



VALLEY
ACADEMY



January/February 2024

Coyote News

From the Principal

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed.



Wow! Is it February already? Are you thinking that this school year is flying by too? I am fond of the month of February because the weather is usually starting to be quite beautiful, and the renewal of the New Year is upon us. I also like to reflect on the many things I am appreciative of, especially the people in my life. I like to think about all of the wonderful parents that I interact with on campus, the students that I have the honor to connect with, and the staff that leads them daily on their path of growth and academic success.

I also assess our progress as a school educating our students so that they reach their fullest potential. We focus strongly on academics while not forgetting that our students are whole children needing many things to become well-rounded flourishing children. Have you seen our newest award hanging in the office or the new banner on our fence? Valley Academy has been named a U.S. News "Best School" in the categories of Elementary School, Middle School, Public School, and Charter School! For more information about the ranking: www.usnews.com/education/k12/articles/how-us-news-calculated-the-rankings

Overall, there are many factors that make us who we are, and I truly believe in what we do here. I am proud of the work we do and of the people who are a part of our organization. Valley Academy is not just a school, it is a community. I appreciate all of you who have made the choice to be a part of our community, and I look forward to our future together.

I, again, thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you on campus at our upcoming Spring Festival, Saturday, March 2nd, if not before.

My best,

Mrs. Brooks, M. Ed., Principal

Upcoming Events

Spirit Day February 2nd — All students in grades PK-8 may celebrate their school spirit with wearing spirit day t-shirts.

Early Release and Classroom Parties February 9th — K-8 Valentine's Day parties will be held in the classrooms from 11:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m., and students in K-8 will dismiss at 12:15 p.m. Preschool dismisses at 11:30 a.m.


Parent Teacher Conferences February 9th — Conferences are scheduled upon request with your teacher.

Progress Reports February 14th — Students' work is assessed and reports are available on ParentVUE.


No School February 19th — Presidents' Day

School Board Meeting February 22nd — 6:15 p.m., Reid Office (14841 N. Black Canyon Freeway) School Board meetings are open to the public, and parents are welcome to attend.

More Events Listed on Calendar Page



Heart Health Month



The month of February is **Heart Health Month**, and to show our support, Valley Academy staff donates to the **American Heart Association**. Staff will also be wearing **red** on a designated Friday in February to show our support of **Heart Health Month**.

For more information, please visit our website at www.ValleyAcademy.com

Re-registration Information for 2024-2025



An Intent to Return Survey has been emailed to students in kindergarten through 7th grade. Please complete the short survey included in that email by Friday, February 16th to hold your child's spot for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are aware of a situation that means you will not be returning to Valley Academy, we appreciate knowing that in advance as well. If you have any questions please contact the front office. We hope to see each of you back next year!

Valentine Gram Sale!

What: Valentine's Day sweet or salty treat with a special message written by you!

When: Sold Feb. 1st - Feb. 8th

***They are delivered to that special someone at the Valentine's Day party on February 9th by a Student Council Member.**

Where: Students can buy two ways: (1): Sold on our campus in front of the flag pole at 7:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. or (2) from your teacher, or from Mrs. Simon, Mrs. Lander, Mrs. Ferris, or Miss Webb.

Cost: \$1.00 - The cost will include a 2x4 label affixed to the candy with a message.



Valley Academy Receives National Recognition

Congratulations are once again owed to the Valley Academy family of parents, students, and staff. **We recently received national recognition from U.S. News for being a 2024 Arizona "Best School."** We are proud to be ranked number 17 of Arizona public Middle Schools (which includes both district and charter schools). **That's better than more than 99% of Arizona Middle Schools! Among Elementary Schools, we are in the top 4%!** The U.S. News rankings show how well schools educate their students from all socioeconomic backgrounds with the goal of setting them up for success, based on state testing in Math and English Language Arts. At Reid Traditional Schools, we've always known our high academic and behavioral standards prepare students for a stellar future, but it's great to hear it from such a distinguished source as the U.S. News School Rankings. Your consistent, daily efforts have helped us achieve this high honor; keep up the great work!



