

# NEWSLETTER

[www.dublinvcc.org](http://www.dublinvcc.org)  
[www.valleychristianschools.org](http://www.valleychristianschools.org)

Volume 1 | Issue 1

September | 2010

## *from the Principal*

What an exciting time to be a part of Valley Christian Junior High and High School. Each year brings a certain level of excitement and anticipation and this year is no exception. Administrators, teachers and pastors have been praying for each student and family as we begin the 2010-2011 school year.

Academically, the teachers have prepared excellent courses of instruction that will challenge and test each student's ability to be successful in the classroom.

This year we begin with an excellent representation of our athletic program and anticipate being involved in multiple playoffs and championships. Our Performing and Visual Arts Department has embarked on new journeys with the introduction of new programs and opportunities for all students to grow in the Arts. Choir continues to be offered for its second year and the introduction of band, dance, ceramics and film and philosophy will continue to build into the Arts.

But most importantly, we see the spiritual climate continue to grow as students make personal choices in their commitment to Christ whether that is through a first-time commitment, rededication, having an encounter with the Holy Spirit or simply saying no to peer

pressure. It is a gift to have Valley Christian Center and the pastoral team as a support and resource for teachers, students and families.

Pastor Roger Valci, our senior pastor, is about to embark the church on an eight-week series that will build into the development of families. I invite each one of you to take part in this series if you are not connected with a home church. I believe this series will sensitize families to the needs of their children, parents and extended family. The series begins September 26th at 8:30AM and 10:30AM. Also, on October 16th, Valley Christian Center will present the Love and Logic seminar that is geared toward developing an increased understanding of your junior high or high school student. This seminar is free and open to the community.

As a reminder, please take a look at the VCS website at [www.valleychristianschools.org](http://www.valleychristianschools.org).



You will find important information regarding upcoming events on the online calendar. You can also access the links for PowerSchool and the current calendar.

Peace and blessings,

[Pastor Larry Lopez](#)  
Junior High & High School Principal

## in this issue...

- |       |                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 1     | From the Principal              |
| 2-7   | Junior High News and Activities |
| 8-9   | Academic Counseling             |
| 10-11 | High School Student Activities. |
| 12    | Yearbook/Calendar               |
| 13    | Parent Teacher Fellowship       |

# Junior High

## News & Student Activities

### In the news...

Welcome back to an awesome new year at Valley Christian Junior High School. We have some exciting new changes for this school year that promises to make this the best year ever!

#### *Welcome to our newest Junior High students –*

Valley's Sixth Grade! **No more uniforms**....yes, that's right. The 6th grade hallway is a "No Red Vest Zone". The sixth graders will now enjoy attending all junior high events such as rallies, on and off campus social events, and chapel on Thursdays in the Sanctuary with their 7th and 8th grade peers. The Junior/Senior high school staff and administration welcomes the sixth grade teachers: Mrs. Kristen Graziadei, Mrs. Nicole Lee, and, new to Valley this year, Mr. Joe Smylie.

#### *Student Council*

The students are busy campaigning for their Junior High Student Council offices. The positions needing to be filled are president, vice president, girl and boy chaplain, secretary, treasurer, social directors, promotions team and our new office, special occasions team. Speeches and elections will be held Thursday, September 16th during the 2nd half of chapel beginning at approximately 12:35. Parents are welcome to come watch the speeches but must sign in with



the office first. Good luck to all candidates!

#### *Gym Night!*

Our first junior high event will be Gym Night in the high school gym on October 1st from 7-9:30. This is a GREAT way to kick off the year and help the kids get to know one another in an interactive, comfortable environment. There will be fun inflatables, basketball, volleyball, loud music, prize drawing and lots of snacks to munch on. Tickets go on sale Wednesday, September 29th at lunch and will also be on sale at the door. Price for this super fun event is \$5 with validation and \$6 without. Since it is an athletic event, basketball shorts and tank tops are allowed.

