
November 13, 2012

Valhalla Community School

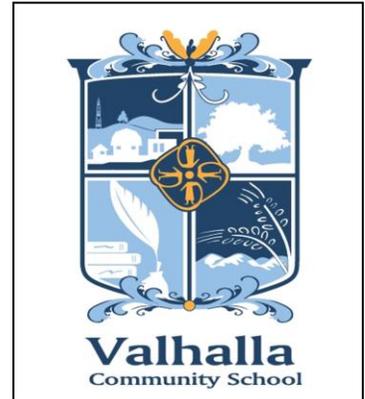
Student/Parent/ Teacher Interviews

Friday this week, the first term report cards will be released. Some formatting changes will be seen, especially in the junior high level report cards. This is a continuing attempt to improve reporting to parents and students and move to a report card more suitable for junior high level students.

Next week, for most students on Wednesday evening, parent teacher interviews will be held. Parents are asked to contact the school to make appointments with their children's teachers beginning at 4pm on November 21. We'll book on the 22nd if we fill up the first day.

We will be continuing with a new feature in PTI's this year. In keeping with our charter's leadership development mandate, we are implementing "student-led" parent teacher interviews. This year students have set some learning/achievement goals for themselves and with teachers' help are keeping an electronic portfolio of their work to document their growth toward their own goals. We're asking students to attend PTI's with their parents and to lead the interview themselves (with some help ☺). They will be able to share the goals they've set themselves with their parents, show the work in their portfolios and take part in the discussion of how their year is progressing.

There will also be opportunity for parents to speak privately with the teachers if they wish.



Christmas Shoebox Campaign

VCS kicked off a Christmas Shoebox campaign last week with a presentation by Juan Warkentin.

Juan was living in an orphanage in Central America when he was given a gift shoebox. His presentation spoke of the impact the gift had in his own life.

We're hoping each family will try to fill one shoebox. ***If you'd like more than one box for your family, please let the school know so we can send them home.*** Our timeline is very tight, boxes need to be filled **and returned to the school by Friday, November 16.** The school will forward them to Operation Shoebox.

Let's make a difference for as many children as we can!

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Simply Smarter

Parents! Please send back the request for your feedback that was attached to last week's newsletter!

Your support and feedback are needed and greatly appreciated!



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!

Book Fair is here! Nov 8 to Nov 22

For any information please contact
Gail Perry: 780.356.3834

Valhalla School Foundation

Announcement

The Valhalla School Foundation would like to announce that the Charter Board will be seeking a parent to temporarily fill a mid-term 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

Annual Education Plan

As with all schools in Alberta, VCS must submit an annual education plan to Alberta Education by November's end. We are seeking input from staff and parents.

Our superintendent, Mr. Picard, has completed a draft and has forwarded a copy to School Council chair, Barb Lind. If you would like to view a copy, and give us your thoughts, please contact Barb Lind or the school office (before the end of this week).

Upcoming Events

Nov.16

Report Cards Issued

Nov.21, 4pm

VCS

Parent Teacher Interviews

Phone to set up appointments beginning at 4pm

Nov.20, 9am

Valhalla Room

VSF Board Meeting

Nov.23 – Day off in Lieu, no school

Nov.30 - CSW

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.

Please note the attachment regarding bus cancellation procedures.

AISI UPDATE!

Important new information about our new AISI project is attached to this newsletter!



Check it out!



Nov. 5, 2012

Dear Parents,

We are starting a new AISI project! AISI stands for “Alberta Initiative for School Improvement”. It’s an Alberta Learning initiative, and every school in the province develops a project that they engage in for a 3 year cycle. We are now into Cycle 5, and Valhalla Community Charter School has chosen to participate in a software project called “Simply Smarter” developed by the National Association for Child Development (NACD).

Here is a message from Simply Smarter to help you understand what the project is all about.

How many distinct pieces of information can you hear or see, understand, hold in your mind, and use to carry out an action? For example, a two-year-old child should be able to follow a two-step direction (such as “touch your nose and your tummy”) after hearing it only one time. A five-year-old should be able to follow a five-step direction. And, as an adult, you should be able to read or hear at least seven or more instructions and follow them correctly. But no matter how many you can absorb and process currently, you can develop your brain so that it can process more, and doing so can have a profound impact on your quality of life.

How well we think is largely a question of how many pieces of information we can take in and manipulate in our minds. There are two primary ways we take in information: one is by auditory input (hearing), and the other is by visual input (seeing). Once we take in the information, there are only two ways to manage or manipulate the information - or, if you will, to *think* about it. One way is to *conceptualize* the pieces of information, which means to think about them in words. The other way is to *visualize* – to think about the pieces of information in pictures.

Since hearing and seeing are the two primary ways we take in information, and conceptualizing and visualizing are the two ways we manipulate and use information, it stands to reason that these four functions – *hearing, seeing, conceptualizing, and visualizing* - are vitally important. If you have a problem with one or more of these functions, then your ability to think, learn, and communicate will be affected. And, if you restore and develop these functions, you will enhance and improve your ability to think, learn, and communicate. The fact is you are smarter than you think you are. Everyone possesses innate intelligence of vast potential. The *access to* that innate intelligence, however, is limited by the brain’s ability to process information sequentially.

Use Simply Smarter to unlock the unlimited potential of your innate intelligence, and see for yourself -- You are smarter than you think you are!

All students from grades 3 to 9 have completed a Baseline Activity using laptops. The grade 3/4 class will soon begin to log in every day to the online project and do activities to improve their sequential processing skills. Grades K-2 will do activities with their teachers in small groups to participate. For grades 5-9, participation in the Simply Smarter Project is optional, and will involve online computer activities done in the home. The teachers will be able to access information about each home-based participant and will give weekly awards for participation in the program. If students do enroll, it is critical that they commit to doing the exercises regularly. The school will pay the subscription for all students signing up.

We are very excited about the potential benefits for our students and staff as a result of this project and greatly encourage you to consider enrolling your gr.5-9 student. In fact, Valhalla Community Charter School is inviting all parents and community members to enroll as well! NACD will collect the confidential data and make it available to us to report to Alberta Learning each year. Let's see if we can make the 'Best School in Alberta' even better!

Sincerely,

Cindy Mumert

AISI Coordinator

Date_____

This is to certify that I am enrolling my child in the Simply Smarter Project under Valhalla Community School.

I understand that the school will pay the fee to NACD for the school year. I commit to regular participation in the online project at home.

Name of student_____Grade_____

Name of student_____Grade_____

Name of student_____Grade_____

Signature of parent_____