



## Valhalla Community School

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Weekly Newsletter - Website Version

October 26, 2010

### Halloween

Laura

#### Halloween

Pumpkin, pumpkin  
My oh my  
What do you see through your glowing eye?

Kids in costumes  
Marching feet  
Bags filled with candy treats

Halloween, Halloween  
Kids in costumes come to trick or treat.  
All over town like ants in retreat.

Goblins, goblins  
Ghoul and ghosts.  
Come to take you to a roast.

Vampires, vampires, devils and witches.  
Chase you through Valhalla ditches.

### Valhalla School Foundation Guiding Philosophies (continued from last week)

5. We believe the parent or guardian plays the central role in a child's life and view parents as partners with the school as everyone works toward the child's success.
6. We believe in supporting our school's staff by clearly defining our goals and expectations and by providing the means to carry them out.
7. We believe that student competence leads to self-confidence, and we work to build mastery of skills in academics and leadership to make that a reality.
8. We regard memorization, mental calculation and excellent penmanship as valuable life skills and recognize drill and practice as a preferred way for development of automatic skills.

9. We value critical thinking as an important part of child development. That said, we believe that mastering basic skills and developing a battery of knowledge comes first. This foundation sets the stage for later development of abstract reasoning, logic and self-reliant thought processes.

## **Volleyball Update!**

Volleyball season is almost over. There is practice today after school but there will be no practice on Thursday, October 28 due to Halloween activities. Teachers vs. both volleyball teams, Wednesday at noon!

There is a game on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Wembley at 3pm.

Our volleyball windup is on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Details on the windup will come in the next newsletter.

## **Thank You!!**

The school wants to acknowledge and thank people who contribute in any way to our improvement and success.

This week we wish to highlight the very generous support of Paul and Aimee Gibson.

Paul has operated and maintained our school website since VCS began. He also volunteers for numerous maintenance projects around the school.

Most recently Paul and Aimee gave support to our sports program with a very generous donation which has enabled our teams to have better equipment and very nice team uniforms.

Our sincerest thanks Paul and Aimee!

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

## **VCS Charter Board Meetings**

VCS charter board meetings have generally been held the second Tuesday of each month at the Mercantile Café in Valhalla Centre. The date of these meetings is currently being reviewed. The next meeting has been changed from October 12. The date for the October meeting will be October 28. *Parents are welcome to attend.*

## **Halloween Activities**

In the spirit of Halloween fun ...

Every classroom is challenged to decorate the outside of their classroom door in a Halloween theme. There will be prizes given for the best decorated door. Prizes will be handed out on Thursday.

Every student is invited to participate in a pumpkin carving contest. Pumpkins must be brought to the school already carved. To the parents of younger children, feel free to have your child draw their face on the pumpkin and then carve it for them.

Pumpkins can be carved, dressed up, painted, whatever you wish, but it is all to be done by the student (unless, as mentioned above, the student has drawn the face and the parent has cut it out), If the pumpkin requires a light for added effect please provide your own small flashlight or flameless candle. No pumpkin will be lit by flame.

The pumpkins will be judged and prizes handed out at each grade level.

These are not mandatory events, but rather are meant as an outlet to show school spirit and have the students show off their creative talents.

## **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. 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) ☺

## **Parent Council**

The VCS Parent Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 26 @ 6:30 pm. We need to elect a Secretary to make our group operational. If you have a child attending VCS you are a council member.

The work bee at the Spring Lake Ski Hill on Saturday October 23 was a big help! Thank you to all who turned out!

## Bus Drivers' Corner

We appreciate that our bus drivers take their jobs very seriously and that they are anxious to avoid leaving anyone behind. In order to help keep this from happening please be diligent about contacting your driver or the transportation director if your child will not be on the bus. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent notify the driver and the school with written notes, even for students in the higher grades. This will avoid any confusion from mixed or forgotten messages and confirms your plans for your child.

