

January 18, 2011

Inside this Issue

- 1 Winter Storm
- 1 Charter Review
- 2 Field Trip Meeting, Speech Competition
- 2 Bus Drivers' Corner, Upcoming Events
- 2 Reminders

Attachments:
ND Learning Poster

Valhalla Community School

Winter Hits with a Vengeance!

An unusually severe winter storm dropped a record snowfall on the Valhalla area over the past weekend. According to area records, it was the heaviest snowfall since the 1940's.

All our school buses were forced to cancel their runs Monday and Tuesday resulting in a five day weekend for Valhalla students.

Staff at the school spent their days catching up on marking and planning, shoveling snow while waiting for the parking lot to be plowed out, and wondering at the eerie quiet in the hallways.

Charter Review Approaches!

All staff , parents and students asked to prepare.

As you all know, we are part of a Charter school community. While Charter schools are public schools, they are also unique and as such are subject to some Alberta Education accountability requirements that don't apply to other public schools in Alberta.

One of the differences is that Charter schools are granted their "charter" for five year renewable terms. In the third year of their charter, Alberta Education conducts a thorough review of the school to determine how successful they have been in implementing the terms of



their charter and make suggestions for change if necessary.

This is our year for such a review and the process is of tremendous importance to the future of our school.

At the school we have been working on documents to submit for the review and have been making sure the requirements of a charter school are in place. In the near future VCS will be sending home a survey on behalf of Alberta Education to seek your input as parents. From February 22-25, a review committee will be in our school interviewing staff, observing classes, and will interview a sample of parents.

Over the past three years, as a community, we have worked to support a new vision for the Valhalla Community School as a Charter School. In order to inform the school community of what this charter review involves, and to discuss ways in which parents can support VCS in this critical process, we are asking all parents, if at all possible, to attend a meeting at the school on January 26 at 7pm. Our

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Charter board co-chairs and superintendent will be in attendance to lead this important discussion.

To accommodate this process, the grade 8/9 field trip meeting will be pushed back to 8:00 pm. Thank you for your understanding and help. Your support is vital.

Field Trip Meeting

All parents of students who will be in grade 8/9 next year are asked to attend a meeting at **8:00 pm*** on January 26.

We need to discuss and agree on a destination and plan for next year's upcoming field trip in June, 2011.

It is hoped that this trip will be a special opportunity for our students. As such it will be a big undertaking. For it to be successful it will be necessary for all parents of participating students to be on board and actively participating in the planning and fundraising required.

*** Please note time change!**

Basketball Note: Challenging weather has impacted basketball too! Some uncertainty remains due to changeable conditions. However, as it stands now (Wed. afternoon), basketball practice will be held Thursday after school. Games will be rescheduled as soon as possible. *Stay tuned for updates.*

A Few Reminders....

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.

Utensils

If your child needs utensils for their lunch, please provide them.

4H Speech Competitions Coming!

Students in 4H (grades 5-8) are now preparing for the 4H club's annual speech competition. The competition will be held on February 8, 2011.

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 8.

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.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with organizing and judging the speech competition. **If you are interested in helping out please let the office know.**

Upcoming Events

January 26, 2011

7pm, VCS

Charter Parent Meeting

All parents requested to attend to support VCS's upcoming charter review

January 26, 2011

8pm, VCS

Grade 8/9 Field Trip Parent Meeting

Come discuss possible destinations and plans for next year's trip. All parents of participating students needed!

February 4, 2011

VCS

First Friday for Kindergarten

Kindergarten begins Friday classes!

February 8, 2011

Time: TBA, VCS

VCS 4H Multi-Club Speech Competition

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

Bus Driver's Corner

Welcome back from the holidays.

A reminder for parents to have your children dressed for the winter weather (boots on, mitts and toques along) in order that they are prepared in the event of bus trouble en route.

If you are wondering whether the buses are cancelled; you can check the school website, www.valhallaschool.ca,

or listen for announcements on either CJXX-93.1 or Sun FM-97.7 FM radio stations. All effort is made to have any bus cancellation announcements ready for 7:00am.