



May 2006

The Acorn

Valley Oaks Charter School presents FARM DAY 2006

Agriculture is the most important industry in California. It is an industry that impacts everyone everyday. In order to enhance our students' knowledge and understanding of the importance of agriculture, Valley Oaks Charter School will hold its first annual "Farm Day."

All homeschoolers in Kern County are invited to join us at Hokit Farm and take part in hands-on activities and farm related demonstrations. Group activities will allow children to interact with animals, learn about plants, crops,

and soil, and explore the tools of the trade.

Activities will take place on May 16, 2006 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Bring a sack lunch and a blanket to picnic in our grass area after the activities conclude. Cookies, lemonade, and water will be provided. Please arrive no later than 8:45 a.m. to register, as classes will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m.

All homeschooling friends and neighbors are welcome. We are looking forward to this exciting cooperative learning partnership for all Kern County homeschoolers.

For additional information please contact Lorrie Roberts or Michelle Duncan at 633-5288.



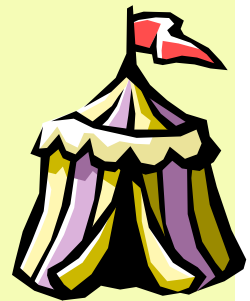
Students show off the newest additions to Hokit Farm.

EXTRAVAGANZA

Hang on to your hats because the best Extravaganza ever is coming soon! Preparations are underway for our sixth annual Extravaganza. Festivities are scheduled to begin at 5:00

p.m. on Thursday, May 18th and will include a display of student work, dinner, carnival games, raffle baskets, talent show,

and more. Pre-sale tickets are now on sale at the front desk for all events. (Cash or checks made payable to VOPAC are acceptable.) Pre-sale dinner tickets are \$8.00 per plate for Champs deep pit BBQ, salad, beans, and roll. Price will be \$12.00 after May 9th. Raffle basket themes feature "The Best of Bakersfield", "California Adventures", "Take Me Out to the Ballgame", "Apples", "Date Night", and many others. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5.00, and 25 for \$20.00. A variety of carnival booths will keep all ages entertained and the ever popular dunk tank will be back! Pre-sale booth tickets are 5 for \$1.00, but will sell for 4 for \$1.00 at Extravaganza. Those wishing to entertain are invited to share their talents at our Talent Show. Sign up at the front desk for a time slot. The evening promises to be a fun time for VOCS families to enjoy one another's company so get your tickets early and plan to attend!



Seniors and Eighth Graders Prepare for Graduation

Finals are looming, the last of the required units are being recorded, senior projects are a thing of the past, the Constitution test has been conquered, and Valley Oaks seniors and eighth graders are preparing to take "the walk" that will result in the diligently sought after, hard-earned diploma.

The graduation ceremony for the **senior Class of 2006** will take place on Thursday, June 1st at the Kern County Museum at 7:00 p.m. Twenty seniors will cross the stage and bid farewell to Valley Oaks as they prepare to continue their educations at universities and colleges across the nation. One senior has military aspirations. One has worked hard enough to complete all necessary units in three years; another has achieved a 4.0 GPA.

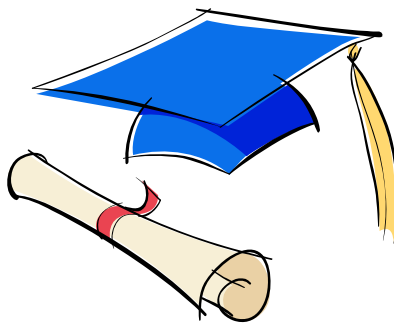
Congratulations to all VOCS Graduates

Eighth grade graduates will culminate their year at a ceremony on Wednesday, May 31st at the Fox Theater. Students should arrive at 4:00 p.m. for rehearsal. The ceremony will begin at 5:00 p.m. Appropriate attire for this special occasion is especially important to the dignity of the ceremony. Boys are to wear slacks and a dress shirt with a necktie. Girls are to wear a nice dress acceptable for attendance at a wedding. (Prom-type dresses are not allowed.) Any dress that is bizarre, revealing, immodest or out of the norm also is not allowed. Hairstyles should not call attention to themselves. School personnel will be the sole determiners of dress and hairstyles. We do not anticipate any problems with the dress code; however, if any graduate arrives not meeting dress/hair code, he/she will be given the opportunity to modify his/her appearance or not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.

