

January 10, 2012

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Valhalla Community School

PE News!

Skating will begin in all our classes (K-9) sometime in February. This is a mandatory unit for all students to participate in. Students will need to bring skates and a helmet (any kind of helmet will do) for all sessions. The school has some extra hockey helmets but no skates. If your son/daughter does not have skates, please try to beg, borrow or buy some. We will also need parent helpers to volunteer to help tie skates. A schedule and more detailed information will be coming soon!

Basketball News

The boys and girls basketball teams have a game this Thursday January 12. They will begin playing in Ridgevalley at 3:30pm. Students will leave VCS at 1:30pm by bus and will return by bus as well. Parents will be notified by phone fan-out of bus arrival time back at Valhalla. Please come and cheer our school on. GO VIKINGS!

Parent Meetings

Quebec Trip Planning Meeting Tonite!

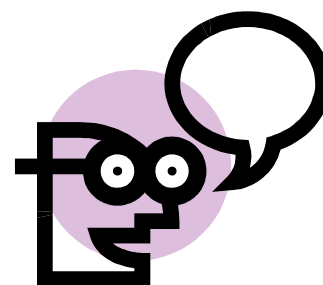
Parents of students participating in the coming spring's Quebec trip need to attend a meeting here at the school on Jan.10 at 5:30pm. Decisions need to be made about travel arrangements and discussion about fund raising and payment arrangements will be held.

Grade 9 Farewell Meeting

A meeting will take place on Tuesday, Jan.17 at 5:30pm to plan our grade 9 farewell event. We would like to form a committee of parents, students and staff



to plan this occasion. We are looking for input to ensure this evening is memorable and meaningful for all. Please attend if at all possible, we NEED to get organized. If you have any questions, please contact the school.



4H Speech Competitions Coming!

Students in 4H (grades 7-9) are beginning to prepare for the 4H club's annual speech competition. The competition will be held on February 16, 2012.

Because of the large number of 4H members in our multi-club, preliminary competition will be held during school hours. Winners in each competition level will advance to a finals speak-off

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which will be held on the evening of February 16.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with organizing and judging the speech competition.

Together with this event, all non-4H students will also do an age appropriate public speaking activity in class. The best of these will also present their efforts at the Feb.16 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.

Parent Council

A parent council meeting has been called for 7 pm, Monday, Feb.6.

One item for discussion is the future of swimming lessons provided by VCS.

Please plan to attend and be part of supporting our school!

Parent council wants to thank everyone for their generous support of the

Christmas silent auction. \$1063 was raised for Parent Council!

Bus Driver's Corner

A reminder for parents to have your children dressed for the winter weather (boots on, mitts and toques along) in order that they are prepared in the event of bus trouble en route.

If you are wondering whether the buses are cancelled; you can check the school website, www.valhallaschool.ca, or listen for announcements on either CJXX-93.1 or Sun FM-97.7 FM radio stations. All effort is made to have any bus cancellation announcements ready for 7:00am.

Please see newsletter attachment for details regarding cancellation process.



A Few Reminders....

Piano Lessons

Ronda Krause will continue with Piano Lessons here at the school, beginning Monday January 9.

Absences

If your child(ren) are going to be away from school, please inform the office and the bus driver.

Destination

If your child is going home with a friend or to a neighbor, please send a note to the bus driver and to the school.

Arrival/Departure

If your child is arriving late, or being picked up early, please sign them in or out at the office.

Utensils

If your child needs utensils for their lunch, please provide them.

Upcoming Events

January 10, 2012

5:30 pm, VCS

Grade 8/9 Field Trip Parent Meeting

All parents of participating students needed!

January 17, 2012

VCS

Grade 9 Farewell Meeting

Come help organize our 1st Grade 9 Farewell celebration!

January 30, 2012

9am, VCS

VSF Charter Board Meeting

Students attending!

