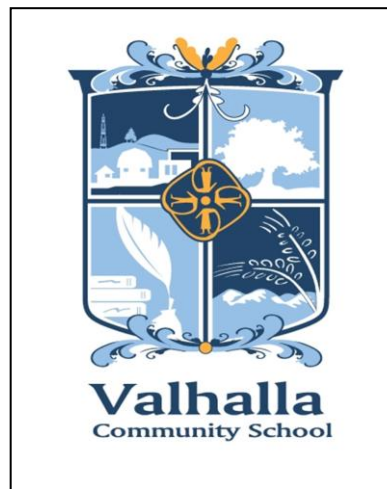

October 23, 2012

Valhalla Community School

Valhalla Vikings are CHAMPIONS!



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- Volunteer Form
- Orphanage Fundraiser
- Quebec Trip Update
- School Board Highlights

The Valhalla B girls hosted our own tournament on Saturday Oct. 20 competing in a local 5 team tournament. The girls won all their matches and played sound fundamental volleyball. The parents ran an awesome concession and it seemed that fun was had by all who attended. I heard many positive comments about the tournament, food and our beautiful school. A HUGE thank-you to all my volunteers, it couldn't have been done without you!

Also, our season is coming to a close so I just wanted to give all our team VB parents a reminder to get psyched up and physically prepared for our student/parent battle on Thursday Nov. 1 after school. This will be our wind-up to the incredible season that we have had. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Mrs. Flint

Halloween's Coming!

Next week Halloween will arrive at VCS! Students and staff are planning costumes and celebrations. Our new Student Council is making plans for celebration activities to be held on the afternoon of October 31. Details will be sent out this week in a separate communication.

Please note that the grade 7/8 class is planning a fundraiser for a South African orphanage at noon on October 31. Details are attached to this newsletter. Your support for these children is greatly appreciated!

Happy Halloween

Volunteer Needed!

VCS is seeking a volunteer School Correspondent/Reporter –

This person would be responsible for organizing photos and articles for distribution to local papers. Ideas include VCS events, student articles and accomplishments and VCS accomplishments. Work would be in coordination with school, teachers, students and other volunteers. Do you have an eye for reporting or the journalism bug? Please contact the office for more specific information.

Community News

Valhalla Community Library:

Library Hours:

Mondays: 11am – 4pm

Tuesdays: 11am – 4pm

Wednesdays: 10am-6pm

Thursdays: 11am-5pm.

Fridays: Closed

New members always welcome; memberships are free!

For any information please contact:

Gail Perry: 780.356.3834

Calendar Change

Please note: VCS year calendar has been changed to accommodate the statutory holiday of November 12, 2012

On Monday, November 12 there will be no school. Please replace any previous versions of the calendar with the current version.

Grade 5/6 Swimming Dates

Dates for the grade 5/6 swimming lessons have been confirmed.

Lessons will be held on October 15-18 and October 22-25 at the Beaverlodge Pool. Students will be bused from Valhalla, leaving school at 12:30pm and returning before bus time in the afternoon. Lesson cost is \$55/student. Consents and fees must be submitted at the school office prior to swimming lessons.

All grade 5/6 students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and sign up for the lessons.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 23, 3pm
VCS
B Girls Volleyball Game

Oct. 26
CSW
No School

Oct.30, 3pm
VCS
B Girls Volleyball Game

Oct.31
VCS
Halloween Celebrations

Nov.7
VCS
Quebec Trip Meeting



Think Recycle Fund Drive is about to take off....watch in upcoming newsletters for more information. Visit www.thinkrecycle.com or contact Tara Fehr at [780-402-9301](tel:780-402-9301) to discover the ways to volunteer for this fund drive



Bus Drivers' Corner

COLD WEATHER

All students riding on school buses must wear, which is preferable, or carry with them, proper clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. If a student is not wearing, or does not have in their possession, appropriate clothing suitable for the weather conditions, the bus driver shall advise the parent, principal and document the discussion. In a situation that the Principal determines to be of significant risk to the student, he/she may decide to keep the student at the school until they have appropriate clothing or the parent picks them up.

