

January 25, 2011

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### Attachments:

Revised Calendar (check Basketball dates!)

# Valhalla Community School

## 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 Superintendent will be in attendance to help 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!**

## 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.**

## AISI Corner:

Remember what AISI stands for? Alberta Initiative for School Improvement! All students are now enrolled in the Raz-kids online home-reading program. So as soon as they register with their teachers to get a password, anyone can go to the raz-kids.com website and start reading to earn points in their own account. They can use their points to decorate their rockets, or teachers may have their own ideas for their points! Contact Mrs. Mumert for more info.

## Bus Driver's Corner

The drivers and transportation director would like to thank all the parents and school staff for your cooperation in regards to last week's cancellations and early dismissal.

Please listen to your radio or check the Valhalla Community School website for bus cancellations. Radio stations that should be announcing our bus cancellations are CJXX-Big Country, Free FM, Q99, Shine FM and Sun FM.

Remember if you are viewing the school website to refresh your computer periodically so that the website can update on your computer.

## Thank You!

Everyone has had to be shoveling or plowing snow lately. Last week's weather challenges meant a lot of effort to clear snow at VCS too: from sidewalks, bus lanes and parking lots.

We're really grateful to those who helped us remove problem snow at the school.

Thanks to Dwayne Beck and Loren Steyer for their time and machines!

## 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!

**January 27, 2011**

**9am, Mercantile Cafe**

**Charter Board Meeting**

**February 4, 2011**

**VCS**

**First Friday for Kindergarten**

Kindergarten begins Friday classes!

**February 8, 2011**

**7pm, VCS**

**VCS 4H Multi-Club Speech Competition**

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

## Need Math Help??

*Mrs. Flint will be available to offer students extra help with Math on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch. This would be a great opportunity for some one-on-one instruction and help to get those corrections caught up and complete*