



October 16, 2020

## Notes from Ojai Valley School

Dear OVS Families,

When Edward Yeomans founded Ojai Valley School, *Integer Vitae* began to take shape. Through the years, members of the OVS community have lived by this philosophy embracing wholeness, symmetry, soundness, poise and strength of life. In 1943, the Board of Trustees hired a new Head of School, Wallace Burr, and his wife, Dorothy. From 1943 to 1971, Mr. Burr led the school to new heights.

During his 30-year tenure, Mr. Burr started the summer program, expanded the outdoor and equestrian programs, and implemented assigning grades for student work with the expectation that students do nothing less than their best. This premise to do “nothing less than your best” was echoed during my time as a student in the early 1980s and I still share that sentiment with students today. Mr. Burr also tried to teach kindness and spirited charity, going so far to develop a slogan “Truth, Charity, and Service” – ideas that still live today as we teach students in all grades to search for truth, embrace a spirit of charity and serve humankind.

There are many more accomplishments that Mr. Burr achieved while at OVS but one cannot pass without mention: establishing the Upper Campus. Until the 1960s, OVS only went through grade 9. Led by Mr. Burr, the school expanded to include grades 10–12 with the first class graduating in 1965.

This week, I received an unexpected phone call from a gentleman asking to come visit OVS as his great-grandfather once worked here. I was surprised to learn that the great-grandfather was Mr. Burr. On Wednesday evening, after students and staff left campus, I was honored to give Chris Burr a brief and socially distanced tour of his family legacy. The younger Mr. Burr, also an educator, had never been to either campus and had only heard stories or snippets of what his great-grandfather did for Ojai Valley School.

Everyday, most of us walk by memorials to his legacy – Wallace Burr Hall at Upper Campus and the Wallace Burr Pergola at Lower Campus – without knowing the extent of his work and influence. Each year at graduation, the Wallace Burr Community Service Award is given to the student who, like Mr. Burr, has made a significant impact on the OVS community by giving unsolicited service. We also award the Dorothy Burr Literary Award, a tribute to Mrs. Burr’s contributions as a teacher of English Literature.

It was such a pleasure to share these tributes with Chris and to assure him that the Burr legacy is alive and well today. Like Mr. Burr, we remain committed to growing and improving the school, to keeping old traditions while bringing in new educational ideas, and, in his words: “always opening doors and expanding knowledge.”

Warm regards,

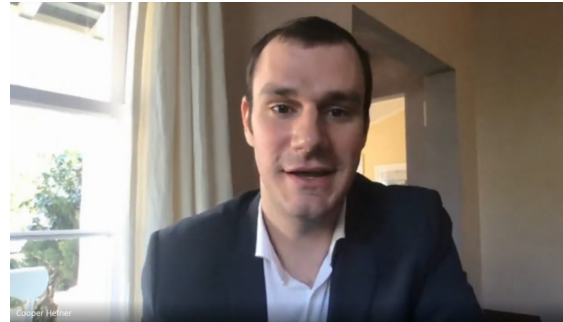


Craig Floyd,  
Head of School,  
Upper Campus

---

## American Government 101

It was a seemingly normal day of virtual learning in American Government at the Upper Campus. All of the Google Meet squares of students popped up on the screen at the start of class as they do each morning. But on this morning, in the middle of them all, appeared a special guest speaker.



OVS alum Cooper Hefner (U09) joined the class on Wednesday to give students more insight into representative government and to talk about his own run for public office. Over the years, since graduating from OVS, Hefner has developed a deep interest in politics and public service. That interest culminated earlier this year when he decided to run for the state Senate seat in California's 30th district. "I wanted to run because I knew that this seat was going to be open, so a part of it was opportunity," Hefner said. "The other [part] was that I, for a number of years, have been incredibly passionate about government and public policy."

[Read more](#) about Hefner's guest speaker visit in a news story by senior Meline Ellwanger on the student journalism website, *On The Hill*.

---

## Family Weekend

Join us next week on Friday, October 23, at 5 p.m. for a virtual college admissions presentation by College Counselor Fred Alvarez followed by a virtual parent social at 6 p.m. featuring a hard hat tour of the new Upper Campus buildings with OVS President/CEO Michael Hall-Mounsey and Upper Campus Head of School Craig Floyd.



On Saturday, October 24, be sure to watch "A Fandango of Fables," a series of short plays from students in grades 3-5 at 5:30 p.m. on Vimeo. Links for these events will be sent next week. As a final reminder, please sign up for parent-teacher conferences!

Lower Campus: [click here](#)  
Upper Campus: [click here](#)

---

## Reopening Reminders

Ventura County coronavirus numbers remain low, which means our middle and high school students should have a green light to return for

in-person classes next week. In preparation, we have updated our Roadmap to Reopening with [Addendums](#) for Grades 1-8 and Grades 9-12. Please review the health and safety protocols. Outdoor learning is part of the plan, and OVS is fortunate to have many areas, like the Carl S. Cooper Amphitheater at Upper Campus, shown here, in which students can meet and learn.



As a reminder, students returning for in-person classes should be limiting their social interactions, avoiding gatherings outside of the home, and monitoring their health. High school students are also expected to obtain a COVID-19 test prior to the start of in-person classes. Free testing is available at Sarzotti Park in Ojai on Monday, October 19, between noon and 5 p.m. Visit [venturacountyrecovers.org](http://venturacountyrecovers.org) for more testing locations.

## OVS Bus Service Resumes

OVS will resume daily bus service from Ventura on Thursday, October 22. Please note that there will not be a late bus run available to Lower Campus students. All Lower Campus students will depart at 2:50 p.m. The evening run will be available to Upper Campus students to accommodate sports schedules.

For Lower riders, please remember to perform a temperature and wellness check in the Kinsa app before arriving to the bus stop in the morning. All students must follow occupancy guidelines established for each vehicle and must wear a mask when entering the vehicle and for the duration of the ride.

Please download the [Bus Schedule and Rules](#) for ridership, or view on the [website](#). If you have questions, please contact Transportation Director Connie Zehm at [czehm@ovs.org](mailto:czehm@ovs.org) or by phone at 805-646-1423 ext. 3030.

### MORNING PICK-UP

Marina Park Ventura 7:15 a.m.

Arrive Lower Campus 7:40 a.m.

Leave Lower for Upper Campus 7:45 a.m.

### AFTERNOON DROP-OFF

#### Early Run:

Bus Leaves Lower Campus 2:50 p.m.

Arrive Marina Park 3:15 p.m.

#### Evening Run: (Upper only)

Bus leaves Upper Campus 5:20 p.m.

Arrive Marina Park 6:00 p.m.

## Ojai Valley School

723 El Paseo Road,  
Ojai, CA 93023  
805.646.1423



[Make A Donation](#)

[View Calendar](#)

