



# VALLEY CHRISTIAN JR & SR HIGH

## SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

### Principal's Message:

Dear VCJH/SRHS families,

To be a part of Valley Christian Schools is both thrilling and inspiring. I look at what the future holds for VCJH/SRHS and I see a school set apart to do the work that God has intended for it do. The unity among the faculty, students and families continues to grow at an amazing rate to confirm that God's work is being done. As teachers and administrators, it is our responsibility to challenge each student academically, which goes without saying, but at VCJH/SRHS we also look to challenge each student spiritually as they mature in their relationship and understanding of their interdependence on Jesus Christ. I have stood in the hallways over the past week shaking the hands of students and have seen their expressions of joy, fear, relief, commitment, stress and compassion. It warms my heart and proves that there is a work happening on this hill beyond what we could ever ask or imagine. This year holds its victories and defeats and we are positioned to take the challenge that is laid before us. It is our privilege at Valley Christian Schools to serve your family in providing an excellence that goes

beyond the classroom and into the life of your student.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of you for your warm words of welcome as I transition into the Junior and Senior High School Principal position. I look forward to seeing God's hand at work at VCJH/SRHS as we press on together toward our goals of unity and "going deeper."

In His Service,

Mr. Lopez  
Principal  
Valley Christian  
Junior/Senior High School

### Attendance:

If your student is going to be late or absent from school, please call the Attendance line at **925-560-6261** (new phone number), or email [attendance@dublinvcc.org](mailto:attendance@dublinvcc.org)

**T4 and Amplified Youth  
Group Every Wednesday &  
Sunday**

Youth group is held every **Wednesday evening at 7:00-8:30PM** and **Sunday at 10-11AM** here at VCC. We will be kicking off our **Wednesday Youth**

### Going Green at Valley!

Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in the E-waste recycling event in June. We hope that you were able to clean up unwanted items in your home while keeping the landfills free from hazardous materials. We raised over \$800.00 for the Valley Christian Schools scholarship fund in one day. Many thanks to all! If you are interested in being a part of the going green committee, please contact Lori Umidon@[lumidon@dublinvcc.org](mailto:lumidon@dublinvcc.org). There is a lot of work in many areas that we would like to explore in recycling, planting trees, waste management and energy efficiency, but will need the helping hands to do it.

### Important Dates:

**Sept 1** - Senior Parent Night (Sanc 7:00PM)  
**Sept 7** **Labor day (no school)**  
**Sept 15** - JH Back to School Night (6:45-9:00 PM)  
**Sept 16** - Extended Period Day (Periods 1,3,5,7)  
**Sept 17** - Extended Period Day (Periods 2,4,6, Chapel)  
**Sept 18** - Picture Make-ups  
**Sept 19** - HS Practice SAT (Elem. MUR)  
**Sept 22** - HS Back to School Night (6:45-9:00 PM)  
**Oct 2** - Staff Development Day (No School)  
**Oct 5** - MINI OPEN HOUSE (9-10AM)

# *From the Academic Counselors Office . . .*

## **Introducing Sara Heise**

Many of you know Mrs. Heise as our girls basketball coach. Starting this week, she will also serve students in the Counseling Office as an Academic Advisor along with Mrs. Tuuri. Mrs. Heise brings her experience and expertise as an athlete and a counselor to her new job.

## **Practice SAT or ACT**

The PTF is hosting a practice SAT/ACT on Saturday, September 19, in the elementary school multi-purpose room (MUR). Interested students may sign up in the school office. Students should arrive by 8:45 AM and be prepared to pay \$20 for the exam. Score reports will be distributed at a meeting on October 1 in the MUR at 6:30-7:30 PM.

