

In an effort to improve communication between school and home, VCS is continuing a curriculum update program. We will be sending home class updates monthly, to help parents be better informed about what their children are currently studying and working on in their core courses (including Second Language courses). It is a short summary. If parents need or desire more detailed information than they are receiving, we encourage them to contact classroom teachers directly.

Kindergarten Class Update

Your children have been learning and growing so much these last few weeks! I hope you are as proud of your children as I am! They are making great progress and really working hard. We are in the home stretch now, with only 20 Kindergarten classes left!

This month we will be focusing on Butterfly Life Cycle and Bugs. Our butterfly larva should be arriving soon and hopefully they will cooperate this year and hatch on a class day! We have some great crafts and activities planned for this month, so watch for those as well.

Swim lessons start this month. Kindergarten will come to school every day, Monday thru Thursday for these swim days. (May 29, 30, 31, June 1, 5, 6, 7, 8) Fees and permission forms must be returned in order for your child to participate.

Please keep reading to your child and marking it on your home reading log. This is a huge part of your child's education and helps expand their vocabulary. Plus a great opportunity to spend some quality time with your child!

Mrs. Stockman

Grade 1/2 Class Update

Language Arts

We have learned 55 phonograms in our new program called the Writing and Spelling Road to Reading and Thinking (WRTR)! We will be using Reading Mastery Language Arts workbooks again during our language classes, focusing on writing proper sentences and paragraphs. Our study will continue with the remaining 16 phonograms of the English Language, building on our knowledge to spell and write. We will now begin printing 7 spelling words in our agendas for the *quiz* of the week which will be *Thursdays Block 11, right after the last recess*. Please have your child practice their words every night along with their home-reading books.

WRTR uses a coding system when teaching spelling words. The purpose of this marking system is to highlight phonograms in words. In doing this it highlights consistent patterns in spelling. We will teach the codes as we study each spelling list. These rules are to help students memorize the spellings and know exactly when to use the sounds instead of having to guess words from context. We are all learning the WRTR program together, so thanks for being patient and positive so we can enjoy our new educational insights together!

Mrs. Mumert

Math

ATTENTION: UPCOMING BASIC MATH FACTS COMPETITION during the May Assembly. I will be having individual class grade competitions over the next week to determine winners to move on to the main competition. Please help your child prepare by practicing their basic math facts for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Flash cards work great. Memorization is the key to allow for quick responses from recall. GOOD LUCK to all students!

Grade 1/2 – Both grades are into our new JUMP books and returning to the Number Sense Unit.

Grade 1's – Concepts include: Counting to 100, Reading Number Words to 20, Counting On/Counting Back, Pairs Adding to 5 and 10, Skip Counting by 2's, 5's and 10's, Doubles, and Money.

Grade 2's – Concepts include: Skip Counting, Doubles, Estimating, Odd/Even, Regrouping for Adding and Subtracting, Fractions and Money.

Mrs. Flint

Science

Currently we are reviewing the needs of plants and animals. We are using Alberta's forests to talking about food chains and habitats that occur locally. Natural resources and how we utilize them has been discussed in many different topics. We will be starting to focus on how to take care of the environment.

Mr. Heikel

Social Studies

We have been looking at different types of jobs in Canada. Comparing different communities and how the landscape affects what career you can go into has been a topic of discussion. Currently we are examining service based jobs and comparing and contrasting services that are offered in different local communities.

Mr. Heikel

Art 1/2 – Miss Lewis

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a well deserved rest and is ready to take on the last couple months of the school year! Where has the time gone?!

For the last couple months we have been doing many different Art activities. We recently did our Art Fundraiser and was extremely pleased to see how many wonderful pieces went home to their parents! They worked so hard on those and I am very proud of them! We have been learning about technical terms in art, what they mean, and how to use them in art pieces. Some of which include different lines and perspective. We will be moving onto more spring time art so make sure to look for it around the school ☺

A friendly reminder for parents of students in the Grade 1/2 art class, because we only have one day a week to do activities, if your student misses that day, I cannot guarantee they will always get those certain projects done. I will try my best to get them home to work on or in class but sometimes it is just too hard.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (ttorielewis@gmail.com) or by phone (780-356-2370) during lunch time or after school.