ATTENTION:

All Eighth Grade Students

We are looking for a few good speakers. If you would like to deliver a graduation address, you will need to prepare a 3-5 minute speech appropriate for this special occasion. Speeches must be original and must be presented for a panel of resource teachers on Wednesday, May 17th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Chester Avenue site. The students whose speeches are determined to best represent the graduating class will be selected as speakers for the graduation ceremony on May 31st . . . so get out your pens and start writing!



Butterfly Bonanza...

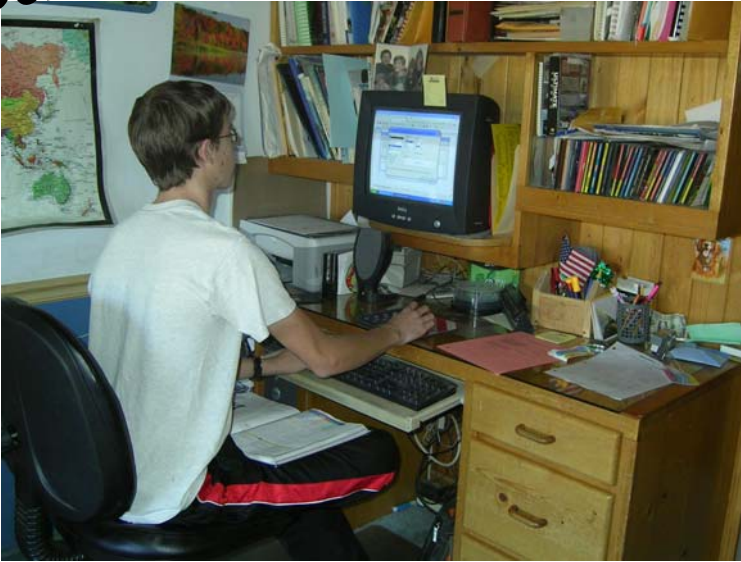
A butterfly workshop will be presented for kindergarten and first grade students. Parent Laurie Flohr will offer a three session workshop on May 3, 10, and 17 from 10:00—11:30 a.m. Class size is limited to ten students so sign up early. The class will not only teach about butterflies, but also will have related hands-on activities and crafts. Children should bring a snack as there will be a short break during each session.



YEARBOOK PRE-SALE

Pre-sale is now underway for the 2005-2006 Oak Leaves yearbook. You may purchase your copy in advance for \$5.00 per book from now through Friday, May 12, 2006. There is a limited supply so don't be left out. Any extra books will be on sale during Extravaganza, however, the price for purchase at that time will be \$8.00 per copy so... **BUY NOW and SAVE!**

School Room Rock



We have a great school room that works well with all four of our children! Sarah (1st Grade) has her own desk for her books and behind her desk two bulletin boards for displaying her various and plentiful art work and ribbons. Amy and Timmy (5th & 6th Grade) have their own desks as well. They have a bookcase close at hand with extra books (dictionaries, etc.) along with a globe of the world and a Time Line of Ancient History they are currently studying placed on the wall. A school schedule and assignment are posted above their desks. Andrew (Grade 10) does much of his school work at the computer desk where he has Internet access for research and a word processor for typing essays. It's a great room where school "rocks" at our house! (see a few attached photos)

Sylvia Collins

Writing Tips

Writing skills are developed over time and like anything else are only improved with practice and learning. Since writing involves many complex skills and thought processes, to approach writing as a process is one way to become empowered as a writer. When using a process to write, the end product becomes a piece that has been refined and reflected upon, rather than just a representation of initial thoughts. One writing process includes six steps which are the following:

Pre-write: First step is to develop ideas and put them onto paper in the form of a cluster, quick-write, outline or any other format which involves a multitude of brainstorming ideas.

Draft: The second step involves putting the pre-write ideas into the proper format (essay, poem, letter, etc.) and organizing thoughts in a cohesive and logical manner.

Response: The third step involves getting feedback from someone else (peer, teacher, parent or yourself as the writer). Answer questions about the writing such as the following:

do you understand the main point of my piece?

are there enough examples to support my main idea?

is the format organized and does it make sense?

is the vocabulary descriptive, vivid and clear?

