

Valley Oaks Charter School

December/January 2019-2020



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Mrs. Bartz's Broadcast

Message from Mrs. Bartz

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a lovely holiday season. It's hard to believe that we are over halfway through our school year. I know I keep talking about how quickly this year is moving, but it does not seem to be slowing down. We've accomplished a lot this far, but we have a lot more to do.

VOCS and VOPTAC have exciting activities planned over the next few months. Coming up, we have the Book Fair filled with exciting events each day. There are AR Reading Hours, 2-3 Science Camp, Parent Workshops, Farm Workshops, Read Across America Week, the St. Patrick's Day party, BOB competitions, spring concerts, and that only gets us through March. In addition to all of this, the Valley Oaks staff has started planning for the next school year. If you have any ideas or suggestions about enrichment, Jr. High Academy, events, or VOCS, in general, please let your resource teacher know or feel free to e-mail me at bebartz@kern.org.

Also, don't forget now is the perfect time to start practicing for the CAASPP test with your 3rd – 8th-grade students. I know May seems far away, but I promise you it will be here before you know it. If you are not sure how to go about practicing for the test, concerned about what the test entails, or want to learn testing strategies for your students, please be sure to attend the De-Stress the Test Parent Workshop on Wednesday, March 11th at 9:30 am during enrichment. Mrs. Williams can answer all of your questions and guide you through the sample test to make the testing process easier for you and your student. Remember, our school depends on testing to be funded by the state, so this test matters!

Happy 2020!

Calling All Artists!

TK-8th Grade Students are invited to share your artistic talents with VOCS in the Valley Oaks Elementary Yearbook Cover Contest.



The winning design will be featured on the front cover of the yearbook. The second place design will appear on the back cover on the yearbook. All entries will be displayed at school. Winners will be decided by a panel of judges that includes the Journalism Club and Valley Oaks' staff. See contest flyer for details.

Upcoming Events

February 6th

VOPTAC Meeting

February 11th-14th

Scholastic Book Fair

February 11th

Accelerated Read VIP

Book Fair Event

February 12th

Book Fair Pre-K Story Time

February 12th

Valentine's Day Card

Exchange Party

February 13th

Wild About

Grandparents! Book Fair

ParTEA!

February 14th

Make a Valentine at the

Book Fair

February 18th

Native American Tour

Field Trip

February 19th

AR Reading Hour

February 19th

Physical Fitness Testing

February 20th

Story Writers' Club

February 24th

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Field Trip

February 26th-27th

Science Camp

February 27th

STEAM Club

February 27th

Sports and Fitness Club

February 27th

Parents' Night Out Dinner

March 2nd-6th

Read Across America

Week

March 3rd

Read Across America –

Grab Your Hat and Read

with the Cat!

March 4th

Enrichment (First Day of Session 4)

March 4th

Read Across America – Wacky Wednesday Celebration

March 5th

Read Across America – Green Eggs and Ham with Mrs. Bartz

March 5th

VOPTAC Meeting

March 5th

Children's Choir

March 10th

Farm in the City Field Trip

March 10th

Silver City Ghost Town Field Trip

March 11th

Destress "The Test" Parent Workshop

March 11th

VOCS Kids' Marathon – Kick Off Mile

March 19th

Bakersfield Police

Department Field Trip

March 19th

Story Writers' Club

March 23rd

Battle of the Books (3rd)

March 25th

Homeschool Chat

March 26th

STEAM Club

March 26th

Sports & Fitness Club

March 31st

Spring Concert

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.