Thanks!

Miss Lewis

French

The students have become quite competent in greetings and salutations. Each performed puppet play with a partner which was recorded. If you would like me to text the recording to you, text me! ☺

Mrs. Mumert

Grade 3/4 Class Update

Language Arts

We continue to work on spelling, vocabulary, reading and writing. The next set of stories ranges from scuba diving to dog sledding for grade 3's . The grade 4's are reading historical stories about changes in child labour laws and life of England's royal family. .

LA 3 to 6 Please practice the spelling words that appear in your child's agenda with your child and review the sentence practices that appear daily in their agenda. We are working hard on improving spelling, capitals, punctuation and grammar.

Please sign agendas daily and leave me a note on any questions or concerns you have as I continue to use their agendas daily.

Happy spring!

Ms. Fowler

Math

ATTENTION: UPCOMING BASIC MATH FACTS COMPETITION during the May Assembly. I will be having individual class grade competitions over the next week to determine winners to move on to the main competition. Please help your child prepare by practicing their basic math facts for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Flash cards work great. Memorization is the key to allow for quick responses from recall. GOOD LUCK to all students!

Grade 3/4 – We just finished our measurement unit, learning concepts such as length, mass, perimeter, telling time and elapsed time/intervals of time. Students did very well. We are now moving on to a quick unit called Probability and Data Management where we will learn to organize, classify and display data. Concepts include Venn Diagrams, Tally Charts, Pictographs and Bar Graphs.

Mrs. Flint

Science

We are currently wrapping up a combined unit of building with different materials and testing materials. Students have had a variety of challenges that they needed to complete in class. There was a focus on design blue prints and team work. The next unit we will start is titled Plants and Plant Growth.

Mr Heikel

Social Studies

Currently we are concluding the unit on Asia that had a focus on India. Students have worked on mapping skills during this unit. The next continent and country we will be looking at is Europe and the Ukraine.

Mr. Heikel

French 3/4 – Mademoiselle Lewis

Bonjour!

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a well deserved rest and is ready to take on the last couple months of the school year! Where has the time gone?!

Students are reminded that part of their mark is based upon organization of their binders. I am finding that there is about one third of the class that still tends to just shove things into their books without really thinking about it. It would be a good idea for parents to remind their child that being organized contributes to their grade and will help them in the long run. We have gone through a specific order of documents together, and throughout the year they will be graded on this. This new mark is based on the idea that it will improve their learning in this course by having everything they need in order to study, and successfully accomplish assignments and projects. Students also need to consistently check for items they may have missed if they were away in the “While you were away file” or the Grade 3/4 classroom whiteboard (as well as mine), for assignments that are due and upcoming tests.

In French we have just finished up our giant Food Unit and will be heading on to clothing, body parts, and family. I am very pleased to see how well everyone is doing in this class, as everyone has shown consistent growth since the beginning of the year! There are new verbs in this upcoming unit and it is beneficial for students to review them consistently so they are familiar how they work when applying them to working sentences.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (ttorielewis@gmail.com) or by phone (780-356-2370) during lunch time or after school.

Merci Beaucoup!

Mademoiselle Lewis

Art 3/4 – Miss Lewis

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a well deserved rest and is ready to take on the last couple months of the school year! Where has the time gone?!

