



Mrs. Smith's Broadcast

Message from Mrs. Smith

December is filled with so many holidays that bring family and friends together! Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Pancha Ganapati, Rohatsu, Yule, and New Years are some of the holidays our families celebrate at this time of year. These are special occasions where forever memories are made, and traditions are created. During the holidays, I have a couple of wishes for all our VOCS families.

My first wish is that you will all take time. Take time to enjoy! Take time to be present! Take time to remember! And...Take time to make lasting, joyful memories! Sometimes it gets so busy that we move through the season so quickly, and we miss the point. Time is a gift. A gift we should all cherish.

My second wish is that you will all rest. Rest your bodies! Rest your minds! Rest your schedule! Relax together as a family! Some of my most cherished memories with my own children during the holidays were relaxing family meals filled with comfort food, conversation, and laughter. There is also nothing like a good movie, some popcorn, and a blanket for cuddling to truly relax together.

My third wish is that you will all be healthy for the holidays! There is no shortage of viral and bacterial infections going around right now. Rest, diet, and exercise are always the best ways to strengthen our immune systems. Take care of yourself and your family to be your best!

As we begin the holiday break, I hope your family is blessed with happiness, health, prosperity, and peace! Happy holidays to everyone, and many blessings to all of you in the New Year!

Upcoming Events:

Be sure to follow the Valley Oaks Facebook page, join the Valley Oaks Parents and Partners in Education Facebook group, check the Valley Oaks website and sign up for Parent Square to stay updated on important dates and events.



Upcoming Events

January 9th JHA Classes	February 2nd VOPTAC Meeting
January 9th Sports and Fitness Club	February 3rd Guitar with Mr. Gamble
January 9th Chess Club	February 6th Oral Language
January 10th 3-6th Writing Club	February 6th JHA Classes
January 11th JHA Classes	February 7th 3-6th Writing Club
January 11th 3-6th Book Club	February 8th JHA Classes
January 11th Spelling Bee	February 8th Joy Club
January 12th VOPTAC Meeting	February 8th Glee Choir
January 12th K-2 Writing Workshop	February 8th-9th Candy Gram Deliveries
January 13th Guitar with Mr. Gamble	February 10th Guitar with Mr. Gamble
January 16th Dr. MLK Jr. Day - No School	February 13th Lincoln's Birthday - No School
January 17th Battle of the Books Meeting	February 15th JHA Classes
January 18th JHA Classes	February 15th Jr ASB Meeting
January 18th Science Fair	February 15th Story Writers' Club
January 18th Story Writers' Club	February 15th Glee Choir
January 18th Jr ASB Meeting	February 15th Enrichment (TK-6th) - Ends
January 18th Joy Club	February 16th Enrichment (7-8th) - Ends
January 18th Drama Meeting	February 17th Guitar with Mr. Gamble
January 20th Guitar with Mr. Gamble	February 17th APC - Valentine's Day Cake
January 23rd JHA Classes	February 20th Contest Deadline
January 23rd Sports and Fitness Club	February 20th President's Day - No School
January 23rd Chess Club	February 22nd JHA Classes
January 23rd Jr ASB Candy Gram Sale Begin	February 22nd Glee Choir
January 23rd Governing Board Meeting	February 23rd 1st-2nd Grade STEAM Camp
January 25th 100 Days of School Dress Up Day	February 23rd 3-6th History Camp
January 25th JHA Classes	February 23rd 7-8th STEM Camp
January 25th Enrichment (TK-6th) - Begins	February 24th VOCS Marathon
January 25th Glee Choir	February 24th Guitar with Mr. Gamble
January 26th Enrichment (7-8th) - Begins	February 27th JHA Classes
January 27th Guitar with Mr. Gamble	February 27th Sports and Fitness Club
January 30th JHA Classes	February 27th Chess Club
February 1st 80's Dress Up Day	February 27th - March 3rd VOPTAC - Scholastic Book Fair
February 1st JHA Classes	March 1st JHA Classes
February 1st STEAM Club	March 1st STEAM Club
February 1st 3-6th Book Club	March 1st Glee Choir
February 1st Jr ASB Meeting	March 3rd Literary Character Dress Up
February 1st Glee Choir	March 3rd Contest Deadline
February 2nd 7-8th Book Club	March 3rd Guitar with Mr. Gamble