EARLY RELEASE Friday, February 9th.

School dismisses at 12:15 p.m. for K-8 grades.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, February 9th upon request only.



NO SCHOOL on Monday, February 19th

in observance of Presidents' Day.



Valley Academy's Got Talent!

Wednesday, February 28th, at 5:30 p.m. in the MPR.

The Fun Run results are in, and the classes that can participate in Crazy Sock day on Friday, February 2nd are: Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Keely, Mrs. Simon, Mrs. Matangi AND the winner of the teacher gift card is Mrs. Simon! The classes that won a Pizza party for K-3rd grade were Mrs. Freeland (1st place) and Mrs. Ford (2nd place: *as every student in her class actively participated in the fundraiser), and for 4th-8th grade was Ms. Ray's class (3rd place). Congratulations to all of our winners, and thank you for raising funds for our school!

Classroom Valentine's Day Party Friday, February 9, 2024

All K-8 classes will participate in Valentine's Day parties from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Friday, February 9th. All students in K-8 will dismiss at 12:15 p.m.



Field Trips This Month

5th Grade, Thursday, February 8th
4th Grade, Friday, February 16th
3rd Grade, Thursday, February 22nd
Kindergarten, Friday, February 23rd

children's
museum
of phoenix



National Junior Honor Society's December Toy Drive benefiting Arizona Department of Child Safety Foster Care kids

During the month of December, our Valley Academy National Junior Honor Society teamed up with Arizona Department of Child Safety to help foster care children 0-21 years old in need during the winter season. This local charity does some great work, and we love helping them out by collecting new unwrapped toys each year during our Toy Drive.

Of course, our students do this to help our community, but it doesn't hurt to be rewarded for good deeds as well! The winning classroom with the most donated items received a PIZZA PARTY!

Congratulations to our NJHS students for another successful year hosting a toy drive for the children and young adults in DSC care. Thank you for all your hard work to brighten the holidays for them.



NJHS members bring toys from our toy drive outside to load.



To the left is Harman B. and Saathvik S.S. and to the right is Aqsa A. all collecting toys from classrooms.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN  **Feed My Starving Children** is a nonprofit organization that empowers volunteers to assist in packing meals for the malnourished in nearly 70 countries. Over Winter Break, Mr. and Mrs. Simon, Kaison S., Mrs. Ferris, Charlee F., Finley F., Mrs. Lander, Ms. Rohr, Teddy R., and Nora R. volunteered to pack boxes for Feed My Starving Children. What a wonderful way to spend the holiday season and give back.



National Junior Art Honor Society



Members were inducted into NJAHS on December 12th. Congratulations to all students in no particular order; Deeksha K., Kayla L., Siri R., Sameeksha G.S., Nevan M., Evan N., Ananya N., Shriyaa S., Charlotte Z., Abigail Z., Bhavika K., Dishna M., Aadhya N., Gurshaan S., Twisha S., Ainsley S., Amoolya H., Mani K., Surya K.N., Ipsa P., Maya D.D., William M., Manha S., and Julia M.. Cards to the left were made by NJAHS members for Seniors.

NEWS & UPDATES

January 17, 2024—Our 100th Day of School!

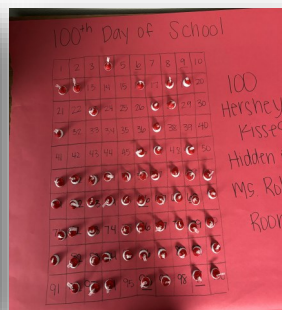
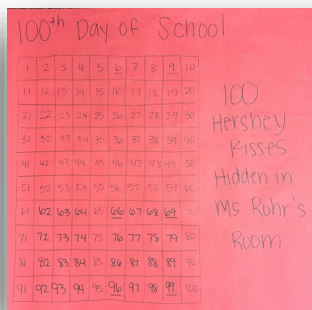
Can you believe we have already been in school for 100+ school days? Our kindergarteners had the most fun celebrating the 100th day of school by counting 100 items and making necklaces. Our 8th grade students hunted for 100 Hershey Kisses in the classroom. In 2nd grade, the students made glasses. What a great way to celebrate the day!