February 6, 2012

7pm, VCS

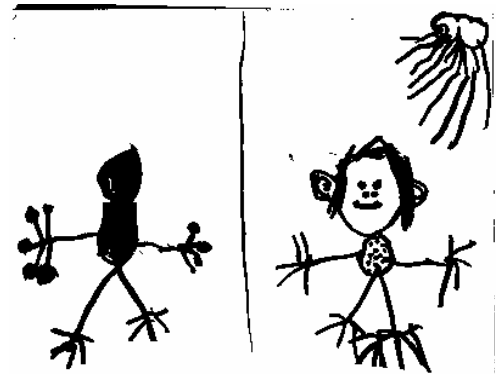
Parent Council Meeting

February 16, 2012

Time: TBA, VCS

VCS 4H Multi-Club Speech Competition

4H Speech Finals and Non- 4H public speaking displays. Come support our students as they seek public speaking distinction!



Process Regarding Bus Cancellation

Student safety is the primary concern of the Valhalla School Foundation (VSF). Everyone involved with student transportation at Valhalla recognizes this responsibility and works to ensure the safe transportation of all Valhalla Community School (VCS) students year round. As you know, winter in Northwestern Alberta can bring inclement and extreme weather conditions. Severe cold, icy and snowy road conditions and reduced visibility all present challenges to transporting students in winter.

While the Valhalla administration recognizes the importance of getting students to school for their instructional time, the decision to cancel buses is not made lightly. A great deal of thought and energy is involved in this process our primary concern is always student safety.

Valhalla School Foundation board policy states that operation of school buses will be suspended on the days when the temperature is equal to, or colder than -40 C. As we all know, temperatures can vary several degrees within just a small area. Currently, temperature readings are taken from the Transportation Director's (TD) home and the AMA camera 43-02, which is on highway 43 east of junction 723. This AMA site is the same site Peace Wapiti School Division (PWSD) uses to determine bus cancellation for their Beaverlodge school area, which encompasses the Valhalla, Hythe, Elsworth and Wembley areas.

On days when road conditions are a concern, the TD will drive parts of all four VCS bus routes. This begins between 4:30 and 5:00 am. The TD may discuss conditions with the VCS bus drivers, other knowledgeable individuals in the area, and/or the County of GP foreman for our area. Between 6:00am and 6:30am, the TD will call the VCS superintendent to inform and discuss conditions in the area and a decision will be made whether to run buses or cancel buses for that day. Once a decision has been reached to cancel buses, the TD informs all VCS bus drivers, the school principal, the radio stations, and the VCS webmaster of the bus cancellation. Every effort is made to have bus cancellations announced by 7:00 am.

We are a separate school jurisdiction from PWSD. The decision for PWSD to suspend their buses is their responsibility. The decision to suspend the VCS buses is the responsibility of the Superintendent of VCS and its Transportation Director.

Finally and most importantly, the VSF leaves the decision of bus ridership to its parents. If parents have concerns about their area of a bus route, they have the right to decide not to place their child on the bus. As always, we ask parents to please let your driver or TD know if your child will not be on the bus. This helps make your driver aware of possible changing road conditions in your area and changes in their bus route.

Our goal is to provide a safe and reliable transportation service to support our parents in getting their children to school. Thank you for your partnership in making our school's transportation as safe and efficient as possible.

Hot Lunch Order Form

For this program to be successful, the School Council is in need of volunteers to pick up the hot lunch order in Beaverlodge and deliver it to the school.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

January 19th, 2012 (This is a kindergarten day Grades K-9 may order)

Hot Dog _____ x 1.00 Total \$ _____

Juice _____ x 0.75 Total \$ _____

Water _____ x 0.75 Total \$ _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

January 19th, 2012 (This is a kindergarten day Grades K-9 may order)

Hot Dog _____ x 1.00 Total \$ _____

Juice _____ x 0.75 Total \$ _____

Water _____ x 0.75 Total \$ _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

January 19th, 2012 (This is a kindergarten day Grades K-9 may order)

Hot Dog _____ x 1.00 Total \$ _____

Juice _____ x 0.75 Total \$ _____

Water _____ x 0.75 Total \$ _____

If you require orders for additional students, please provide complete detail on back of order form.

All orders (with money) are to be in by Monday January 16th, 2012.

For any questions please contact Anna Odd (780) 356-2370/ (780) 356-3055 or aodd@valhallaschool.ca

Please make any cheques payable to the Valhalla School Council.