



Valhalla Community School

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Weekly Newsletter - Website Version

November 2, 2010

New Superintendent for VCS!

To Valhalla Community School Community

It is our pleasure to announce that Ray Battochio will be joining Valhalla School Foundation, as Superintendent of Schools, commencing Wednesday, October 27th. Ray comes to Valhalla in a part-time capacity with a broad range of educational experience. Currently, Ray works as the Vice President of Operations for CAREERS: The Next Generation, an industry-driven private/public partnership dedicated to the career development of Alberta's youth. Previously, he worked with Alberta Education as the High School Completion Project Lead and Education Liaison Manager for Edmonton Public Schools. For twelve years, Ray worked with Clearview Public Schools in Stettler Alberta. He worked as the Superintendent and held both Vice Principal and Principal responsibilities at Wm. E. Hay Composite High School. Ray began his work in Alberta at the Berry Creek Community School in the hamlet of Cessford, Alberta. He brings to Valhalla three years of fond memories and experiences from that part of his career.

Ray has a B.A. from McMaster University, B.Ed. from the University of Ottawa and M.A. in Education Administration and Leadership from San Diego State University. In his post-graduate studies in California, Ray studied and completed work focusing on choice and charter schools in public education.

Ray has passion and is a collaborative leader. He believes that schools and communities have a moral imperative to engage all students in hopeful, relevant learning and is excited about the future of Valhalla Community School.

Volleyball Update!

We are in the last week of the volleyball season. The teams go to Wembley today to play their final game of the year at 3pm. On Thursday November 4 @ 4pm the teams will challenge their parents to a hard fought match of volleyball with bragging rights on the line. We will conclude the evening at around 5pm with pizza and pop. Each player is asked to bring \$5.00 to put towards the food. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible, to wrap up our amazing year. Thank you.

Kelli Flint

Thank You!!

The school wants to acknowledge and thank people who contribute in any way to our improvement and success.

School Assemblies

Each month here at VCS, we hold a student assembly. As a rule they are held the Tuesdays following the early dismissal Mondays. We celebrate birthdays, deal with school business, give announcements, etc. We're also beginning to incorporate some student performances or activities as well. Assemblies are generally fairly short and begin at 12:40pm, shortly after the students' noon recess. If you are a parent or relative of one or more of our students, or an interested community member, please accept our invitation to join us for these assemblies. You are most welcome.

(It may be a good idea to phone in the day ahead just to make sure the assembly time is as usual) ☺

Parent Council

The Valhalla School Council would like to welcome Lorraine Gerow as our new secretary. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 30 @5:30pm here at the school. If you have a child attending the Valhalla Community School you are a member of the parent council.

Bus Drivers' Corner

We appreciate that our bus drivers take their jobs very seriously and that they are anxious to avoid leaving anyone behind. In order to help keep this from happening please be diligent about contacting your driver or the transportation director if your child will not be on the bus. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent notify the driver and the school with written notes, even for students in the higher grades. This will avoid any confusion from mixed or forgotten messages and confirms your plans for your child.

If it becomes apparent that the student will not be on the bus after the routes are running (6:50 a.m.) contact the transportation director, Doug Kochendorfer 831-5701 or 356-2114, and he will radio the driver to inform him or her. It is illegal for bus drivers to talk on their cell phones when driving and it is unsafe for drivers to stop to check messages on busy roads. Our thanks to all of you for working with the drivers to ensure all of the students get transported safely and on time.

Doug and the bus drivers would like to thank these students who entered a poster for bus safety week: Avianna, Sabrina, Chloe, Cole, Josie, Jazlyn, Anna, Kirstin and Justine. From these names two will be drawn at the assembly on November 2nd to receive a prize. Thanks again to these students for their posters.

Hello all,

Two brief messages pertaining to the goings-on in Valhalla Centre, AB

Contest: A quick update on the fundraising contest the folks in Valhalla have entered in hopes of raising \$160,000 toward paying for two buses. So far we have people from Vancouver to Newfoundland and north to Yellowknife voting all to an end of 1210 votes so far! Thank you to those who have been pitching in by voting daily. If you are hearing about this for the first time, please consider registering your email addresses at the following link and proceeding to Valhalla's vote page in order to cast your vote for our bus project. This is a national contest open to anyone in Canada so it would be a big help to share this with your contacts as well.

Contest Link: www.avivacommunityfund.org (click "register" at the top of the page)

In the search bar type either "Valhalla" or our contest code "acf7715" and select the Valhalla school bus entry.

If there are any questions feel free to respond to this email.

***Valhalla Centre got 4 Blooms in the NATIONAL competition! *Two community members recently attended this year's national Communities in Bloom award ceremony in Halifax, Nova Scotia and were pleased to find that we had been awarded 4 Blooms out of 5! The national competition had us competing with a much larger group of communities so this is a very high honour. Special thanks to the Communities in Bloom committee who have been working hard each year to make this a success.**

Best wishes,

Leslie Loberg

VCS Volunteers

Thanks to the volunteers who have handed in their forms to the office. Keep them coming in, forms are available at office or email tfehr@explornet.com and I will send one.

Volunteers Opportunities

- Valhalla School Foundation Casino (November 1 and 2)
- Fundraising Committee

Operation Christmas Child

Christmas Shoeboxes

Today we are beginning our Christmas Shoebox campaign. Many of you will remember we ran this project last year as well.

We're asking each student if possible to bring one toonie to donate to this cause, to be used to fill shoeboxes with small gifts of toys and practical items to send to children around the world.

The deadline for bringing donations is November 10, as supplies then need to be purchased and boxes filled in time for the Operation Christmas Child deadline. Please feel free to contact the school for more details.

Festival of Trees

Can it be that the Christmas season is already approaching? So it seems as VCS is scheduled to sing at the Festival of Trees on November 19.

This year we hope to try something a little different. We are scheduled to sing at 12:15pm on November 19. Following singing we will be boarding buses and heading out to Hythe or Beaverlodge to sing carols for seniors at one of our local senior residences.

Of course if any parents wish to come hear the students sing we would be delighted. Families may also choose to pick up their children to stay at the Festival longer. We only ask that prior notice be given the school.

Final details and consent forms will be available next week.

Community News

Valhalla Community Library:

Library Hours: Tuesdays 11am-5pm, Wednesdays 10am-6pm, Thursdays 11am-5pm. New members always welcome; memberships are free!

Valhalla 4H Beef Club:

Nov. 4 – "Show Your Colors" Day

Nov. 6 – Weigh-in for 4H. New members welcome

Upcoming Events

November 2, 2010

3pm, Wembley School

Volleyball Game

Come cheer on our team!

November 4, 2010

VCS

Volleyball Windup

Details TBA

November 10, 2010
1:00pm, VCS
Remembrance Day Ceremony
Join us to remember

November 19, 2010
12:15pm, TEC Centre,
Evergreen Park
Festival of Trees
Meet us for early Christmas fun!

November 23, 2010
By appointment, VCS
Parent Teacher Interviews
Come see us for coffee and connecting !

November 30, 2010
5:30pm, VCS Parent Council Meeting