## **PSAT Preparation**

Mrs. Tuuri will meet with Juniors in their Bible classes on Friday, September 11, to review information about the PSAT. All Juniors are required to take this exam in preparation for college admissions testing. The **PSAT** is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 14** in the gym from 8:00-11:30AM (time approximate). This is the official Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test; scores are reported to scholarship foundations but NOT to colleges. This test does NOT affect college admissions. For most of the students taking the test, this is an opportunity to practice for the SAT under official conditions. However, for some students, this may be their shot at some prestigious scholarships. Please emphasize to your students the importance of a serious mindset and self-controlled, appropriate behavior. All students should bring two #2 sharpened pencils and a calculator. No food or drinks are permitted in the testing room.

## **PLAN Test Results**

Students who took the PLAN test last spring will receive their score reports on Friday, September 11, in their Bible classes.

## **AP Exam Scores**

We are excited about the excellent achievement of our students on Advanced Placement exams taken last spring. Special recognition is due to students for their achievement in Art History, Art Drawing, Art 2D Design, German Language, and US Government & Politics because all test-takers earned passing scores in these subjects. Several students earned highest scores in some subjects: Christal Chiu, Alexa Dack, Miranda Desoto, Chris Goodnow, Adam Kazberuk, Minki Kwon, Jessica Leano, Katelyn Montero, Edirin Sido, and Michelle Yang. Recent graduates who also scored in this category are Crystal Gu, Porter Howland, Phil Lafreniere, Chris McMillan, and Jonathan Wong. Kudos to students in the following courses whose achievement as a group were outstanding: English Language & Composition (pass rate 95.2%), English Literature & Composition (pass rate 83.3%), and Physics (pass rate 85.7%).

## **Junior Parents Night**

If your student is a member of the Junior Class please reserve the evening of **Monday, October 12 from 7:00-8:30 PM** for an informational meeting especially for you. Watch for more details to be announced on Powerschool "Daily Bulletin" and an email invitation.

# *From the Student Activities Office . . .*

## **HS Gym Night**

September 18th 7:30-10:30PM. \$5.00 with student ID; \$7.00 without ID (no guest allowed )

## **HS Homecoming Dance**

October 9th, 8:00-10:30PM in the gym. \$7.00 with ID; \$10.00 without ID. One guest allowed. Homecoming nominees will be announced and winners announced at the Varsity football half-time game October 10th.

## **Pep Rally**

Football rally for JH/SH **Oct 9th**

Fall Sports rally **Oct 16th**

## **After school activities:**

### **The Junior Cotillion** (Third Tuesday of every Month)

Recent studies conducted by Harvard University, Stanford Research Institute, and The Carnegie Foundation have all led to the same conclusion: 85% of an individual's success in getting a job, keeping a job and getting promoted in the job is directly related to social skills. It is very interesting when you think we as parents do everything in our power to educate our children for their future, but quite often neglect to provide them with some of the very tools they need to excel in their future. Having good social skills is no longer a luxury. It is a necessity for establishing rapport, appreciation and respect between family members, friends, business associates, or even strangers. In any social or business situation, the knowledge of social skills can lead to confidence, leadership and increased chances for success. Contact [office@polite.com](mailto:office@polite.com) for more information.

### **Debate Team** (Tuesdays 3:30-4:45PM)

Fifteen students are developing their skills in research, argument and refutation. We have 5 tournaments scheduled this year with Logos Forensics League, a private school league debating this year's topic, Health Care Policy. The team coach is Katie Philpot, with 7 years of debate experience including high awards at Nationals, 2nd in debate and 12th in Apologetics.

Openings are still available. Fill out an application from the office. The fee for materials and instruction is \$80.00 per semester. See Debbie Knott Walker for details. [dknottwalker@dublinvcc.org](mailto:dknottwalker@dublinvcc.org).

### **Robotics Club** (more details to come)

## **Lunch time activities:**

Interact, NHS, Class councils, & Conservative Leadership.

### **HS Play try-outs** September 15th & 17th (after school, H-17)

Any HS student may try out. The play will be performed November 20th & 21st; practices Tuesday and Thursdays.

