

In an effort to improve communication between school and home, VCS is continuing 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 – Mrs. Stockman

November's themes were Remembrance Day and Community Workers. We had briefly gone over why we wear a poppy and read the poem "In Flanders Fields." We talked about Community Workers and their different jobs. We had many fun crafts and activities that tie into these themes. December's themes are Christmas and winter. We are now practicing their Christmas song for the concert.

We continue to make great progress with our Reading Mastery and Language for Learning programs. We are up to the letter Ii with our alphabet. Practice at home naming the letters we've learned so far and the sounds they make is great practice to help reinforce what they are learning in class.

In math we continue to work on number printing, recognition and counting. To date we are up to the number 10.

Grade 1/2 Class Update

Language Arts – Mrs Mumert

The grade 1/2's are improving in their reading at an encouraging rate. Each group has been skipping lessons and passing tests five lessons at a time! This is due to a great number of parents reading with their child every night, so thank you so much! Every 150 books read at home means a movie class. We have watched Brave in the French language and are now watching Frozen. We are practicing our song for the Christmas concert, Silent Night in French. Here is a link to practice at home with. Look in agendas for the words.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQOPXyHeVkk

Math – Mrs. Lowen

Since our last update, the Grade Ones have completed the Number Sense unit they have been working on since the beginning of the year. Up to the Christmas break, students will be finishing a short unit called Patterns and Algebra and starting the Measurement unit. The Grade Two's will

finish up the Number Sense unit and be starting the Patterns and Algebra unit before the break. Thank you Grade Ones and Twos for all your hard work!

Science – Mr. Heikel

We just wrote a unit exam on heat and temperature. Student's learned how to read thermometers. Also we did experiments on the effects of heat and chemical change. We cooked an egg and burned a piece of tissue and students were required to complete a simplified lab report. We will be moving on to a unit on small animals shortly.

Social Studies – Mr. Heikel

We have just completed the first text book in 1/2 social. It examined three communities in Alberta and how they have changed through time. We learned how to build time lines and charts to compare a long time ago to now. As well we discussed how some things have continuity with the past. We currently are focusing on more map work, shifting from the map of Alberta to identifying oceans, countries and directions on the map of North America. The next text book will expand its view to three communities across Canada.

Grade 3/4 Class Update

Language Arts – Mrs. Lowen

Since our last update, the Grade three's have read two stories and completed a special project. The Grade Fours have started reading a series of short stories about animals. In LA we have been working on spelling and writing skills, as well as a unit called All You Need is a Dictionary.

Math – Mrs. Lowen

We are continuing to work through the Number Sense unit. Students have been working on adding and subtracting 2 and 3 digit numbers and for the grade fours, 4 digit numbers. In the weeks to come we will be learning about multiplication and money.

Social Studies – Ms. Fowler

Students are looking at the geography, natural resources, jobs, animals and history of the Foothills Region. We will be testing next week. Please encourage your child to review notes and study sheet nightly. There are always vocabulary words in each unit.

Science – Mrs. Lowen

We are starting our second unit called Rocks and Minerals this week and we will be working on this unit until mid January.

French 3/4 – Mademoiselle Lewis

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students and I have had a decent first month together as they get used to my expectations and rules, teaching style, and lesson assignment procedures. I try to make my classroom as structured as possible and I expect students to be respectful, cooperative, and always give their best efforts in class. I am looking forward to a great year working with them and also getting to know them much better!

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For the last month in the Grade 3/4 French class we have been working on numbers, greetings, article usage (un/une/le/la/des etc.), telling the date, the months of the year, the days of the week, and getting to know general terms for different people. We have now completed that unit and have moved into our food unit (La Nourriture). This unit is likely to take us right up to Christmas break as it is quite a lofty unit with lots of vocabulary and verbs to learn, along with a food project and an exam. After the holidays we are likely to begin different seasons and our winter unit. We have not been using our very cool Duolingo App as much as I have liked but as we develop a better routine, with me being their new teacher, I am going to try to implement it much more, as it reinforces vocabulary use, sentence structure, and oral practice.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (ttorielewis@gmail.com) or by phone (250-306-9077).

Merci Beaucoup!

Mademoiselle Lewis

PE – Ms Fowler

We are working on our gymnastics unit. Please ensure your child is dressed for tumbling, headstands, and activity

Grade 5/6 Class Update

Language Arts Grade 5 – Ms. Fowler

LA 5 students are reading about the life of Sara Crewe and will later do a comparison of the reading to the movie. We encourage parents to help their child review vocabulary with their children. Tests take place every 10 lessons.