To the left are Mrs. Johnson's students who made necklaces.

Pictured top left is Aahaan C., top right is Wesley P., bottom left is Karanraj M., and bottom right is Jolene L.

To the right are Mrs. Freeland's students who made 100th day of school glasses. Pictured above is Dhakshaya M.V. and Aisha P., and to the right is Skandh N. and Zoe O.

Ms. Rohr's 8th graders hunted for 100 hidden Hershey Kisses in the classroom. Each Hershey Kiss was numbered on the bottom to easily fill in the 100 squared chart. What a great idea!



January/ February SHINE Recipients

Congratulations to the following students: Abrielle E., Aarush S., Milan M., and Nihira C., from 4th grade. They were selected by their 4th grade teachers as their classes' "SHINE" recipients this month! SHINE stands for Successful, Hardworking, Individual, and Noble Example. I am so thankful to them for being shining examples for others to follow. This is a special award and I am so proud of them. Way to go, students!



Mrs. Breshears, M. Ed., Assistant Principal

Travel Reduction Program

Valley Academy participates in the Travel Reduction Program, and one of the perks to using an alternative mode of transportation to work is being entered into a drawing each quarter. Our 2nd Quarter Travel Reduction Program winner is Mrs. Lewandowsky, one of our 5th grade teachers. Congratulations, Mrs. Lewandowsky! Thank you for your participation in helping to do our part in reducing pollution.

Getting ready to do your taxes?



Will You Donate
\$0.00*
To Give Our Kids
More Shade?

AND get a chance to win a
\$200 AMAZON GIFT CARD



Tax Time Has Never Been More Fun!

Enter February 1, 2024 through April 15, 2024

www.ValleyAcademy.com

Use the BE A TAX CREDIT HERO contest button



*Get 100% of your donation back
with your AZ tax return!

This year, donations will be used for shade structures

Open to all Arizona taxpayers.

See official rules on the contest entry page [here](#).

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOL

Yearbooks Now On Sale!

Our Yearbook Club is working hard on putting together a beautiful yearbook for purchase. See below for details.

This year, orders will be online only. The price is \$21 +tax. Simply scan the QR code from the flier with your phone and continue to the prompts OR type in www.treering.com, click 'Buy Yearbooks', type in the passcode 1016827231844556 and fill out the prompts. If you do not have access to a computer, you may use the one in the office. If you have any questions, you may email Miss Uhlving at tuhlving@valleyacademy.com. [yearbook flier](#)



Little Masters

Students from Valley Academy often share their trophies with us to display in the office. Students like Trinav B. win in tournaments at Phoenix Chess Academy. Trinav won 3rd place! Great job and very impressive.

Spring Festival Art Contest Winners Are...

K-2, 1st place Moses S.

K-2, 2nd place Maddox S.



K-2, 3rd place Saara S.

3-8, 1st place Bhavika K.



3-8, 2nd place Baani A.



3-8, 3rd place Arlee G.

Top Row: Aqsa A., Chinmayi A., Nureen K., Kashvi R., Jeytra R., Prayukta M., Marcel G.-V., Ishaan A., Sujana S.S. Bottom Row: Tanuja K., Deeksha K., Meena S.K., Kayla L., Aiden Q., Ben U. (Not Pictured: Sarah W.)



8th Grade Civics Exam

The 8th graders took the AZ State Civics Exam and received the highest average that Valley Academy has ever had! Their average as a class was a 98% with 20 of them receiving a 100% and another 17 of them receiving a 99% or a 98%! The group pictured received a 100% on both the AZ State Civics Exam and their Government Unit Exam. This was also the largest group who has ever received this honor. It is safe to say that this group is just outstanding! Great job everyone!

