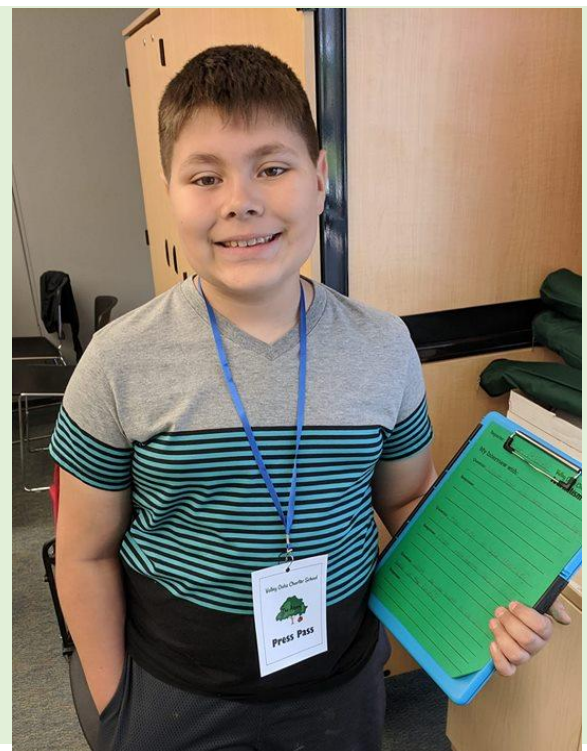
Photo Contributed by Ms. Duncan

From left to right, top to bottom: Ms. Duncan in Denmark, Japan & the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Club Connection: Journalism Club

Contributed by Ryder McComb

The Journalism Club writes the school newspaper and puts together the year book. The kids in the Journalism Club pick assignments. They do interviews and gather all their information and finally write an article. Each article gets a spot in the school newspaper. The kids and parents take a lot of pictures. Some of the pictures go in the school newspaper and some go in the year book. When the kids are doing interviews at Valley Oaks they wear press pass badges. Anyone can submit their artwork to the Journalism Club and have it put in the Creative Corner section of the newspaper. The Journalism Club is a fun way to spread information about our school.



VOCS News: Science Fair

Contributed by Lydia and Lukas Cotton

Valley Oaks had its annual Science Fair on January 9th. Students from all Valley Oaks campuses and all grades were welcome to participate. There were a lot of awesome projects. The students spent a lot of time and hard work making their projects extra special.



Mr. Miser and Mrs. Walker coordinated the Valley Oaks Science Fair and the judges were our very own teachers. Each student who participated got a prize and a ribbon. The 4th graders and up competed for trophies too!



Congratulations to all of the students that worked so hard. Mr. Miser said, "I am pleased to say that we will be sending 6 students on to the Kern County Science Fair: Warren Woolf, Gaiige Sorensen, Kody Whatmough, Ane Hansen, Alana Kuntz, and Ilona Hansen. It was a pleasure to see all the awesome projects that were entered this year. Even when the experiments and outcomes did not match the hypothesis it was still a huge learning experience....that's science!"

VOCS News: Apple Store Field Trip

Contributed by Dylan Punt

On January 10th, a few of us went to the Apple Store in the mall for an awesome field trip. An employee from the store helped us learn how to program spheros. Spheros are exactly what they sound like: little spheres that you can program to move around. We used an app on the iPad to program them. You have to put in blocks that tell what speed, direction, and time that you want the sphero to move. We tried to program the little guys to complete a maze. A few people succeeded, but not many! You can also program the sphero to talk. When mine failed the maze, I made it say "I didn't do it, but I'm still happy. Yay, yay, yay, yay!" It's important to learn how to do programming like this, because it will help you in tech jobs. It also gives you good practice with math, precise measurements, and patience! I really liked this field trip. If you missed it, don't worry. The Apple Store offers activities like this on Saturdays, too! Just go to their website and see!



VOCS News: Around the Farm

Contributed by Hope Bewick

As many of you may know, the person in charge of the farm animals is Mrs. Warren who is occasionally helped by Mrs. Cisneros. Mrs. Roberts is in charge of farm plants.

Mrs. Warren has informed me that five goats on the farm have had kids (baby goats). On January 5th Olivia had triplets. On January 11th Cordelia had one kid. January 15th Dorothy had two kids. January 7th Peaches also had two kids. January 13th Unisys had one kid. Along with one goat still expecting, there are nine beautiful, healthy baby goats and five adorable baby bunnies on the farm. The baby goats will start being sold around May and the baby bunnies will be sold around February, all to new amazing homes.



VOCS News: Peter and the Wolf Field Trip

Contributed by Rori Basta

The Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra and the Magic Circle Mime Co. performed Peter and the Wolf at the Rabobank Theater on January 31, 2019.

The Magic Circle Mime Co. is a company of mimes who talk using only gestures, movements, and facial expressions. Mimes can be very funny, sad, and mad, and using those expressions they make you laugh. I thought it was very funny when Sarah, the Mime who performed in Peter and the Wolf, got in trouble from the Conductor, Stilian Kirov. When the Conductor called Sarah to come to him, so she would stop sitting on people in the audience, she came so close to him that her face was right next to his.

The Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra is a group of musicians who perform classical music, which consists of string instruments, brass, woodwind, and percussion. I think they play beautiful music with the instruments.

Peter and the Wolf was written by Sergei Prokofiev, and is a children's story where the narrator tells the story, while the orchestra plays music related to the story. In the story, there is a Duck who is thought to be eaten by the Wolf. There is also the Bird, who falls in love with the Duck, and when she thinks the Duck dies, she is devastated. There is the Cat who tries to eat the Duck and the Bird, and Peter tells her no, you can't eat the Bird or the Duck. Peter, who is the main character in the story, is walking through the woods and met the Wolf who tried to eat his friends.

The best part about Peter and the Wolf was the Mime, Sarah, who was very funny. I would recommend that you should see Peter and the Wolf next year.



VOCS News: Unlocking VOCS Resources Parent Workshop

Contributed by Lydia and Lukas Cotton

Valley Oaks has a lot of cool stuff for its families but you might not know everything that is available. Mrs. Roberts hosted a workshop for parents called “Unlocking VOCS Resources”. They served some tasty treats and gave a lot



of useful information too! We asked Mrs. Roberts about the workshop and she said, “Hmmm...Valley Oaks has SO MANY resources available to our families that we sometimes forget to share them ALL with our families. The “Unlocking VOCS Resources” workshop was a chance to let our families know what is here for them because they are students here at Valley Oaks. Just a few of the resources that families might not know about are: audio books, math manipulative kits, access to the KCSOS Learning Center, and of course our Parent Workshops. And while a lot of people know about the resources in our MESH cabinets, many don’t realize there are over 925 items available.” Be sure to check the Valley Oak website for information on parent workshops that are coming up!

For more information on what resources and activities are available, you can check out the VOCS website or contact your Resource Teacher. VOCS is also on Facebook, be sure to “like” the official page and join the Valley Oaks Parents and Partners in Education to stay connected!

VOCS News: Farm Workshop - Pruning Trees and Vines

Contributed by Bethany Edgerle

Today at Valley Oaks we attended a Farm Workshop where we learned how to trim grape vines and fruit trees. Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Warren led the class.

For the grape vines, you look for and pick two to three of the strongest vines to keep and then chop the unnecessary growth off the vines. In order to grow new grape vines, you pick a good branch, roll it in a specialized rooting fertilizer, poke holes in a styrofoam cup, and then plant it in the cup with the soil, and water it.

Pruning trees is actually a lot easier than I thought it.

would be. Mr. Warren taught us how to trim fruit trees and how to get them to grow in the shape of a vase. He also said that you should keep your trimmed trees no higher than where you can reach to pick them. It was an interesting workshop and I look forward to attending the upcoming Farm workshops at the school this spring



Vendor Spotlight: My Gym

Contributed by Faith and Katie Harman

My Gym has a great encouraging atmosphere. My Gym has all levels of classes from babies all the way up to 10 years old. They teach tumbling and gymnastics. The teachers are great. Their goal is to create an environment where children feel loved and supported so their self esteem and confidence can flourish. We love My Gym. Our favorite teacher is Tyler. We asked Tyler what he liked best about his job. Tyler said his favorite part was the children and making it fun for them. We would recommend My Gym as a vendor.



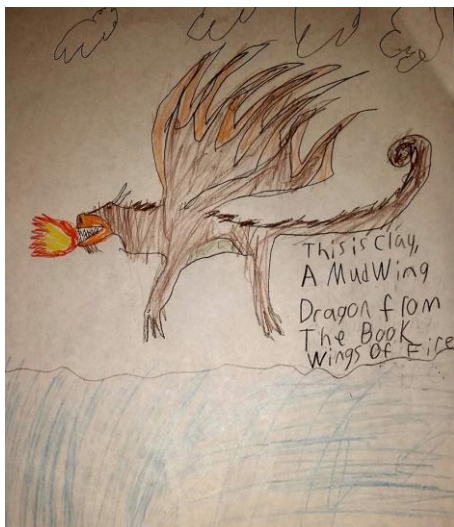
VOCS News: Christmas Party

Contributed by Bethany Edgerle

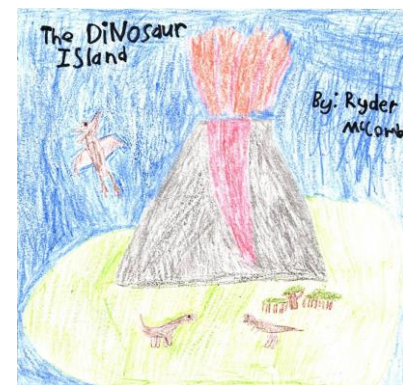
Our Valley Oaks Christmas party, this past December 2018, was really fun! There were a lot of games and activities that everyone seemed to enjoy. The food was delicious, including the meatballs, cheese platters, and cookies. But my favorite part of all was seeing Santa and then shopping in the Secret Santa Shop. There were a lot of great gifts inside. Thank you to all who planned the party and made it happen for all of us! I look forward to having this party in the upcoming years!



Creative Corner



Clay, A Mud Wing
Contributed by Dean Babb



The Dinosaur Island
Contributed by Ryder McComb

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