



Valhalla Community School

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The newsletter is available on the Valhalla Community School website.

Bus cancellations and notices are kept current on the website.

If your child(ren) are going to be away from school, please inform the office and the bus driver.

If you are arriving late, or picking up your child(ren) early, please sign them in or out at the office.

Please have items for the newsletter in by 11:00am Tuesday.

Please staff and students wish to welcome Alicia Westad to our school. Miss Westad is in her third year of study and presently doing her student teaching in the grade 7 & 8 classroom under the supervision of Mr. Mumert.

Yes, there are now confirmed cases of H1N1 in the school community (students and parents). We are continuing with encouraging regular hand washing, proper coughing techniques, and using hand sanitizer after blowing the nose, etc. The staff continues to **stress proper hygiene** so as to reduce the spread of virus and bacteria particles. The custodian is taking care to wipe down regularly touched surfaces so as to remove or kill virus and bacteria particles. We will continue to phone for pick up any student that becomes ill while at school. Reminder, if your child is ill; **please** keep them at home until they are well and able to resume regular activities. Please see the attached document and keep it for future reference (Alberta Health publication). Thank you for your assistance and support.

Water bottles are frequently not being taken home at the end of the day. Please see the attached document regarding cleaning water bottles properly and assist the staff with stressing to the students the need to take water bottles home for **a proper cleaning** each day. Water bottles can be a source of germs and illness. See the attached document.

Halloween activities will take place this week. The kindergarten is doing a mini theme this week with 'spooky foods', etc and costumes on Thursday. **Friday is a theme** day for the students. Students are encouraged to dress for Halloween activities, keeping in mind that we will have regular classes for most of the day. **Be creative** with your costumes, no weapons or gore please. The older grades will be hosting **game centers** in the gym from **2:15pm to 3:20pm** for the grades 1 to 6. Students will be grouped into teams, so if you are expecting to not attend, please send a note in your child's agenda so we do not put them on a team. Thank you☺

Accolades to the **Alberta Sherriff's** for assisting with keeping our school community safe. Their effort, in **slowing down the traffic** as it goes through the community, is greatly **appreciated**. Reminder; it is a **school zone** and a maximum of **50km** at all other times.

The Christmas Child Shoebox campaign is well underway in the community. This year we will again do a coin collection. The **students are invited to bring in a loonie or toonie** and the monies collected will be used to purchase the items needed to fill the shoeboxes. This way we will fill as many as we have monies to do so. We hope to assist with filling several shoeboxes using this method of collection. The collection container is at the office. A thank you to Mrs. Frieda Bratland for coordinating this program.

The Grande Prairie Storm Hockey Team has donated several **student tickets** to the school to distribute to students wishing to attend a Storm Hockey Game at **no cost**. These tickets are available in the school office. Please feel free to ask for them. They will be given away on a first to ask basis. The hockey games run through to Feb. 2010.

Please remind your students to **dress** for the **colder temperatures**. Frequently students find it too warm in the afternoon to wear their jacket from the morning. A suggestion is to have the students bring a hoodie to hang on their hook for when the afternoon temperatures are warmer.

Swim Report Cards: Please send in to the office your child(ren's) **swim report card(s)**. If you have not yet done so, please send in the **swim fee** of **\$50.00 per student**. If you **do not wish** for your child(ren) to take part in the Leisure Centre swim program please let the office know.

Swim lessons will be **in the afternoons** and we will be leaving the school at noontime. Lessons begin November 9th.

School Council:

School Council **Meeting** will take place on **Tuesday, November 3rd at 5:30pm** here at the school. If you have a child attending this school you are a member of the Council.

Hot lunch is this Friday, October 30th. A reminder, if your child is away, another child

will enjoy the lunch. As orders go in several days ahead of the event, there are **no refunds**.

If you can assist with the hot lunch, the ski-hill or the recycle programs, please phone Anna Odd at 780-356-2370 or 780-356-3055 to sign up. Many volunteers make for a lighter workload for all.

Charter School Board:

The next Charter School Board meeting is Thursday, November 12 at the Mercantile from 9:00am to noon. Note this is a change of day and date.

Charter Board Highlights Oct. 2009

We are a little more than one month into the school year and now have our official September 30 count of 93 full-time equivalent students. This puts us very close to the Minister of Education's expectation that we reach an enrolment of 100 students as soon as possible. It is a great pleasure to have all of these students here, ready for learning. In order to respond to the educational needs of this healthy student population, the Charter Board passed a motion at the October meeting to add two half-time teacher assistants to support the grade 3 /4 and 5/6 classes in the morning. It was also noted, any further registrations will be carefully assessed by Superintendent Freddi Bromling for their educational impacts before new students would be accepted. In addition, knowing that we will continue to grow as we expand into grade nine next September, and will, therefore, need access to the classroom that now houses the Valhalla Community Library, plans continue to add extra space.

Meanwhile, thank you to our staff for their hard work and dedication to the vision of our school. Our Charter Board has been given the mandate to deliver an innovative program grounded in whole-group direct instruction and incorporating mandatory second language and student leadership development. These people are the ones on the front lines that have been given the challenge of doing what needs to be done to carry out these charter goals. We truly appreciate their energy and effort in this venture.

Community News

Valhalla Community Library:

Regular library hours are: Tuesday 11am to 5pm, Wednesday 10am to 6pm and Thursday 11am to 5pm. Next regular Library Board meeting is **November 25th** at 10:30am.

Attachments:

November/December Calendar

Influenza (the flu) what can you do? Government of Alberta, Alberta Health Services

Water Bottles Alberta Health Services, East Central Health

Susan Thomson
Principal

“Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider.” Sir Francis Bacon