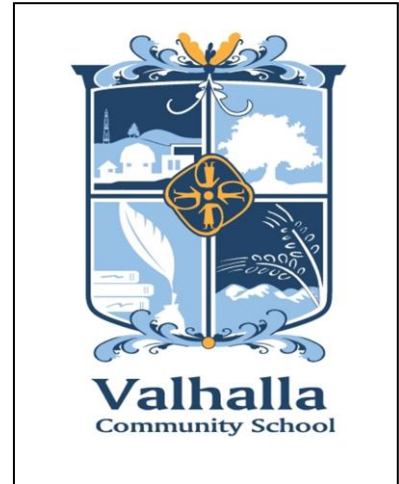


Valhalla Community School

Volleyball Wrap-up!

Last week of volleyball is this week. Wembley is coming today for our last match of the season. Thursday after school will be our team wind-up and it has become a tradition to include the parents. If it all possible it would be great to have as many parents attend to participate in a student/parent volleyball game starting at around 4pm. We will play 3 games of volleyball on center court and then have a quick wrap-up celebration. There will be some pizza and pop for the girls once the games are finished. Please attend and have some laughs with us!

Mrs. Flint



Halloween's Coming!

This week Halloween arrives at VCS! Students and staff are planning costumes and celebrations. Our new Student Council is making plans for celebration activities to be held on the afternoon of October 31. Events will include: costume contest and parade, gym games, dance and movie.

Students will be given time after the noon recess to dress in their costumes. If they wish to come to school already in costume, please remember they must be able to ride the bus and go outside for recesses in their costumes.

Please note that the grade 7/8 class is planning a fundraiser for a South African orphanage at noon on October 31. Details are attached to this newsletter. Your support for these children is greatly appreciated!

Inside this Issue

- 1** Volleyball Wrap-Up!
 - 1** Halloween
 - 2** Important Dates and Meetings
 - 2** Bus Drivers' Corner
 - 2** Volunteer Request
- Attachments:**
Parent Feedback
Bus Cancellation Information
Volunteer Form
Orphanage Fundraiser

Parents! Please note the Request for your feedback that is attached to this newsletter!

Your support and feedback are needed and greatly appreciated!

Volunteer Needed!

VCS is seeking a volunteer School Correspondent/Reporter –

This person would be responsible for organizing photos and articles for distribution to local papers. Ideas include VCS events, student articles and accomplishments and VCS accomplishments. Work would be in coordination with school, teachers, students and other volunteers. Do you have an eye for reporting or the journalism bug? Please contact the office for more specific information.

Community News

Valhalla Community Library:

Library Hours:

Mondays: 11am – 4pm

Tuesdays: 11am – 4pm

Wednesdays: 10am-6pm

Thursdays: 11am-5pm.

Fridays: Closed

New members always welcome; memberships are free!

The Book Fair is coming this November!

For any information please contact:

Gail Perry: 780.356.3834

Remembrance Day

Our school Remembrance Day service will be held on November 8 at 1:10pm.

This year's service is being organized and hosted by our grade 7/8 Leadership class.

Parents and family members are welcome to attend.

Christmas Shoebox Campaign

VCS is hoping to begin a Christmas Shoebox campaign next week.

We are fortunate to have a former recipient of a Christmas Shoebox making a presentation to staff and students on November 7 at 10:30am.

Juan Warkentin was living in an orphanage in Central America when he was given a gift shoebox. His presentation speaks of the impact the gift had in his own life.

Look out for more information soon to come about how you can participate in the giving of a Christmas shoebox to someone who needs the boost it can provide!

Upcoming Events

Oct.30, 3pm

VCS

B Girls Volleyball Game

Oct.31

VCS

Halloween Celebrations

Nov.7, 10:30am

VCS gym

Juan Warkentin Presentation

Nov.7

VCS

Quebec Trip Meeting

Nov.8, 1:10pm

VCS gym

Remembrance Day Service

Nov.16

Report Cards Issued

Nov.21, 4pm

VCS

Parent Teacher Interviews

Phone to set up appointments beginning at 4pm

Bus Drivers' Corner

COLD WEATHER

All students riding on school buses must wear, which is preferable, or carry with them, proper clothing appropriate for the weather conditions. If a student is not wearing, or does not have in their possession, appropriate clothing suitable for the weather conditions, the bus driver shall advise the parent, principal and document the discussion. In a situation that the Principal determines to be of significant risk to the student, he/she may decide to keep the student at the school until they have appropriate clothing or the parent picks them up.

Please note the attachment regarding bus cancellation procedures.