If it becomes apparent that the student will not be on the bus after the routes are running (6:50 a.m.) contact the transportation director, Doug Kochendorfer 831-5701 or 356-2114, and he will radio the driver to inform him or her. It is illegal for bus drivers to talk on their cell phones when driving and it is unsafe for drivers to stop to check messages on busy roads. Our thanks to all of you for working with the drivers to ensure all of the students get transported safely and on time

## Parent Support

One of our guiding philosophies makes the following statement:

*We believe the parent or guardian plays the central role in a child's life and view parents as partners with the school as everyone works toward the child's success.*

We're fortunate here at VCS to have outstanding support from our parents, both in volunteering and even more importantly, in supporting and guiding their own children's learning.

VCS views education as a partnership with parents. Only with both home and school working together can the best education be achieved.

Ideas for Parent Involvement:

- Support student events and performances by helping with them
- Be part of decision-making committees dealing with school issues and problems
- Ask your child's teacher if he/she has materials you can use to help your child at home
- Help your child develop a homework schedule that he/she can stick to
- Have high expectations for your child's learning and behavior, both at home and at school
- Avoid making homework a punishment
- Praise and encourage your child

## VCS Volunteers

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@explornet.com](mailto:tfehr@explornet.com) and I will send one.

## Volunteers Opportunities

- Valhalla School Foundation Casino (November 1 and 2)
- Fundraising Committee

## Grade 5/6 Field Trip

As the grade 5/6's are probably well aware, we are already planning for and have begun raising funds for a grade 5/6 field trip in the last week of June.

Staff has a field trip proposal we would like to share with the parents of grade 5 and 6 students. We have estimates of the cost and details of the trip.

A meeting for parents of grade 5/6 students has been scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, October 26; after school at 5:30pm.

If at all possible please plan to attend as we need to send a deposit for the trip to ensure availability of the hosting centre. We would like to give opportunity for parent discussion and input before sending the deposit.

If the trip is to be a success, we need the active support of all parents. All funds for the trip must be raised in advance to make it happen.

## AISI Corner

Remember the AISI project? It stands for Alberta Initiative for School Improvement. Mrs. Mumert has recently sent off the Project Report for last year and is awaiting comment from our School Improvement Branch Manager at Alberta Learning. If anyone has any questions or feedback, please contact Mrs. Mumert, the AISI Coordinator. The Home Reading Program is part of the project, so...

## DEAR GRADE ONE AND TWO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS!

Your child has access to a wonderful world of books through [www.raz-kids.com](http://www.raz-kids.com) because our school has subscribed to the online library of exciting reading materials. Raz-Kids helps students improve their reading skills as they listen to a book read for modeled fluency. Then, if the computer has a built-in record function, they can record themselves reading the same book. Or, students can read the book to themselves aloud for practice. Interactive quizzes are available at the end of each book to check for understanding. These are the same printable books we send home every night. If you are not in Gr. 1/2 and would like to read online at Raz-kids, call Mrs. Mumert and she will set up an account for you!

## Community News

Valhalla Community Library:

October is Library Month! Come and enjoy free cake and coffee from October 19-21. Library Hours: Tuesdays 11am-5pm, Wednesdays 10am-6pm, Thursdays 11am-5pm. New members always welcome; memberships are free!

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

Valhalla 4H Beef Club:

Nov. 4 – “Show Your Colors” Day

Nov. 6 – Weigh-in for 4H. New members welcome

## Upcoming Events

October 26, 2010

5:30pm, VCS

*Grade 5/6 Parent Meeting*

June field trip planning

October 26, 2010

6:30pm @VCS

School Council Meeting

November 2, 2010

3pm, Wembley School

*Volleyball Game*

Come cheer on our team!

November 4, 2010

VCS

*Volleyball Windup*

Details TBA

November 10, 2010

1:00pm, VCS

*Remembrance Day Ceremony*

Join us to remember

November 19, 2010

12:15pm, TEC Centre,

Evergreen Park

*Festival of Trees*

Meet us for early Christmas fun!

November 23, 2010

By appointment, VCS

*Parent Teacher Interviews*

Come see us for coffee and connecting !