Valhalla Community School

2012-2013

General Volunteer Form

Welcome to another action packed, fun filled and fast paced school year at VCS! There are so many events, activities and necessary functions that occur here throughout the school year. **All of them need people to plan, coordinate and staff them.** Some of these activities require small but long term and consistent time commitments. Some of them are one day, single shift opportunities.

Please fill out one form per volunteer, this form will assist us in contacting you with the jobs that would best suited for your interests and abilities. For activities that volunteers work directly with children, VCS requires a current criminal check on file

Name			
Email			
Home phone		Best time to call	
Work phone		Best time to call	
Cell phone		Best time to call	

<input type="checkbox"/> Grounds and beautification	<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/> Helping hands	<input type="checkbox"/> School Council
<input type="checkbox"/> After school sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Recycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Home based	<input type="checkbox"/> On Call
<input type="checkbox"/> Chaperone	<input type="checkbox"/> Hot Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> Truck	<input type="checkbox"/> Ski Hill
<input type="checkbox"/> Casino	<input type="checkbox"/> VSF board/committees	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Donations
<input type="checkbox"/> Trades – please indicate trade below	<input type="checkbox"/> School Correspondent	<input type="checkbox"/> Think Recycle Fund Drive	
Is there another way you feel that you could best contribute or			

Availability: (Please include time of day, Morning, Afternoon, Evening, etc.)
Mon _____ **Tues** _____ **Wed** _____ **Thurs** _____ **Fri** _____

We look forward to your participation in the wide variety of volunteer opportunities at VCS.

I agree to release this information to a volunteer liaison, Valhalla School Foundation and to be contacted by VCS office as volunteer opportunities arise.

Volunteer Signature

Date



Valhalla Community School Confidentiality Agreement & Volunteer Code of Conduct
School Year 2012-2013

Parent & family volunteers are an integral part of VCS. Everyone volunteering at the VCS must have a current signed volunteer application. Volunteers that work directly with students require a criminal records check and an agreement form.

VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

Volunteers at Valhalla Community School shall:

- be on-time and reliable in fulfilling volunteer commitments.
- exercise kindness while volunteering for Valhalla Community School.
- respect and abide by the confidential nature of anything they might see or hear while volunteering.
- be prompt and dependable for the times they agree to volunteer.
- conduct themselves in a businesslike and fair manner, without partiality to individual students.
- motivate children to work and help them succeed in school.
- graciously accept direction and constructive criticism from staff members for which they are volunteering.
- acknowledge the teacher as the authority in the classroom.
- NOT confront a teacher regarding disagreements or differences of opinion in the presence of children.
- be respectful of the classroom by not disrupting a teacher's instructional time or student learning.
- Dress modestly and appropriately for a school environment (i.e. midriff covered, no short shorts/skirts, no spaghetti straps).
- Wear a current volunteer nametag at all times when volunteering at the school
- sign in and out at the front office when volunteering at the school.
- record all VCS volunteer hours, including those worked outside of school, on the log sheet in the front office.
- Ensure that all children (e.g. younger siblings, non-students) accompanying the volunteer on school premises are supervised at all times and must not be disrupting school activities.
- arrange for a replacement in the event the volunteer cannot meet their scheduled obligations
- call the school (780-356-2730) 24 hours in advance and inform appropriate staff of any volunteer replacements via voice mail.

I understand that in my capacity as a volunteer for Valhalla Community School, I will acquire information and knowledge which is either legally protected as confidential, or information and knowledge which is of a personal and private nature. I understand and agree that I shall not disclose to any other person or organization, any information acquired during my work as a volunteer without express and written consent of that person or from the school's administration. My signature below constitutes my acceptance of the terms of this confidentiality agreement.

Parent/ Guardian Signature

Date

Valhalla
Community School

PAGE FOR VOLUNTEER TO KEEP

Please contact Anna Odd aodd@valhallaschool.ca or Steve Mumert sjumert@gmail.com via email or at the VCS office at 780-356-2370 for more information.