For the last couple months we have been doing many different Art activities. We recently did our Art Fundraiser and was extremely pleased to see how many wonderful pieces went home to their parents! They worked so hard on those and I am very proud of them! We have been learning about technical terms in art, what they mean, and how to use them in art pieces. Some of which include different lines and perspective. We will be moving onto more spring time art so make sure to look for it around the school ☺

A friendly reminder for parents of students in the Grade 3/4 art class, because we only have one day a week to do activities and very limited time in that block, if your student misses that day, I cannot guarantee they will always get those certain projects done. I will try my best to get them home to work on or in class but sometimes it is just too hard.

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Thanks!

Miss Lewis

Grade 5/6 Class Update

Language Arts

The class has just completed a novel and are working on the development of a game board to review the elements of the story Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel. Please share the game with your child so you can appreciate their work and the novel. We are concentrating on spelling, rootwords, affixes and vocabulary.

Students have read a novel on their own for which they will create a scene of the setting and prepare a presentation for the class at the end of April.

After Easter break we will be focusing on writing news articles as well as short stories; in preparation for our provincial exams in grade 6. Grade 5 's will also be getting this practice.

LA 3 to 6 Please practice the spelling words that appear in your child's agenda with your child and review the sentence practices that appear daily in their agenda. We are working hard on improving spelling, capitals, punctuation and grammar.

Please sign agendas daily and leave me a note on any questions or concerns you have as I continue to use their agendas daily.

Happy spring!

Ms. Fowler

Math

ATTENTION: UPCOMING BASIC MATH FACTS COMPETITION during the May Assembly. I will be having individual class grade competitions over the next week to determine winners to move on to the main competition. Please help your child prepare by practicing their basic math facts for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Flash cards work great. Memorization is the key to allow for quick responses from recall. GOOD LUCK to all students!

Grade 5/6 – We are currently at lesson 85 in our textbook. We will work for about 1 more month in our textbook and then we will begin the review process for our year end final exam and grade 6 PAT in June. Please check with your son/daughter to make sure they have enough school supplies at school: pencil, eraser, whiteboard marker, red pen. Concepts that we have covered are:

- Decimals – naming, comparing and ordering, and writing tenths and hundredths as decimals
- Units of Length
- Changing Improper Fractions to Whole or Mixed Numbers
- Converting Units of Weight and Mass
- Graphing Points on a Coordinate Plane
- Prime and Composite Numbers
- Exponents and Square Roots
- Finding Equivalent Fractions, Reducing Fractions and GCF

Mrs. Flint

Science

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a well deserved rest and is ready to take on the last couple months of the school year! Where has the time gone?!

We have now wrapped up our Sky Science Unit back at the end of February and are currently in our Evidence and Investigation unit. This unit will end near the End of April and then we will begin our Trees and Forests unit. Parents can expect a possible field trip in May or June, which will be announced at a later date, for this unit, as will take us to right before the end of the year, where we will then begin to study for our Final and PAT. This is a very hands-on class as we always do labs and students are expected to follow all procedures and any safety precautions, during them.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (ttorielewis@gmail.com) or by phone (780-356-2370) during lunch time or after school.

Thanks!

Miss Lewis

Social Studies

We just wrapped up a section on confederation and the creation of Canada. Students examined the constitution of 1867 and how it shaped the nation we are. We looked at our different levels of governments and how the provinces share power. We are moving into discussion on the Indian Act and how it affected lives in Canada.

Mr. Heikel

French 5/6 – Mademoiselle Lewis

Bonjour!

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a well deserved rest and is ready to take on the last couple months of the school year! Where has the time gone?!

Students are reminded that part of their mark is based upon organization of their binders. I am finding that there is about one third of the class that still tends to just shove things into their

books without really thinking about it. It would be a good idea for parents to remind their child that being organized contributes to their grade and will help them in the long run. We have gone through a specific order of documents together, and throughout the year they will be graded on this. This new mark is based on the idea that it will improve their learning in this course by having everything they need in order to study, and successfully accomplish assignments and projects. Students also need to consistently check for items they may have missed if they were away in the “While you were away file” or the Grade 5/6 classroom whiteboard (as well as mine), for assignments that are due and upcoming tests.

