

**From:** John Black  
**Sent:** November 12, 2020 12:59 PM  
**Subject:** VPS News (Nov 13)

## VPS Families

Please be reminded that **Report Cards** for the 1st Trimester (which ended October 30) are being emailed to parents today and Monday, in advance of **Parent-Teacher Conferences** which are scheduled for next W-F. If you have yet to schedule your zoom conference, please don't hesitate to reach-out to your child's teacher(s).

Mr. Schutz (our Assistant Head of School) and I are currently conducting the 1st round of **Classroom Observations** for the school year. It's always great to spend time in the classrooms, observing our amazing teachers as they interact with your children. It's especially remarkable to watch how our teachers are balancing the needs of the on-campus & DL students, making use of various learning platforms. An extremely difficult task!! Great job, VPS teachers!!

Finally, special thanks to Mrs. Johnson for her tireless efforts in recruiting new students.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

**John Black, Head of School**  
[jblack@vpredlands.org](mailto:jblack@vpredlands.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 18-20:** *virtual* Parent-Teacher Conferences (Noon dismissals. Daycare available)
- **November 23-27:** No school for Thanksgiving Break
- **December 18:** (noon dismissal) Last day before Winter Break
- **December-January:** *virtual* Winter Concert
- **January-February:** *virtual* Grandparents Day

## ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Our *Annual Giving Campaign* (Annual Fund) is one of our three annual fundraisers, including the Fall Fest (cancelled this year) and the GALA (which we remain hopeful of holding in April or May). As we continue to rebuild enrollment, **proceeds from all fundraisers will be used to "close the gap" between the amount of tuition collected, and total expenses.** For the current school year, we expect that gap to exceed \$160,000 (which includes monies allocated for Tuition Assistance). Your support of the Annual Fund will begin to close that gap! Last year, more than 90% of our families donated to the fund, which raised nearly \$40,000. Can we push that total to \$45,000? Or even \$50,000?!

- Through the end of October, we collected upwards of \$5,000.
- Stay-tuned for the November results!

Visit our website to learn more about the Annual Fund and to **make your donation.** Any amount is appreciated! <https://www.valleyprepredlands.org/Annual-Giving>

## DAYCARE FEES

Please be reminded that Daycare fees are included in the tuition rate for Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten, but are separate for K-8. Fees for **K-8th are charged monthly** through SMART tuition.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES

- As previously announced, after consulting with *Boojum Outdoor Adventures*, we have decided to move the **Colorado River trip** from October to **April 5-9**. We will also be adding the 6th grade to the trip, thereby allowing the entire Middle School to attend. Additionally, we are planning a single-day trip to **Joshua Tree** for the entire Middle School, tentatively on **March 12**. Further details about Boojum's revised payment/refund policy will be provided to schools in **January**.
- Information about the 8th grade's trip to **Washington DC** (May 3-7) was emailed to families on **November 2**. Please contact Mr. Black if you did not receive the information.

## CLASS PARTIES

Please be advised that food for class parties (such as birthdays) must be restricted to store-bought items which are individually wrapped. After coordinating with the teacher, the parent may drop-off the items in the front-office. The teacher will distribute the items to the students at the appropriate time.

## HEALTH PROTOCOLS (please see the attachment for full details)

Please be reminded that a student (or staff member) is not allowed on-campus if they ...

- **... Have a fever of 100.4 or above.** If a student is sent-home, they must be fever-free (without medication) for 24hrs before returning to campus. In other words, if your child is sent home on Monday, they could not return to school until Wednesday. The school will always confirm the temperature by using two different hand-held, touchless thermometers (not including the kiosks near the stage).
- **... Are continually sneezing and/or coughing.** If a student is sent-home, they may return the next day, so long as they are not continually sneezing and/or coughing.

These policies & procedures have been reviewed and approved by the county's Department of Public Health DPH.

## SUPPORT THE SCHOOL WHILE SHOPPING

- October 12-December 31: Shop [Minted.com](https://www.minted.com) –Gotta Spread Holiday Joy! See details below to support Valley Prep and order holiday cards at the same time!
- On-going: Shop Amazon Smile – Gotta Shop! See details below to support Valley Prep and shop with Amazon at the same time.

[Shop Minted](https://www.minted.com)

[Shop Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com/smile)