



Valhalla Community School

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Weekly Newsletter - Website Version

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Ode to a Passing Friend

Alexis

Once upon a school year, in a tiny school, in a small town, or hamlet, that not many people even know exists, there was an overhead named Elmo. He was a grayish color with some dirty cream on the top. He sat on a black roller thinger named Apollo. Elmo was a happy overhead when he first began his career at Valhalla Community School. He was the best overhead in the school. His light shone the brightest and he barely ever made any noise. He was hardworking and never let anybody trip over his extension cords. But that didn't last long.

Soon he grew tired of projecting. That was all he ever did! When they were done using him, he would be rolled over to the same corner. Every day for Elmo was monotonous and boring. The only interesting thing that ever happened to Elmo would be that every couple weeks, some kid would stick a new piece of gum to him. Or, if he was lucky, someone would doodle a new picture on him. He felt so, so, so 'used'! "A healthy, hardworking overhead like me," thought Elmo, "stuck in this dump of a school!" But then one day something interesting *did* happen!

It was L/A class for the 7/8 class, and Elmo was projecting the elements of fairytales up on the whiteboard. It was Monday, and most of the kids were pretty draggy. Then, it seemed like out of nowhere, a bunch of men, probably about seven, came into the classroom carrying a huge box! It was almost the size of one of the whiteboards! They gently put the first box down, left, then came back with more boxes! "Well, we won't be needing *you* much longer." Mr. Mumert said with a laugh as he patted Elmo.

"HA!" thought Elmo, "finally, my chance to get out of here and into a *real* school!"

"NOT ELMO!" yelled Turje, "we love Elmo! You can't get rid of him!!"

"Oh, don't worry Turje," said Mr. Mumert with a chuckle, "we won't get rid of him, he'll just go to the basement."

"WHAT?!" thought Elmo, "THE BASEMENT?! I can't go to the basement! Oh no no no no NO! I'll just be down there collecting dust! THIS SCHOOL SUCKS!" Elmo was still 'yelling' when he was put away in the corner. Elmo wasn't used for the rest of the week. So he got to just sit there and feel sorry for himself. Then, when Friday came, the students were told to say their goodbyes to Elmo, for he would not be there next Monday. Instead, there would be a shiny new Smartboard to replace him.

They didn't move Elmo until early Monday morning, so he had to sit there all weekend while a bunch of men installed his doom. The Smartboard was a grayish white color, and it was huge. It took up the space of one whiteboard. It had a massive touch screen which took up most of the space, and two long, skinny speakers which ran along the sides of the screen. Near the bottom it had several slots for the different colored markers, and one for the eraser. Then on the top it had a huge arm that stuck out right in front of it. On the end of that arm thinger was a projector. The whole machine was attached to a kind of slidey thingey that it could go up and down on. All in all, it was a pretty impressive mechanism! Poor Elmo was so jealous, though he didn't want to admit it. And he couldn't even do anything about it all weekend. He had to sit there in self pity for almost three days! Then, when Monday morning came, Elmo knew it was the end of his time in the classroom.

It was early Monday morning, and the soft light of the sunrise was shining in the classroom windows. The golden rays made the whole classroom light up in a gentle, quiet, rather peaceful tone. There was a calming quiet in the air. Elmo sat in

the corner, waiting for somebody to come in the classroom and take him away. He hadn't talked to anybody for days. Apollo's caring and kind words of encouragement were ignored. Elmo had been thinking all weekend. First, he only thought in self pity. Then, he began to think of ways to escape out into the free world before he was hauled away to the basement. But it was just Sunday night when he finally came back to reality and accepted that he was going to be in the basement for the rest of his days. He was at peace with it. He knew that he and Apollo had been together since the first day he came to the school, but it was time for both of them to move on. For Apollo, it would be for the better. He would be used to carry around other stuff. He still had many years ahead of him. But for Elmo, his working days were over. Mr. Mumert slowly and quietly came into the classroom. As he walked in the door, he could instantly feel that somehow there was a different feeling in the air. Whether it was tension, sadness, or maybe just a peaceful feeling, he felt that he must be very quiet. He slowly rolled Apollo and Elmo down the hallway. When he got to the far porch entrance, he gently took Elmo off of Apollo. Both overhead and the rolley thingey it had sat on for so many years said their silent goodbyes. Mr. Mumert took Elmo down to the basement and set him on a table in the corner. Just before he left, he turned to look at Elmo. He stood there, just looking, for about three minutes. Then, he turned and silently closed the door so that Elmo was enveloped in total blackness.

School Pictures!

Mark your calendar! School pictures will be taken on October 12 (Tuesday). Bring your best smile and dress nicely. (Students: maybe we could move "Formal Thursday" to Tuesday that week ☺) Grade 3/4 and 7/8 are swimming this day so their pictures will be taken early in the day.