Language Arts Grade 6 – Ms. Fowler

LA 6 students have been working on poetry and various forms of literature on the topic: Peace and Conflict. We are currently putting together a presentation for the younger students as we practice retelling their interpretation of a proverb on conflict. Students will be creating a set, characters and the script.

Math – Mrs. Flint

Grade 5/6 – We are currently at lesson 35 in our textbook. The students are progressing very nicely. I am so proud of each of the students for working diligently and showing a lot of responsibility towards assignment completion/homework. What a terrific group of kids! They are awesome ambassadors for VCS! Remember parents that your son/daughter should be bringing home all their tests for parent signatures and then be returned the very next day. When we get a return rate of 100% on the first day after a test, the whole class is rewarded. Some of the concepts that we have been learning about are:

Grade 5:

- Multiplication facts: 0s,1s,2s,5s, 9s, 10s,11s and 12s
- Writing Numbers through hundred millions
- Naming
- Fractions
- Perimeter and Area of Squares/Rectangles
- Squares/Square Roots
- Word Problems about Separating and Comparing

• **Grade 6:**

- Interpreting Pictures of fractions, decimals and percents
- Division Algorithm with and without remainders
- Factors and Multiples of Numbers
- Fractions: halves, thirds, fourths, fifths, eighths and tenths
- Polygons
- Lines, rays, Segments and Angles
- Word Problems about Separating, comparing and elapsed-time

Social Studies – Ms. Fowler

SS 5/6 Students completed the unit on Ancient Athens with the creation of a Walking Tour Brochure. We are now comparing the life of the Iroquois Confederacy to Ancient Athens. Students will use timelines, maps and create visuals to show their understanding of this society.

Science – Mr. Mumert

The grade 5/6 Science class wrapped up its study of Wetland Ecosystems and is currently mid way through a short unit called Classroom Chemistry. I have been really pleased with the hard work and enthusiasm the students are showing. We continue to work on practicing note-taking and organizational skills as we do our science.

Some of the topics we're looking at in the Chemistry unit include:

- recognizing and identifying different types of mixtures (ex. two or more solids, a solid and a liquid, two or more liquids)
- applying and evaluating a variety of techniques for separating different materials,
- dissolving substances and recovering dissolved substances
- making crystals
- properties of water
- properties of carbon dioxide
- reversible and irreversible changes of materials
- recognizing and describing evidence of a chemical reaction
- using indicators to identify solutions as acidic or basic

This is a pretty basic introduction to chemistry, but it does give students opportunity for some "hands on" science, which they do seem to enjoy!

If you have any questions or concerns about our science class, or anything else that I might be able to help with, please feel free to drop in or call. :-)

French 5/6 – Mademoiselle Lewis

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class. The less disruption we have in class, the easier it is to get their assigned work completed and not have homework.

For the last month, in the Grade 5/6 French class, we have been working on numbers, greetings, article usage (un/une/le/la/des etc.), telling the date, the months of the year, the days of the week, and getting to know general terms for different people. We have now completed that unit and have moved into our food unit (La Nourriture). This unit is likely to take us right up to Christmas break as it is quite a lofty unit with lots of vocabulary and verbs to learn along with a food project and an exam. After the holidays we are likely to begin different seasons and our winter unit. We have not been using our very cool Duolingo App as much as I have liked but as we develop a better routine, with me being their new teacher, I am going to try to implement it much more, as it reinforces vocabulary use, sentence structure, and oral practice.

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PE – Ms Fowler

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Grade 7 Class Update

Language Arts – Ms. Lewis

Hello Grade 7 Language Arts parents!

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In Language Arts, since I have been their teacher, we have been working on creative writing. I wanted to see where their writing skills were at initially, and we are now continuing with creative writing while implementing figurative language usage such as similes, metaphors, personification, onomatopoeia, as well as finding and using our 'voice' in writing. I try to give the students 15-20 minutes daily to silently read a novel as being a good reader is an essential skill. We will continue to work on these things probably until Christmas break and then head into our Poetry Unit once classes resume in January.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (ttorielewis@gmail.com) or by phone (250-306-9077).

Thank you for your support and time!