VOCS News: VOPTAC Update

Contributed by Tiffany Edgerle

The Valley Oaks Parent Teacher Advisory Committee (VOPTAC) has continued to plug along this year, staying busy with so many different activities. Our annual Holiday party in the Warehouse was a huge success. We loved seeing so many of our families come out and celebrate the most beautiful season of the year with us! We were astonished by how few things were left in Santa's Secret Shoppe! Thank you to all who donated items and/or volunteered your time in some capacity at the party. It takes an army of us to pull together, making fun events for our kids to enjoy. The Parent's Night Out and Homeschool Chat were informal gatherings of parents, designed to build friendships and brainstorm ideas about upcoming events at the school. We'd love to see new faces at the upcoming Parent's Night Out and Homeschool Chat that is coming up later this semester. Our inaugural 100 Days Party, planned by our amazing Activities Committee, headed up by Jennifer Cotton, was super fun and provided huge entertainment as we witnessed little "Old" people walking around campus

that day. Coming up we have our annual Scholastic Book Fair and it is a wild and crazy Jungle theme this year. Don't miss out on the opportunity to support our school through purchasing some books in the Warehouse. Amy Punt, the coordinator, has planned numerous activities that will enhance the whole experience for your kids. We also will be celebrating Valentines Day after Enrichment on Wednesday with a Valentines Card exchange and craft. Finally, preparations have begun for Extravaganza, our end of the year celebration and fund raiser, to be held on Thursday, May 14th, from 5 to 8pm. The Giving Trees will be up in the main Elementary office beginning Tuesday, February 12th. You can stop by to pick a donation Leaf or Acorn, filled out with items that we will be collecting to make our stupendous raffle baskets for the event. If you have a business or know of a business that would like to donate to this event, we are taking donations OF ALL KINDS..for raffle baskets and our silent auction. If you need a letter with the school's Tax ID number, those letters will be available at the front desk, as well. All items can be turned into the front desk of the school. Look for more information in coming weeks regarding Extravaganza. That's all for now!

VOCS News: B.O.B. is right around the corner!

Contributed by Dean Babb

For those participating in Battle of the Books, it's crunch time!

The 2nd to the last B.O.B. meeting was held on Wednesday, January 29th.

Mrs. Culbertson is quoted saying, "Battle of the Books is in full swing! Students, grades 3rd-8th came to the Battle of the Books meeting, where they prepared for the official Battle.

Students answered questions, practiced author's names, and drank root beer floats."

The next, and last meeting, will be held on Wednesday, March 4th at 1:15 for 3rd graders, 1:45 for 4th-6th graders, and 2:15 for 6th-8th graders.

The 1st of the B.O.B. competitions will be on Monday, March 23 for 3rd graders, then on Wednesday, April 15th the 6th-8th grades will compete. Last but not least is the 4-6 grades competing on Tuesday, May 5th.

The last day to order a B.O.B. shirt will be on Wednesday, March 4th!

If anyone has any questions regarding B.O.B., please contact Mrs. Eknoian or Mrs. Culbertson.



VOCS News: 100 Days of School Party

Contributed by Faith and Katie Harman

The 100 days of school party was a blast. It was Valley Oaks' first 100 days of school party. There was so much to do including a cupcake walk, gumball math, crafts and so much more. Some of the kids dressed up like what they thought that they would look like at 100 years old. There was a costume parade and contest too! We had lots of goodies to eat. Our favorite things about the party was the cake walk. The cupcakes were delicious. Can't wait for next year!



VOCS News: The Young People's Nutcracker

Contributed by Rori Basta

The Young People's Nutcracker is a play that takes place every year at the Rabobank Theater. The Nutcracker is traditionally a ballet of two acts based on Hoffman's 1816 fairytale the Nutcracker and the Mouse King. It's about a young girl, (like Clara), who goes to the Land of Sweets on Christmas Eve. There are many versions of the Nutcracker like this. It is one of the most famous stories in the world and many people have edited the original version.

One of my favorite parts of the Nutcracker is the Dance of the Clowns. (It sounds weird but it's not.) My other favorite part of Dance of the Clowns is where Mother Ginger and all her children come into the scene and perform for Clara and her prince. They dance around and the little boy hides from his mother and is very naughty. There are many other parts of the Nutcracker although not all of them are shown in the Young People's concert. Only some are in it.

