



## A CHARTER SCHOOL IN VALHALLA CENTRE



### Inside this issue:

Charter Schools	1
AGM Notice	2
Upcoming Events	2
Registration Week	3
CTBS	3

(First published in the Beaverlodge News)

Valhalla Community School is a Charter school, one of 13 schools described by Alberta Education as “autonomous non-profit public schools designed to provide innova-

*tive or enhanced education programs that improve the acquisition of student skills, attitudes and knowledge.” Travelling west on Highway 59 through Valhalla Centre, one may pass by Valhalla Community School without realizing how unique it is – not only in the region, but unique in the province and indeed in all of Canada.*

While Charter schools exist throughout most of the United States, Alberta is the only province in Canada to have Charter school legislation. The first Charter school legislation in the US was enacted in 1991 in the state of Minnesota, where today there are 149 Charter schools with approximately 35,000 students. In the US as a whole, there are presently over 5600 Charter schools with an enrollment of almost two million students.

Reasons given for the creation of Charter schools include research showing the success of independent schools, the need for innovation, and the possibility of offering choice to parents. Circumstances and legislation varies, but their autonomy and focus on innovative approaches to teaching and learning are common to all Charter schools, whether in the US or in Canada.

Alberta Public Charter Schools were created in 1997, with the rationale being to enhance both choice and innovation offered across the province. At present, there are 13 public charter schools in Alberta, most of them in or near the large urban centers of Calgary and Edmonton. They are described by The Association of Alberta Public Charter Schools as offering innovative methods of instruction, opportunities for meaningful parental involvement and a safe, caring and responsive environment. Charter schools all have certified and dedicated staff and a dedication to excellence. Each charter school is independent, has its own elected school board, and has an innovative approach to teaching and learning.

Valhalla Community School is unique as a rural Charter school in the northwest of the province and is the most recent addition to the list of Charter schools in Alberta. VCS is independent of other schools in the region, but it is public and open to all. The particular focus of VCS is on Direct Instruction and Rural Leadership, which will be examined in de-tail in a future article. For more information, see the VCS website at [www.valhallacommunityschool.ca](http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca).

Check out the Valhalla Community Charter School

Facebook Page!



# Valhalla School Foundation Notice

The **VSF Annual General Meeting** has been set for **Thursday, March 13 at 7 p.m. in the Viking Room.**

Three directors are coming to the end of their current terms and our interim position will need to be elected at that time, as well. Brenda Kjemhus,

John Moutray, and Jolene Kochendorfer have all agreed to let their names stand for another term. In addition, Tracy Campbell has agreed to let her name stand for the position she has been filling in the interim.

## Upcoming Events

**March 12, 2014**  
6 pm, Valhalla Room  
**VSF Board Meeting**

**March 13, 2014**  
7pm, Viking Room  
**VSF Annual General Meeting**  
*Come to hear and discuss the business of our school community!*

**March 21, 2014**  
**Extra Kindergarten Day**

**March 25, 2014**  
**Nitehawk Ski Trip**

**March 28, 2014**  
**Day off in Lieu of PTI**  
**No School**

**March 29 to April 6, 2014**  
**Spring Break**

**April 7, 2014**  
**Classes Resume**

## Valhalla's Got Talent Badminton Begins!

Coming April 17, 2014 to Valhalla Community School: Valhalla's Got Talent!

On Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> VCS students will have the opportunity to showcase their amazing talents to classmates and community guests. If you have a unique talent and would like to show it off to the school, sign up at the office by Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Talents may involve singing, dancing, playing an instrument or a comedy routine, although the possibilities are endless! Please talk to Mr. Heikel with any questions. There will be a consent form for parents to sign and all performances must be approved by Mr. Heikel. We look forward to seeing all of your amazing talents and creativity!

**Junior High Badminton**  
**starts Wednesday, March 12, 3:45-5pm. Sign up and pick up consent forms at the office.**



## Advance Notice! Coming April 16, 2014!

Valhalla Community School  
Grade 7 Class

**Presents:**

## Romeo & Juliet

An evening performance of  
the classic

**Shakespeare  
play!**

(more details to come!)



## Nitehawk Ski Trip

The ski/snowboard trip to Nitehawk has been **rescheduled** for **Tuesday March 25th**. This trip is offered to students grade 3 to grade 9. Forms are available for a short time if you have not al-ready signed your child up to participate.



## WANTED

We're looking for a Full Time Bus Driver for our Beaverlodge route. Please see our advertisement on the VCS web site... and ... pass it on. Thank you \_

[www.valhallacommunityschool.ca](http://www.valhallacommunityschool.ca)

## Spring Lake Ski Hill

We are hoping the snow holds out for a while longer. We have had great success this year. We have had new volunteers and lots of new customers. We will be open this weekend Saturday, and Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Contact Anna @ 780-897-2055 for more information. Check us out on Facebook at Spring Lake Ski hill.

## CTBS Testing Beginning!

Beginning March 10 and running over the next two weeks, VCS students will be participating in testing using the Canadian Test of Basic Skills. This testing is a requirement of our charter, the purpose being to measure our students' academic progress to monitor the effectiveness of the school's charter program.

Please help us by making sure students are in attendance at school during this period and encourage them to give their best effort on these tests!

March 17, 2014

GREEN/CAMO  
DAY

WEAR IT!

(from your student council)

## Registration Week

Administration has given a lot of thought into ways to strengthen the relationship between the school and our families. We want to be more intentional about working with families and having parents involved and active in the school.

Again this spring, we will be hosting a Registration Week. From April 22 to April 25, we will ask parents to book one evening appointment at the school to come in and complete the registration process for next year. From 4pm to 8pm each evening, bookings for 30 minute time slots will be available. More information will be released in upcoming newsletters.

## Valhalla

### Community Library News

Hours of Operation:

Monday	10 - 4 pm
Tuesday	10 - 5 pm
Wednesday	10 - 8 pm
Thursday	10 - 5 pm
Friday	Closed

Win a free family meal from your School Council!

A large 2 topping pizza from Anna's Pizza, just for reading our newsletter!

Sign this slip, have your child return it to the office draw box.

Winner will be drawn at next month's assembly! Students Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

School Council Question.... **Are you aware of the New School Registration Process?**

Yes I am aware of the school registration process  No I Do Not aware of the school registration process

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