### Upcoming Events...

**Boomers** | Friday October 15th  
7-9 PM

**Thanksgiving Feast** | Friday  
November 19th

**Holiday Dance** | Friday  
December 10th | 7:30-10PM

**Spirit Week** | Jan 31st - Feb 4th

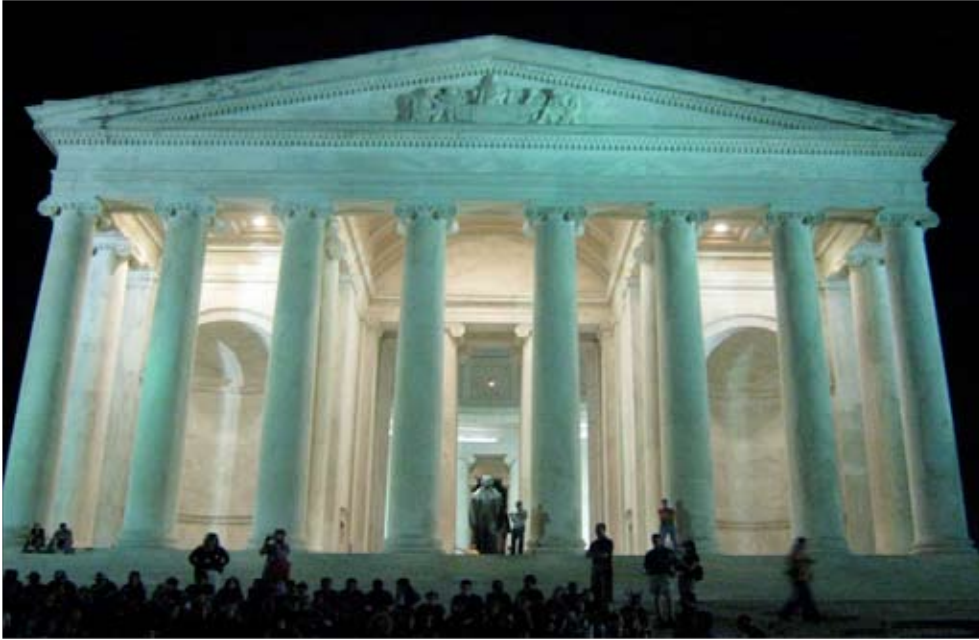
**Spring Dance** | Friday May 13th

**End of Year JH Picnic** | Friday  
May 27th

**LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION  
COMING SOON**

# Junior High

# 8th Grade Washington DC Trip



Jefferson Memorial, Washington DC

**Save the date...**  
**April 15-21,**  
**2011**  
**7 Days - 23**  
**Venues**



## 8th Grade goes to Washington DC

Plans are well under way for this year's 8th grade Washington DC Trip! We will be spending 7 days travelling to see 23 venues in Washington DC, a full stop studying the Civil war in Gettysburg, and a visit in Amish Country en route to New York City where we'll be for 2 days! We have several additions to the trip this year, including visiting the International Spy Museum in DC, taking a ferry to Ellis Island to see the Statue of Liberty up close and personal, as well as an NBC Studios tour in New York. We have also kept recent favorites like the dinner dance cruise along the Potomac on the Odyssey, the World Trade Center Tribute Museum, and of course the final evening at a Broadway Performance. The trip is incredibly jammed packed, promising to offer you more bang for your buck!

Of course, cost is always a factor, especially in this economy. We did some tour company shopping in the off season and found American Christian Tours, the company we have used for decades, remains the best deal around. They also provide dynamic leadership with their Christian tour guides, and the security of an established, proven tour company who always has a back up plan to keep things rolling.



# Junior High

# 8th Grade Washington DC Trip

This year's cost, which includes airfare, hotels, all meals except lunches, and admission/appointments to all venues will be \$2349 for students (quad occupancy) and \$2679 for adults (double occupancy). Students have received the tentative itinerary and registration instructions will be given at back to school night.