Seeing the Nutcracker was really fun. There were lots of things I can't fit in. The Sugar Plum Fairy's dance is one of the best parts and so are the Snowflake Fairies. I encourage you to see it next year. It's a wonderful experience.



VOCS News: VOCS Sports and Fitness Club

Contributed by Lydia and Luke Cotton

The VOCS Sports and Fitness Club had the chance to learn about a new sport in December. We learned about basketball. It was a lot of fun! Desirae Owen taught us the rules, how to dribble the ball and then we got to play games. Every month we learn about a different sport. Next month we are going to play soccer. If you want to learn about sports, come and check it out!



VOCS News: Holiday Music Recital and Holiday Party

Contributed by Bethany Edgerle

The 2019 Holiday Music Recital and Holiday Party were just awesome! We had so many great activities! The day started off with all three of our school choirs..Kids Choir, Glee Choir and the High School Choir..performing various Christmas songs, led by Tiffany Edgerle and Mrs. Napier. After everyone sang, the main party started. You could make an ornament, play Christmas Bingo, and even get your face painted. This year we had special guests all the way from the North Pole, Santa and Mrs. Clause, and their little elves. They invited children to come to sit on their laps and tell them what they wanted for Christmas. We had a Secret Santa shop where we could buy gifts for the ones we know. There was even an ugly sweater contest to see who had the ugliest sweater. When you got hungry, you could hop on over to the snack bar and get some delicious cookies! I really liked this year's party and looking forward to the next one!



VOCS News: Around the Farm

Contributed by Jesi Matteucci

As you may know the farm animals have been staying at the teachers houses until we get the new security system. The farm goats are doing great. Mrs. Cisneros currently has Hidalgo and three goats at her house that are not pregnant. They're having a great vacation in the mountains and playing in the snow. Mrs. Warren has the pregnant goats at her house. So far there are 8 baby goats, 4 boys (bucks) and 4 girls (does). They are all healthy and getting their little personalities, they will get names soon. The baby goats need to be big enough so the travel and change of environment wont stress them out. Its best to keep the animals where they are now until they are ready to come back. One of the babies is a bottle baby, so one of our students Candace Coleman took him home to raise him. The baby's name is Samson and he is thriving and doing great. It's a lot of work to bottle feed a goat so if you see Candace give her a thumbs up. Peaches aka the goat that tried to eat my ID Badge; is living it up in the mountains with Mrs. C. Peaches is the only goat that grew a winter fur and she looks like she is wearing a fuzzy fleece jacket. She is really cute and funny. Hidalgo also has 2 horse friends now and he loves to run around with them. Hidalgo's diet has been really healthy, and he is a little leaner now and has more energy. He has a lot of room to play and to be honest while I would miss him I would rather have him stay with Mrs. Cisneros. He is loving his vacation. When it snowed, he laid down and made "horse angels". The bunnies are doing great also. They are all getting lots of love and attention. The teachers are enjoying having the animals at their houses. The new security system is almost finished, and the plan is for everyone to be safe and sound when they return. We hope to have them back at Valley Oaks farm sometime in March.



VOCS News: Sentence Superhero Writing Workshop

Contributed by Lydia and Luke Cotton

The Story Writers' Club had its second writing workshop on January 16th. It was a lot of fun! We learned about what makes a complete sentence, did activities to learn about sentences and punctuation, made superhero masks and then wrote our own superhero sentence. We can't wait for the next workshop!

