

Charter Board Highlights Oct/2011

Welcome to all new and returning families at Valhalla Community School, northern Alberta's first rural Charter School! We appreciate your support and look forward to another excellent year working with you in the instruction of your children. As you probably know, charter schools must offer a unique education for their students and in our case we have built our program on a foundation of whole group direct instruction, incorporating mandatory second language and student leadership development. Take some time to chat with your child's teacher about the distinct experience you can expect.

Thank you to our staff for their hard work in getting the year off to a great start. Welcome to our new staff members: grade 7/8 teacher, Margo Stuernagel, and bus driver, Janelle Trodd. In addition, in honour of bus safety week, I would like to express the immense respect we have for our transportation staff. Transporting your children safely to and from school each day is a very responsible business; our people are dedicated and conscientious and we are truly grateful for their terrific work.

The responsibility of providing an education for your children is one we take very seriously; we are working hard to do our best in this endeavor. Our regular charter board meetings are generally held the fourth Monday of each month, with the next meeting on Oct. 24 from 9 a.m. until noon, in the meeting room of the Valhalla Viking Centre. Interested individuals are welcome to attend. Although our meetings are open, 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 was finished. Minutes of the meetings will be posted on our website. <http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca/>

One of the topics that we are considering at this time is our cap. You may know that charter schools have an enrolment cap imposed on them by the Education Minister. Ours is 110 students from gr. 1-9. We have been told that this is an absolutely firm number and that it may be in order to request an increase. We would like to hear your thoughts on this subject. Please contact any of the board members (listed below), if you have thoughts on this or any other questions or concerns.

Finally, thank you for choosing our school,

Jolene Kochendorfer

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