
November 22, 2011

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Attachments:
Our Children, Our Future

Drop In Volleyball

Drop in Adult Volleyball at VCS on Tuesday evenings from 7-9pm. Come out for an evening of fun! Contact Leah Schuller @ 780 518-2507

Valhalla Community School

Student/Parent/ Teacher Interviews Tonight!

This afternoon and evening parent teacher interviews will be held. Parents are asked to contact the school to make appointments with their children's teachers beginning at 4pm. We're asking parents wishing to meet with Miss Steuernagel to arrange interviews on an alternate date, November 28, as she is unable to join us on the first evening.

There will be a new feature in PTI's this year. In keeping with our charter's leadership development mandate, we are implementing "student-led" parent teacher interviews. This year students have set some learning/achievement goals for themselves and with teachers' help are keeping an electronic portfolio of their work to document their growth toward their own goals. We're asking students to attend PTI's with their parents and to lead the interview themselves (with some help ☺). They will be able to share the goals they've set themselves with their parents, show the work in their portfolios and take part in the discussion of how their year is progressing.

Of course if parents wish to speak privately to the teacher this can still happen as well.

Ministry Seeks Input

Alberta Education is seeking input from teachers, parents and students regarding changes to the Education Act.



Meetings are being held (the closest to us in Peace River on Dec.9) to gather input. The Minister of Education would like us to send 2 teachers, 1 TA, 5 students and 1 parent chaperone.

Please see the attached letter from the Minister. If you are interested in attending please let the school office know.

ECS Field Trip

Kindergarten and Playschool students are heading out for a field trip on November 30. This field trip is an enhancement to the Social Studies Curriculum topic "Community Helpers" and is for those **students in grade K and Playschool**. We are touring the Fire Department, the EMS Building, the Post Office and the RCMP station to learn about how they keep us safe and work in the community. We need two parent volunteers for this field trip to ride the bus with us. (One **Kindergarten** parent and one **Playschool** parent). If you have any questions please contact the office at 780 356-2370.

Upcoming Event

Nov. 22, 4-8pm
VCS
Parent/Teacher Interviews

Nov.24
VCS gym
Boys' Basketball tryouts

Nov.29
VCS gym
Girls' Basketball tryouts

Nov. 30 – Dec.8
Leisure Centre, GP
Round 2 Swim Lessons
Grades 1 – 4

Nov.30
Kindergarten Field Trip
"Community Helpers"

Basketball to Begin!

Boys' tryouts will be held on Thursday, November 24. Girls' tryouts will follow on Tuesday, November 29. Both sessions will begin immediately after school and run until 5:15pm. Practice will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays



Swimming Lessons

This year's second round of swimming lessons will be held from November 30 to December 8. This round is for grades 1-4. To participate, student's consent forms and swimming forms must be brought in to the school by November 18. After that time forms are sent to the Leisure Centre and swim groups are set.

After School Drama Club! Wednesdays after school

Drama club is seeking any costume items that could be used for our Wizard of Oz production coming up in December. The cast of characters are: Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Glinda the Good Witch, The Wicked Witch of the West, Toto, Munchkins, and Trees. If you have any items that could be used as costumes, or if you have any interest in helping create props or set pieces to be used in the play, please contact Mrs. LeBlanc at the school.

Bus Drivers' Corner

All students and parents please take note! Colder weather is coming!

Parents must ensure all students are dressed appropriately for the weather at all times. All students riding on school buses during winter months shall be required to wear winter footwear and outerwear and to carry with them winter headwear and gloves or mitts from November 1 to March 31. In those cases where students are not appropriately attired for winter conditions, the bus driver shall advise the parent and Principal.

(Student-parent information handbook-2011-2012)

To: Interested Members of the Public

As the new Minister of Education, I want to provide you with the opportunity to share your views about education in Alberta. Since the introduction of the proposed Education Act in April 2011, much has changed. Our government has made a renewed commitment to the education system, and it is important to confirm that we are indeed moving in a direction that reflects the desires and wishes of Albertans.

On November 15, I announced the opportunity for public input as we begin to review the proposed Education Act. The first component is a series of seven full-day meetings, called ***Our Children, Our Future: Getting It Right***, scheduled for late November and early December 2011.

The new Education Act must support and sustain learning environments in which students can thrive through flexible, personalized learning. By opening discussion to the public, especially to students, we can ensure this legislation reflects Albertans' vision for their education system and that it has a direct and positive impact on Alberta classrooms now and for years to come.

Many of the ideas emphasized in the earlier draft will likely carry forward because it:

- enables school boards to be more responsive to local needs;
- engages students from Kindergarten to graduation;
- better supports inclusion of learners with differing needs, cultures and abilities; and
- ensures that schools are caring, respectful and safe environments all remain important priorities for this government.

I invite you to attend one of the scheduled meetings identified below. I also ask you to encourage participation among others in your community for whom the meetings would be a new experience by passing along this information.

We have invited community leaders and education authorities to attend the meetings, however, the vast majority of registrations are being held for students, parents, teachers and others who have a broad interest in education – as learners, as taxpayers and as future employers.

The meeting dates are as follows:

Date	Location
Saturday, November 26	Edmonton
Tuesday, November 29	Red Deer
Thursday, December 1	Calgary
Saturday, December 3	Bonnyville
Monday, December 5	Lethbridge
Wednesday, December 7	Fort McMurray
Friday, December 9	Peace River

For more information, and to register, please follow this link: <http://ideas.education.alberta.ca/engage/current-initiatives/education-act-getting-it-right>. Following submission of registration, participants will receive a confirmation. This will include venue information and pre-meeting reading materials.

While space is limited and preregistration is required, those who are unable to participate in a community meeting will also have other channels for submitting their thoughts on the future of education in Alberta. We expect to have online options ready in a little over a week and will ensure Albertans are aware of how to provide us with their input. Of course, I also welcome traditional forms of communication, such as letters and emails.

If you have any questions, please contact the project team by email at Engage.Education@gov.ab.ca or by phone at [780-422-1484](tel:780-422-1484) (dial [310-0000](tel:310-0000) first for toll-free access in Alberta).

Thank you for your interest as we continue this important work on behalf of education in Alberta. Your input will be considered as we work toward reintroducing the Education Act in spring 2012.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Lukaszuk

Minister of Education

MLA, Edmonton – Castle Downs