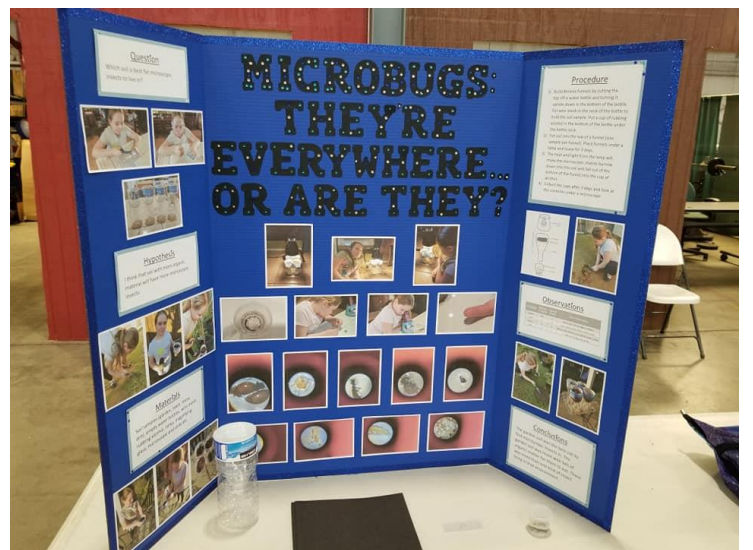


VOCS News:

Contributed by Lydia and Luke Cotton

Valley Oaks had its Science Fair on January 9th. We had a lot of fun doing our experiments then making our boards. At the Science Fair we got to see all the other projects. It was cool to see all the different kinds of projects. This year the 3rd graders and below got really awesome medals. The 4th-8th graders got trophies. There was also an opportunity drawing for prizes just for doing a project. If you like science, next year you should check it out!

Students competing in the county level science fair:
Lydia Cotton, Caitlyn Spivy, Kody Whatmough, Warren Woolf



Club Corner: STEAM Club – Sugar and Shadows!

Contributed by Dean Babb

The last two STEAM Club meetings were a big hit for all those who participated!

At the December 12th meeting, students had the opportunity to construct their very own graham cracker houses. Frosting was used as glue to keep the houses together and a huge amount of candy was provided to decorate and make the houses look fancy.

There were some awesome creations!

It was a fun way to spend time with friends, celebrate the holiday season and practice some engineering, all at the same time!

At the January 23rd meeting we learned about Groundhog Day and how shadows work.

Wikipedia regarding Groundhog Day:

"Groundhog Day is a popular tradition celebrated in Canada and the United States on February 2nd. It derives from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog, emerging from its burrow on this day sees its shadow due to clear weather, it will retreat to its den and winter will persist for six more weeks, and if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early. While the tradition remains popular in modern times, studies have found no consistent correlation between a groundhog seeing its shadow or not and the subsequent arrival time of

spring-like weather."

In the shadow experiment, students shined flashlights on a paper groundhog from the front, back and sides of the groundhog, to see if the groundhog would be able to see its own shadow. The students also held the light at different distances and angles to see if that changed the outcome. We learned that shadows form when light can't go through an object it's shining on, so the light illuminates around the object.

It was fun making the shadows "dance" on the walls and fellow students' faces.

If you haven't made it to a STEAM Club meeting yet, your next chance will be Thursday, February 27th at 1:00pm in the Warehouse.

After that there will ONLY be 2 more meetings on March 26th & April 23rd!

S: Science

T: Technology

E: Engineering

A: Art

M: Math



Club Corner: STEAM Camp

Contributed by Dylan Punt

On December 11th and 12th, 2019, Valley Oaks Junior High students were invited to go to STEAM Camp. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. It lasted for 2 days and included 8 classes. Day 1 began with Drumming, where we learned a few simple beats on the drum. In Cute Canvas Creations, we painted a snowman on a canvas. In Google Drawing: Graphic Design, we created a Christmas card to give to our family. My favorite class from Day One was Mystery Engineering in a Bag. We were allowed to build anything we wanted using the items from a paper bag. Everyone got different random things, like tape, popsicle sticks, wheels, axles, balloons, fans, and rubber bands. I chose to build a wind powered car. The second day, we had First Aid, where we learned CPR and how to secure a bandage. In Impact It: The Environment, we had a scavenger hunt activity involving beans. In Wind Power Lifting Contest, we made windmills to lift a cup with beans in it. I'm not sure what's up with beans here! My favorite class of the second day was Google Earth Scavenger Hunt. We were all given coordinates to enter into Google Earth. The coordinates dropped us close to a landmark, and we had to hunt for it. Some places we went were the Titanic sink site, an aircraft graveyard, and the London Eye. It was a really fun couple of days and I think all Junior Highers should try out STEAM Camp.