Mrs. Greer is again the trip organizer, and Mrs. Styles is coordinating fundraising this year. Please feel free to contact them with any questions. Our goal is that no child be left behind due to finances. If you would like to be involved in fundraising please contact Mrs. Styles at [cstyles@dublinvcc.org](mailto:cstyles@dublinvcc.org) or if you are in need of financial assistance, please contact Mrs. Greer at [mgreer@dublinvcc.org](mailto:mgreer@dublinvcc.org)

***Fundraiser kick-off meeting will be taking place Thursday, September 16th at 6:30 PM in room J-4.***

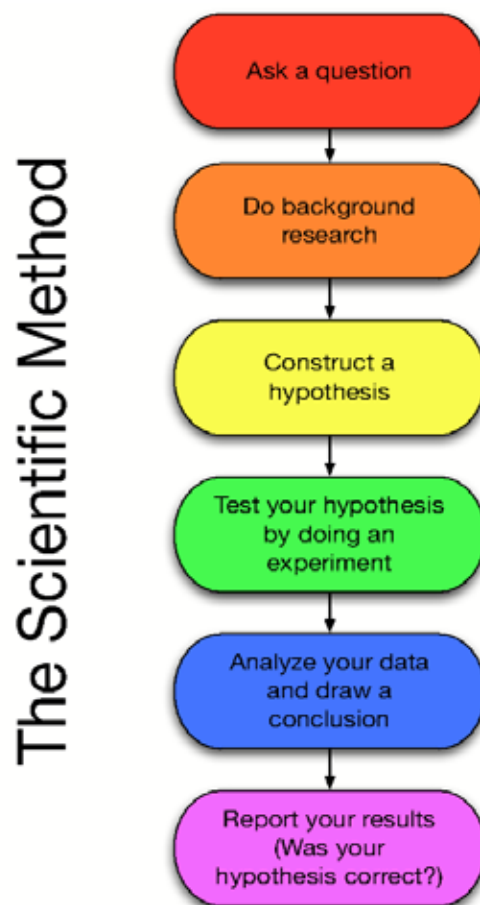


## Junior High

## 7th Grade Science

**Mrs. Leslie Howard - 7th Grade Science Teacher**

In 7th grade science we have been learning what science is NOT. It is not the same as absolute truth. It cannot deal with the non-physical universe; it can't prove something doesn't exist; it can't make value judgments nor moral judgments; it can't provide final answers, as new knowledge is always coming to the forefront; it is sometimes limited to using models; it is fallible and prone to error; it is limited by scientists' prejudices; and it can never override God-ordained restrictions. So then, as I asked my students, why do we waste our time studying science? Because it is a valuable tool! It has given us the cure for many diseases; it has allowed us to explore the far reaches of our galaxy and beyond; it has shrunken our world to allow for communication between far flung peoples due to innovations in technology; it has given us uncounted gadgets to make our lives easier, etc. But understanding it's limits helps us to be able to defend ourselves against those who would claim that if something is not yet (or ever) provable through science it doesn't exist, or that if someone believes that they were created by intelligent and deliberate design through a loving heavenly Father, then they must be mentally deficient. Understanding the purpose and limitations of science can help us to keep all things in perspective and to make the best use of science in trying to understand and improve our world. We have, therefore, been learning how to harness the power of science through the tool known as the scientific method. We have watched polymer fish flop in our hands in an effort to try to develop plausible hypotheses; listened to crickets chirping at various temperatures in order to try to understand the necessity for setting up experiments with only one manipulated variable; observed clear solids and clear liquids which deceived our senses in an effort to understand that true observation must be objective and often utilizes more than simply our sense of vision. We will soon learn to write objective lab reports, report and interpret data, and design our own experiments. Next up: beginning chemistry! We will understand through the building of jelly belly molecules how to read chemical formulas, listen to a ridiculous and unforgettable story about beanie babies to impress the difference between molecular



compounds and ionic compounds, and have white board races to see who is fastest and most accurate at drawing electron shell diagrams of various atoms (the culmination of learning to read the periodic table). All of this is a foundation for the topic we will be studying the rest of the year: Life Science. Life Science is the remarkable study of God's living creations, and will involve such fun activities as examining microscopic life forms; dissecting frogs, and understanding the true meaning of the verse in Psalm 39 which states "I will praise Him, because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Hang onto your hats, 7th graders, because we are in for a wild and wonderful journey this year in science!

## Attention Junior High School Students and Parents:

The Junior High Yearbook Staff needs PICTURES. If you have any pictures of friends, classroom settings lunch time, sports events or anything that has to do with the 2010-2011 school year at VCJHS, please upload your pictures to the following website:

**<http://www.hjeshare.com>**  
**Use School Code: 2031452**



You will be asked to register your name and agree to terms. You may upload up to 10 pictures at a time – please select high quality images for best reproduction. Low resolution images may not be used.