Creative Portraits, the company taking school pictures, requests that only student registered in Kindergarten and higher grades get pictures taken at the school. If you wish to have pictures of younger children, please contact Creative Portraits directly for an appointment at their studio.

Proof packages with complete ordering and retake instructions will be sent home from the school when they arrive.

Art Display

In the main entrance of the school, there is an Art Display of Canadian Artists. The students can take a look at the displays and there will be prizes in December for best performance on a quiz on the artists. We will hand out the prizes at the Christmas concert.

Swim Program

Swimming lessons for our grade 3/4 and 7/8 students began October 6 at the Grande Prairie Leisure Centre. Busses leave VCS each day for swimming at 11:40am and return for regular after school bus runs at the end of the day. There is a \$50 fee for swim lessons.

Swim Dates are:

Grade 3&4, 7&8 Swim Lessons: 1-2pm Oct.6,7,12,13,14,15

School Assemblies

Each month here at VCS, we hold a student assembly. As a rule they are held the Tuesdays following the early dismissal Mondays. We celebrate birthdays, deal with school business, give announcements, etc. We're also beginning to incorporate some student performances or activities as well. Assemblies are generally fairly short and begin at 12:40pm, shortly after the students' noon recess. Please be advised, because of Thanksgiving and swimming, October's student assembly will be rescheduled to October 19. If you are a parent or relative of one or more of our students, or an interested community member, please accept our invitation to join us for these assemblies. You are most welcome.

(It may be a good idea to phone in the day ahead just to make sure the assembly time is as usual) ☺

Valhalla School Parent Council

A meeting for the Spring Lake Ski Hill will be held in the school gymnasium on Sunday October 17 @ 2pm. We are preparing for a work bee outside and cleaning inside. We hope to see you there.

The next School Council meeting is on Tuesday October 19 @ 5:30pm. If you have a child attending VCS, you are a member of the School Council. We hope to see you there.

VCS Charter Board Meetings

VCS charter board meetings are generally held the second Tuesday of each month at the Mercantile Café in Valhalla Centre. The next meeting has been changed from October 12. The date for the October meeting will be announced asap. Parents are welcome to attend.

Volleyball!

Congratulations to the girls' and boys' volleyball teams for a great showing at the Little Red Volleyball Tournament this weekend! Both teams improved tremendously and won some games in the process; and boy did they look sharp in their new uniforms! A big thank-you to Paul and Aimee Gibson for donating the money to purchase the uniforms.

Next volleyball action is Thursday, Oct.14, after school, where the boys and girls play an intersquad match against each other.

VCS to Host Garage Sale

Due to the generosity of Laureen and Eric Dane, who have donated a large number of high quality household items to the school, we will be hosting a garage sale in the school gym on Saturday, October 16, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

To make this event an even greater success, we invite school and community members to help us set up and run the sale. We would also be very happy should anyone want to contribute additional high quality items for sale by the school. All proceeds will go toward building a fund to pay for this year's upcoming grade 5/6 year end field trip.

Thank You!!

A huge thanks needs to be given to our own VCS Parent Council. The Parent Council has purchased 5 new desktop computer systems which have been installed for teacher use in each classroom. The new systems give the teachers state of the art hardware to work with the new smartboards which are soon to be installed in each classroom ... The Little School that Could!

VCS is very grateful for the support of our community and volunteers!

Happy Thanksgiving Valhalla Community School Parents and Supporters

Thanks to the volunteers who have handed in their forms to the office. Keep them coming in, forms are available at office or email tfehr@xplornet.com and I will send one.

Volunteers opportunities:

- Valhalla School Foundation Casino (November 1 and 2)
- Watering & staking trees (weekends)
- Fundraising Committee
- Garage Sale October 16 at the VCS gym

Community News

Valhalla Community Library:

Library Hours: Tuesdays 11am-5pm, Wednesdays 10am-6pm, Thursdays 11am-5pm. New members always welcome; memberships are free! For any information please contact Gail Perry: 780.356.3834

LaGlace Ceramics:

The LaGlace ceramic Hours of operation are Tuesdays 9am-3:30pm, 6pm-9:30pm, Wednesdays 6pm-9:30pm. Everyone is welcome! Contact Leona Farnsworth for more information: 780.568.2116

Upcoming Events

October 16, 2010

10:00 am – 2:00 pm VCS

Gymnasium Garage Sale

Selling high quality items to support grade 5/6 year end field trip. Start time TBA.

October 17, 2010
2pm, VCS
Spring Lake Ski Hill Meeting

October 19, 2010
12:40pm, VCS gym
Student Assembly
Parents welcome.

October 20, 2010
3pm, LaGlace School
Volleyball Game
Come cheer on our team!

October 21, 2010
3pm, Hythe Regional School
Volleyball Game
Come cheer on our team!

October 22, 2010
Hythe Regional School
B Girls Volleyball Tournament
Come cheer on our team!

October 28, 2010
3pm, Wembley School
Volleyball Game
Come cheer on our team!