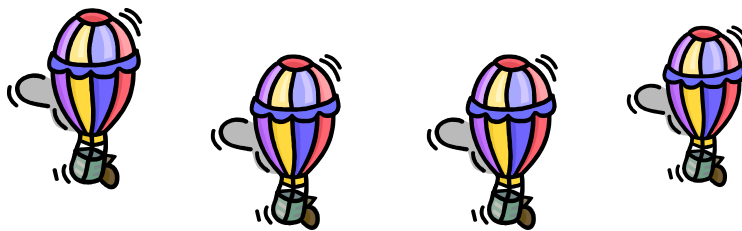
are the introduction, body and concluding paragraphs properly developed?

Revision: The fourth step involves re-working the piece and making improvements based on the suggestions given in the response step. Add and/or delete writing as necessary.

Editing: The fifth step is the clean-up step. Fix any spelling, grammar, and mechanical errors. Pay attention to vocabulary and sentence structure and make sure that a variation of both is included in the writing.

Publishing: The last step is to present the final product to the reader in a neat, clean copy. The writing should be as close to perfect as possible after working all the steps in the writing process which will result in a writer who is proud of his or her work.

We're Off...



The final class for this school year is scheduled for May 9th at 1:00 p.m. and will focus on Native Americans. **Register for classes with CALM** by calling Debby at 872-2256 ext. 12 or Kim at 872-2256 ext. 14. Students will not be allowed to attend without registering by the Friday prior to the class they wish to take.

The **Knott's Berry Farm** trip has been canceled as the minimum number of students required was not met. Those who placed a deposit may collect it from the front desk if you have not already done so.

Here Ye, Here Ye....

Sixth – eighth grade students only may take a tour of the County Courthouse on Thursday, May 4, 2006. Tour is limited to 20 students and parents. Students may be dropped off at the courthouse to be supervised by a VOCS teacher. Students will have the opportunity to hear cases being tried. Tour begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. and will last until noon. A strict dress code is enforced so be sure to pick up the information packet in the Parent



Place. A \$2.00 refundable deposit will reserve your space.

PIPE ORGAN TOUR

A behind the scenes tour of one of the largest pipe organs west of the Mississippi is right here in Bakersfield. Don't miss this opportunity to find out about the inner workings of a pipe organ and to hear some beautiful organ music. Join the VOCS tour on May 12, 2006 from 1:00—2:30 p.m. at Olive Drive Church, 5500 Olive Drive. A \$2.00 refundable deposit reserves your space. **Students should meet in the sanctuary at 12:45 p.m.**



Batter UP....

Play Ball

The Bakersfield Blaze present Baseball in Education at Sam Lynn Ballpark. Students interested may sign up at the front desk and purchase a \$3.00 ticket which includes entrance, lunch (hot dog, soda, and chips) and an opportunity to collect autographs and run the bases after the game. Pre-game activities begin at 9:30 a.m. and game begins

at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2006. Only 50 tickets are available so don't miss your chance for a fun afternoon at the old-ball-game!!

The Ceramic Shop

Students will tour the Ceramic Shop to get instruction on the daily operations of a ceramics business. Tour will be Tuesday, May 16, 2006

from 8:30



10:00 a.m. at the Ceramic Shop, 206 Bernard Street. After the tour, students will make a project. A \$10.00 non-refundable deposit will include all paints and supplies needed for the hands-on project as well as firing of the project. Sign up and payment required to save a place. There is a 10 student limit so don't wait, spaces will fill quickly.

VOCS is sponsoring another Family Fun Day. Students and their families are invited to join in an afternoon of swimming, water games, and fun. Meet at McMurtrey

VOCS SPOKES

The final ride of the year will be on May 19th. Meet as usual at the Bike Path parking lot on Manor Street at 9:00 a.m.. You must provide your own bike, helmet, and water. Students must be accompanied by a parent rider. Sign up at the front desk for the last bike ride of the year.



Tidbits from Taft

Our Taft office has been busy this year. When we opened this new extension, we had no idea how it would work out with just two staff members. Looking back over the year, we are so thankful for our parents and students who helped us have a successful and exciting time here in Taft. As the 2005-2006 school year winds down we will have many fond memories to take with us. "The Sound of Music" play really helped us to bond as a group. And who could forget Nerd Day at the oil museum? We will have a chance to share these memories at the yearbook signing party that Mrs. Wikoff is planning (date and time to be announced soon).

The school will also have a CALM representative, who will bring a CALM creature to our site on May 11th at 1:00 p.m. If you have any questions, call Mrs. Wetterholm.

We are sad to see the school year end, but are already looking forward to next year. Have a happy summer!

