

# VALHALLA COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

CSW-February 2nd & 16th - No School  
Family Day - February 19th - No School

### House Point Standings

Iceman - 140 points

Trollsmen - 119 points

Vikings - 101 points

Nordics - 104 points

### Monday February 5th

Early Dismissal

Along with:

School Council Meeting at 6pm.  
grade5/6's are asked to attend.

### Nitehawk Ski Trip

**February 27th** for grades 3-9.

Please bring in your permission forms, releases, registration forms and fees ASAP. We will only be accepting the first 60 students as spaces are limited. All students not participating in this field trip will have regular classes and are expected to attend school.

### Keep a Kid in School Fundraiser

We have completed our 2nd house fundraiser in support of the ANSO Collectives & Education Support Society. The Trollsmen/Kindergarten's Nickel Drive raised \$106.85 to go towards the purchase of a student card to continue on with their education. Our 3rd House fundraiser will be announced soon.

### SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS

FEBRUARY 15TH - 80'S DAY

FEBRUARY 28TH - PINK SHIRT DAY (ANTI -BULLY DAY)

### Basketball

February 12 - game at Wembley @  
12:15

February 13th - home Game against  
Beaverlodge St. Mary's @ 2:30

**ATTENTION: Parents of Grade 3/4's**

**In Class they will be doing a Valentines Craft and are in need of Empty Kleenex Boxes. If your could please donate 1 or more for this craft it would be much appreciated.**

**Thank You!**

**Reminder**

February 5th, 2018

**Icemen Nitehawk Tubing Fieldtrip****(Half year prize for the house with the most points)****All Icemen attending please make sure to bring a bagged lunch or money for the concession, as lunch is not provided.****The bus leaves at 8:45am from the school and will return to the school in time for regular dismissal.****NEW LIBRARY HOURS****EFFECTIVE JANUARY 12TH, 2018****MONDAY - 10AM TO 4PM****TUESDAY - 10AM TO 5PM****WEDNESDAY - 10AM TO 8PM****THURSDAY - 10AM TO 5PM****FRIDAY - 1PM TO 5PM****PHONE # 780-356-3834****Valentines Day**

Candy grams go on sale Monday, February 5th—Friday, February 9th. They are \$0.50 each. Candy grams will be delivered to the students in their mailboxes Tuesday, February 13th.

On Wednesday, February 14th from 2:45pm to 3:30pm the students will have a choice of 1 of the following;

Soc hop, a movie in a classroom or board games in a classroom.

**Speech Competitions Coming Soon!**

Students in all grades are beginning to prepare for the VCS annual speech competition. The competition will be held on February 23, 2018 @ 7pm

Preliminary competition will be held during school hours in class. Winners in each competition level will advance to a finals speak-off which will be held on the evening of February 23rd.

All students will do an age appropriate public speaking activity in class. The best of these will present their efforts at the Feb.23 evening event.

While students will be given some time in school to work on their written and impromptu speeches, they will need to spend some time at home working on them as well to achieve their best effort.

**BUS CORNER**

John Moutray the Transportation Director will be away until further notice.

For all bussing concerns please call Paul Gibson @ 780-933-5019

**Please remember the distracted driving law. Do not call or text your driver while they are on their run. Contact Paul and he could radio the driver if needed.**

**Parents must ensure all students are dressed appropriately for the weather at all times. All students riding on school buses during winter months shall be required to wear winter footwear and outerwear and to carry with them winter headwear and gloves or mitts from November 1—March 31st. In the cases where students are not appropriately attired for winter conditions, the bus driver shall advise the parent and Principal. The Principal will determine if it is of significant risk to the student and may decide to keep the student at the school until they have appropriate clothing or the parent picks them up.**

Bus cancellations can be found on our website at vcs.education on facebook at Valhalla Community School or follow us on twitter @VCSbus. Your school bus driver will contact you directly for cancellations as well.

## **Did You Know .... ??**

**Second Language is an important part of Valhalla Community School.**

**While learning a second language may be an “option” or possibly not even taught in some schools, at VCS it is a mandated part of the school Charter. That means that when Alberta Education granted a charter to VCS so we could be a school, the decision was partly conditional on us teaching Second Language.**

**Our Charter also says we will strive to have our students achieve mastery in the subjects they study ... including Second Language.**

**While not traditionally considered a “core subject”, Second Language is equally important at VCS. “All Core Honors” can not be achieved at VCS unless honors marks are received in Second Language as well as other core subjects.**

**A “core” value at VCS is that students (everyone really!) should give their best effort at everything they do!**

## **Did You Know ....**

**... *That safety is our primary concern at VCS?***

Safety begins before students even get to school ... with well trained and caring bus drivers, careful monitoring of roads and conditions each day by the transportation director and buses that undergo rigorous maintenance practices.

Students are encouraged at school to be considerate and helpful to each other

Staff care about each student. Teachers and educational assistants take on many responsibilities and give many hours above the “minimum requirement”

Small class sizes means students are closely supported and supervised.

When concerns occur, VCS connects directly with parents to work toward the students' best interests

## **Accountability Pillar Surveys**

Every year Alberta Education seeks information from students, teachers and parents about how their education experience is going. This is done through surveys. Students and teachers participate in on-line surveys at school.

The parent survey is scheduled to be fielded in January. These surveys are mailed from Alberta Education and returned directly to Alberta Education. The parent survey in small schools (fewer than 120 students in grades 4-12) includes parents of all students in grades 4 and above.

The more parents who participate in the survey, the more accurate the information is, so we encourage parents to complete and return the surveys as soon as possible once they've been received.

If you are not certain about some of the questions on the survey please contact the school and we can help inform you what we are doing here at the school. More documentation will be attached to the newsletter to help out as well.

## Annual Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Surveys

### Information for parents:

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4 and above (in charter schools) will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4 and above (in charter schools) and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2018, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

# Did You Know ...

## *... That VCS offers many programs and services?*

Alberta Education program of studies is followed and taught

Second Language (French) is taught by well qualified teachers

Art, drama and music experiences are given to all students: through classroom instruction, Christmas concerts and other performances through the year, extra-curricular drama programs, extra-curricular music offerings, Junior High Options

Rural leadership focus teaching and activities: whole school, age appropriate public speaking training and practice, "community values" modelling and teaching, public service encouragement and opportunities

In-class student/teacher support by highly skilled and caring educational assistants

Support for English Language Learners

Extra help for students who require it

- one on one pull out with instructors (especially at elementary level)

- ability-based placements in elementary in reading program

- modified programs and special accommodations when needed

- Enhanced Learning Opportunity (ELO) class (30 min/day) for all junior high students to help keep ahead of homework and learn study skills

- Study, Knowledge, Initiative and Life-long Learning (SKILL) Program for enhancing study and life skills and even more help with homework (by teacher placement or parent request)

Extra-curricular sports programs

In school speech therapy services

In school access to Family Child Support Services (FCSS) counselling and small group support

In school access to Alberta Health Services counselling

# Spring Lake Ski Hill

We are open every Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Please bring cash or cheque as we do not have a debit machine. We have a concession with fabulous hot food available.

Follow us on Facebook for updates.

For more information or to volunteer  
contact Anna Odd  
@ 780-897-2055.