Thank you and warmest regards

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Grounds And Beautification - This group will be responsible for bringing some life into the school grounds by planting and maintaining bushes, trees, and flowers

Classroom Volunteer - Volunteer assists a teacher on a weekly basis. Activities include helping students one to one or in a small group, preparing instructional materials, or helping the teacher with other tasks

Helping Hands - Volunteer responsibilities include typing, photocopying, laminating and preparing materials for use in the classroom or with projects

After School Sports –

Recycling – taking contents of recycling to recycle bins

Trades - Are you a tradesperson willing to offer your expertise?

School Correspondent/ Reporter– This person would be responsible for organizing photos and articles for distribution to local papers. Ideas include VCS events, student articles and accomplishments, VCS accomplishments.

School Council – is the voice of the parents and students within the school community. Meetings are monthly and parent are encouraged to come to the informal meeting. It's a great way to meet other parents, voice ideas and concerns and connect to the school community. Child care is provided during meeting.

Truck – do you own a truck, which could be used for general hauling (pulling water tank trailer for watering trees)

Hot Lunch – every second Friday is VCS hot lunch program. Organizing orders & food prior to and on the Friday helping to hand out lunch to the classrooms.

Home based volunteering – typing, costumes, baking, telephone calls,

Chaperone – field trips, swimming lessons, school events (playday, parties)

On call- volunteer as needed – Teri Fox Run, Christmas Concert etc

Ski Hill – Each family is asked to adopt a day for management and running of the ski hill. This is a major fundraiser for the school community. Training is supplied and it's a great way to spend the day as a family while contributing to the school community. The ski hill generally operates from January to April depending on snow conditions. Open every weekend and holidays from 10-4. Positions include 2 kitchen staff, 2 rental volunteers and 2 T bar lift volunteers for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Donations – for fundraising and to contribute to the school community. Please indicate donations that would be available or if you would prefer to be contacted

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- arrange for a replacement in the event the volunteer cannot meet their scheduled obligations
- call the school (780-356-2730) 24 hours in advance and inform appropriate staff of any volunteer replacements via voice mail.

Grade 7/8 Pulane Children Centre Fundraiser!

Dear Parents:

The grade 7/8 class is preparing to do a fundraiser for the Pulane Children's Orphanage in Lesotho, Africa. The fundraiser will be taking place on October 31, 2012 during noon hour. Students are raising funds to help support the Orphanage over Christmas. The money would be helping the directors to purchase small gifts for each of the kids. Last year the grade 7/8's raised money for Christmas Shoeboxes for kids at this orphanage. This year, the person who organized last year's fundraiser is getting married during the holiday season and is not able to take on the project. Through direct orphanage connections, I was told that supportive funds to help the directors bring Christmas to the kids would be greatly welcomed.

Some may be skeptical about an orphanage overseas and its legitimacy. Well, I can give you full assurance that it is. I have personally visited the orphanage and know the director. As well, my husband helped the director get the Children's Centre running three years ago and worked there until January of last year. There are approximately 80 children that attend this centre. Our grade 7/8 class would once again like to bring Christmas to these children.

We will be making snack packs (candy bags) to sell on Halloween.

We would appreciate everyone's support for this fundraiser. To learn more about the Pulane Children's Centre visit their Facebook page.

Thank You

Mrs. Steele

QUEBEC TRIP UPDATE

Junior High Parents and Students:

Our last meeting for the 2014 Quebec trip was held October 10th. On that day we discussed fundraising ideas we'd like to pursue this year. We came up with two ideas for the fall: Clairmont bottle recycling and poinsettias sales. Currently I am waiting for a reply from the Clairmont Recycling facility. Pat Moutray has organized the poinsettias sales so we will be ready to begin at our next meeting. The next meeting will be taking place on November 7, 2012.