After reviewing all photo submissions, the Yearbook Staff will determine the final selections for publication. Submitted photos are not guaranteed to be included in the yearbook.



## Testing the Test: 8th Graders “Explore” the ACT

8th grade students will participate in a unique opportunity with ACT. The EXPLORE Equating Study is scheduled in the morning on Tuesday, September 28, in the school gym. Students will be dismissed from first period classes to go to the gym for testing.

Taking EXPLORE helps junior high students measure their readiness for high school studies. Test scores will indicate what students know now, so they will know what they’re ready to learn next. EXPLORE shows areas where students need extra help or additional courses, suggestions for improving skills, and careers that match interests. This battery of tests helps prepare students for the ACT college admission test.

The EXPLORE test battery has four sections: English, Math, Reading, and Science. All sections are timed and contain multiple-choice questions. There is no penalty for guessing. Want to learn more about the EXPLORE tests? Check out some sample questions at [www.explorestudent.org](http://www.explorestudent.org).

Three steps for students to do their best on EXPLORE:

1. Get adequate sleep the night before (Monday night).
2. Follow test directions exactly, and don’t be afraid to ask questions.
3. Pace yourself – this test is timed. Don’t spend too much time on any single question.



## Important Information for High School Students ...

*Representatives from 27 Colleges will be visiting Valley Christian campus during the Fall of 2010. Please see the list on Powerschool under the Daily Bulletin or the Naviance website. See Mrs. Heise for more information.*

# High School

# From the Academic Advisors

## College Bound – VCHS Statistics

Class of 2007		Class of 2010	
68%	4-year colleges	74%	4-year colleges
31%	2-year colleges	24%	2-year colleges
1%	military service	2%	other
84%	Eligible for CSU	81%	Eligible for CSU
60%	Eligible for UC	59%	Eligible for UC
7%	GPA 4.0 and above (4.26)	19%	GPA 4.0 and above (4.3)

### Where did 2010 graduates go? In addition to Southern California...

Arizona	Massachusetts	New Jersey
Colorado	Michigan	North Carolina
Georgia	Nevada	Oregon
Kentucky	New Hampshire	Virginia

### Where did students enroll for college?

#### 4-Year Colleges:

Academy of Art University	CSU San Francisco State (2)	U of San Diego
Arizona State (2)	CSU San Jose State	U of the Pacific
Azusa Pacific	Emory University	UC Berkeley (2)
Biola (3)	Ferrum College, Virginia	UC Davis (2)
Boston College	Harvard College	UC Los Angeles
California Baptist	Oregon State	UC Riverside
Calvin College, Michigan	Point Loma University	UC San Diego (3)
Chowan University, NC	Princeton University	UC Santa Barbara (2)
Colorado State	St. Anselm, NH	UC Santa Cruz
CSU Cal Poly, SLO (3)	St. Mary's College	USC
CSU Channel Islands	U of Arizona (2)	Valley Forge Military Academy
CSU East Bay	U of Kentucky	Westmont (2)
CSU San Diego State	U of Nevada, Reno (3)	Whittier College

#### 2-Year Colleges/Schools:

Chabot Community College (3)  
 Diablo Valley Community College (5)  
 Las Positas Community College (7)  
 Santa Barbara City College  
 Sierra College  
 SF Institute Esthetics & Cosmetology, Paul Mitchell



# High School

# From the Academic Advisors

## News from Westmont College...

**Westmont** is now a member of the Common Application Online program. Now there are 2 online options for senior applicants.

**Early Action Application** deadline is November 1. This is non-binding, and decisions are mailed on December 20th. Early Action IS required for competitive students interested in the Monroe Scholarship, a full-tuition grant.

**Note:** Only the actual application needs to be received by November 1. The recommendations and 'official' transcript and test scores can arrive later. However, an admission decision will not be made until those documents are received.

