

From: John Black <jblack@vpredlands.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 9:27 AM
Subject: VPS News (Nov 20)

VPS Families:

Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in the *virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences*. Although Zoom conferences are not always ideal, it's our new normal, at least for now. So special thanks to our teachers for adapting to this new approach. If you have any questions or concerns about the feedback provided during your conference, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I hope everyone enjoys next week's break, and then returns refreshed and ready for the push to Winter break. The next few months are likely to be challenging with respect to the **increasing number of Covid-19 cases across the county**. So, everyone's continued transparency and vigilance will be greatly appreciated. To date, the school has only experienced three instances where students were asked to be tested for Covid-19. In each case, the result was negative. But we need to be prepared for more such instances, and for the possibility of a positive result. As per the requirements of the county's Department of Public Health, if a student in a particular class does test positive, then the entire class must transition to Distance Learning for 14-days. Each student would then need to submit a negative test-result before returning to campus. If ten or more students (and/or staff members) across the school have a positive test result within a 14-day period, then the entire school would be required to transition to Distance Learning for a minimum of 14-days. With everyone's cooperation, this is unlikely to happen. But we still need to be prepared for the possibility.

Again, I hope everyone enjoys next week's break. Stay safe!

John Black, Head of School

jblack@vpredlands.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 23-27:** No school for Thanksgiving Break
- **Tuesday December 1 @ 8am:** 8th grade Honor Roll & Accelerated Reader awards announced at Flag (Dress uniforms for all students)
- **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.valleypredlands.org/Annual-Giving>

8th GRADE HONOR ROLL

A few years ago, we began the process of gradually transitioning the school to **Standards-based Grading** which uses the 1-4 grade-scale. 8th grade is the only remaining class that uses the traditional grade-scale, including the GPA which is the basis for determining Honor Roll status. Accordingly, the following 8th grade students achieved Honor Roll status for the 1st Trimester. They will receive their certificates at the Flag Ceremony on Tuesday December 1 @ 8am. The ceremony will be broadcast via Zoom.

- **3.6 and above:** Emily Andrade, Laura Andrade, Cash Feldkamp, John Ibrahim, Alex Miller, Brandon Pendery, Tiffany So-Lee, Beatrix Williams.
- **4.0 (i.e. all A's):** Clara Davidson, Cat-Tam Huynh, Prubgeet Singh

HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework Club has always been available to students who are enrolled in our afterschool Daycare program, as a means to work-on their homework under the supervision of a VPS teacher. We did not offer the program in the 1st trimester since we were unsure of our ability to properly social-distance a large group of students. However, our enrollment in the Daycare program during the 1st trimester was much lower than expected. Accordingly, we will consider reinstating Homework Club in January, if enough families are interested. If you are interested, please add your name to the form below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScW9YHqL69KgJWmxuLBiykQE30fyY2T4NvTD9kXOHbW2TgZtQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

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.

CONFIRMED TO HAVE COVID-19

If a student (or staff member) in a particular class is confirmed to have Covid-19, then the entire class (including the teacher) must quarantine for 14 days. Other classes would likely not be required to close. All students in the closed classroom would transition to 100% Distance Learning during the quarantine. After the 14-day period, each student (and the teacher) would need to submit a "clear/negative" test result before returning to campus.

EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19

- If a student (or staff member) in a particular class is exposed to someone confirmed to have (or suspected of having) Covid-19, then the student (or staff member) must submit a "clear/negative" test result in order to be on-campus. If the test result is "positive," then the procedure outlined above will be implemented.
- While waiting for the test result (which can take as long as a week), other students in the class have the option of transitioning to Distance Learning (CDPH does not require a class to be closed while waiting for a test result).
- Further, regardless of their own test result, if the student (or staff member) resides in the same household as someone confirmed to have Covid-19, then the student (or staff member) must quarantine themselves for 14-days beyond the quarantine period of the person in the household who has Covid-19 (i.e. if the person with Covid ends their quarantine on the 1st of the month, then those residing with them must continue to quarantine until the 14th of the month).

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/shop/valleyprep)