In French we have just finished up our giant Food Unit and will be heading on to clothing, body parts, and family. There are new verbs in this unit and it is beneficial for students to review them consistently so they are familiar how they work when applying them to working sentences.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (ttorielewis@gmail.com) or by phone (780-356-2370) during lunch time or after school.

Merci Beaucoup!

Mademoiselle Lewis

Grade 7/8/9 Class Update

Language Arts

The school year continues to fly by! I trust each of you, and your families, have enjoyed the Spring Break; hopefully you were able to get some relaxing in with your sons and daughters! The 'final leg' of the school year promises to be very busy and hopefully very fulfilling for all.

Just before the break, the junior high language arts class began a novel study. We're reading and looking into the novel, Touching Spirit Bear, by Ben Mikaelson. While we're doing this study, we will not be doing our regular monthly novel reading/book report assignment. Instead we'll be reading our novel study book and doing related assignments.

Soon to come ... the first round of Provincial Achievement tests for the grade nines. In preparation for this, we will take a short break from our novel study to get ready for the first LA PAT. This first part of the test is a written test. Students are required to write a business letter, in formal business letter format as well as a short story or essay. We began reviewing the business letter format prior to the break last week. We will take some time off from our novel study to prepare more for the PAT. The grade 7's and 8's will participate in this preparation as it is a good opportunity for them as well, to practice their writing skills. The grade 9's will write Part A of their LA Provincial Achievement test on Monday, May 9. The PAT, in its two parts, is taken as the final exam for the grade nine students. It is very important that all students attend on these exam days. At the same time as the grade 9 PATs, the grade 7's and 8's will write the first part of their LA final exam, which is a similar style to the grade 9 PAT.

Finally, the Junior High LA class has been working hard for some time now, on spelling skills. Each week, on Monday, students are given time to study and practice spelling on a new group of spelling words. We use an online website called "gradespelling.com" to practice with the words. The expectation is that students take some time themselves through the week to practice further with the words, and then they have a spelling test for marks the last day of the week. We've found that students are improving in their results on the weekly spelling test, but they are struggling to master the word definitions, which they are also required to know. Many students have been finding it difficult to do the independent practice each week which needs to happen for them to do their best. Your assistance would greatly help, if you could remind your student/s to take a few minutes (15-20 minutes) a couple times during the week to study for the spelling/definition test.

Students who work hard in LA will do well. I've advised them that effort is a large part of success. They need to work to follow instructions closely. Many assignments are marked with rubrics which the students are given in advance. This allows for personal style, but does require that students address or include all parts asked for by the rubric.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or just want to chat!
Mr. Mumert

Math

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Grade 7/8/9 – We are at lesson 85 in the textbook. We will work for about 1 more month in our textbook and then we will begin the review process for our year end final exam and grade 9 PAT in June. Please check with your son/daughter to make sure they have enough school supplies at school: pencil, eraser, whiteboard marker, red pen and calculator. Concepts that we have covered are:

- Classifying Triangles
- Area of Parallelogram and Circles
- Adding and Subtracting Integers
- Geometric Solids
- Circumference and Pi
- Volume
- Balanced Equations
- Polynomials and Algebraic Terms

- Multiplying Numbers in Scientific Notation
- Order of Operations with Integers

Mrs. Flint

Science

We are in our last unit of science in which we are examining simple machines and how to calculate basic physics problems. Gear ratio mechanical advantage and hydraulic problems will be covered. This time of year it is important for students to start reviewing for the final exam.

Mr. Heikel

Social Studies

Our last unit this year is a focus on Asian world view with a case study in Japan. We are looking at Japanese culture as it changed from a medieval isolationist society to a modern open one.

This time of year it is important for students to start reviewing for final exams.

Mr. Heikel

French

Bonjour!

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a well deserved rest and is ready to take on the last couple months of the school year! Where has the time gone?!