# *Junior High Information*

## **Student Council Elections:**

- \***Nominations:** Week of September 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>
- \***Speeches:** Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30 in sanctuary after chapel
  - Speeches should reflect why students should vote for you
  - Length: no more than 2 minutes
- \***Homerom voting:** Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

## **September Event:** BOOMERS! in Livermore: Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> @ 7-9PM

- \* **Cost:** \$10 w/validation, \$12 w/out
- \* We will have unlimited access to all rides and golf for two hours!
- \* Come out and enjoy this fabulous kick off to an awesome school year!!!

## **October Event:** Gym Night!: Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7-9:30 PM

### **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Pep Rally:** Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> @ 11:25AM

- \*Fall Sports teams will be recognized
- \*Homerom competitions will be taking place

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade DC trip**

### **DC Trip Parent Informational Meeting:** @ 5:45 PM Tuesday Sep 15<sup>th</sup>

- \*Located in the gym before Back to School night.

### **DC Fundraiser Meeting:** Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM in room J-2

### **DC Trip Date:** April 30<sup>th</sup>-May 6<sup>th</sup>



# From the Athletics Office....

We are off to a great start with all our sports teams this fall. We are behind with getting our sports page to you because we are working on a new look. Please be patient. Our prayer is that all the information regarding our teams will be up soon at [www.vcssportspage.com](http://www.vcssportspage.com). Until then our games this week are:

**Football** – Home game at Chabot College in Hayward against Soledad Friday Sept. 11th...JV 4:30 Varsity 7PM. Adults \$5.00, students/Seniors \$3.00, students with validation sticker and elementary students \$2.00 Kids under 6 free. Look for the Boosters Club in the parking lot and buy your tickets to some great food!!!

**Varsity Women's Volleyball** teams will play our local rivals – Wednesday September 9th at Dougherty High School in San Ramon, Freshman 3:30, JV 4:30, Varsity 6PM and again on Thursday September 10th against Dublin High School, JV at 4PM and Varsity to follow at 5:30PM.

**Varsity Men's Soccer** – home games on September 8th and 11th starting at 4PM on our field.

**Sports Kickoff – Saturday, September 12th has been postponed.**

**Sports Pictures** – October 7th. Please look for your picture packets from your coaches.

**JH Sports fee has changed** – the JH sport fee is now \$75.00 per sport.

**\*\*Sports Highlights!** Valley Christian Varsity Football Team defeated Cochrane 41-8

1st place Gold Division – No. Ca. Volleyball Association – Beach finals – Josh Pickering and Tyler Greer

1st place Bronze – No. Ca. Volleyball Association – Beach Finals – Alyssa Arace and Tia Woodson



From the Desk of the Boosters:

Ask the people around you, and you're likely to find that sports made a significant impact in their lives. I am no different. Growing up in the cornfields of Indiana, it was basketball and cross country that occupied my time, introduced me to teamwork and compelled me to exceed my own personal goals. My coaches consistently inspired me to excellence, reinforced my commitment to God and taught me personal discipline. Now, as the new VCS Booster Club President, I'm honored to have this opportunity to give back. The mission of the Athletics Program at Valley Christian Schools is *to provide a sports environment that promotes spiritual, academic and athletic excellence*. We are privileged to be able to openly serve God while enjoying the numerous sports programs offered. I firmly believe that together, we have a unique opportunity to equip the athletes and coaches with equipment and resources ensuring that our teams project excellence in character and sportsmanship, but also to serve Christ and our community.

So, what's the VCS Athletic Booster Club? We are a group of people who care about the kids and the athletic program at Valley Christian Schools. We love our students and we love sports. Our goal is to create an enthusiastic community of supporters for ALL of Valley Christian Athletics. We plan to raise critical funds to support our teams. In addition to raising funds and supporting our athletes, we also want to build bridges beyond VCS to our local community. With your help, we're confident that we'll find success.

We have great ideas about how to achieve our goals this year. Though I'm new to the role, one thing is certain. I need your help! If you're wondering, "how can I get involved?" Consider these opportunities:

- Join Boosters!
- Donate time or talent (ticket sales, snack shack, networking, fundraising volunteer)
- Be a football game sponsor
- Advertise in our program
- Support the Vikings Football Tailgaters (i.e. Buy some food folks!)

