

# VCMS Parent Volunteer Opportunities for the Fall

## Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – Making a Difference Day

Valley Catholic's *Making a Difference Day* is Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The middle school is starting a new pilot program this year to create a day of service on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 from approx. noon – 2:30 p.m. Most students will be assigned a service project that will occur on campus while a smaller delegation of students will take a field trip to research community service/outreach ideas first hand and then bring the ideas back to the student body (See the *Pay it Forward* description, listed below) for a year-long project. Over the next two years, the goal is to add more service opportunities as the students move into our high school and thus spread *Making a Difference* throughout the greater community.

Students will work on the jobs rain or shine and the students/chaperones are asked to bring appropriate outdoor gear (rain gear, change of clothes, extra shoes, work gloves, etc.).

Help is needed in the following areas:

The *Random Act of Kindness* group will look at the unsung heroes of our community and send thank you letters, prayers, and wishes their way (fire, police, soldiers, relief workers, Red Cross, etc.). We are looking for help with (Total of 2-4 parents needed to help):

1. People to help teach and supervise a group of letter writers (help them come up with ideas to write, help them learn to decorate cards with a person touch (not just computer graphics), etc. (Help needed October 6<sup>th</sup> approx. noon – 2:45 p.m.)
2. Ideas on places to write along with contact information/addresses. (Information needed prior to October 4<sup>th</sup>)
- 3. **Scrapbook, stamps, and card making supplies needed – If you have any unused or unwanted materials that we can have, we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you!**
4. Other suggestions are welcome!

The *Pay It Forward* group will involve the student leadership team (National Junior Honor Society) going out into the community to see projects already in place and they will bring ideas back to the school as their year-long project (one group is going to see social justice - such as homeless or shelter needs - something beyond donations Another is going to see something related to Earth/ecology such as places with strong recycling programs or restoration projects or SOLV sites.) We are looking for help with (Total of 3-6 parents needed to help):

1. Help Ms. Ferrari, Mr. Manning, and Mrs. Poling transport and chaperone the eighth grade students who will be going to these locations. (Help needed October 6<sup>th</sup> approx. noon – 2:45 p.m.)
2. Other suggestions are welcome!

The *Day of Service* group will help around the campus. Since our campus is unique and houses a nursing home, preschool, elementary school, middle and high school, as well as 40 acres of lands in the middle of Beaverton, there is a wealth of opportunities for meaningful, internship building projects that will be introduced on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking for help with (Total of 10-15 parents needed to help):

1. Help chaperone small groups of MS students (3-6) as they complete their jobs on campus. The adult's role will be to direct (and teach if need be) the students how to complete the task. The adult will also supervise the completion of the task – to the best ability of the students (given their age and skill level). (Help needed October 6<sup>th</sup> approx. noon – 2:45 p.m.)
2. Other suggestions are welcome!

### **Thursday, October 7 - All School Mass**

Please join us in the school gym for our all school mass. The entire school, grades 7-12, will celebrate mass together in the gymnasium. Please arrive a few minutes early and feel free to sit in the front row of the bleachers, in the chairs along the side of the gym or stand/sit against the wall. No need to call ahead - please feel free to simply show up.

### **Friday, October 15 – Intergeneration Field Trip**

Eighth grade will go to either the zoo or OMSI with the Maryville residents. Seventh grade will go to the Pumpkin Patch with their "Little Valley" buddies. Watch for the permission slip to go home the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **Friday, November 19 – Middle School Fall Dance**

A chaperone's biggest role is to remind students of appropriate behavior and to treat the students the same as you would if this was a birthday party at your house. Knowing a few MS students would prefer parents not to chaperone, we leave the dance floor chaperone duties to staff and two willing MS parent volunteers. All other chaperone duties are outside the dance itself - in the lobby, courtyard, near the entrances and near the rest rooms.

### **November - Classroom Auction Projects**

Parent help is needed in researching, planning, and helping the students create the seventh and eighth grade classroom projects.

### **Tuesday, November 23 - All School Mass**

Please join us in the school gym for our all school mass. The entire school, grades 7-12, will celebrate mass together in the gymnasium. Please arrive a few minutes early and feel free to sit in the front row of the bleachers, in the chairs along the side of the gym or stand/sit against the wall. No need to call ahead - please feel free to simply show up.

