

Valhalla Community School

January 31, 2012

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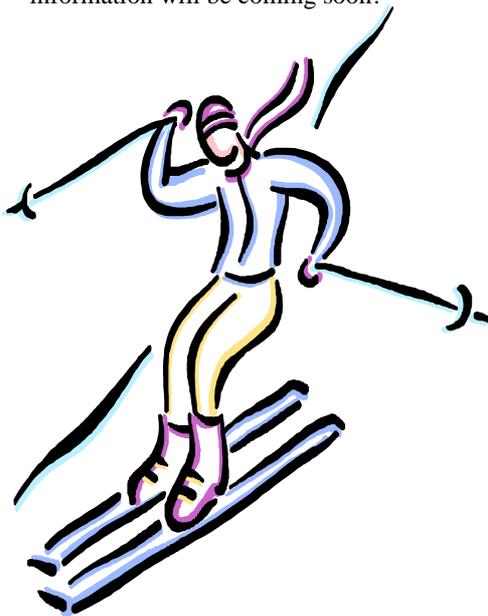
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PE News!

Skating will begin in all our classes (K-9) sometime in February. 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. A schedule and more detailed information will be coming soon!



Woman's Institute Meeting

Woman's Institute Meeting will be held here at VCS February 6 @ 3:40pm. For Further information contact Eunice Horte 780.356.2378

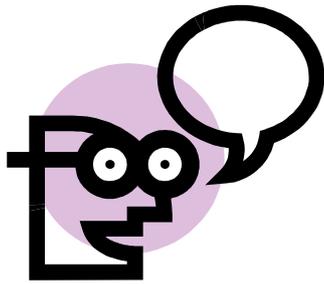


School Fees Reminder

Just a quick reminder: Tomorrow VCS begins the second half of the school year. To date we have a large number of families who have not paid school fees. Please make a point of paying fees as soon as possible. These fees help offset the cost of school supplies that the school purchases for our students. If your fees are unpaid, please contact the office to make arrangements concerning this important issue. Thanks.

Spring Lake Ski Hill Opening!

We've had some snow! It looks like it might be enough to get the hill ready to open! On Saturday, February 4 from 12pm – 4pm a clean-up/orientation session will be held at the Ski Hill at Spring Lake. **We plan to open for skiing on Sunday, Feb.5, from 10am – 4pm.** Come up and see what it is all about! For more information contact Anna @ 780.356.2370 or 780.897.2055.



4H Speech Competitions Coming!

Students in 4H (grades 7-9) are preparing for the 4H club's annual speech competition. The competition will be held on February 16, 2012.

Because of the large number of 4H members in our multi-club, preliminary competition will be held during school hours. Winners in each competition level will advance to a finals speak-off which will be held on the evening of February 16.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with organizing and judging the speech competition.

Together with this event, all non-4H

students will also do an age appropriate public speaking activity in class. The best of these will also present their efforts at the Feb.16 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.

Parent Council

A parent council meeting has been called for 7 pm, Monday, Feb.6.

One item for discussion is the future of swimming lessons provided by VCS.

Another issue is the improvement of use of computer equipment in the school.

Please plan to attend and be part of supporting our school!

Travel Club

A reminder to all families participating in the VCS Quebec field trip this May: EF Tours has informed us that all accounts must be paid in full by Feb.8. We cannot book flights or proceed with the trip in any way until all accounts are settled. Thanks.

Upcoming Events

February 6, 2012
VCS
Early Dismissal

February 6, 2012
7pm, VCS
Parent Council Meeting

February 7, 2012
12:45pm, VCS
Student Assembly

February 9, 2012
VCS
Hot Lunch Day

February 16, 2012
7pm, VCS
VCS 4H Multi-Club Speech Competition

4H Speech Finals and Non- 4H public speaking displays. Come support our students as they seek public speaking distinction!

February 17, 2012
VCS
Extra Kindergarten Day

March 26, 2012
7pm, VCS Viking Room
VSF Annual General Meeting

A Few Reminders....

Piano Lessons

Please be advised that all piano lessons with Mrs. Krause resume this week as per the regular schedule. Please contact the office (780.356.2370) or Mrs. Krause (780.356.2725) for more information.

Absences

If your child(ren) are going to be away from school, please inform the office and the bus driver.

Destination

If your child is going home with a friend or to a neighbor, please send a note to the bus driver and to the school.