For the second straight year, US News & World Report has ranked Westmont in the top 100 of the Best National Liberal Arts Colleges. Additionally, Forbes Magazine gave Westmont a ranking of 81 out of all US colleges and universities. Westmont was in the top eight California Colleges and Universities along with Stanford, Claremont McKenna, Pomona, Cal Tech, Harvey Mudd, UC Berkeley and UCLA.



## Preparing for College

### Admission Testing: PSAT

The PSAT is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, in the gym from 8:00 – 11:30 AM (approximately).

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 controlled, appropriate behavior.
- After taking attendance in homerooms, teachers will dismiss students taking the PSAT to report to the gym at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, October 13. All Juniors are required to take this test. Some sophomores may elect to take the test, depending upon seating available, for a fee of \$20. Students from other area high schools may be joining us.
- Students should bring two #2 sharpened pencils and a calculator. No food or drinks are permitted in the testing room.
- The test proctors will direct students to their seats. Students may not select their own seats.
- The total test session will take approximately two hours and 45 minutes.

# High School

## Student Activities

**High School News** | We are off and running through a new school year. Many plans are being made and events happening. The freshmen class had their nominations on September 9 and will have elections on September 16.

**Homecoming** | Homecoming events are being planned; students will be playing "Hide the Helmet" game where they will be finding clues that will lead them to a small football helmet.

The week of September 21 we will be playing ultimate Frisbee on the soccer field at lunch. At the football game on September 24 we will be crowning prince and princesses and the next night will be the Homecoming Dance. The theme for the dance is "A Hollywood Homecoming", students are encouraged to dress as their favorite celebrity and will enjoy getting pictures taken at the photo booth that will be in the gym during the dance.

**Fall Play Tryouts** | Tryouts for the fall play, "Everything I need to know I Learned in Kindergarten" will be held soon, students will need to listen for the announcement.



**Debate** | "In the beginning, my mom and dad had to bribe me to join debate" recalled Christina Tong, freshman. Last year, for the first time, Valley Christian School had a competitive debate team. As both a former competitor and coach, I was privileged to work with these talented students. The team consisted of twelve high school students and one junior high student. I could not have asked for a better group of kids.



During each debate season a topic is assigned. Last year the topic was health care policy and we competed at a total of five tournaments. Although the team was in its first year and new to debate, they always placed well at tournaments. At the Championship tournament Valley Christian's Christina Tong and James Bessolo represented the school in the final round and took 2nd place overall. Christina also received 1st place in the individual debater category, followed by Olivia Coackley in 2nd.

Many of the students are returning again this year, and we are excited to welcome new members! This year's topic is immigration policy -- students from last year are already happily researching. The debate team meets every Wednesday after school from 3:15 to 4:45. We are looking forward to a very competitive year!

"Now I've discovered that the thrill of debating and the enjoyment of hanging out with my team members during tournaments are reward enough" Christina said. "After this year, debate is my favorite activity."

*Katie Philpott - Debate Coach*

## High School

## Student Activities

## Mediterranean Cultures Tour

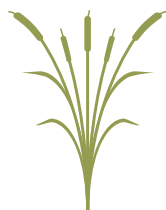
### June 17-29, 2011

**Register by October 5, 2010  
to receive \$300 off of the  
brochure price!**



It's not too late for Valley Christian High School students and parents to enroll and join Mrs. DeHope, Mrs. Romero and Mrs. Masamori on an amazing trip that includes stops in Rome to visit the Vatican, the Colosseum and the Roman Forum; a visit to Piza followed by a drive along the Italian Riviera into France; a day in Monaco to see the Palace of Prince Rainier and the quaint village of Eze; an adventure through the walled city of Carcassonne; time in Barcelona to visit the Parc Guell and Gaudi's unfinished Sagrada Familia; ending in Madrid with visits to the Royal Palace and the Prada Museum. (See the complete itinerary at:

[www.educationaltravel.com](http://www.educationaltravel.com)  
username: europe2011  
password: culture



**Tuesday | Sept 21 |**

An informational meeting for this summer's trip to Italy, Spain and France will be held on Tuesday, September 21 at 6 pm in Portable Room 7.