Staff Spotlight: Mrs. Ming

Contributed by Faith and Katie Harman

We would like to spotlight, Amy Ming. Mrs. Ming is one of the SE Consultants at our school. Mrs. Ming says the best part of her job is all the people that she works with. This includes the parents, her students, and the terrific staff. She loves experiencing the progress of her students, seeing their confidence soar, and congratulating the parents on a job well done. She can't say she has a favorite food because she loves all kinds of food. She does eat a lot of fish because it's good for her. And she loves to eat out Mexican food, Luigi's pasta, and sushi. Her favorite colors are red and pink. Her favorite vacations are trips with her family. Every summer she plans a big trip with her family. They love to do things outdoors. Her top three would be Glacier National Park, Banff in Canada, and Saint Croix. This year she is spending the holidays in Spain.

Her daughter Molly is living in Madrid and teaching English. She can't wait to see her and explore the country that she is living and working in. When she is not working she loves to travel to the beach or the mountains, read a good book, and walk her two dogs. We think she's pretty awesome.



Photos Contributed by Sandy Harman



VOCS News: News Around Campus

Contributed by Liam Kniffen

Up and Atom!... We just got word from Mrs. Smith, who was excited to announce, that VOCS was awarded a "grant to create a MakerSpace for STEM". She went on to explain that this will allow our STEM team to compete in the county STEM competition. The new MakerSpace will find its home in the Warehouse.



Photos Contributed by Jennifer Cotton

What is a MakerSpace? National Inventors Hall of Fame describes it as, "A makerspace is an area with open space for people to gather and create. These do-it-yourself (DIY) spaces have areas for independent and group work. The resources within a makerspace can vary greatly, based on the materials and tools available. These resources can range from duct tape and craft sticks to 3D printers and computer software programs." Receiving a grant to create such a space will leave the building possibilities endless for our STEAM Club. We can't wait to see our new MakerSpace!

Club Corner: Sports and Fitness Club - Circus Day

Contributed by Ethan Alvarez

During the circus Sports club day, we used a parachute. The parachute was moved up and down. One person each had a handle and then when they picked it up, some tried to run to the other side and grab the other person's handle.

There was cornhole toss. That was fun, I couldn't get all of them in, but I got about 70% in. There was learning how to juggle from a parent, I tried to do it with two things, and I still couldn't do it. I did not see anyone juggle. There was also a balance beam, and people were using it, and almost everyone fell off in the beginning. But then at least 3 people were able to do it in the end. Sports and Fitness club meets every other Monday. Come join us!



Photos Contributed by Jennifer Cotton



Photos Contributed by Elijah Gadberry

VOCS News: Pumpkin Patch Field Trip

Contributed by Elijah Gadberry

I love the pumpkin patch because we get to pick pumpkins. We went with the teachers and our friends. There was a bounce house, snow cones, a corn maze, and lots of pumpkins.

Everyone had a lot of fun. I appreciate the teachers working so hard to do field trips. A lot of people went on the field trip. People bought lots of pumpkins. There were different types to pumpkins. My favorite type of pumpkin is the biggest pumpkin you can find.

The students were able to play together and then buy their pumpkins. Everyone was happy to see all the teachers outside of school. They are the best teachers ever. We took a lot of different pictures because it was so beautiful. I can't wait to go next year!





Club Corner: STEAM Club

Contributed by Zoë Williams Bonner

What can you build with marshmallows and sticks? A turkey trap! I made that at the November Steam Club! There was also a board game called snap circuits. I loved it so much that I asked my mom to buy one. They also had a game called math turkeys. My favorite game of all was coloring leaves. We colored paper leaves with markers and then we sprayed them with water to see the colors change. The December Steam Club is holiday movie themed. I hope you can make it to the December Steam Club.



Photos Contributed by Zoë Williams Bonner

VOCS News: Junior High Academy

Contributed by Julian Cervantes

JHA (Junior High Academy) has been an option for many homeschoolers who go to Valley Oaks Charter School for many years, and it has been an opportunity for students to see what regular school is like.

