



November 6, 2020

## Notes from Ojai Valley School

Dear OVS Families,

The performing arts continue to be hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. Actors, musicians, dancers, and stage crew are experiencing record unemployment rates, and many theater companies will remain closed for in-person performances for the foreseeable future. There are glimmers of hope, including virtual events that are allowing the show to go on — and that has been true here at OVS.

On both campuses, students are now working on dramatic and musical productions that will be staged through online platforms. This worked well for our elementary production of “A Fandango of Fables.” Our next production will be “Line Busy,” airing on Friday, Nov. 13. We will stage our holiday extravaganza, “Campus Lightings,” as a virtual event on Dec. 17, and our Upper Campus students will stage their musical, “A Killer Party,” on Feb. 18 and 19.

Performing Arts Coordinator Andy Street said the show next week features some of our talented 8th graders and is a suspenseful drama based on the Barbara Stanwyck movie, “Sorry, Wrong Number.” Mr. Street said it is the first time in around ten years OVS has staged a serious drama, and, because our middle school show was cancelled last year, it will be a much-anticipated opportunity to see our young actors back on stage.

“These productions involve many new challenges for all of us,” Mr. Street said. “From the actors’ point of view it is accepting that there will be no live audience, and having to act in front of a camera. As you will see, however, the fundamental techniques of characterization, timing, and telling a story are the same. From the directing and logistic point of view, we have to remember all the safety demands of social distancing and hygiene, things we would not have even considered as we sung and danced next to each other a mere 8 months ago.”

Music and drama classes continue to provide students with an appreciation of the arts. Middle schoolers have already listened to, and discussed, Mozart, Motown, Beethoven and the Beatles. To celebrate Beethoven’s 250th birthday next month, they will watch a symphony performance conducted by Leonard Bernstein broadcasted from the Berlin Wall.

We are grateful that Mr. Street and Ms. Delbo bring their creativity and problem-solving to campus each week to keep the arts alive, even in a virtual format. Mr. Street's passion was evident when he said, “Music and drama still have the same fascination and thrill for our students, and long may that continue.”

I couldn’t agree more.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Laurie Clark,  
Head of School,



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## Lower Campus All-School

This week, Mrs. George takes us on a campus tour to meet some of the wonderful people who make up our OVS community, including our maintenance, housekeeping, equestrian, health center, kitchen, and teaching staff. Learn more about the places our staff come from, and you'll be impressed by how many have worked decades in support of the children at Ojai Valley School. Then, get a sneak peek as Mr. Lang and third-grader Jimmy McClenahan test our new, and developing, skate park at Lower Campus! [View this week's All-School.](#)



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## College Counseling

The college application season kicks into high gear this month! Seniors submitted 43 apps for early decision and early action to colleges across the nation on Nov. 1, with Nov. 15 and Nov. 30 deadlines now approaching. "This is a busy time for our seniors as they learn to take responsibility for their applications and meet those important deadlines," College Counselor Fred Alvarez said. "We are proud of the thoughtful research that went into their selection of literally hundreds of colleges and universities, and we look forward to celebrating their acceptances in the months ahead."



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## Mock Election

While the presidential race at a national level is still too close to call, Upper Campus students and teachers would have been declared Joe Biden president on Tuesday night. Those were the results of a school-wide mock election held earlier this week, which had Mr. Biden winning the presidential election 75% to 25%. Assistant Head of School and government teacher Laurel Colborn came up with the idea of holding the mock election after watching an episode of the news show *Nightline* during which a reporter visited a high school that has been staging mock elections for many years. The idea inspired Mrs. Colborn to do the same. "I wanted to get students excited about participating in the election process," Mrs. Colborn



explained. “And I wanted to see if the OVS results would be similar to the California and national results.” Read more about the [Mock Election](#) on the journalism website, *On The Hill*.

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## Equestrians Back in the Saddle

Ojai Valley School equestrian students are getting back in the saddle. The equestrian staff has been working tirelessly to get the beloved program up and running on both campuses after COVID-19 necessitated closing the barns in March. Learn more about the journey back in a [news story](#) by senior Sydnee Rousseau on the student journalism website *On The Hill*, as well as a [profile](#) by senior Meline Ellwanger of longtime equestrian staff member Jose Maldonado, who has cared for the OVS horses for 29 years.



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## Save the Date!

Please join us for a special Virtual Admissions Open House on Dec. 3 at 4:00-5:30 p.m. The Admission Office has been hosting weekly virtual events via Zoom to introduce prospective students and families to the school. But this December event is specifically for 8th grade students and their parents to learn more about the Upper Campus academic and co-curricular programs by meeting faculty members and other students who matriculated from Lower to Upper. Email the [Admission Office](#) or call (805) 646-1423 ex. 1259 to RSVP. As a reminder, students do not need to re-apply for admission to any grade, including grade 9. Students in all grades are offered re-enrollment in late February based on their academic performance, behavior and positive contributions to the school community.

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## Parent Club Fundraisers

Need a holiday wreath, centerpiece, or garland? The Parent Club has you covered! Once again, the Parent Club will be selling these festive items as a fall fundraiser. Order now and pick-up on Dec. 4. Wreaths are available in two sizes, 20-inch and 30-inch, for \$25 and \$30, respectively. Garlands vary in length and price. See the attached [holiday flier](#) for details. Additionally, a few spaces remain for the 2nd Annual Spud Classic Golf Tournament at Soule Park on Dec. 5. Contact [Wendy Tremiti](#) in the Alumni Office for details.



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## Ojai Valley School

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