Welcome new and returning families, to the start of our second term as northern Alberta's first rural Charter School! As you know, our Charter Board has been given the mandate to deliver an innovative program grounded in whole-group direct instruction, incorporating mandatory second language and student leadership development. The responsibility for providing your children with this unique education is one we take seriously; we are working hard to do our best in this endeavor.

Today I had the distinct pleasure of attending the school's Remembrance Day ceremony, at which I was once again moved by the excellent group of people that are gathered together in the work of our school. We were stirred as the bagpipes brought in the special guests and then impressed by the students' presentation of an excellent selection of poetry and music. Thank you to all that were involved with this project.

Speaking of our people, I would like to thank our entire staff for their hard work and dedication to our school. Each person who works here is contributing to our vision, as they carry out their individual responsibilities. In addition to the continuing members of our staff, we are pleased to have several new individuals join our team and we look forward to a long and fruitful time together.

As I see the snow falling this evening, I would like to make a special note regarding our transportation staff. We are one of only 2 of the 13 charter schools that run their own transportation system, rather than contracting out this service. We are truly grateful to these dedicated and conscientious people for their terrific work, as they transport your children safely to and from school each day.

On the board front, there is a change to note, one of our directors, Shellie Barclay, has regretfully submitted her resignation. The board has chosen to temporarily fill this vacancy according to Article 2: Section 9 of our bylaws. To see the specific details, the bylaws can be viewed on our website. Also, please feel free to call me for more information.

Our next board meeting will be Nov. 21; interested individuals are welcome to attend. Meetings are open, although occasionally there are items of a nature that require us to move *in camera*. At such a time, guests would be asked to leave for the duration of the discussion and then welcomed back when that subject is finished. Minutes of the meetings are posted on our website http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca/. The board generally meets once per month from 6-9 p.m. in the Valhalla Room. The meeting schedule varies, so please watch the monthly school calendar for dates.

Finally, thank you for choosing our school. We appreciate your support and look forward to another excellent year as we partner with you in the education of your children.

Jolene Kochendorfer (780) 356-2114

Charter Board: Jolene Kochendorfer (Chair), Brenda Kjemhus (Vice-Chair), Donna Mumert, John Moutray, Jennifer White, Mike Gerow.

Please call the school for director contact information: 780 356 2370