

October 2, 2020

Notes from Ojai Valley School

Dear OVS Families,

The school philosophy of "Integer Vitae" meaning wholeness of life, symmetry of life, soundness of life, and therefore poise and strength of life, has been put to the test over the past six months during this time of pandemic. OVS has worked hard to continue to offer and deliver a well-rounded educational experience. Our students and families have risen to the challenge. As OVS begins moving forward in the reopening process, it is time to further deliver on our philosophy and reinvigorate one of our pillars of excellence: Outdoor Education.

As a student at the Upper Campus, I have fond memories of my time on outdoor trips, including hiking in the Sespe, cross country skiing and ice skating in Yosemite, playing on Central Coast beaches, house boating and water skiing on Lake Mead, and maybe even a back-country helicopter ride (a story for another day). From my time in the early 1980s until today, the OVS outdoor program continues to provide those same opportunities. And when it cannot, due to challenges like we currently face, we see how creative and committed our students are in working through adversity to realize their passion for being in the Great Outdoors.

I had the opportunity to chaperone a trip at the beginning of this school year that was organized by six senior day students. They wanted to open the year with a traditional school camping trip, but due to COVID it created obstacles. The students created a plan to overcome those obstacles and ultimately led the trip. Mr. Byars and I attended as faculty chaperones, but let the students run the trip using all the resources and knowledge they have learned over their years in the OVS Outdoor Education program, starting in the elementary grades. Please [read the article](#) recently published by our student journalists about the trip.

As our students return to campus, OVS is excited to resume Outdoor Education. Students will start with socially distanced day hikes and other adventures while maintaining appropriate safety precautions. Eventually, we will be able to resume overnight camping trips. In the weeks and months to come, new memories will be made by our students, like the alumni who adventured before them. On behalf of Mr. Inman and Mr. Byars, I believe we would all say "Get out, make memories and enjoy the Great Outdoors!"

Warm regards,

Craig Floyd,
Head of School
Lower Campus



Happy Friday!

What a wonderful week! Our 4th and 5th graders returned to campus today and joined the primary and elementary students in grades PK-3 for in-person classes. Look forward to seeing the 6th graders back at Lower Campus on Monday. Check out photos on the [Images of OVS](#) page of the website, which will update throughout the year.

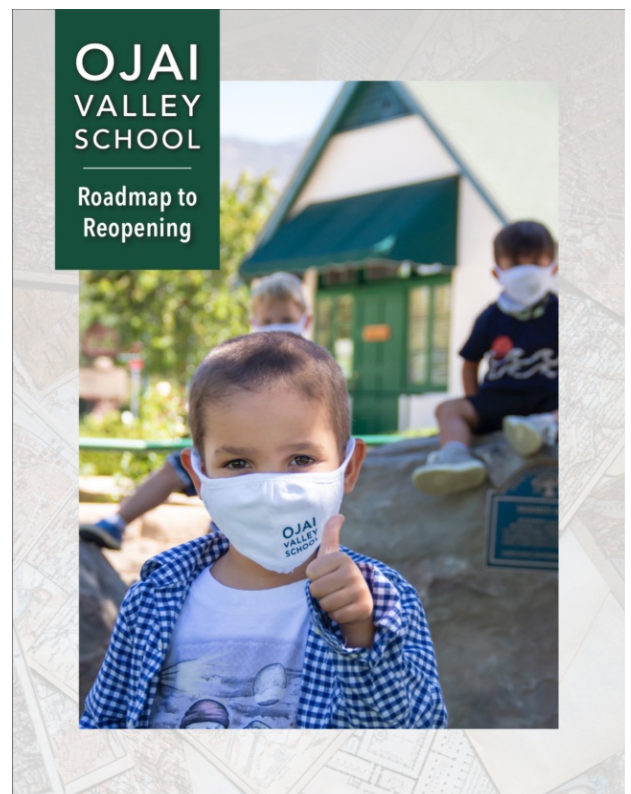


Get Ready Grades 7-12

With COVID cases declining locally, Ventura County could soon advance to a less restrictive tier that would allow us to reopen for in-person classes for all grades. If the county moves tiers, it would allow us to reopen as follows:

- Wednesday, October 21 for grade 7
- Thursday, October 22, for grade 8 & grades 9-12

We understand that every family has unique needs and circumstances. Please complete the [middle school survey](#) and/or the [high school survey](#) no later than Monday, October 5, to let us know your plans for either in-person classes or remote learning for your student.



Seniors Lead Outdoor Ed Trip

Six seniors recently took part in the first outdoor education trip of the year, an outing to Santa Rosa Island nearly entirely run by students. They hope it's the first of many student-led outdoor trips this year. "The goal of the Santa Rosa trip was to prove that students could survive on their own self-led trip," said ASB Outdoor Education Rep Andrew Thacher (L17). "I would say this trip was a good step in the right direction." [Read more](#) in an



Family Weekend is Approaching

This month marks the end of the first academic quarter and an opportunity for families to learn more about their children's progress. While we are unable to gather in-person for our traditional Family Weekend, we will still offer many of the events, such as the elementary play, college admissions presentation, and a virtual parent social. Schedules and more details about parent-teacher conferences will all be available next week. For now, mark your calendars for October 24-25!



Lower Campus Virtual All School

This week in the [Virtual All School video](#), Mrs. Clark talks about leadership and responsibility. Mrs. Ferro shows us how to run a successful campaign for Student Council, and Mr. Mahon shares the 2020 candidates posters and reviews the duties of the elected positions. Next week, the candidates for treasurer, secretary, vice president and president will give their speeches and elections will take place on Friday, October 9.



Support the OVS Annual Fund

We launched our OVS Annual Fund campaign last month and have seen a tremendous response as we began the 2020-21 school year! Your generous gifts will support much-needed scholarships, financial aid, campus improvements and new technology. Every gift, no matter the size, is significant and appreciated. If you haven't made a contribution, please consider making a gift online at www.ovs.org/give. Thank you!



Flu Shots Available Next Week

Reminder! Flu shots will be available to students on both campuses next week. For our distance learners, the Health Center will provide a drive-up Flu Shot Clinic on Wednesday, October 7 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the West Entrance of the Lower Campus. Please contact the Health Center at (805) 640-2584 ext. 1238 or by email at healthcenter@ovs.org if you have questions.