



# Valhalla Community School

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January 19, 2016

## Speech Competitions Coming!

Students in all grades are beginning to prepare for the VCS annual speech competition. The competition will be held on February 5, 2016.

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 5.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help.

All students will do an age appropriate public speaking activity in class. The best of these will present their efforts at the Feb.5 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.

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Check out the Valhalla Community Charter School

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### 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 January. 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.

If you are not certain about some of the questions on the survey please contact the school and we can help inform you what we are doing here at the school. More documentation will be attached to the newsletter to help out as well.

### Ski Trip to Nitehawk

Each year we have a ski trip to Nitehawk Recreation Area for our grades 3-9. This is optional for the students but a lot of fun! Our trip is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 9th. Consent forms have been sent out. Please remember this is a first come first serve opportunity, space is limited. All forms and money must be returned to the school office by Thursday, January, 28th. Contact Anna at the school office if you have any questions.

**Help Required.**  
 We are asking for anyone interested to help organize decorations & set-up, serve tables and/or be part of clean-up crew to please contact Brandie as soon as possible. Sign-up sheet available at school office. Any contribution will make this a huge success!

**BE A STAR WITH**

**JIMMY THE JOINER**

<b>WHO:</b>	YOU
<b>WHAT:</b>	COMMUNITY EVENT
<b>WHEN:</b>	MARCH 17, 2016
<b>WHERE:</b>	VALHALLA SCHOOL
<b>HOW:</b>	DONATE SOME TIME
<b>WHY:</b>	ANNUAL BOARD FUNDRAISER
<b>CONTACT:</b>	BRANDIE 780-354-3400 <a href="mailto:bb@vcsps.ca">bb@vcsps.ca</a>

**Upcoming Events**

**January 11-14, 18-21**  
**K-2 Swim Lessons**

**January 26**  
**Solid Color Day**

**January 28**  
**Viking Mardi Gras**

**January 29**  
**PD Day, No School**

**February 1**  
**Early Dismissal**

**February 2**  
**School Council Meeting**  
**7pm @VCS**

**February 5**  
**Public Speaking Competition—7pm**

**February 12**  
**CSW, No School**

**Casino Volunteers Needed**

The Valhalla Heritage Society is scheduled for a casino Wednesday, January 27 and Thursday, January 28, 2016. Volunteers are needed for both days. Contact Dorthea Omlid @ 780-354-8554 if you are willing to help.

**Spring Lake Ski Hill**

The Spring Lake Ski Hill would like to thank Nitehawk Recreation Area for their generous donation of a Snow cat and tiller. We are hoping we receive some more snow soon so we have the privilege of opening and using the new equipment they have given us. Watch us on facebook for updates. For more information or to book the chalet contact Anna Odd from the Spring Lake Ski Hill Association @ 780-897-2055 or email [springlakeskihill@gmail.ca](mailto:springlakeskihill@gmail.ca).

**Library Hours!**

The Valhalla Community Library is open the following times:

Monday	10 - 4 pm
Tuesday	10- 5 pm
Wednesday	10 - 8pm
Thursday	10- 5 pm
Friday	Closed

# MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Missoula Children's Theatre is coming to VCS! They will be here from April 11th to 15th, 2016 all the way from Missoula Montana. Students from Grades K to 9 will participate in an Aladdin themed play. We will have an afternoon and evening performance on Friday, April 15th. The school is going to begin fundraising to help fund this opportunity for our students. If anyone is interested in helping supporting this program please contact the school. We hope family, friends and community members can come and enjoy. Mark your calendars!

## School Spirit Days

Upcoming School Spirit Days:

January 26 - Solid Colour Day

February 9 - 80's Day

February 25 - Favorite Disney Character Day

March 10 - Camouflage Day

March 22 - Twin Day

Dress up and show your school spirit. Every time a student participates in a school spirit day their name is entered to win a grand prize of gift cards movie passes and candy valued at \$100 . The winner is announced at our year end assembly.

## Swimming Lessons

This is our last week of swimming lessons for our Kindergarten, grade 1 and 2's. Please remember to send a sandwich lunch and extra snacks for the bus ride. Microwaves will not be available to warm up any lunches as the students will be eating on the bus. Thank you to all of the parents that have volunteered.

## Students School Council Schedule

We had to reschedule the term 2 student council to attend the school council meeting to February. We did not have enough time to communicate the meeting date and time. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. Here is the schedule for the upcoming months;

February 2 - Term 2 Student Council

March 8 - Grade 4

April 5 - Grade 6

May 10 - Term 3 Student Council

## School Council Update

One thing new to School Council this year is we have had a different group of students attend a regular meeting each month. We enjoy having the students and appreciate their enthusiasm and feedback. Thank you to all the parents for helping and making sure their children can attend.