Miss. V. Lewis

Math – Mrs. Flint

Grade 7/8/9 – We are also at lesson 35 in the textbook. I have been very pleased with my junior high students for putting forth a positive and responsible attitude/effort towards their assignments/quizzes/homework. It makes teaching enjoyable when I am able to teach math, rather than classroom manage student behaviors. **THANK-YOU** junior high students! ***Keep up the excellent work!*** Students are always expected to complete math lessons even when they are absent from school and can always take a math re-test on any quiz that we do. I'm very excited about our IXL Math membership. All students have a username and password and can go to this website at home for extra practice or to challenge themselves. I do assign IXL exercises during class time as well as a way to master skills taught in the lessons. Some of the concepts that we have been learning about are:

Grade 7:

- Fractions: adding, subtracting with common denominator, multiplying and reducing
- Measures of a Circle
- Angles (Measuring and drawing with protractor)
- Greatest Common Factors and Least Common Multiples
- Reciprocals
- Ratio and Rates
- Expanded Notation and Decimal Place Values

Social Studies – Mr. Heikel

We are currently in the midst of a unit on New France. The French contribution to Canadian culture is being examined. Students will be required to recognize names of key historical figures and how they drove history. We are just finished a case study on Montréal: how it was founded and its history and architecture. Special emphasis was given on sites that are still there to visit.

Science – Mr. Heikel

Next week there will be an exam on the environmental unit we are completing. We have explored how humans impact the planet through their actions. Acid rain, POPS, PCBs and other pollution and its sources have been examined. Currently we are looking at biological controls that can be used instead of pesticides.

French – Mademoiselle Mumert

Mrs. Mumert's French class had their quiz on the first level of Duolingo, and the days of the week. We also drew our homes or our dream homes and labeled them with words from our notes. This project was due Monday/ lundi le 30 novembre. We have also been practicing Jingle Bells in French/ Vive le vent. Here is a link to practice at home with. :-D

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Merci Beaucoup!

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PE – Ms. Lewis

Hello Grade 7/8/9 P.E. parents!

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For the last month, in the Grade 7/8/9 Boys P.E. class, we have worked on our Volleyball and Fitness units. Currently we are working on our Floor Hockey unit, which may take us to the end of November when we will begin Dance or different ball games.

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Thank you for your support and time!

Miss. V. Lewis

Grade 8/9 Class Update

LA8/9 – Ms. Fowler

Students had some experience with "Turning Points" in life as we looked at various literature on that topic in the current unit of study. It is soon finished and students need to be studying the various conventions we practiced such as parts of speech, punctuation, elements of a story and vocabulary. We will be doing a comparison of two old films dealing with unions in the following weeks as part of a look into the next topic which is Final Frontiers.

Math – Mrs. Flint

Grade 7/8/9 – We are also at lesson 35 in the textbook. I have been very pleased with my junior high students for putting forth a positive and responsible attitude/effort towards their assignments/quizzes/homework. It makes teaching enjoyable when I am able to teach math, rather than classroom manage student behaviors. **THANK-YOU** junior high students! ***Keep up the excellent work!*** Students are always expected to complete math lessons even when they are absent from school and can always take a math re-test on any quiz that we do. I'm very excited about our IXL Math membership. All students have a username and password and can go to this website at home for extra practice or to challenge themselves. I do assign IXL exercises during class time as well as a way to master skills taught in the lessons. Some of the concepts that we have been learning about are:

Grade 8/9:

- Transformations
- Laws of Exponents
- Scientific Notation
- Ratios, Rates, Proportions
- Probability
- Adding and subtracting Integers
- Collecting like terms
- Similar and congruent Polygons
- Multiplying and dividing decimals and fractions

Science – Mr. Heikel

We have just completed the unit on biology, and wrote a unit exam on the 18th. This unit covered the basics of life. We have examined strategies organisms have used to survive, adapt and reproduce. Darwin's theory of evolution was discussed with case studies being examined about how evolution may be happening today. We further explored the basics of genetics, disease and mutations. Different heritable traits were also discussed.

We are now moving on to an examination of the principles of chemistry. Special attention will be given to the periodic table. Student will learn how to balance equations and identify chemical versus physical change.

Social Studies – Mr. Heikel

Currently we are close to the close of our unit on the Justice system. Next week there will be a unit exam. We have examined various levels of courts throughout the Canadian system. We have learned about how laws are made, interpreted and enforced. We have also compared the penal and prison system in different countries. The rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizens have been given special attention.

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Upcoming Important Dates:

December 1 – School Council Meeting 7pm @ VCS
December 2 – VCS Store
December 3 – Hot Lunch Forms Due to the office
December 3 – Poinsettia Delivery for Quebec Trip Students
December 4 – Hot Lunch
December 7 – Early Dismissal
December 7 – Hat Day
December 8 – School Spirit Day, Fluorescent/Neon Day
December 11 – No Kindergarten this day
December 15 – VCS Christmas Concert and Silent Auction
December 16 – Christmas Concert ALTERNATE Day
December 17 – School Spirit Day, PJ Day
December 18 – CSW, No School
December 18 – January 3 – No School Christmas Holidays
January 4 – Regular Classes Resume
January 15 – CSW, No School
January 29 – PD Day, No School

Information Items:**Christmas Season Approaching!**

It's hard to believe, but the Christmas season is upon us already!

