

# *VCS Curriculum/Program Update*

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In an effort to improve communication between school and home, VCS is beginning a curriculum update program. We will be sending home class updates monthly, to help parents be better informed about what their children are currently studying and working on in their core courses (including Second Language courses). It is a short summary. If parents need or desire more detailed information than they are receiving, we encourage them to contact classroom teachers directly.

## **Kindergarten Class Update**

This month in kindergarten, we are exploring our five senses through stories, activities and crafts. We are also talking about winter and the changes taking place. Reading Mastery and Language for Learning are moving along nicely. We are up to the letter “L” in our alphabet printing and should get up to “N” by month’s end. In math we are working on representing and describing numbers 0 – 10, pictorially, as well as relating a numeral to its respective quantity.

Mrs. Stockman

## **Grade 1/2 Class Update**

Language Arts

The Grade 1/2's are chugging along in their Reading Mastery groups and doing fine.

Mrs. Mumert

Math

This month in Math the Grade 1's are finishing up their measurement unit. Their last topic in that unit is mass. After we wrap that up we'll be moving on to geometry. The Grade 2's will be working on a short pattern unit and then will be beginning their own unit on measurement. It will be a busy month. If you're interested in any extra practice or have any questions please don't hesitate to email or call me at the school. Thank you!

Mrs. LeBlanc

Science

In Science we are in the middle of our unit on Building Things. Thanks for sending in egg cartons so we can design and construct a house for our reading center!

Mrs. Mumert

## Social Studies

In Grade 1/2 Social Studies we're just beginning a new unit which is called "Looking at My World". In it, we are learning about

- urban and rural communities
- special places and landmarks
- map-reading skills
- current events

Please call Mrs. Mumert if you have any questions or concerns. (Due to the recent staffing changes Mrs. Mumert will be taking over this class.)

## German

The class has been working on alphabet and vocabulary acquisition. This has also been supplemented with auditory and visual exposure using Pippi Langstrumpf and Tier Bis Unters Dach.

Mr. El-Tantawy

## Grade 3/4 Class Update

### Language Arts

Reading Mastery and Language are on track and going well.

Mrs. LeBlanc

### Math

In Math we are going to be working on Multiplication, Rounding Numbers and Money (including how to make change).

Mrs. LeBlanc

### Science

Our Light and Shadow unit for Science wraps up with a unit test on January 15th and then we will begin our next unit on Plants and Plant Growth. We will also be selecting a plant related topic and beginning to write our speeches for our annual speech competition.

Feel free to contact me at anytime with questions regarding anything going on in the classroom.

Mrs. LeBlanc

### Social Studies

In Social Studies we are working on the environment and how it relates to people and their way of life.

Ms. Fowler

### German

The class is working on vocabulary and verb acquisition. This has also been supplemented with auditory and visual exposure using Pippi Langstrumpf and Tier Bis Unters Dach to reinforce vocabulary learned last year.

Mr. El-Tantawy

## French

In French 4-6 are learning how to talk about the thing we all love...food! All French classes celebrated Le Jour Des Rois, Epiphany, and ate la galette to see who would find the bean and become king for the day on January 6.

Mrs. Mumert

## Grade 5/6 Class Update

### Language Arts

We are differentiating fact from opinion. Working on structure of a speech, researching and writing speeches.

Ms. Fowler

### Math

Mrs. Flint has sent home an update to all parents directly.

### Science

Gr. 5/6 Science are completing their unit on Evidence and Investigation and will start Air and Aerodynamics on Monday, Jan.12.

Mr. Mumert (Due to the recent staffing changes Mr. Mumert will be taking over this class.)

### Social Studies

In Social Studies we are studying the Interior Plains region.

Ms. Fowler

### German

The class is working on vocabulary and verb acquisition. This has also been supplemented with auditory and visual exposure using Pippi Langstrumpf and Tier Bis Unters Dach to reinforce vocabulary learned last year.

Mr. El-Tantawy

## French

In French 4-6 are learning how to talk about the thing we all love...food! All French classes celebrated Le Jour Des Rois, Epiphany, and ate la galette to see who would find the bean and become king for the day on January 6.

Mrs. Mumert

## Grade 7 Class Update

### Language Arts

ELA class is finishing the comprehension questions of the second novel study. (Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels). We are supplementing vocabulary with worldly wise 7 and have completed Lesson 5 (Test Friday 9, 2015) . The next topic will be research and essay writing with a focus on the speech competition.

Mr. El-Tantawy

## Math

In Math we are on schedule at Lesson 55 today.

Mr. El-Tantawy

## Science

Moving through the botany unit and just completed the dissection of a Flower and reproduction organs of plants. We are moving into the development of soil, and how the type of soil affects what type of vegetation is grown in it.

Mr. Heikel

## Social Studies

Moving into the conquest of Quebec, Battle of the Plains of Abraham, and how it affects current French English relations in Canada. After that we will cover the American Revolution and the war of 1812.

