

From:John Black <jblack@vpredlands.org>
Sent:Thursday, October 15, 2020 1:32 PM
Subject:VPS News (Oct 16)

VPS Families

Please be reminded of two upcoming events: **Picture Day** on October 27 and our annual **Halloween Parade** on October 30. Further details are below.

Also, please be reminded of the importance of adhering to our various safety protocols, including **mask-wearing**, which is mandatory for all campus visitors (including parents) and K-8 students. As the school year progresses, there will undoubtedly be the tendency to become lax with respect to these protocols. But we must remain vigilant, put aside personal beliefs, follow the County's guidelines, and ensure the continued safety of the children and staff.

John Black, Head of School
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October 27:** Picture Day (Dress Uniforms)
- **October 30:** Halloween Parade (see details below) & End of 1st Trimester(Noon dismissal)
- **Mid-November:** Reports Cards for T1 distributed via email
- **November 11:** No school for Veterans Day
- **November 18-20:** *Virtual* Parent-Teacher Conferences (Noon dismissals)
- **December 10:** *virtual* Grandparents Day
- **December-January:** *virtual* Winter Concert

HEALTH PROTOCOLS

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.

FRENCH UPDATE

Please be reminded of our new French teacher, Mrs. Beaver. She spent two days this week observing classes, before taking-over the French program on Wednesday. **DL-classes will resume on Monday October 19.** New Zoom-links will be provided.

PICTURE DAY

- October 27
- Students must come to school in **full dress uniform**(extra uniform pieces will not be available).
- Please be sure that students arrive to school with their hair combed and ready to take their picture!

- There will be no on-site make-up day. But parents can contact the company directly to retake photos at their studio.
- Any questions, please call the school office (909 793 3063) or email Lyndsay (lhidy@vpredlands.org).

HALLOWEEN PARADE

- Friday October 30 @ 8.15am
- Students may come to school wearing their costume. They may wear the costume until Noon dismissal, or may change into their uniform (if they do not require assistance).
- **Parents will not be allowed on-campus, but the parade will be Zoomed.**
- Teachers will reach-out to families with more details about class parties, remembering that all food must be store-bought and individually-wrapped.
- NOON dismissal for all grade levels. Daycare available beginning at Noon.

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

As noted in recent newsletters, 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 having in April or May). Proceeds from the GALA will be used to grow our Scholarship Fund as we aim to rebuild enrollment by making the school as affordable as possible. The Annual Fund "closes the gap" between the amount of revenue collected during a particular fiscal year, and total expenses. Due to lower enrollment, this gap is increasing. Everyone's support will be critical as we work to decrease the 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? **Click below to learn more about the Annual Fund and to make your donation. Any amount is appreciated!** <https://www.valleypreparedlands.org/Annual-Giving>

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**. Finally, we have tentatively scheduled the 8th grade trip to **Washington DC** for early May. However, we will wait until December to begin the registration process. Further details will be forthcoming about these three trips.

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.

DL-STUDENTS

Please be reminded that failure to attend a particular class via Zoom will result in the deduction of points, which can adversely affect a student's trimester grade on the Report Card.

STAFFING UPDATE

1. Our Resource Specialist position and one Classroom Aide position have been eliminated
2. Middle School English & Math have become part-time.
3. Library, PE, Music, Art, French, and Spanish have become part-time. In most cases, the weekly frequency of these classes has not changed.
4. Mrs. White (PK teacher) had been working with our PK-K Distance Learners from home since August, while our PS and PK on-campus students were combined into a single class. As the size of the combo-class increased, we needed to separate them. Unfortunately, Mrs. White was unable to return to campus due to family obligations. Accordingly, **please welcome Ms. Jerrika Palacio as our new PK teacher** (mornings-only). She has prior experience as a PK teacher and earned her Master's degree in teaching this past Spring.

5. Mrs. Hanna (our French teacher) has accepted a position as a high school French teacher. **Please welcome Mrs. Beaver as our new French teacher.**
6. Homework Club will not be offered during the 1st Trimester. If enrollment increases during the Fall, we will consider reinstating the program

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL WHILE SHOPPING

- October 12-December 31: Shop [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.

[Gotta Eat- Chipotle](#)

[Shop Minted](#)

[Shop Amazon Smile](#)

FLU SEASON IS COMING!

Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new coronavirus (called SARS-CoV-2) and flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses. Because some of the **symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar**, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis. Flu and COVID-19 share many characteristics, but there are some key differences between the two. Learn more by visiting the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/fag-flu-season-2020-2021.htm>

SCREENING FOR COVID-19

1. **Please keep your child at-home and inform the school immediately** if they have either of the **following symptoms: (1) Temperature of 100.4 and above; (2) consistent coughing and/or sneezing**
2. **Please consider keeping your child at-home** if they have any of the following symptoms: shortness of breath; fatigue; body aches; headache; loss of taste and/or smell; nausea and/or vomiting; diarrhea; sore throat; congestion or runny nose.
3. **Please keep your child at-home and inform the school immediately** if, in the past 14 days, your child (or a member of the household) has been in close physical contact (6 feet or closer for at least 15 minutes) with a person who is known to have Covid-19.

ON-CAMPUS SAFETY

1. Face-coverings are REQUIRED at Valley Prep for K-8th (and strongly recommended for Preschool & PK). This requirement will be continually reviewed, with consideration given to any changes in CDC and California guidelines. While cloth face-coverings are widely considered preferable, Valley Prep is not requiring a certain type of face-covering, so long as the mouth and nose are covered.

2. Where possible, VPS has increased distance between seats (and bedding in PS/PK) in classrooms. (NOTE: due to the small size of our classrooms, we do not guarantee that every seat will be 6' apart).
3. Student temperatures are taken daily upon arrival. If a student has a temp of **100.4**, they will be sent home. Parents are strongly encouraged to take their child's temperature each day before leaving the house. If a student is sent-home with a temperature above 100.4, the child must be **temperature-free for 24-hours**. In other words, if your child is sent home on Monday, they could not come to school until Wednesday.
4. Teachers constantly promote good hand hygiene (hand-washing and use of hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizer is available in each classroom and around the campus. Two outdoor sinks are also available for hand-washing.
5. Teachers constantly promote respiratory etiquette by reminding students to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or an elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available) and to keep their hands away from their nose, mouth, and eyes (obviously this is more challenging with younger students).
6. Classrooms and outdoor play-equipment are consistently wiped-down throughout the day. The school has hired a part-time person to assist Mr. Morales with this important duty.
7. There will be no fieldtrips, inter-school sporting events, or large on-campus gatherings (including Orientation Day, Back to School Night, Back to School Barbecue, Grandparents Day, Fall Fest) until further notice. In addition, monthly PTO meetings will be held virtually.
8. Teachers will do as much classwork outdoors as possible. The school has purchased additional picnic tables for this purpose (and to allow physical distancing during lunch).
9. Teachers will constantly discourage the sharing of supplies and food.
10. Installation continues of **Bi-Polar Ionization kits** into each classroom. Studies have shown that these air-filters have a 99.4% reduction rate on a SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) surface strain.
11. All staff members are being tested for Covid-19 on a rotational basis.

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** in order to return to campus. This policy/procedure has been approved by CDPH.

EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19

If a student (or staff member) in a particular class is confirmed (or even "suspected," given the circumstances) to have been exposed to someone with Covid-19, then they must **submit a "clear/negative" test result** in order to return to campus. If sufficient background information is available, then it may also be necessary to quarantine for 14-days. If the test result is "positive," then the procedure outlined above will be implemented.