We had our annual Christmas concert and silent auction on December 15, 2015. We had a great show of support from our parents and community. We would like to thank everyone that helped out and made this very successful raising a total of \$4421.00. THANK YOU!

We have decided to offer our healthy snack program this year again. We would like to thank Advantage Oil and Gas and Beaverlodge IGA for their generous donations, making this program possible.

Hot lunch has been organized differently this year. At registration each family signs up for a month to help out with our hot dog days. Thank you to all of the parents that have helped out so far. If you are unsure of what month you signed up for please contact Anna at the school office.

## Annual Alberta Education Accountability Pillar Surveys

### Information for parents:

As an annual check-up on the education system, the Accountability Pillar provides an opportunity for Alberta Education and school authorities to ensure that we are equipping students for success.

The Accountability Pillar uses a set of 16 indicators consisting of surveys of students, parents and teachers on various aspects of quality; student outcomes such as dropout and high school completion rates; and provincial assessments of student learning.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, parents of students in grades 4 and above (in charter schools) will receive a survey from Alberta Education. In February, students in grades 4 and above (in charter schools) and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school.

All surveys are anonymous and ask questions about experiences with the school. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Urdu.

Your participation in the survey helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving, so we encourage you to return your survey promptly.

Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2016, and will be reported publicly as part of their 3-Year Education Plans and Annual Education Results Reports.

# Did You Know ....

## ... *That VCS offers many programs and services?*

Alberta Education program of studies is followed and taught

Second Language (French) is taught by well qualified teachers

Art, drama and music experiences are given to all students:  
through classroom instruction, Christmas concerts and other performances through the year, extra-curricular drama programs, extra-curricular music offerings, Junior High Options

Rural leadership focus teaching and activities: whole school, age appropriate public speaking training and practice, "community values" modelling and teaching, public service encouragement and opportunities

In-class student/teacher support by highly skilled and caring educational assistants

Support for English Language Learners

Extra help for students who require it

one on one pull out with instructors (especially at elementary level)

ability-based placements in elementary in reading program

modified programs and special accommodations when needed

Enhanced Learning Opportunity (ELO) class (30 min/day) for all junior high students to help keep ahead of homework and learn study skills

Study, Knowledge, Initiative and Life-long Learning (SKILL) Program for enhancing study and life skills and even more help with homework (by teacher placement or parent request)

Gender segregated Physical Education and Health/Leadership classes for junior high students

Extra-curricular sports programs

In school speech therapy services

In school access to Family Child Support Services (FCSS) counselling and small group support

In school access to Alberta Health Services counselling

## Did You Know ....

*... That safety is our primary concern at VCS?*

Safety begins before students even get to school ... with well trained and caring bus drivers, careful monitoring of roads and conditions each day by the transportation director and buses that undergo rigorous maintenance practices.

Students are encouraged at school to be considerate and helpful to each other

Staff care about each student. Teachers and educational assistants take on many responsibilities and give many hours above the "minimum requirement"

Small class sizes means students are closely supported and supervised.

When concerns occur, VCS connects directly with parents to work toward the students' best interests

## Did You Know .... ??

**Second Language is an important part of Valhalla Community School.**

**While learning a second language may be an "option" or possibly not even taught in some schools, at VCS it is a mandated part of the school Charter. That means that when Alberta Education granted a charter to VCS so we could be a school, the decision was partly conditional on us teaching Second Language.**

**Our Charter also says we will strive to have our students achieve mastery in the subjects they study ... including Second Language.**

**While not traditionally considered a "core subject", Second Language is equally important at VCS. "All Core Honors" can not be achieved at VCS unless honors marks are received in Second Language as well as other core subjects.**

**A "core" value at VCS is that students (everyone really!) should give their best effort at everything they do!**

### Poem by McKenna

In winter, snow, soft and fluffy,  
Sits on the ground, white and puffy,  
No flowers bloom and in the snow,  
The flowers have to wait to grow,  
Footprints and angels on the ground,  
Children laughing, falling down,  
Some birds tweet, some went away,  
Lakes are frozen, oceans, bays,  
The time there's lots of homemade cookies,  
Holidays Christmas and Valentine's Day,  
Sleds going down hills tumble and slide,  
Drinking hot chocolate when you go inside,  
Skating, skiing, sledding, hockey,  
Sports of all kinds, if you have snow,  
But some countries don't, and that's sad to know.

### PE News

PE classes will be doing a skating unit (K-9) in February. Dates for skating will be Feb 17,19,22,24 . 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. Consent forms are being sent home today.