## **Monday, Mid- November– Friday, December 17**

### **VCS Food Drive**

The Annual Food Drive begins on mid-November. The Food Drive is an annual tradition that partners VCS with the Oregon Food Bank/Second Wind. Each MS homeroom class will adopt up to four families, for which they will provide food for several meals, including Christmas dinner. In addition, homerooms raise money through competitions to provide several toys to include with the food baskets. The homerooms will receive specific information about their families, including family member's names and ages in mid-November.

Food Drive deliveries occur on Friday, December 17 approx. 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. All middle school students bring the food to their families. In many cases this means that six to eight students go to each home to bring the family their food basket. A specific schedule will be provided in December.

## **November 29 - December 17**

### **Food Drive Activities – Our biggest service project/community outreach**

#### **Santa Photos**

Parent help is needed take photos of the middle school students and Santa (VCHS teacher Phil McQueen) during the lunch (approx. 11:30 – 12:00). Santa photos are typically \$2.00 per photo, with proceeds going to the food drive.

Parents are also needed to help collect the fee and organize the group members and the corresponding photo (once the photos are developed).

#### **Have a Creative Side?**

We'd love to have a small backdrop for our annual Santa photos! Both the middle school and high school students have the opportunity to take photos with Santa.

#### **Candy Grams**

Students, parents and friends can purchase a candy gram (a written message with a piece of candy attached) for VCMS students for \$2.00 per Candy Gram. Parent help is needed sorting Candy Grams per homeroom, charting each student's candy gram "count" (Call Mrs. G for a further explanation), and attaching the candy to the candy gram itself.

#### **Lunch Activities – As sponsored by Student Council Senators and NJHS**

Last year's activities included (prizes included cans of food and/or cash for perishable items for the winning homeroom):

- Can Stacking Contest
- Limbo Contest
- Uniform Violation Day: Bring two cans of food to "purchase" the right to violate the uniform. The idea is to wear the basic uniform and choose one way to violate it (wear an orange sweatshirt, green pants, a hat, purple hair, etc.)
- Open Gym: Bring two cans of food and participate in an Open Gym during the lunch break
- Auction: bring canned food to bid on auction items donated by both the students and staff.

## **Additional Ways Parents Can Help For the Food Drive**

- ✓ Remind your child of the collect dates and activities
- ✓ Help your child bring cans to school (donate canned food yourself, organize/supervise canned food collections outside your local grocery store, organize/supervise neighborhood collections).
- ✓ Watch for coupons, such as buy one “ham - (or insert any food drive item here)” get one free. If you planned on purchasing the “ham” anyway and do not need the second one, please send the second “ham (or insert any food drive item here)” to school for the food drive families. Or watch for great “deals” and keep the food drive families in mind when you see Safeway advertise turkeys for 13 cents a pound....etc.
- ✓ Send the completed permission slip to your child’s homeroom teacher by requested date.
- ✓ Help your child’s homeroom teacher organize the food baskets for the homeroom
- ✓ Help wrap the Christmas presents for each family
- ✓ Drive students to the location on Friday, December 17

## **Wednesday, December 8 - All School Mass**

Please join us in the school gym for our all school mass. The entire school, grades 7-12, will celebrate mass together in the gymnasium. Please arrive a few minutes early and feel free to sit in the front row of the bleachers, in the chairs along the side of the gym or stand/sit against the wall. No need to call ahead - please feel free to simply show up.

## **December– Music Concert Thank You**

### **Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>- Band Concert**

Parent help is needed in purchasing a thank you gift (VCMS provides the budget) for the music teachers, as well as coordinating the students in signing a thank you card (Typically this occurs during the 30 minute prep time just prior to the concert.)

### **Sunday, December 12<sup>h</sup>- Choir Concert**

Parent help is needed in purchasing a thank you gift (VCMS provides the budget) for the music teachers, as well as coordinating the students in signing a thank you card (Typically this occurs during the 30 minute prep time just prior to the concert.)

### **Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> - Orchestra Concert**

Parent help is needed in purchasing a thank you gift (VCMS provides the budget) for the music teachers, as well as coordinating the students in signing a thank you card (Typically this occurs during the 30 minute prep time just prior to the concert.)