Tehachapi Talk

Village Wanderers

Some of the older Tehachapi students formed an acting troupe for Living History Day. They added an extra flair as they wandered around Pioneer Village in costume and character. The students researched their historic person, wrote scripts, created costumes, and told interesting anecdotes, many times over, to the Valley Oaks campers and the visiting children. In attendance from Kern's past were: John Audubon (Cole Murcavitch), Colonel Baker (Stephen Bray), Ellen Baker (Brittany Grissom), Amanda Brite (Morgan Reimer), Kit Carson (Jake Reimer), John Fremont (Josh Archie), Francisco Garces (Pat Johnson), Schoolmarms (Emmy Forbes and Bryn Rosander), Mrs. Tucker (Ashley Bray), and Joseph Walker (Cody Richter). We want to extend a special thanks to these students for bringing history to life!

FRAZIER PARK

Frazier Park students are anticipating a busy May. The last enrichment classes for this school year, preparations for Extravaganza, and a Family Potluck will keep Frazier Park VOCS students and their families hopping. A "Nature Art Projects" class for kindergarten through third grade children will be held on Friday, May 5th at 1:00 p.m. The following Friday, May 12th, K-3rd students will meet at CALM in Bakersfield for a tour and lesson on animals native to our area.

A parent, teacher, and student get together will be held on May 26th at Ron and Marsha Green's home 3145 Lebec Oaks Road in Lebec (Los Padres). The evening pot luck will kick-off at 6:00 p.m. so bring your pot luck dish, your appetites and prepare for some fun!



Young Frazier Park students decorated flowerpots after learning the parts of a plant and potting them during a Friday enrichment class.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

They came, they saw, they conquered! The Kern County Battle of the Books was held on Friday, March 31, 2006 with about 400 participants (58 teams) from throughout Kern County and Valley Oaks was well represented.

For those not familiar with America's Battle of the Books, which we affectionately call BOB, it is a reading incentive program for students in grades 4th-8th. Students read books and come together to demonstrate their abilities and test their knowledge of the books they have read. Students from different schools made up each team.

As this was our first year to participate all Valley Oaks first participants agreed they can't wait for the next competition. Nancy Colley said, "The part I enjoyed the most was reading all those books and working as a team." Christina Soderstrom, Alli Bishop, and Vicky Colley all agreed that their favorite part was the competition. The biggest excitement was the final battle, in which the two top teams in each division went head-to-head before the entire audience. Andrew Raymond was a member of one of the finalist teams. After a round of twenty-four questions, Andrew's team was victorious and placed first. Blake Scheideman received the VOCS award for reading all thirty books on the list.

If you would like more information on participating in next year's Battle of the Books, contact Mrs. Roberts or Mrs. Duncan.



Students show off certificates earned for participation in Battle of the Books. Back: Nancy Colley, Andrew Raymond, Vicky Colley
Front: Blake Scheideman, Christina Soderstrom, Alli Bishop

Congratulations

■ **Congratulations** to sixth grader, Matthew Soderstrom, whose science project, ■
■ "Battle of the Batteries", took first place in the Materials Science category at the ■
■ Kern County Science Fair. As a first place winner, Matthew will represent Valley ■
■ Oaks at the state competition which will be held at the University of Southern ■
■ California in Los Angeles on May 23rd. Good luck at the state level and con- ■
■ gratulations, Matthew, on an outstanding science project!

It's Time... To turn in your books for **The Young Authors' Fair**

Submit a book your child has written or illustrated this school year. Drop it off at VOCS by **May 11th**. Each book needs to include the **Author's Name, Grade, Resource Teacher, and School** and be bound so no pages fall out. Books will be returned to VOCS on Monday, May 15th for you to pick up or to be placed in the Extravaganza display in the warehouse. Take your child to the **FREE** fair for the opportunity to view books written by other Kern County school students and hear published authors and illustrators share their personal and professional expertise. All book submissions need to be turned in to Valley Oaks by **Thursday, May 11th!**

Saturday, May 13, 2006 - 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Standard Middle School Gym - 1200 N. Chester

Authors and illustrators attending this year's fair are *Lisza Bechtold * Tim Egan * Robert San Souci * Sharon*

Bring back, oh bring back, oh
bring back your books to VOCS!!
Don't wait...! Now is the time to return those
books you have completed or are no longer
using. Any texts, library books, science kits,
manipulatives, workbooks, videos, CDs, lit
units or other VOCS resources that you have
checked out should be returned **as soon as possible**
to your resource teacher. Your co-
operation in returning items no longer being
used will be a great help so that we can get a
head start on our inventory for next year!

