

VPS Newsletter 5/20

John Black <jblack@vpredlands.org>

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To: John Black <jblack@vpredlands.org>

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VPS Community

For many years, most fundraising at Valley Prep was facilitated by the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), and tended to be very **project-driven**, resulting in such wonderful facility enhancements as: perimeter fencing & main gate; remodeling bathrooms and select classrooms; shade structures; resurfacing parking lots; etc. For the foreseeable future, however, fundraising must be focused upon two important goals:

1. **improving staff salaries & benefits**, given that our teachers earn significantly less than their public school counterparts.
2. growing the school's reserve accounts (investment accounts), the interest of which funds our **Tuition Assistance Program**, designed to make the school more affordable, thereby helping to increase enrollment.

During the pandemic, the school's front office (i.e. Miss Lyndsay) spearheaded fundraising efforts, soliciting parent volunteers, as needed. This approach has proven very successful, raising more than \$200,000 over a two-year period (despite the challenges of the pandemic). Accordingly, this approach will continue for the foreseeable future, thereby allowing the PTO to be re-established (**PTO 2.0!**) as an entity dedicated to community building.

Honestly speaking, the school needs to do a better job in the following areas:

1. Providing **opportunities for school families to connect**, thereby strengthening relationships and ties to the school.
2. Ensuring the proper **dissemination of information** regarding school events, traditions, policies, and procedures (particularly important for new families).
3. **Outreach into the community** to improve the school's visibility.

Instead of focusing on fundraising, these three goals will become the focus of the **PTO 2.0. Parent Ambassadors** will be selected, replacing the old structure of PTO Officers. These ambassadors will coordinate with teachers and school administrators towards reaching the three goals listed above. The ambassadors will meet monthly with school administration, and the meetings will be open to any parents who wish to attend in-person or virtually.

Are you interested in becoming a PTO Parent Ambassador? Contact Mrs. Johnson (kjohnson@vpredlands.org). One ambassador will be selected to serve as a liaison to our 11-member Board of Trustees (School Board). Our plans for **PTO 2.0** will continue to develop over the coming months in preparation for the 2022-23 school year.

Also, please be reminded ..

- We are now registering for our various **Summer Programs**. Additional information is below.
- **Re-enrollment contracts** were distributed via email in late January. If you did not receive yours, please reach-out to Mrs. Johnson in the Admissions Office (admissions@vpredlands.org). See details below.
- Please visit the **parent-page on our website** for important information, including next year's calendar: <https://www.valleypredlands.org/VPS-Parents>
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Please review the important information below, and don't hesitate to reach-out to me with any questions or concerns.

John Black, Head of School

jblack@vpredlands.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 23-27: Scholastic Book Fair & Art Show
- May 25: Culture Day at VPS: A Taste of Culture @ 11am (food booths from ten countries!) & Spring Concert @ 6pm (with multicultural music)
- May 26: Choir concert @ 6pm
- **May 30: No school**
- June 1-3: 3-5th grade musicals (more info coming)
- June 7: Kindergarten Graduation
- June 8: Field Day (lunch provided)
- June 9: 8th grade graduation at Trinity Church
- June 20: Summer Skills program begins (see details below)
- August 15: tentative start of the 2022-23 school year

SURVEY RESULTS

Many thanks to the 51 parents who completed our annual **Parent Survey**. This year's overall rating (on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being best) is a 4.3 (up from 4.2 last year). Areas of strength include: communication, transparency, IB & STEAM programs, and Music, Art, and PE. Areas needing attention include: a tuition rate that is too high; too few remedial and enrichment opportunities; and the need for more challenging science lessons. Please click the button below to review the full results along with school's **self-assessment** of its progress towards meeting its annual goals.

Survey Results

SUMMER PROGRAMS @ VPS

Planning continues for four programs to be offered at Valley Prep in June and July.

1. Summer Camp for students entering PS-PK-K with Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Palacio.
2. SMART-camps will again be using our facility to operate their program for students entering 1-8th grades.
3. Summer Skills Program for students in 1-5th who are struggling with Math & Reading.
4. Foreign language program (Lango).

Summer Program Registration

RE-ENROLLMENT CONTRACTS & REGISTRATION FEE

Re-enrollment contracts were distributed via email in late January. If you did not receive yours, please reach-out to Mrs. Johnson in the Admissions Office (admissions@vpredlands.org). K-4 classes are expected to fill-up quickly. Accordingly, parents are encouraged to return the contract and pay the registration fee of \$1000 as soon as possible.

Pay Registration Fee Here

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please help us to advertise the school! When you have a few moments, please leave a review on the following sites:

- **Niche:** <https://www.niche.com/k12/survey/start/?t=k&e=valley-preparatory-school-redlands-ca>
- **GreatSchools:** <https://www.greatschools.org/california/redlands/8963-Valley-Preparatory-School/review/>
- **Yelp:** https://www.yelp.com/writeareview/biz/_tjzQhfl_XLLBe5UV3Ypw?return_url=%2Fbiz%2F_tjzQhfl_XLLBe5UV3Ypw&review_origin=biz_details_war_button

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK: Kona Ice party was a success! The students sure enjoyed a cool treat on a warm day!



join us for our
Spring Concert
on the lawn

Who: All VPS Students & Families

When: Wednesday, May 25th @ 6pm
Arrive by 5:45pm

Where: VPS Field
Please bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Dress: Festive Spring or Cultural Heritage Attire.



**SMART
CAMPS**



**COVID
SAFE**

Summer 2022

Grades PreK-8

Robotics • Art/Design • Coding • Chess • Music

• **Limited Space** •

Scholarships Available

Contact Dr. Dan

909-264-8114

1605 Ford St Redlands, CA 92373

SmartCamps.org

**VALLEY
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL**

1605 Ford St.
Redlands, 92373

DO YOU WANT TO FURTHER
YOUR MUSIC EDUCATION?

Summer Private Music Lessons

Offering private lessons in the areas of voice,
piano, guitar and violin. Contact the teachers
below for rates and to schedule your lesson
times!

**4 OR 6 WEEKS OF PRIVATE
LESSONS STARTING THE WEEK OF
JUNE 20TH!**

Voice with Mrs. Kira Wegner - 909.747.7669
Piano with Mrs. Kira Wegner - 909.747.7669
Guitar with Mr. Kyle Ortega - 503.929.6185
Violin with Mrs. Rui Montecino - 909.218.1279



Scan the QR code to sign up now for Mrs.
Wegner's lessons!



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