

Headmaster Andy Hamilton
Ojai Valley School
723 El Paseo Road
Ojai, CA 93023

Dear Headmaster Hamilton,

Fifth grade at Ojai Valley School (OVS) has been a very challenging for Aidan, but we ultimately feel it will be invaluable. We are extremely grateful for the opportunity he has been afforded. We would love for him to continue to have the opportunity to attend the sixth grade. However in order for that to happen, Elizabeth and I are writing to formally request consideration for financial aid.

Aidan has faced many challenges this year at OVS. As you know, fifth graders are given more responsibility and ownership of their own work. Keeping track of what is due and when and simultaneously being tasked with mastery of material have challenged Aidan and moved him out of his comfort zone. He took part in the elementary fall play (he does love an audience) and continues to enjoy his classmates and friends. Overall, OVS continues to be an extremely positive experience for Aidan. We feel he's being academically challenged in the right way and think OVS is the best place for him in the Ojai Valley.

The financial aid package we received for this school year has worked out well for us, and we are very grateful for it. Without it, none of this school year would have been possible for Aidan, and we can see from his work that its definitely made a difference in his life and ours. We want Aidan to continue his education next fall in the 6th grade at OVS but that is not possible without financial aid.

When we wrote about financial aid for last year Bert was optimistic about a return to growth for his business. Things were again somewhat slow over the summer of 2011, but business has picked up considerably for 2012 with the possibility of the best first quarter in years. Elizabeth has been freelancing with her equestrian skills on top of everything involved with teaching at a boarding school (which you are very familiar with).

In short, we need financial aid to continue providing Aidan with what we believe is the best possible educational opportunity at this time in his life and that is at OVS.

We believe we could pay \$12,000.00 towards tuition along with offering help anywhere we can in support of OVS.

We realize we are asking for a great deal from OVS. Thank you for your consideration. If there is more information you need or questions we can answer please let us know. We will do all that is necessary to continue to make an OVS education possible for Aidan.

Thank you again for all you, Mrs. Hermes, faculty, and staff at OVS do for Aidan.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth and Bert Mahoney