VCS students are hard at work learning and practicing parts and music for the annual Christmas concert. Only three weeks to go until performance! A busy schedule of activity is underway. Students are learning their songs, working on their drama parts and will be getting set to help fill many off stage roles as well. The Christmas concert is one of the biggest avenues in the school year for our students to learn and demonstrate leadership, participation and citizenship traits.

The concert will run on December 15 at 1:30pm (dress rehearsal) and 7:00pm. Both performances are open to the public. December 16 is a back up date, should the concert have to be postponed due to road or weather conditions on December 15.

The last day of classes for VCS is December 17.

Christmas Concert Silent Auction Donations

Every year at the school Christmas Concert, School Council holds a silent auction. Our school council contributes to our school in many ways, one of them being an annual silent auction to raise much needed funds for supporting our students. This is the School Council's only fundraiser of the year. The Christmas concert is open to all VCS families and to the community and is scheduled for December 15th, 2015.

Any donations for the fundraiser are welcome. A letter is available at the office or through school council for you to take to anyone who might interested in donating. This is also a great time to talk to people about the fundraiser so they come to the concert prepared to bid! Please contact Sarah Miller

School Council President @ 780.545.0523 or the school office 780.356.2370 for the letter.

School Council Meeting Student Attendance

The December School Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1st @ 7:00pm. Please note this month the Grade 5 class is attending with a parent to do their meeting observation assignment.

School Spirit Days

Our December School Spirit Days are;

December 8 - Fluorescent Day

December 17 - PJ 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.



Comedian Jimmy the Janitor

Brings His Good Clean Comedy to Valhalla!

He's been called "The Dean of Dust", "The Squire of the Squeegee", and "The CEO of CLR"...but mostly he's been called upon to entertain audiences across Canada and the United States for the past 25 years! Jimmy the Janitor brings his hilarious show to Valhalla on St. Patrick's Day - Thursday evening March 17th 2016 at the Valhalla Viking Centre! Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner by the Mercantile Café starts at 6:30, and Jimmy takes the stage at 7:30. Tickets for the March 17th show at the Valhalla Viking Centre are \$50.00, available at the Valhalla Community School Office, or call Brandie at 780-356-3400. Recommended ages 14+.

****Please note this Date**** March 17th 2016

Calendar Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone that purchased a Principal Landscapes Calendar. The calendars are ready here at the school office to be picked up. The Proceeds from your purchase are going to help fund the Missoula Children's Theatre for our students. Our students will have two public performances on Friday April 15, 2016, 1:30pm and 7pm @VCS. We hope you can make it. Thank you for being part of our community.

Poinsettia Orders

Thank you to everyone that ordered poinsettias from our Quebec Trip students. Our delivery date for the poinsettias is December 3rd. Please contact the school for any questions.

Operation Christmas Child

We would like to thank our community, families and students that participated in our shoebox collection. We collected 75 shoeboxes! Way to go Valhalla!

We Scare Hunger

Valhalla Community School recently took part in the WE SCARE HUNGER campaign. This project took course over 1 month. We would like to thank all of the families and students that donated towards this great cause. In total we have received 747 food items. Millions around the world go hungry every day and change starts here. We want to stop hunger in its tracks. On November 24, the student council took the food to the food bank in Hythe. Thank you everyone for helping us make a difference in our community! VCS Student Council Term1

Bus Drivers' Corner

Winter weather is here!

Parent/Student Handbook:

Parents must ensure all students are dressed appropriately for the weather at all times. All students riding on school buses during winter months shall be required to wear winter footwear and outerwear and to carry with them winter headwear and gloves or mitts from November 1 to March 31. In those cases where students are not appropriately attired for winter conditions, the bus driver shall advise the parent and Principal.

School Guidelines:

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.

Thanks!

John Moutray (Transportation Director): (780) 978-1030

VCS Office: (780) 356-2370

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

Teacher Emails

Reanna Stockman	marvinandreannastockman@msn.com
Cindy Mumert	cindy.mumert@gmail.com
Joy Lowen	lowenj777@gmail.com
Vivian Fowler	vmperrin@gmail.com
Victoria Lewis	ttlewis@gmail.com
John Heikel	jheikel@ualberta.ca
Kelli Flint	flintkelli@gmail.com
Steve Mumert	sjmumert@gmail.com