PE Testing
All 5th, 7th, and 9th grade students are
required to take the California Physical
Fitness Test. This exam will assess stu-
dent's cardiovascular, flexibility, body
composition, and strength levels. The
test will begin at 9:00 for 5th grade,
10:30 for 7th grade, and 12:30 9th grade
on Wednesday, May 3rd. Meet at the
Chester Avenue site. Make-up will be
May 10th (time to be announced.)
Please contact Mr. Shelton or Mr. Marti-
nez if you have any questions.



Tennis Clinic

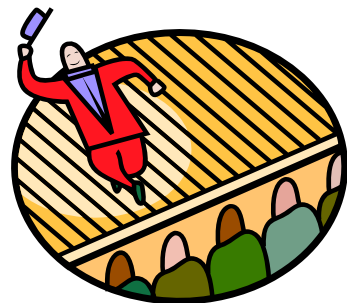
Beginning tennis players may continue
basic instruction with Mrs. Wetterholm
at the next tennis clinic on Tuesday,
May 23rd. It will be held at Jastro Park
Tennis Courts from 1:00-2:00 p.m. This
is open to students from grades 3-8 and
is for beginner level. Please sign up at
the front desk with your phone number.
Be sure to let us know if you will need a
racquet.

The School Walk for Diabetes

will take place on Thursday, May 4th at
1:00 p.m. Meet in the warehouse. The
walk will take place at the museum. Bring
your walking feet, a bottle of water, sun-
screen, and your donations on the day of
the walk. There will be refreshments for all

Sailing Aboard the Tole Mour
If you missed the explanatory meeting
about sailing on the Tall Ship and
have an interest, please contact Linda
Smith calms@sbcglobal.net.
The sailing dates are:
September 4-8 (5-day sail for high
school students -\$465 with \$80 deposit)
September 25-29 (5-day sail for 6th-8th
grade students -\$465 with \$80 deposit)
October 9-11 (3-day sail for 5th-6th
grade students - \$260 with \$40 deposit)
During this expedition the students
study marine biology and oceanography,
haul sails, snorkel, climb the rigging, and
experience life at sea. This is a rare oppor-
tunity. No other school in Kern County of-
fers this adventure. Sign up and give your
deposit to Julie or Janise at the front desk.
Visit www.tolemour.com to view the ship.

.....
: **All the World's a Stage...** :
: **Valley Oaks drama students** :
: **have been diligently preparing** :
: **for their debut in two school** :
: **plays that will be presented on** :
: **Friday, May 12, 2006. The plays,** :
: **"Honesty" and "Captain De-** :
: **pendable" will be performed at** :
: **7:00 p.m. at Riverlakes Church** :
: **located at the corner of** :
: **Calloway and Hageman. The** :
: **performance is open to all so** :
: **bring your** :
: **friends and** :
: **neighbors** :
: **for a fun eve-** :
: **ning at the** :
: **theater! The** :
: **show is free** :
: **for all ages.** :
.....



VOPAC

Extravaganza is Coming
Champ's BBQ will be catering
our Extravaganza on May 18th.
Pre-sale tickets for dinner are
\$8 and are available through
your resource teacher. LIM-
ITED DINNERS ARE AVAIL-
ABLE that night and the dead-
line for pre-sale is May 9th, af-



ter which the
cost per ticket
will be \$12.
Don't forget the
wonderful raffle
baskets to be
won at Extrava-

ganza! Pre-sale tickets are
available at the front desk.

YOUR help is needed to
make Extravaganza a success!
Partner with your resource
teacher to find out specific de-
tails and how you can help!

Scholastic Book Sale

Valley Oaks will be hosting the Scho-
lastic Books 50% Off Sale! Valley Oaks
will receive 500 books free and 10%
of all sales in either books or cash.
This is open to the public and will be
widely advertised. All Valley Oaks vol-
unteers working the book sale get \$10
per hour in books for their time. The
sale will be held May 23-25, from 8
a.m.—6 p.m. Those wanting to help



Valley Oaks Charter School
3501 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Tel: 661-633-5288

Fax: 661-633-5287

Web: <http://www.valleyoakscharterschool.org>