Arrival/Departure

If your child is arriving late, or being picked up early, please sign them in or out at the office.

New Library Hours! Remember!

The **Valhalla Community Library** is open the following times:

Monday	11 - 4 pm
Tuesday	11 - 4 pm
Wednesday	10 - 6 pm
Thursday	11 - 5 pm

Parents and Students: Please Note that this is the VCS Policy on Winter Clothing to be Worn or Available at all Times on School Buses!

E. Support Services

Policy E-102: Bus and School Operations during Inclement Weather

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.

The Effectiveness of Direct Instruction (this is excerpted from [Clear Teaching](#) by Shepard Barbash)

A Powerful Tool is Being Ignored

History shows that innovations with obvious benefits are often ignored and resisted for decades or even centuries. Take the case of citrus fruit as a treatment for scurvy.

Prior to 1750, scurvy was a horrific problem on long sea voyages. As author Jonathan Lamb notes, "In 1499, Vasco da Gama lost 116 of his crew of 170; in 1520, Magellan lost 208 out of 230... all mainly to scurvy."

You would think that any promising treatment would be readily adopted—but it wasn't.

In a 1601 voyage from England to India, British captain James Lancaster gave three teaspoons of lemon juice per day to the sailors on his flagship. The crews of the other three ships under his command received none. Halfway through the voyage, 110 of 278 sailors on the three no-lemon-juice ships had died of scurvy, while those on the flagship stayed healthy.

Incredibly, Lancaster's experiment was ignored for nearly 150 years! It wasn't until a shipboard physician who knew of Lancaster's findings tried a similar experiment in 1747 that citrus was again evaluated as a cure for scurvy. Eventually, limes became a standard provision in British ships—but not until 1795—another 48 years after Lancaster's results had been confirmed!

The saga of Direct Instruction (DI) is remarkably similar to the story of Lancaster's cure for scurvy. Invented nearly 50 years ago, DI is a scripted, step-by-step approach to teaching that is among the most thoroughly tested and proven in the history of education. It works equally well for general education, gifted students, and the disabled, but surprisingly remains little used.

DI was the clear winner in the federal government's 10-year Follow Through project—the largest study in history to compare different approaches to instruction. In the 40 years since Follow Through, DI has repeatedly been shown to be effective with all kinds of students—from at-risk and struggling preschoolers to top performers in middle school. Yet, despite its demonstrated effectiveness and an acute need for improved schooling outcomes—over two-thirds of all fourth graders are not proficient in reading—most teachers know little about it.

Students love Direct Instruction. They become engaged and excited, not passive and bored. Teachers who become proficient in DI prefer it because of the great results they get with students. Just an hour of DI instruction per day is typically enough to significantly improve student performance.

DI works so well that its author—Siegfried "Zig" Engelmann—has a standing offer to wager \$100,000 on a contest between DI and any other type of reading instruction. In forty years, no one has accepted his challenge

Hot Lunch Order Form

For this program to be successful, the School Council is in need of volunteers to pick up the hot lunch order in Beaverlodge and deliver it to the school. Please contact the school if you can help.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

February 9th, 2012 (This is a kindergarten day Grades K-9 may order)

Pizza

Pepperoni/Cheese/Ham and Pineapple _____ x 2.25/Slice Total \$_____ Please circle Pizza Choice

Juice _____ x 0.75 Total \$_____

Water _____ x 0.75 Total \$_____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

February 9th, 2012 (This is a kindergarten day Grades K-9 may order)

Pizza

Pepperoni/Cheese/Ham and Pineapple _____ x 2.25/Slice Total \$_____ Please circle Pizza Choice

Juice _____ x 0.75 Total \$_____

Water _____ x 0.75 Total \$_____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

February 9th, 2012 (This is a kindergarten day Grades K-9 may order)

Pizza

Pepperoni/Cheese/Ham and Pineapple _____ x 2.25/Slice Total \$_____ Please circle Pizza Choice

Juice _____ x 0.75 Total \$_____

Water _____ x 0.75 Total \$_____

If you require orders for additional students, please provide complete detail on back of order form

All orders (with money) are to be in by Monday February 6th, 2012. For any questions please contact Anna Odd (780) 356-2370/ (780) 356-3055 or aodd@valhallaschool.ca

Or Linda Mackay at (780) 354- 8504 **Please make any cheques payable to the Valhalla School Council.**