# High School

# Yearbook

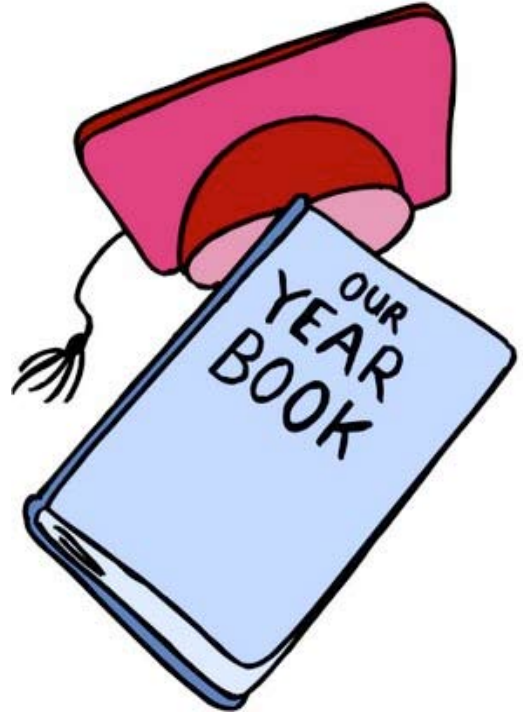
## Attention High School Students and Parents:

The High School Yearbook Staff needs PICTURES. If you have any pictures of friends, classroom settings lunch time, sports events or anything that has to do with the 2010-2011 school year at VCHS, please upload your pictures to the following website:

**<http://www.hjeshare.com>  
Use School Code: 2031475**

You will be asked to register your name and agree to terms. You may upload up to 10 pictures at a time – please select high quality images for best reproduction. Low resolution images may not be used.

After reviewing all photo submissions, the Yearbook Staff will determine the final selections for publication. Submitted photos are not guaranteed to be included in the yearbook.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>September 14</b>	<b>5:45PM</b>	8th Grade Washington DC Trip parent meeting
		<b>6:45PM</b>	Junior High Back to School Night
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>September 15</b>		Kaplan pre-registration deadline
<b>Friday</b>	<b>September 17</b>		Picture Make-up Day
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>September 18</b>	<b>9:00AM-1:00PM</b>	Kaplan Practice Testing (Fireside Room)
		<b>10:00AM - 5:00PM</b>	Meat & Seafood Sale (outside Sanctuary)
<b>Tuesday  </b>	<b>September 21</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	An informational meeting for 2011 trip to Italy, Spain and France in Room P-7.
		<b>6:45PM</b>	High School Back to School night
<b>Friday</b>	<b>September 24</b>		High School Homecoming Games
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>September 25</b>		High School Homecoming Dance
<b>Monday</b>	<b>September 27</b>		High School Practice SAT Test Review
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>September 28</b>	<b>Morning</b>	Junior High Testing "EXPLORE" the ACT
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>October 13</b>	<b>8:00AM - 11:30AM</b>	PSAT Testing
<b>Friday</b>	<b>October 15</b>	<b>7:00PM - 9:00PM</b>	Junior High Boomers



## OUR NEW MUSIC PERFORMANCE CLASS

Last year, Valley Christian launched an extracurricular choral program to the enthusiastic reception of students, families, teachers, and administrators. The success of the program motivated the birth of a new Performing Arts Department committed to the development and advancement of music and drama at Valley Christian.

The 2010-2011 school year saw the “0” hour extracurricular program become an official elective class developing choral and ensemble vocal music and launching a new instrumental music program. The Viking Drum and Fife Corps is making excellent progress in their knowledge of both music and traditional marching techniques.

Rehearsals will begin in two weeks for the Fall theatre production of *“All I really need to know, I learned in Kindergarten”*, a poignant musical play celebrating relationships, values, and the things that keep us children at heart. Watch for the fruit of all of this dramatic and musical labor as the students at Valley Christian step out to show their skills as musicians and performers this year!



**CERAMICS** | The new Ceramics Course has now been approved by the University of California to meet the college admission requirement for the Arts. The course will be listed under the “F” requirement for Visual and Performing Art.

# Junior High & High School

# Athletics

## Valley Christian sports is off to an amazing start!

**Varsity Soccer** | the varsity soccer boys are gearing up for their first league game TODAY. The team record currently stands at 3-2-3.

