



March 16, 2020

## Notes from Ojai Valley School

---

Dear OVS families,

Tomorrow we will launch a new phase of learning at Ojai Valley School as we move to online classes amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Our teachers have been working hard, particularly today during in-service training on both campuses to prepare for this transition. We know it may not be seamless, and we ask for your patience and feedback as we initiate our remote learning plans.

These are unprecedented times and no one can predict what lies ahead. But we have the benefit of being a resilient and close-knit community, one with a proven track record of overcoming adversity. We are all learning to adapt to change and that is a good lesson for our students. Our philosophy is to develop the academic strength, the character, and the self-confidence to meet life's challenges in an ever-changing world, and that could not be more true than it is today.

The responsibilities of running our school are ongoing. We will not stop planning for our future, even as we work from a distance. Our main offices remain open, and we will continue to share news and updates by email and through our website at [www.ovs.org/covid-19-advisory](http://www.ovs.org/covid-19-advisory).

In the flurry of communications last week, you may have missed some outstanding campus news stories about how our college alumni are faring during the COVID-19 crisis, how our students and faculty rallied to support a 7th grader's campaign to support medical research for pediatric cancer, and how our middle school students re-enacted an epic battle with cardboard and duct tape. We've included links to these stories below and will share more in the days and weeks ahead. For now, take care and let us know if there is anything we can do to support you.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Hall-Mounsey  
President/CEO



## A CUT ABOVE

### Students Shave Heads in Support of Pediatric Cancer Research

At just five years old, Jake Larkin was diagnosed with a rare bone marrow failure disease. He received a life-saving bone marrow transplant, and for the past four years he has shaved his head in front of the Lower Campus community to draw attention to the disease that threatened to take his life. Last week, a dozen students and four faculty members on both campuses joined Jake, now a 7th grader, in shaving their heads to raise awareness and help support much-needed pediatric cancer research. [Read more](#) in a story by junior Bella Slosberg (L17) on the student journalism website, On The Hill.



[READ MORE](#)

## SHARE YOUR CLASSROOM

### Join the Challenge! Send Pics of Your Desk and Home Classroom

During the coming days, we will be sharing videos, creating contests, and encouraging students to stay engaged with the school community while learning from their homes. Our first challenge: share pictures of your home classroom. Mr. Mahon explains more in the video below.



[VIEW VIDEO](#)

## COLLEGE CLOSURES

In the wake of the COVID-19 virus spreading to the United States, schools of all levels are taking precautionary measures to prevent further contraction of the illness. We caught up with some of our young alumni at NYU, UCLA

and the University of Washington to hear their stories. [Read more](#) in a story by junior Adam Pepper-Macias (L17) on the student journalism website, On The Hill.

[READ MORE](#)



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Middle schoolers staged an epic re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings on the Hermes Quad, continuing an annual tradition that brings history alive for our students. Like the original Battle of Hastings, William, the Duke of Normandy, led his army to victory over King Harold II, the last Anglo-Saxon King of England. Click the video link below to see the battle!



[VIEW VIDEO](#)