The classes that you could go to at JHA are Language Arts, and Math. The teachers make the learning so fun and intriguing. I take Ms. Bryant's Writing Workshop 1 and Mr. Shearson's Math Course 2. They both make class really fun by using things that we

are interested in, like famous people and funny instructional videos. We use Google Classroom to turn our assignments in for writing, and we use Big Ideas Math to turn in math assignments and tests. The cool part about JHA is that you could work at your own pace. My teachers encourage us to stay up to date with our assignments, but if we do get behind for whatever reason they will accept late work if we communicate with them. They also have tutoring every Friday for those who need extra help.

JHA is preparing us for highschool and with the right preparation we will all succeed.





Photo Contributed by Jennifer Cotton

Club Corner: Joy Club

Contributed by Dean Babb

The Joy club is a fun group, run by Ms. Jacobson. The Joy club mainly focuses on things we can do around the school for students and teachers to spread a little, well...JOY! The last project we did was creating little notes on cookie bags and then passed them around the school. The next thing we plan to do is put up a poster so that people can write what brings them joy. We had our last meeting on Monday, December 12th, and are thinking of new ways to bring people joy.



VOCS News: Holiday Party and Bazaar

Contributed by Elijah Gadberry

The Holiday Party & Bazaar was so much fun! The school worked very hard to do this. There was yummy hot cocoa, a lot of people, fun games, Santa's Secret Shop, and lots of stuff to buy. All the kids had fun there.

Santa's Secret Shop had gifts you could buy for your family and it was only \$1! There were lots of cool items. My favorite was the gift I got for my brother. I bought him a puzzle.

Santa was also there and gave everyone a candy cane! He was so very nice, and I liked taking my picture with him.

The teachers were in charge of the games and crafts. There was bowling, Bingo, face painting, musical chairs, math games, and fun crafts! My favorite game was Bingo with Mrs. Eknoian and Mrs. Culbertson. Thank you for everyone working so hard, I really enjoyed doing this!



Photo Contributed by Sasha Gadberry

VOCS News: Junior ASB

Contributed by Dean Babb

The Jr. ASB is the student government for 7th and 8th graders. We plan events, community service projects, and fundraisers for junior high, like dances or selling candy. During our school's Holiday Party/Bazaar, Jr. ASB set up a hot cocoa stand, where we gave out free hot cocoa to all who were interested. If anyone happened to tip us, Jr. ASB members would sing a variety of Christmas songs, like "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" and "Jingle Bells".

One of our most recent events was the winter dance, which was planned and given its theme: "Hollywood Red Carpet" by our "Commissioner of Fun", Joseph Villarreal. It's also been a lot of fun working as the Treasurer with Ms. Bryant and Ms. Davis, our ASB Advisors. If you are in junior high and would like to join in, you can ask one of them when the next meeting is!



