



Valhalla Community School

Page 1

January 5, 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.

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.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.

Inside this issue:

Speech Competition	1
Bus Driver's Corner	2
Upcoming Events	2
School Council	3

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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 are being sent out this week. Please remember this is a first come first serve opportunity, space is limited. Contact Anna at the school office if you have any questions.

Bus Drivers' Corner

What it takes to be a bus driver:

Its not for the pay, it's all about the KIDS!!

1. A new driver must do at least 20 hours of driving in one of our buses with an experienced driver that the Transportation Director appoints.
2. The new driver then writes the Alberta Class 2 written test.
3. The new driver then completes the Alberta Class 2 road test.
4. The new driver then gets evaluated by the Transportation Director.
5. Once the driver has passed the evaluation, they then have 12 months to complete an S Endorsement Course.
The S Endorsement Course is a 2 part course;
 - a) 2 days of classroom
 - b) The driver will then have a road test conducted by a certified instructor, this can take up to 2 hours.
6. The new driver will ride/drive every bus route with the regular bus driver.

Now the driver is qualified to drive a school bus.

Continuous online training is conducted in VCS organized by the Transportation director. Bus Evacuation drills are completed twice yearly.

All of VCS drivers and spare drivers have completed their S Endorsement or are scheduled to complete the course on the next available date.

Here at VCS we take pride in our school and the safety of our students is our main concern. We are always looking for spare drivers, if you are interested please contact me directly.

John Moutray Transportation Director 780-978-1030.

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

Upcoming Events

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

January 14
Nerd Day

January 15
CSW

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

Spring Lake Ski Hill

The Spring Lake Ski Hill has not received enough snow to open. We are still hopeful! 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 aodd@valhallaschool.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 14 - Nerd Day

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

The Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students will begin swimming lessons on Monday, January 11, 2016. 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. We need volunteers to help out at the pool. If you can help please contact the school.

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