In the meantime, if you'd like to be on our email list or if you're interested in one of our programs, email me: [valleychristianboosters@yahoo.com](mailto:valleychristianboosters@yahoo.com). I know that together, we can truly impact the lives of our athletes and in turn, further the ministry of Christ from Valley Christian Schools.

In HIS service,

John Roush

President,

VCS Athletic Booster Club



## PTF Board Members

Miriam Lietz  
Chairperson

Jill Dykes  
Treasurer

Dona Spough  
Special Events

Karen Parnell  
Vice Chairperson

Susie Pryfogle  
Special Events

Danielle Toney  
Newsletter

Lori Umidon  
Secretary

Shelley Parker  
Special Events

Teacher Reps:  
Lynn Kirksey  
Jimi Merrell  
Melissa Greer

## PTF News

### **SAT Prep Practice Exam**

A SAT Prep Practice Exam will be offered on Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Multi-Use room at the elementary school. If you are interested please sign-up in the VCJH/SRHS office.

### ***Are you looking for a way to serve your volunteer hours?***

The PTF Special Events committee needs families to donate baked cookies for the Junior High & High School Back to School Nights. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Susie Pryfogle at: [pryfogle@comcast.net](mailto:pryfogle@comcast.net)

### ***Did you miss out on purchasing your Entertainment Book?***

They are still available for purchase in the school office for \$30.

### ***P.E. Uniforms for a DISCOUNTED Price***

There are still a limited amount of discounted P.E. uniforms for sale. Contact the Athletic office for more information.

Thank you very much, to all our wonderful parents who volunteered on Student Orientation Day. Your help made the day a big SUCCESS!!

### ***PTF Lunch Program***

PTF Lunch Program is still looking for volunteers to serve lunch. This would be a *great* way to fulfill your volunteer hours for the school and have fun doing so. Bonus!! Your student eats free the day you work. Hours of volunteer would be **11:00-1:30 PM** (time approximate)

Contact Conilee Richardson at 925-321-1901

## Academy of Arts

The Academy of Arts is a ministry of Valley Christian Center offering private and group lessons in various arts disciplines.

Currently we are offering private lessons in voice, piano, guitar, and drums. More instruments to be added in the coming months. Group lessons are also available in beginning piano and guitar. Lessons are taught on the Valley Christian campus. Contact the Academy office for more information on any of the above offerings at 925-560-6211 or email Academy director Mike Ruybalid at [mrubybalid@dublinvcc.org](mailto:mrubybalid@dublinvcc.org).

*The Academy's mission is to provide students of all ages with quality arts instruction and a means of expression for their God-given talents, all in a safe, nurturing environment.*

# *From the Admissions Office.....*

## **Admissions News—Volunteer Opportunity**

Attention VCJH/SH school students! You don't want to miss being a part of this year's Day on the Glen Festival at Emerald Glen Park! **Student volunteers** are needed to help man VCS' booth. Volunteer hours earned will credit the Community Outreach portion of your community service requirements. This event is a wonderful way to promote the amazing programs VCS has to offer. Sign-up now to become a part of sharing the awesomeness of VCS with the Tri-Valley community!

**What:** Day on the Glen Festival  
**Where:** Dublin's Emerald Glen Park  
Corner of Central Parkway and Gleason Drive  
**When:** Saturday, September 19 & Sunday, September 20  
9:30 AM to 5:30 PM (2 hr. shifts will be available)

Volunteer sign-ups are happening now! See **Mrs. Kirksey** to guarantee your spot!

## **Enrollment Update**

The Admissions Department is excited to report that enrollment at VCS has exceeded our original projections for the 2009-2010 school year. The *pre-school* has **133** cherubs, and the *elementary* school has **414** students in attendance. The *junior high* reports **148** students, while the *senior high* student enrollment climbed to **303**. School wide, VCS' current enrollment is **998!**

We praise God for His abundant blessings and provision. Thank you students, families, and staff for traveling with us down this "Road to Excellence"!