

# THE VIEW

## A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER VALLEY VIEW EARLY LEARNING CENTER

OCTOBER 2018



### Fall is upon us!

Fall is in the air, and we can sense the changes happening around us. At this time of year, we like to share with families our position on what we affectionately refer to as the October-December push. As mentioned at our parent orientation, our curriculum is based on the interests of the children and not around calendar events. During the holiday season, VVELC maintains a "policy of neutrality." We do not celebrate holidays within the school day. Each school day is a regular, predictable day. As Laura Salter, a fellow Early Childhood Director, stated, "Spreading cheer is a wonderful thought, but being left out is not! A classroom can have wonderful traditions and be joyous all year long while it remains neutral. Excluding a child for any reason—it's just not okay." Conversations about the holidays may come up among the children in the classroom. However, these conversations are child initiated and not teacher directed. If VVELC has an activity at the school site that coordinates with a holiday, such as Trunk or Treat, it is scheduled as an optional event families can choose to attend. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please feel free to contact me. Enjoy the Fall Break!

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences are coming up soon. If you have not already done so, please check with your child's teacher to schedule a time to discuss your child's development. Please note due to the discussion of your child's progress, needs and setting goals for the school year, conferences are suitable for parents and teachers only. Please plan accordingly for your child if your conference is scheduled outside your child's school hours. VVELC will be open for regular hours on all conference days. Substitutes will be in the classroom for teachers as they meet with parents.

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### Parent/Teacher Days

October 15 – Ms. Savannah

October 16 – Ms. Dana

October 17 – Maestra Clara

October 18 – Ms. Maria-Kathrine &  
Ms. Shepard

October 19 – Ms. Leah

October 22 – Ms. Jean & Ms. Laura

October 23 – Maestra Vanessa

October 24 – Maestra Erika

October 25 – Maestra Lizette

October 26 – Ms. McKenzie

October 29 – Ms. Kimberli

October 31 – Ms. Sharon

## VVELC Library Use

We are happy to see families using the library space to read a book before school as they wait for the classrooms to open up. Please keep in mind the following procedures to ensure books are where they need to be when teachers come to access the resources for classroom use.

- All VVELC library books remain on campus.
- Once you are finished with a book, please reshelve it. Look for the label on the top back corner of the book. This label will provide the name that matches the shelf marker labels. The books are organized by the category names, but there is not any particular order for them within the categories.

Thanks for your support in keeping our library an organized space.



### October 9, 9:15 am

FFO Meeting @ VVELC

### October 11 & 12

No school – Fall Break

### October 18, 6:15-7:15 pm

Trunk or Treat @ VVELC

### October 19, 6-9 pm

Tapas for Teachers @ St. Phillips Plaza

### October 23 & 24

Picture Days – All classes will go for a group picture on both days. The photographer will take individual pictures on Tuesday unless your child does not attend school on Tuesday. Their individual picture will be on Wednesday. If your child does not attend either day, please let your child's teacher know if you would like to stop by with your child on one of the picture days.

### November 8, 6:30-7:30

FFO sponsored Parenting Education session with Tessa Brock from Child Parent Center. More information on session topic and how to sign up will be sent through email.

ST. PHILLIPS PLAZA

**FOOD**  
**DRINKS**  
**MUSIC**  
**FUN!**

Tapas   
for Teachers

FRIDAY  
OCT 19th  
6-9 PM

\$40

Adults only please.  
For tickets, order online:  
[CFSDfoundation.org](http://CFSDfoundation.org)

SILENT AUCTION

## Change of Clothes

With the cooler weather here in the mornings, many of the children are wearing jackets and quickly tossing them aside as the day warms up. Please make sure to label your child's clothing so we can quickly return jackets left out on the playground. Also, please consider changing out your child's extra set of clothes for ones more suitable for cooler weather.



MESSAGE IN A BACKPACK™

This message is meant to be cut out, photocopied, and sent home with children as a resource for parents! It is also available online at [NAEYC.org/tyc](http://NAEYC.org/tyc).

# It's Conference Time!

Use these tips to prepare for meeting with your child's teacher and setting the stage for a great partnership.

## Before the conference

- › If the conference day and time don't work for your family, reach out and ask for an alternative. Teachers will sometimes arrange an online video chat if scheduling becomes too difficult.
- › Make a list of your questions and concerns, and prioritize them—you'll want to leave plenty of time to hear the teacher's thoughts.
- › Think of examples to share with the teacher of how your child plays and learns at home.

## During the conference

### Share information about your family

- › Let the teacher know about your family's special characteristics and circumstances—this helps the teacher support your child's learning.
- › Talk about changes or challenges that might impact your child at school (like a new living arrangement or a morning schedule that means your child needs to wake up extra early).

### Build a partnership

- › If you're wondering how specific school activities connect to your child's learning, or if you don't understand what the teacher is describing, ask!
- › Ask about activities and ideas you can try at home to support your child's learning.

### Communicate openly

- › If you have concerns, ask how you can problem-solve together. Staying calm and collaborating are the best ways to support your child.
- › Ask about the best ways to continue communicating with the teacher and how to stay up-to-date with class news throughout the year.

## After the conference

- › A conference is not the only time to ask questions or express concerns—be sure to follow up if there's something you're worried about.
- › Stay in touch! Whether you have a new question or want to share what happened when you tried a different learning activity at home, your child's teacher wants to hear from you.

Photograph: © Getty Images



# Annual Valley View

## Trunk or Treat!

Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 6:15-7:15 pm



Grab your car (or hearse) and dazzle it up! Grab your (Addams) family and dress them up! Go **CRAZY** or go **SIMPLE**! The Valley View parking lot will be transformed into a safe and fun trick-or-treating wonderland!

Cars with passes will be allowed to enter and begin decorating at 5:45 and gates will be locked **PROMPTLY** at 6:15. Families need NOT decorate a trunk to PARTICIPATE! Simply park outside of the parking lot area and walk in. **DON'T FORGET YOUR FLASHLIGHTS!**

**“Treats” need not be candy! Kids love receiving stickers, erasers, etc!**

**Sign up at front desk!**