Key Items to note:

- Fundraising is done on the point system, if your child is helping out at the fundraising event they will receive part of the proceeds raised. If your child is not a participant of the fundraiser they will not receive any amount of proceeds raised at that particular event.
- Students should be able to fundraise the cost of their trip by January 2014 if they are actively involved in fundraising activities.
- Signing your child up early has its benefits. There is a payment plan of approximately 100-120 dollars a month. Also if your child signs up before October 31, 2012 they will receive 150 dollars off their total fee.
- We would like to have as many students signed up as soon as possible so we can estimate what our fundraising goal will be.
- If you need a copy of the ECF Tours PowerPoint presentation please contact the school.
- It's important to note that on a trip such as this the chaperoning teachers must be able to have complete confidence and trust in the cooperation and good judgement of participating students. If there are serious or ongoing issues that occur at the school in the year leading up to the trip which

impair that trust, a student may not be allowed to go. Should this happen, parents would have to work with ECF Tours to negotiate a refund.

- Another important point to remember is that in addition to the funds required from ECF Tours, travelling students will need spending money for some meals that are not covered by the tour fees and shopping if time allows for it.

Parents if you were not able to attend the last meeting but are interested in sending your children please let us know. If you have any questions about the trip please contact the school.

On November 7th we will be meeting again to look at number confirmation and to kick off our fundraising. If you are not able to be in attendance contact the school so we are able to send the necessary fundraising forms home with your child.

Thank You

Mr. Hiekel and Mrs. Steele

Charter Board Highlights Oct. 2012

Welcome everyone to another year at Valhalla Community School, northern Alberta's first rural Charter School! As you know, our Charter Board has been given the mandate to deliver an innovative program grounded in whole-group direct instruction, incorporating mandatory second language and student leadership development. The responsibility for providing your children with this unique education is one we take seriously; we are working hard to do our best in this endeavor.

With that in mind, I would like to thank our entire staff for their hard work and dedication to our school. Each person who works here is contributing to our vision, as they carry out their individual responsibilities. As a new member of our team, welcome to Don Morton, who has taken on the custodial work, we are pleased to have him on board. In addition, in honour of bus safety week, I would like to make a special note regarding our transportation staff. We are unique among the province's charter schools, in that we run our own transportation system, rather than contracting out this service. There is a whole organization of people and processes working hard to transport your children safely to and from school each day; we are truly grateful to all these dedicated and conscientious people for their terrific work.

On the board front, there have been a few changes to note. After steadfastly serving our charter school since its very early days, Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Ann Westad has decided to move on from the position, in order to take more time for personal activities. We are very grateful to her for her years of devoted service, at a time when everything was new and all of our systems needed to be created from scratch. We wish Mary Ann a wonderful time of rest and relaxation. We are also indebted to Leslie Loberg, who stepped in to the position of Interim Secretary-Treasurer, logging many hours of dedicated work to keep the important financial and paperwork requirements covered during the intervening time-period. Finally, after a thorough search, we would like to welcome our new Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Appleby. She brings to us a vast background in knowledge and experience; we look forward to a long and productive working relationship.

As well, director, Trone Arnet, one of the founding members of our charter school, has submitted his resignation in order to focus his attention on other pursuits. If you were not here at our beginning, you may not be aware of the many events that took place during the summer when we applied for our charter, including the significant, personal risks taken by some of our members, such as the Arnets. The board will miss his contributions and we wish him all the best. Please note, the board has chosen to temporarily fill this vacancy according to Article 2: Section 9 of our bylaws. To see the specific details, the bylaws can be viewed on our website. Also, please feel free to call me for more information.

Our next board meeting will be Nov. 20; interested individuals are welcome to attend. Meetings are open, although occasionally there are items of a nature that require us to move *in camera*. At such a time, guests would be asked to leave for the duration of the discussion and then welcomed back when that subject is finished. Minutes of the meetings are posted on our website <http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca/>. The board generally meets once per month. This year the meeting schedule will vary, so please watch the monthly school calendar for dates. Typically, meetings run from 9 a.m. until noon in the Valhalla Room; however, in response to a recent request, we will be considering evening meetings in the new year.

Finally, thank you for choosing our school. We appreciate your support and look forward to another excellent year partnering with you in the education of your children. Go Vikings!
Jolene Kochendorfer

Charter Board: Jolene Kochendorfer (Chair), Brenda Kjemhus (Vice-Chair), Diane Nordhagen, John Moutray,
Andre Harpe, Tara Fehr Please call the school for director contact information: 780 356 2370