Photo Contributed by Jennifer Cotton



Photo Contributed by Jennifer Cotton



Photo Contributed by Sasha Gadberry



Photos Contributed by Zoë Williams Bonner

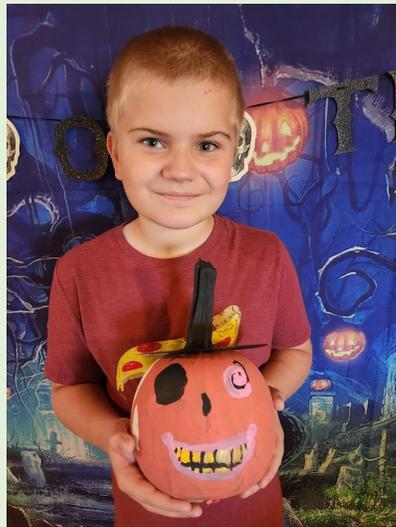


Photo Contributed by Jennifer Cotton

VOCS News: Painted Pumpkin Contest

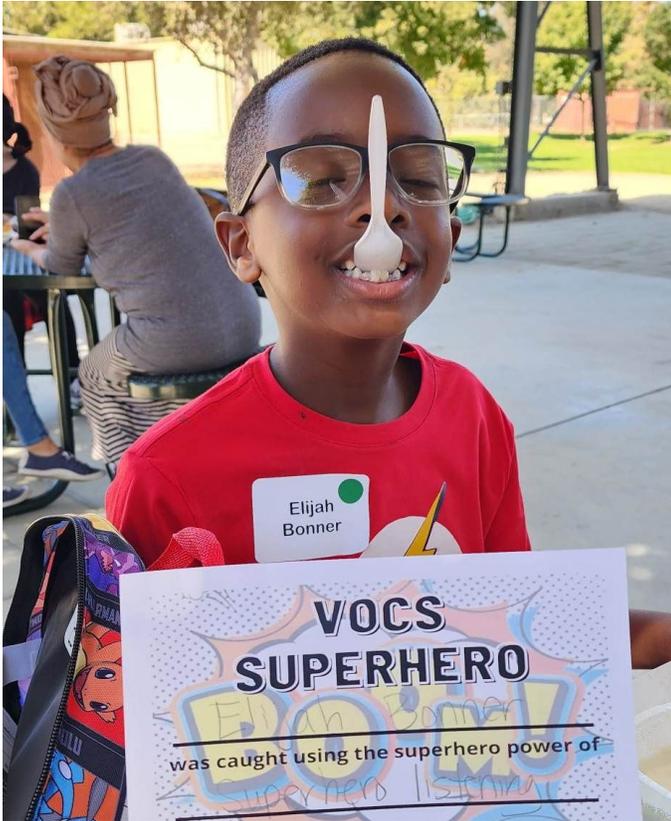
Contributed by Zoë Williams Bonner

I searched in the paint bucket for red paint to paint Sally's hair on my pumpkin. This was the third annual pumpkin painting contest and over 50 students entered. My brother, Julian, me, and Kasyn won this year's prizes. There were a lot of beautiful pumpkins. This was the best pumpkin contest ever!

VOCS News: TK-2 Enrichment

Contributed by Elijah Bonner

Guess what planet got kicked out of the solar system? Pluto! I learned that from TK-2nd grade enrichment. I also learned the order of the planets, and the third is our planet. I also made friends and got to play on a playground at the Kern County Museum. I get to learn and have fun. That's why my favorite thing about school is enrichment. I hope I see you next time at enrichment.



Photos Contributed by Elijah Bonner



Photos Contributed by Elijah Bonner



Photo Contributed by Sasha Gadberry

VOCS News: Sport Team School Spirit Day

Contributed by Lydia Cotton

November 16th was our second school spirit dress up day for the 2022-2023 school year. This month the theme was your favorite sports or school team. It was a lot of fun to see what everyone's favorite teams were and so show VOCS school spirit all at the same time. Be on the lookout for the next chance to show school spirit after the new year.



Photos Contributed by Jennifer Cotton



VOCS News: Fall Talent Show

Contributed by Luke Cotton

VOPTAC had its annual Fall Talent Show on October 13, 2022. There were a lot of great acts performing. Some students sang, played the piano, and some showed off their comedic skills. Families and staff came to watch all of the talent on the loading dock. VOPTAC had pizza and a lot of tasty treats for sale as well. There were some fun fall decorations too! If you didn't get a chance to join in the fun, be sure to share your talents next year at the next talent show.



VOCS News: 3rd-6th Enrichment

Contributed by Calli Kniffen

Fantastic 4 has struck again! VOCS has another successful enrichment session under its super belt. Recently, I had a chance to catch up with one of our favorite teachers, Mrs. Stewart, to get a behind the scenes of the course "The Write Stuff".

CM: What is your favorite part about teaching "The Write Stuff"?

Mrs. Stewart: My favorite part of teaching "The Write Stuff" was getting to make writing fun each and every week. Most kids don't enjoy writing, and I wanted to show students fun ways to approach it. You need to know, when I read my first set of lesson plans, I could hardly make it through to the end because they were so boring. It was at that moment that I knew I had to rework my entire plan. I was so happy with the alternatives I found. I was excited to teach class each week, and I really think students were excited to attend.

CM: Why do you feel this class is important to include in Enrichment courses?