**Football** | The JV football team shut down St. Vincent/St. Patrick's on Friday night 27-0. The varsity team lost, but came back in the second half for an exciting finish. Valley Christian had at least as many spectators attend the game as the home team. Thank you Vikings fans for your amazing support.

**Volleyball** | The JV and varsity volleyball girl's are playing very well, beating Dublin High and Dougherty Valley early in the season. They have a full schedule this week, culminating in tournaments for both teams at different schools on Saturday. JV will compete at the Northgate Tournament, while the Varsity will compete at the Berean Christian Tournament.

**JH Girl's Softball** | The junior high girls softball team played their first game yesterday against SRVCA and stomped them 22-7. They have a large team this year with quite a few new and young players. Our softball future is looking bright!

**JH Flag Football** | The boys had their first game yesterday against SRVCA and won in an another exciting game 12-0.

**Sports Pictures** | All sports pictures will be taken on Thursday, September 16. The athletes need to remember to bring their uniforms and filled out picture packets. If you need another order form, please have your athlete get one from the kiosk by the vending machine.

**Homecoming games are coming!** | On September 24, the varsity soccer team will be playing St. Elizabeth at 4:15 and the varsity football team will be playing Millennium High School from Tracy. Both games will be held at the Chabot College Stadium, 25555 Hesperian Boulevard, Hayward. Ticket prices are \$6.00 an adult, student without ID \$4.00, student with ID \$3.00, elementary children, \$3.00 and senior citizens \$3.00.

**Meat & Seafood Sale:** Support your Vikings cheer team and football players on Saturday, September 18 from 10:00-5:00 by purchasing top grade meat and seafood outside the sanctuary. Tell your friends and relatives!

*As with all sports news and schedules, please see [vcsathletics.com](http://vcsathletics.com) and [vcsfootball.com](http://vcsfootball.com).*

# ParentTeacherFellowship

## 2010-2011 Board Members

Miriam Lietz  
Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Jill Dykes  
Treasurer

Lori Umidon  
Secretary

Danielle Toney  
Newsletter

Shelley Parker  
Chree Mimms  
Jill Skillicorn  
Special Events

Lynn Kirksey  
Staff Representative

Larry Lopez  
JH/HS Principal

## NEWS FROM YOUR PTF

The Parent Teacher Fellowship PTF would like to welcome all new families to our school and welcome back all returning families. We are anticipating God to bless us richly this year.

We would like to give a special thanks to BURGER KING, Carol Mascali and Lisa Ludden for all their help at the New Student Breakfast. In addition, thank you to every parent who put in their hours to make this years back to school registration the most user friendly ever!

Some of the activities PTF is involved in is the Teacher/Staff monthly lunches, Staff Christmas party and Staff Appreciation week along with many other various events throughout the year. PTF funds many VCJH/HS programs which give our students an edge on their education such as Hot Math, Beyond Technology and Naviance as well as leasing school computers. PTF sponsors chapel and assembly speakers. Last year PTF donated \$20,000 to scholarship funds, purchased a kiln to be used in ceramics class, 2 pianos and other equipment to help start up our Music & Fine Arts Dept. PTF funds these programs and purchases with proceeds from the Campus Café, the Children of Faith on-line auction, ESCRIP, SAT/ACT prep classes, sweatshirt sales, Entertainment Book sales and P.E. uniform sales.

How can you help? Check to see if your family is signed up for ESCRIP. Encourage your student to try the new lunch program. Give of your time and talents. Thank you in advance for all your support for the upcoming year!

**Kaplan Practice Testing |** Deciding between the SAT or ACT? Take Kaplan's practice test to help you decide **Saturday, September 18th at 9:00am-1:00pm** in the preschool Fireside room. Pre registration required with a \$20.00 fee. Please turn in to the JH/High School office. Deadline for pre-registration is September 15th-Seating is limited!

**Lunch Master reminders |** Please remember to order your lunches by Thursday midnight for the next week. If you have not registered, please do so as soon as possible. It does take up to 3 days to receive your Log in and Password from Lunch Masters. Your lunch tickets should come following your order every Friday for the next week via email. Please make sure to print them out and send them to school with your student. It makes picking up their lunch go just a little faster.

**Thank you for your participation and patience as we roll out this new program.**