Mr. Heikel

## German

The class is moving from vocabulary and grammar exercises to the audio and visual component and has started using the Sprachdiplom developed recourses for the A1 level which will include more spoken and written output.

Mr. El-Tantawy

## French

In French 7-9 will be completing our unit on sports.

Mrs. Mumert

## **Grade 8 Class Update**

### Language Arts

In LA we are beginning a poetry unit. We will be creating and analyzing poems, reviewing format of speech and researching information.

Ms. Fowler

### Math

Mrs. Flint has sent home an update to all parents directly.

### Science

Starting to cover body systems, how they function and disorders, the nervous system, the circulatory system, the digestive system, and the renal system. We will be working towards a dissection.

Mr. Heikel

### Social Studies

We are working on covering the Renaissance Italy city states, their historical figures and how they relate to our lives today.

Mr. Heikel

## German

The class is moving from vocabulary and grammar exercises to the audio and visual component and has started using the Sprachdiplom developed recourses for the A1 level which will include more spoken and written output.

Mr. El-Tantawy

## French

In French 7-9 will be completing our unit on sports.

Mrs. Mumert

## **Grade 9 Class Update**

### Language Arts

ELA class is finishing the comprehension questions of the second novel study. (Orwell's 1984). We are supplementing vocabulary with worldly wise 9 and have completed Lesson 4 (Test Tuesday 13, 2015) . The next topic will be research and essay writing with a focus on the speech competition( topics are being explored this week).

Mr. El-Tantawy

### Math

Mrs. Flint has sent home an update to all parents directly.

### Science

Working through the chemistry unit. Currently we are learning to balance equations, working through the periodic table, and naming chemical formulas.

Mr. Heikel

### Social Studies

We are working through the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, controversies in it, what rights we have and how they affect our lives. Also we have discussed when Canada has violated certain human rights.

Mr. Heikel

## German

The class is moving from vocabulary and grammar exercises to the audio and visual component and has started using the Sprachdiplom developed recourses for the A1 level which will include more spoken and written output.

Mr. El-Tantawy

## French

In French 7-9 will be completing our unit on sports.

Mrs. Mumert

**Upcoming Important Dates:**

January 16 – CSW, No School

January 20 – School Spirit Day, Wear Black and White

January 20 – Valhalla School Foundation Board Meeting, 6pm

January 29 – School Spirit Day, Wear Neon Bright Colours

January 30 – Professional Development Day, No School

February 2 – Early Dismissal

February 2 – School Council Meeting, 7pm

February 13 - Professional Development Day, No School

February 16 – Family Day, No School

**School Spirit Days** – This year Mrs. Flint is organizing a Student Council option class. The students are responsible to set the school spirit days. The January school spirit days are Hat Day, Black and White Day and Wear Neon Bright Day. Show your school spirit and dress up!

**Accountability Pillar Surveys**

Every year Alberta Education seeks information from students, teachers and parents about how their education experience is going. This is done through surveys. Students and teachers participate in on-line surveys at school.

The parent survey is scheduled to be fielded in the next month . These surveys are mailed from Alberta Education and returned directly to Alberta Education. The parent survey in small schools (fewer than 120 students in grades 4-12) includes parents of all students in grades 4 and above.

The more parents who participate in the survey, the more accurate the information is, so we encourage parents to complete and return the surveys as soon as possible once they've been received.

**Performing Arts**

Les Bouchérons is coming to Valhalla Community School March 18th, 2015. All of our students will have a great opportunity to learn new dances and French/Canadian culture. If anyone is interested in helping support this program please contact the school. There will be an afternoon performance that we hope family and community members can come to and enjoy. Mark your calendars!

**PE News**

Although dates have not yet been set, PE classes will be doing a skating unit (K-9) 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 when available.

## Speech Competitions Coming!

Students in all grades are beginning to prepare for the VCS annual speech competition. The competition will be held on February 6, 2015. Preliminary competition will be held during school hours in class. Winners in each competition level will advance to a finals speak-off which will be held on the evening of February 6. We will be looking for volunteers to help with organizing and judging the speech competition. All students will do an age appropriate public speaking activity in class. The best of these will present their efforts at the Feb.6 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.

## Message from the Board

The Valhalla School Foundation would like to announce that the Charter Board will be seeking a parent to fill 1 interim director vacancy according to Article 2: Section 9 of our bylaws. Information regarding the position of director and this process is available in the Director Nomination Package, which includes the Director Nomination Profile Agreement, our Charter and our Bylaws, and can be viewed on our website or paper copies can be requested at the office. Please feel free to call for more information.

Jolene Kochendorfer (Chair) [\(780\) 356-2114](tel:7803562114)

If you have any questions about information on this letter please contact me anytime at the office, I would be happy to help. Please contact your teachers directly for any questions about your child.

Have a great day ☺

Anna Odd

780-356-2370 office

[aodd@valhallaschool.ca](mailto:aodd@valhallaschool.ca)

## Teacher Emails

Reanna Stockman	<a href="mailto:marvinandreannastockman@msn.com">marvinandreannastockman@msn.com</a>
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