Mrs. Stewart: I think it's important to have a mix of academic classes and non-academic classes in each Enrichment schedule. We all know that kids work differently for someone who isn't their parent, and I think that is true for this class in particular. I think having a writing class in the Enrichment block allows students to work together to accomplish certain tasks. Students have a chance to see that they may not be the only one struggling to create a topic sentence or difficulty varying the beginning of their sentences. At least in my class, I give them a chance to work together on some of these skills before they each write their own assignments.

We can't wait to see what the Fantastic 4 has in store for Session 3!



Photos Contributed by Mrs. Stewart

VOCS News: Battle of the Books

Contributed by Liam Kniffen

Have you seen *Where The Mountain Meets the Moon*, heard *The Call of the Wild*, or felt the *Touching Spirit Bear*? Let the Battle Begin.....battle of the books that is. Readers from 3rd grade to 8th grade are welcome to join the discussion and answer questions on books from *A Lion to Guard us* to *Woodsong*. The list of books are organized per grade- 3rd, 4th-6th, and 7th -8th grade. For a complete list of books, you can grab a flyer from Mrs. Mahinan in the library.

Battle of the Books Meeting Schedule: January 17th, March 14th, April 25th in Room 2
1:30-2:00 pm 3rd Grade, 2:00-2:30 pm 4th-6th grade, 2:30- 3:00 pm 7th -8th grade
For questions please contact Marisa Rodriguez
mrodriguez@kern.org

VOCS News: Around the Farm

Contributed by Naomi Hansen

Hello, I'm here to give you an update on the farm. A couple of years ago we planted everbearing, eversweet strawberries. When they produced runners, the high schoolers propagated them into the second patch. Next year, we're hoping to fill the other two patches with the new runners.

Do you know how strawberries got their name? It is because straw insulates the roots, keeping them from freezing in the winter.

These rabbits are Broken (the colors aren't solid) Holland Lops. You can tell they are Lops because their ears lop to the sides. They are growing up happily and healthy, and they have all been sold, so they will grow up in friendly homes. However, you can still visit them for a little bit longer, so come to the farm to check out the baby bunnies.

In the first enrichment a couple of classes planted radishes. White, red, and rainbow radishes have been growing ever since. We visited the farm a couple of days ago, and we saw the radishes. We almost didn't believe that they were radishes because THEY ARE SO BIG! But they are, so come check out the giant radishes at the Hokit farm.

Unlike the California Quail, the Japanese Cornish Quails do not have a topknot (feather on top of head) or as colorful feathers as the California Quail, making it easier to hide in its natural habitat. The ratio for quails should be 1 male to 7 females. Our farm's ratio is not perfect at the moment. Farmer Dane had to reinforce their cage because cats got in and killed most of them. So, now they have 4 males and 1 female. Farmer Dane will send these out of the farm and restart the flock to have the right numbers next year.

Vine-ripened raisins are amazingly sweet. If you look closely, you will see grapes that have dried on the vine.

If you want to eat these raisins you will have to be careful because there might be mildew, and that can make you sick. So, be careful with these delicious raisins. Lots of interesting things are happening on the farm. Make a special trip, and come see for yourself!



Staff Spotlight: Interview with Mr. Shearson

Contributed by Ethan Alvarez

"Work hard, Play hard"

Alvarez: So my first question is do you watch football and if so what team?

Shearson: I do watch football

Alvarez: Oh ok

Mr. Shearson: Yeah, my wife likes the Broncos so she kind of got me into it somehow. So what's your team Ethan?

Alvarez: Cowboys

Mr. Shearson: Ok

Alvarez: Just saying I am just asking questions so some of them might be random.

Mr Shearson: Ok, got it.

Alvarez: Do you listen to music?

Mr. Shearson: Yes, I do.

Alvarez: Ok so who is your favorite artist?

Mr. Shearson: That's hard.

Alvarez: Ok just think of one.

Mr Shearson: Ok, Bob Dylan.

Alvarez: Do you have a favorite song?

Mr. Shearson: Hmm It's hard because there are so many.

Alvarez: Yeah, it's ok take your time it's an interview after all.

Mr. Shearson: "Boots of Spanish Leather." Yeah, you would think Bob Dylan didn't make a song called "Boots of Spanish Leather" but he did.

Alvarez: Ok next question, do you celebrate Halloween?

Mr. Shearson: Yes, yes I do.