First Grade Reads a Whopping 15,968 Pages!

Our first grade classes held a winter break reading contest. Students recorded the number of pages they read from chapter books (a big deal as we are moving into the third quarter). The winning class got an ice cream treat! The results are totaled below.

Ms. Schambach 6,535

Mrs. Francisco 3,848

Mrs. Torta 3,189

Mrs. Zahariades 2,406

That's a whopping 15,968 pages read over winter break!



Math club had our school competition on November 8 and 15, and the winners were revealed on November 29! These students will go to the Math Counts Chapter competition in February. The 12 finalists are: Siddhant S., Karthick P.M., Sujan S.S., Neal R., Ryaan M., Surya K.N., Shriyaa S., Dominic B., Aiden Q., Saanvi S., Meenakshi S.K., and Ishaan A. (not pictured). The winners of the team competition were: Siddhant S., Karthick P.M., Neal R. and Aiden Q. Best wishes to these students in the Chapter competition!



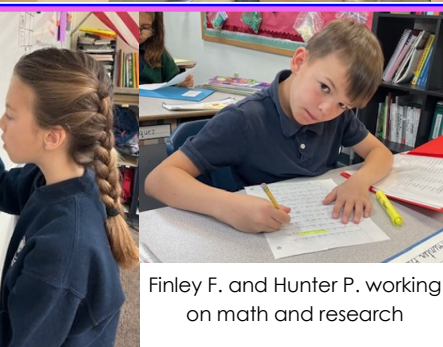
Eighth Grade Builds Roller Coasters

Valley Academy's eighth grade students were tasked with building a working model of a roller coaster that was at least four feet high, had two special effects such as funnel, stairs, curves, and switchbacks, and was made of only paper and tape. By creating a course for the marble to roll through the roller coaster, each team successfully demonstrated their knowledge of potential and kinetic energy, distribution of forces, and principles of motion.

This took place on Crazy hat day.



Pictured above from left to right are Ahana C., Elizabeth S., Michelle B., Charlee F., and Ritveek G.



Finley F. and Hunter P. working on math and research

Third Grade Excels

Third grade students have been very busy! They've been learning cursive, complex math problems, and how to research for country reports. Their teachers are so proud of the hard work they are putting in!

Pictured to the right are Nureen K., Prayukta M., Kashvi R., Sujan S.S., and Andrew F.
















Pictured below from left to right are Ishaan A., Marcel G.-V., Briar S., Emma M., and Yasmin H.



Pictured to the left from left to right are Mia P., Aubrey B., Adeline H., Kayla L., Ben U., and Sarah W.

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30  TALENT SHOW Tryouts PK-3rd 3:30 p.m.	31  TALENT SHOW Tryouts 4th-8th 3:30	1  Candy Gram Sales Begin Intent to Return Survey Emailed	2 Spirit Day	3
4	5	6	7	8  Candy Gram Sales End 5th Grade Field Trip 	9 Classroom Parties 11:15-12:15 Early Release 12:15 Dismissal No Specials Parent Teacher Conferences	10
11	12	13 VAPO Meeting 8:15 a.m. Caught Being Good	14 Progress Reports	15  SKY ZONE TRAMPOLINE PARK Fundraiser 6-8 p.m.	16  4th Grade Field Trip  INTENT to RETURN Due	17
18	19 Presidents' Day No School	20  TALENT SHOW REQUIRED DRESS REHEARSAL	21	22  3rd Grade Field Trip Board Meeting Reid Office	23  Kindergarten Field Trip	24
25	26	27  TALENT SHOW REQUIRED DRESS REHEARSAL	28  TALENT SHOW 5:30 p.m.	29	1 Spirit Day	2 Valley's Wild West Spring Festival 11-4 p.m.