

January 17, 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

### Student Fundraiser!

*By Alexis and Faith*

As a fundraiser for tournament entry fees and the payment of referees, our basketball teams are hosting an **“Anti-Bieber Fever Rally”**.

On Monday, January 23 and Tuesday, January 24, we will be collecting money at the office for this cause. Students wishing to have Justin’s music played during recesses can donate money to one jar, and students strongly against his melodies can donate to another jar. The jar which contains more money at the end of the fundraiser will determine whether or not the Bieb’s tunes will ring through the halls on January 25.

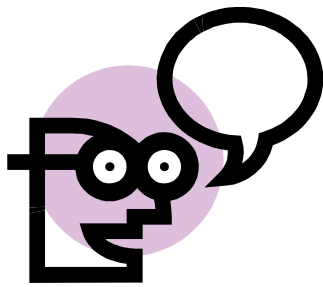
*Please come and support our teams!*  
**GO VIKINGS!**



## Parent Meeting Postponed!

Due to bus cancellations required by extreme cold temperatures on Jan.17, the meeting scheduled for that evening was moved to **Jan.24, next Tuesday at 5:30 pm**. The meeting is to begin planning 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 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!

## Upcoming Events

**January 24, 2012**

**5:30pm, VCS**

**Grade 9 Farewell Meeting**

Come help organize our 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

**7pm, 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!

### *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.

## 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.