VOCS News: Homeschool Chat

Contributed by Sandy Harman

In this month's homeschool chat, we discussed activities that are coming up this year. We also talked about activities that parents are interested in our school doing next year.

The homeschool chats are a great way for parents to meet other parents and to ask questions. So please join us for our next homeschool chat on March 25th.



Creative Corner



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.

Creative Corner: A Wolf's Tale

Contributed by Danika R. Kinsella

I was born on a stormy, chilly night. I had one brother named Fang and one sister named Moonlight. They were both grey and black, like my mother, Starshine, who was a black wolf. I was the runt of the litter, the oddball of the family. I was pure white, well except for my midnight black tail and ears. Because of this, Mother named me Winter.

Mother talked a lot about our father. She would say, "He was the bravest wolf in the whole forest; he would fight off cougars with his bare paws!" We would gasp at that point. But then the question came. One day my sister Moonlight interrupted Mother when she was telling us about how she met our father.

"Mother, where is Father?" she asked.
Fang and I chimed in, "Yeah we want to meet him!"

Mother's bright green eyes were dulled by tiredness and something else... was that sadness I saw? Before we could say anything, else Mother picked us up and put us to her side, "Its bedtime pups," she whispered softly and covered us with her bushy tail.

The next day I was awakened by my ears being nipped by my brother Fang, "Get up winter!" he growled playfully.

I got up and chased him around in the hollow tree trunk we called home. Soon Mother came back with a deer. "Yay food!!" Fang yipped as we ran to Mother. As we ate, Mother spoke, "Your father was a brave wolf.... maybe too brave," she told us. "One day a band of wolves entered our territory... your father confronted them and....they attacked. Your father sent me to hide in the bush not wanting me to get hurt. He was out numbered, but he fought with such bravery...." Tears rose in her eyes and I licked them away. "Thank you," she rasped then continued the story "When the wolves retreated, your father was gravely injured. I helped him to the den, but by the time we were there he was... walking with the wolves in the sky."

My siblings and I were left with our jaws hanging open, "Don't be sad, Mother!" we whimpered, and curled up against her.

"You still have us!" I barked. Mother looked down at me and smiled. She curled her tail around us, and I quickly had trouble holding my eyes open.

When I woke up it was dark out; as my eyes adjusted to the darkness I looked around the hollow tree, there was Mother, Fang... but where was Moonlight? I got out of the nest and sniffed around for my sister and quickly picked up her scent, then followed it outside. I was struck with the crisp cold breeze, so I fluffed out my remaining puppy fuzz and followed the smell of my missing sister. I soon reached the cliff and heard the raging sound of the river below. To my surprise, I was knocked down from behind "What!?" I yelped, then my sister's paw quickly covered my muzzle

"Shh!" Moonlight whispered and helped me up. She waved her tail, signaling for me to follow, so I did. We stopped at the edge of the cliff, and I gasped as we looked down below. The river sparkled like crystals in the moonlight. Just then, my paws felt like they were being lifted, and the rock I was perched on slipped off the cliff. I came tumbling after it.

"AHHH!!!" I shrieked. Moonlight yelled for Mother as I quickly descended. As I grew closer to the water, I curled up into a ball and shut my eyes tightly. Then I felt teeth grab my scruff and I was lifted and placed on the grass on the other side of the cliff.

TO BE CONTUINED ;0



"Winter"

Contributed by Danika R. Kinsella

VOCS News: December and January Highlights