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As most parents know, for the last month or so, in the Grade 7-9 French class, we have been doing the 4th R Program with Gabrielle on Mondays during what would be our French block together. So far it has been good and students are reminded that it is a safe place and that information shared by others in it should not be talked about outside of that room. Now that we are down to one day a week with French, students are expected to keep up a steady pace, and what we cover will be adapted to meet that cut back on time. In French we have just finished up our giant Food Unit and will be heading on to clothing, body parts, and family. There are new verbs in this unit and it is beneficial for students to review them consistently so they are familiar how they work when applying them to working sentences.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (ttorielewis@gmail.com) or by phone (780-356-2370) during lunch time or after school.

Merci Beaucoup!

Mademoiselle Lewis

Upcoming Important Dates:

May 3 – School Council Meeting

May 4 – Hot Lunch, Hot dogs

May 9 - PAT Gr. 9 ELA Part A & Gr. 7 & 8 Final Exam Part A

May 9 - Math Bee and Assembly

May 10 - VSF Board Meeting

May 10 – Favorite Movie/Video Character Day

May 11 - PAT Gr. 6 ELA Part A & Gr. 5 Final exam Part A

May 11 – Dental Presentations gr. 1-6

May 15 – Field trip Gr. 5/6 Spring Lake

May 16 – Roadside Clean up

May 18 – Hot Lunch, Hot dogs

May 19 – CSW, No School

May 22, Victoria Day, No School

May 24 – Duct Tape Day

May 26 – CSW, No School – BRHS Grad

May 29, 30, 31 June 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 – Swimming Lessons

June 8 – Field trip, K, Gr. 1, 2 to Petting Zoo

Provincial Achievement Tests

Round 1 of provincial achievement test are coming quickly.

Tuesday, May 9th is the Grade 9 ELA Part A PAT and also the Grade 7 & 8 Final Exam Part A.

Thursday, May 11th is the Grade 6 ELA Part A PAT and also the Grade 5 Final Exam Part A.

School Spirit Days

Our next school spirit days are;

May 10 – Favorite Movie/Video Character Day

May 24 – Duct Tape Day

Dress up and show your school spirit. Every time a student participates in a school spirit day their name is entered to win a grand prize of gift cards movie passes and candy valued at \$100.

The winner is announced at our year end assembly.

Term 3 Student Council Students – VSF Board Meeting

May 10th @ 6pm is the Valhalla School Foundation meeting that you are expected to attend with a parent. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Roadside Clean up

VCS will have their roadside clean up May 16, 2017. Consent forms will be sent out with the students in grade 5-9. Students in grades 1-4 will stay on school grounds and clean up the playground.

Math Bee

The Math Bee competition will be held at our next assembly Tuesday, May 9th @ 12:45pm.

School Council

The next school council meeting is May 3rd @ 6:30pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons are offered this year through West County Pool in Beaverlodge for students in grades Kindergarten to grade 2. Kindergarten Students will attend school every day, all day, May 29, 30, 31, June 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 2017. For all of these dates please send a bagged lunch/sandwich with your child. We will not have access to a microwave to warm up any lunches. We are in need of volunteers to help supervise the change rooms for these days. If you can help please contact the school office @ 780-356-2370. Consent forms have been sent out. Please have all forms and fees to the school office by May 18, 2017.

Petting Zoo Field Trip

Friday, June 9, 2017 the Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 are going to Down to Earth Farms in Sexsmith, and Muskoseepi Park in Grande Prairie. Please make sure your child brings a bagged lunch, extra snacks, water bottle, bathing suit, towel, hat and sunscreen. Please dress warmly if it is cold out that day, we are going rain or shine. Consents have been sent out with the students. Please return the consent forms to the school office by June 7, 2017.



If you have any questions about information on this letter please contact me anytime at the office, I would be happy to help. Please contact your teachers directly for any questions about your child.

Have a great day ☺

Anna Odd

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Teacher Emails

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