



May 1, 2020

Notes from Ojai Valley School

Dear OVS Families,

Normally this week, in pre-COVID times, we would have been trekking in the outdoors. Students on both campuses would have been exploring trails, stream beds and campsites across the West. They would have been learning about wildlife and ecosystems while developing character (another way of describing hauling a big pack for miles) and making memories in the outdoors.

We wish we were out there now, sleeping under the stars and swimming in the cool water holes of the Sespe Wilderness. With the current pandemic, we know that's not possible. But we can use our ingenuity to be outside and connect remotely.

This week, our Outdoor Education coordinators on both campuses "broadcasted" from tents and trails. At Upper Campus, students joined a virtual campfire that included storytelling and camp songs. It is just one example of how we are finding ways to connect with each other during the current health crisis. Looking ahead, we hope to get out on the trails, while socially distanced, for some day hikes. We are lucky because our climate and our location allow easy access to the outdoors, and we will be utilizing more outdoor classrooms and experiences as we prepare to re-open in the fall.

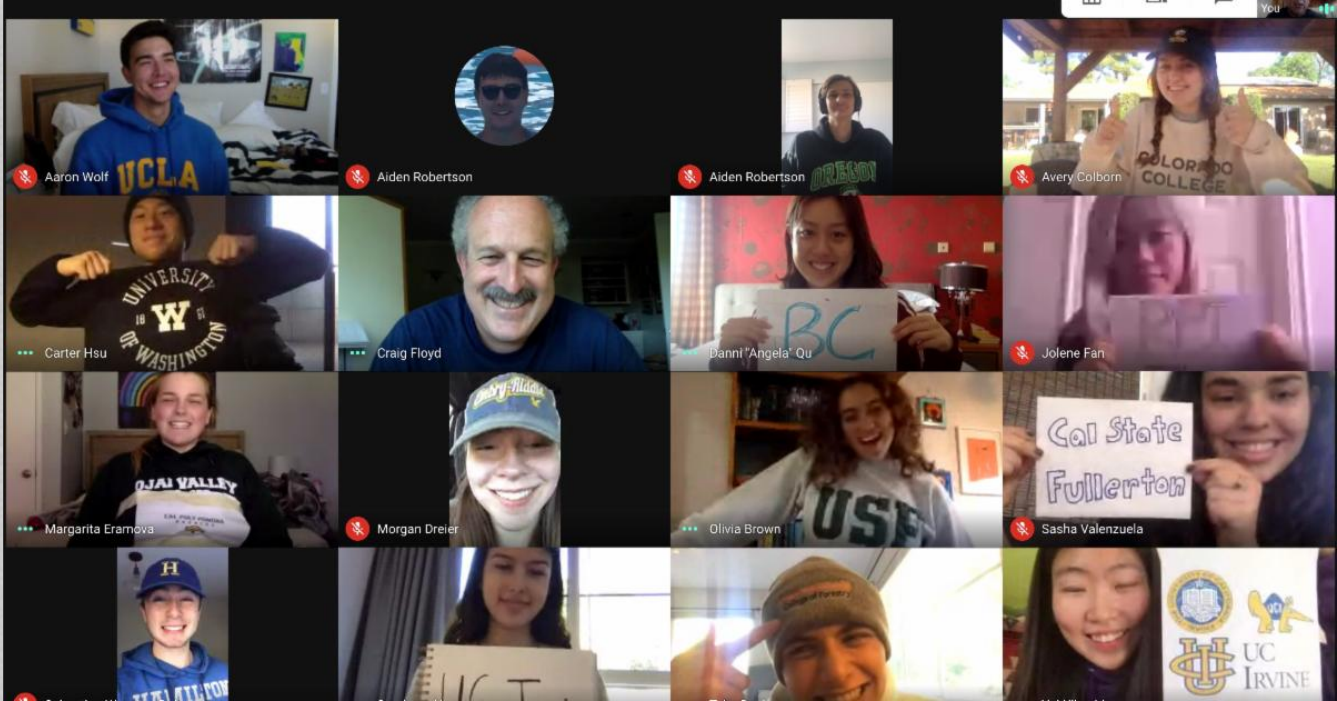
For now, this week's [Remote All School #6](#) includes pictures from past trips and some backyard camping adventures. Also, Dr. Everest Mueller continues to produce mindfulness videos and exercises for students focusing on wellness. Please tune in.

Finally, congratulations to the Class of 2020. Today was National College Decision Day and our seniors were wearing their new college swag with pride during a remote meet this evening.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Have a great weekend.

Craig Floyd,
Head of School, Upper Campus

Gary Gartrell,
Head of School, Lower Campus



NATIONAL COLLEGE DECISION DAY

Our seniors celebrated National College Decision Day this evening during a virtual meeting in which many wore sweatshirts and held hand-written signs showing their chosen schools. The Class of 2020 will attend a diverse collection of colleges and universities, including UCLA, UC Irvine, UC Davis, Boston College, Colorado College, Hamilton College, Gettysburg College, University of Wisconsin, University of Washington, University of Oregon, Oregon State, and more.

As a group, the seniors earned acceptances to more than 160 colleges and universities nationwide. They still have plenty of work to do between now and graduation, including Advanced Placement exams later this month. But May 1 marked a milestone and an opportunity to get together as a class, albeit remotely.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, the landscape has dramatically changed for high school seniors across the country. Senior Sebastian Wayman-Dalo (L16) writes about the experiences of three OVS seniors in an article published this week in *On The Hill*. [Click here](#) to read more.

VIRTUAL ALL-SCHOOL

This week, we go camping! Tune in as we focus on outdoor education, science, social studies, and a little fire making with Mr. Mahon! Get outside, take a hike and enjoy nature this weekend!

[VIEW VIDEO](#)



SHOP TALK WITH MR. LANG

This week, woodshop teacher Ryan Lang shows us how to cut and shape a surfboard from an agave plant. Check out the latest episode of Shop Talk.

[VIEW VIDEO](#)



MINDFULNESS EXERCISES

Everest Mueller, PhD. continues his series of mindfulness videos to provide strategies for managing anxiety during the pandemic. If you or your children are feel stressed (and we get it, we all are) check out his simple exercises.

[VIEW VIDEO](#)

