

Lillian Vallely School:

lvschool.org

Academics/Culture/Values

Dec. 2018



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

So much good is happening at Lillian Vallely School! Here we are at midyear.



We welcome to the school our new faculty members. Cory Daniels comes to us from Los Angeles. Already and experienced teacher, Cory is a natural. Children follow him wherever he goes. He teaches the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.

2018 marks the beginning of a new kindergarten class.

Pauline Zweeres-Asche comes from Pocatello, Idaho, and brings years of experience with Montessori teaching. (see picture of Pauline below).

Our fine first through second grade teacher, Emily Abercrombie, has been with LVS for some years.

ACADEMICS

All students are assessed when they first start the school and each week with curriculum materials. Every month thereafter there is an online, nationally based assessment. These happen through programs the students use daily so test anxiety is minimal. The curriculum emphasis is slightly changed if test scores indicate that is needed. Scores are compared to spot trends and total progress is measured year to year.



How are you gonna keep 'em down on the school after they've seen the farm? The students from LVS visited the orchards and greenhouse of the Gunderson family farm.



CULTURE

Janita Woody, culture teacher, helps each student to learn his/her heritage through hands on projects and Native history. When one enters the culture classroom the air is slightly flavored with the traditional burning Sage. Shoshoni words are on the wall along with pictures of tribal elders. I recently learned that this Shoshoni language uses different words to refer to relatives from a child's paternal or maternal side of the family. Janita's curriculum is attentive in keeping the culture authentic.

Idaho State University treated our students to a Haunted Science Laboratory. Fun and science are a great mix as you can see.



CHRISTIAN VALUES

Every child spends time in Godly Play with Tammie Bradley twice per week. As good as our academics and culture are, it's the **values** part of the education that is the catalyst for success. It provides the framework for personal and interpersonal behavior; understanding might does not make right; there is really a God who loves them.

At Lillian Valley we are so grateful for our many friends. The Very Reverend *Richard Demarest* of St. Michael's Episcopal Cathedral, in Boise, is a close and treasured one. He knows LVS personally and is familiar with its mission. Below is his appreciation of the mission of the school.

“The mission of the Lillian Valley School is just as important today as it was the very first day it opened. It's mission is to serve children of the Shoshone Bannock tribes and give them a fine education while celebrating their tribal heritage. The school was started in memory of an Episcopal Deacon, the Rev. Lillian Valley, who served at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Fort Hall, Idaho. In fact, Deacon Valley's daughter continues to provide leadership as a member of the current board. The rich Episcopal heritage of the school continues to provide a strong foundation for the school's current work. Indeed, Godly Play, and formative curriculum of the Episcopal Church, continues to provide spiritual formation for the children LVS and many members of the Episcopal Church continue to provide spiritual, emotional and financial support for the school.

I have no questions that LVS is worthy of the support of all Episcopalians. All anyone needs to do is spend some time at the Lillian Valley School to see how important it is to provide support.”

Pause, for a moment. Let's visit.

Do you remember Dickens', *A Christmas Carol*? Ebenezer Scrooge was a busy person! Places to go, things to do, and so little time! His Christmas conversion started after the Ghosts finally got him to pause long enough to see those around him. First, he had to see himself, next to see others and how he fit in. At the end of Scrooge's visit with The Ghost of Christmas Present, the Ghost showed him two children who needed help. They were named *Want* and *Ignorance*. Ebenezer shrank at their appearance and asked the Ghost, "Have they no refuge or resource?"

All of us who help at Lillian Valley School so appreciate what you do to help the children. At Christmas time, especially we are most aware of the blessings we receive. This school is unique. The children are getting custom-designed help for their needs. There are other places they could go to school but parents bring them here because of the record of success LVS has in preparing them for and being loved and launched into public school. This campus and staff are both refuge and resource for our enrolled children and their families. There is a need for this school.

In the New Testament, the Good Samaritan was the one who paused to really see the need. The two others passed by. They had places to go, things to do... Everyone who comes to LVS feels the special spirit that is here. One volunteer told the principal as he watched the children, "There is so much light coming from them." It's real, it's rare and strong.

Please pause and really look at the pictures of the children or come visit us. See the good. Lillian Valley has been teaching and caring for children for twenty years, now with greater positive impact than ever before. Our fine facilities are assured, but there is an urgent need now to fund teacher's salaries. Help all you can. See a need. Fill a need.

Lillian Valley School

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Date _____

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