

Welcome to Fall at Valley School!

Our first quarter of the school year will be completed during the month of October. It's exciting to walk through classrooms to see students hard at work on so many different things. With students having the choice to seek learning through their interests, it exposes all of us to a wealth of new ideas and topics.

As I watched a student perform a science experiment in our little lab, it was fun to see her concentrate on what she was doing, recording data, and then the discussion she had with her teacher about the outcome of the experiment. As I enjoyed that moment, what made it even more rewarding was the response from one of her fellow students who had been observing, "I can't wait until I get to study biology!" Don't we want that kind of enthusiasm for all of our students?

While so much of the education at Valley is individualized, we appreciate the opportunities provided to our students for them to come together as a community through our teacher facilitated field trips. Teachers plan together so students may see the trip through the lenses of social studies, science, language arts, and/or math. The interconnectedness of our world becomes real. The evidence of learning may then be demonstrated for multiple subjects.

These trips also provide our students with a common experience so they have time to deepen their learning through collaboration within their teams. Lively debates are seen in classrooms as students take sides on issues that they have researched to support their different perspectives. Through the combination of individualized learning and teamwork, students gain a rich educational experience. They also build relationships with other students and school staff.

As students complete their credits from the Mica Mines trip and the Colorado Mesa University production of "James and the Giant Peach", we are planning our next "experience the world around us" trip! We are taking two groups of students to the Colorado National Monument for a day. One group will go on October 19 and the other will go on October 20. Again, students will meet with their teachers to determine how they may earn credit in all four core subjects while having a great time!

We will also re-visit the Colorado National Monument on November 2 for an evening of star gazing! Together with a group of professional astronomers, our students will study the galaxy through telescopes. Prior to the trip up the monument, we will have a school dinner.

Speaking of a school dinner...on November 17, Valley School staff and students will participate in our annual Thanksgiving feast. Keeping this tradition alive emphasizes the importance of spending quality time together while creating lasting memories and a sense of belonging.

As the school year seems to be moving along quickly, we continue to focus our attention on our students. We strive to make Valley School a place where students are appreciated for who they are and how they will become a positive influence on the future.

Best Wishes,  
Sara