Alvarez: Wow, didn't know that!

Mr. Shearson: Yeah, I know, so every year my family has one theme, so like a family Halloween.

Alvarez: Oh wow!

Mr. Shearson: Yeah, also I am pro candy. Make that a quote when you type this "pro candy"!

Alvarez: Ok I will (and I already have).

Alvarez: Alright last two question...Do you have a dog?

Mr. Shearson: No, I do not. I am not really a fan of having pets.

Alvarez: Ok, 2nd question... Do you have a cat?

Mr. Shearson: Yes, I do.

Alvarez: Oh, ok.

Mr. Shearson: It was my kid's ideas. Yeah, so I have two boys, Lucas and Logan, both in college, and one about to graduate this year. So, they just wanted a pet, and I didn't want to get them one, because I didn't think they were responsible enough. Then I got them the cat, and it just won't leave me alone. It is just always around me and, ok let me tell you a story...

Alvarez: Ok

Mr. Shearson: One time I was drinking water, I left the cup on the table, and left the room. When I came back, the cat was on the table and was drinking my water. I was just like "Oh my god what am I going to do with this thing".

Alvarez: Wow! Well that's all the questions. Thank you for your time. Oh, I forgot I need to ask you for a quote.

Mr. Shearson: Ok my quote is "work hard, play hard".

Alvarez: I have no idea what that means.

Mr. Shearson: Ok, so it means when it's time to work then work as hard as you can, and when it's time to play play as hard as you can.

Alvarez: Ok, so thank you for the quote. That is it for the interview, and again, thank you for your time.



Photo Contributed by Ethan Rodriguez



Photos Contributed by Elijah Bonner



Photos Contributed by Jennifer Cotton

VOCS News: Trunk or Treat

Contributed by Elijah Bonner

I put my hand in the kitty litter box, and you'll never guess what I pulled out. Candy! The TK-2nd grade teachers were dressed up as cats, and that was the game they had at their trunk. That wasn't the only trunk. There were more trunks at the trunk or treat, and a bunch of trunk or treaters in cool costumes. The trunk or treat was fun to watch and everyone had fun.



Photos Contributed by Jennifer Cotton

VOCS News: 7-8 Enrichment

Contributed by Julian Cervantes

8th grade enrichment is the best thing a school can have, because you can learn actual life skills. You have a variety of choices, from learning how to woodwork to learning how to cook.

Last enrichment session, I took Mr. Warren's Woodshop for first class. We learned how to use very sharp, and dangerous machines to cut wood. First, we made a pencil holder, after we finished that, we were allowed to make whatever we wanted.

Once that class ended we were allowed to leave and go to the next class.

My next class was Ms. Wright's Cooking Class. In that class we learned the proper way to chop food with a sharp knife. We made a lot of good food like Fumi Salad, Chocolate Cookies, and Monkey Bread Muffins. Ms. Wright cooking class was really fun, and after we made what were making that day we were allowed to eat and head home.

8th grade enrichment was really fun, and I can't wait till the next session. I also heard that next year for high school there is going to be more options.

VOCS News: Game On!

Contributed by Lydia Cotton

The Bakersfield Activities Planning Committee hosted a Game On! event on October 26th in the Warehouse. Families got to meet and play board games together. There were a variety of games and something for everyone to enjoy. I saw a lot of people playing games together who didn't know each other before. It was a great way to meet new people and makes some new friends. Be on the lookout for our next Game On! event after the new year.



Photos Contributed by Jennifer Cotton

Club Corner: Chess Club

Contributed by Luke Cotton

The Chess Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. We meet from 11:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. and have boards set up for free play. Anyone is welcome to join us. If you don't know how to play someone will teach you the pieces and how to play the game. If you do know how to play, then we find you an opponent to challenge. We have a lot of fun and learn a lot too. Come and join us and give chess a try!



Photos Contributed by Jennifer Cotton

Creative Corner



"Twas the Night Before Christmas"
Contributed by Violet Babb



"Winter"
Contributed by Faith Harman



"Orca Encounter"
Contributed by Katie Harman



"Midnight in the Forest"
Contributed by Lydia Cotton



"Grapevines"
Contributed by Naomi Hansen