Think Recycle Fund Drive is about to take off....watch in upcoming newsletters for more information. Visit www.thinkrecycle.com or contact Tara Fehr at [780-402-9301](tel:780-402-9301) to discover the ways to volunteer for this fund drive

Process Regarding Bus Cancellation

Student safety is the primary concern of the Valhalla School Foundation (VSF). Everyone involved with student transportation at Valhalla recognizes this responsibility and works to ensure the safe transportation of all Valhalla Community School (VCS) students year round. As you know, winter in Northwestern Alberta can bring inclement and extreme weather conditions. Severe cold, icy and snowy road conditions and reduced visibility all present challenges to transporting students in winter.

While the Valhalla administration recognizes the importance of getting students to school for their instructional time, the decision to cancel buses is not made lightly. A great deal of thought and energy is involved in this process; our primary concern is always student safety.

Valhalla School Foundation board policy states that operation of school buses will be suspended on the days when the temperature is equal to, or colder than -40 C. As we all know, temperatures can vary several degrees within just a small area. Currently, temperature readings are taken from the Transportation Director's (TD) home and the AMA camera 43-02, which is on highway 43 east of junction 723. This AMA site is the same site Peace Wapiti School Division (PWSD) uses to determine bus cancellation for their Beaverlodge school area, which encompasses the Valhalla, Hythe, Elmworth and Wembley areas.

On days when road conditions are a concern, the TD will drive parts of all four VCS bus routes. This begins between 4:30 and 5:00 am. The TD may discuss conditions with the VCS bus drivers, other knowledgeable individuals in the area, and/or the County of GP foreman for our area. Between 6:00am and 6:30am, the TD will call the VCS superintendent to inform and discuss conditions in the area and a decision will be made whether to run buses or cancel buses for that day. Once a decision has been reached to cancel buses, the TD informs all VCS bus drivers, the school principal, the radio stations, and the VCS webmaster of the bus cancellation. Every effort is made to have bus cancellations announced by 7:00 am.

We are a separate school jurisdiction from PWSD. The decision for PWSD to suspend their buses is their responsibility. The decision to suspend the VCS buses is the responsibility of the Superintendent of VCS and its Transportation Director.

Finally and most importantly, the VSF leaves the decision of bus ridership to its parents. If parents have concerns about their area of a bus route, they have the right to decide not to place their child on the bus. As always, we ask parents to please let your driver or TD know if your child will not be on the bus. This helps make your driver aware of possible changing road conditions in your area and changes in their bus route.

Our goal is to provide a safe and reliable transportation service to support our parents in getting their children to school. Thank you for your partnership in making our school's transportation as safe and efficient as possible.

**Valhalla Community School
2011-2012**

General Volunteer Form

Welcome to another action packed, fun filled and fast paced school year at VCS! There are so many events, activities and necessary functions that occur here throughout the school year. **All of them need people to plan, coordinate and staff them.** Some of these activities require small but long term and consistent time commitments. Some of them are one day, single shift opportunities. Please fill out one form per volunteer, this form will assist us in contacting you with the jobs that would best suited for your interests and abilities. For activities that volunteers work directly with children, VCS requires a current criminal check on file

Name			
Email			
Home phone		Best time to call	
Work phone		Best time to call	
Cell phone		Best time to call	

<input type="checkbox"/> Grounds and beautification	<input type="checkbox"/> Classroom volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/> Helping hands	<input type="checkbox"/> School Council
<input type="checkbox"/> After school sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Recycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Home based	<input type="checkbox"/> On Call
<input type="checkbox"/> Chaperone	<input type="checkbox"/> Hot Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> Truck	<input type="checkbox"/> Ski Hill
<input type="checkbox"/> Casino	<input type="checkbox"/> VSF board/committees	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Donations

Trades – please indicate trade

Is there another way you feel that you could best contribute

Availability: (Please include time of day, Morning, Afternoon, Evening, etc.)
 Mon _____ Tues _____ Wed _____ Thurs _____ Fri _____

We look forward to your participation in the wide variety of volunteer opportunities at VCS.

I agree to release this information to the volunteer liaison, Valhalla School Foundation and VCS office to contact me as volunteer need arises for a volunteer.

Volunteer Signature

Date



Valhalla Community School Confidentiality Agreement & Volunteer Code of Conduct School Year 2011-2012

Parent & family volunteers are an integral part of VCS. Everyone volunteering at the VCS must have a current signed volunteer application. Volunteers that work directly with students require a criminal records check and an agreement form.

VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

Volunteers at Valhalla Community School shall:

- be on-time and reliable in fulfilling volunteer commitments.
- exercise kindness while volunteering for Valhalla Community School.
- respect and abide by the confidential nature of anything they might see or hear while volunteering.
- be prompt and dependable for the times they agree to volunteer.
- conduct themselves in a businesslike and fair manner, without partiality to individual students.
- motivate children to work and help them succeed in school.
- graciously accept direction and constructive criticism from staff members for which they are volunteering.
- acknowledge the teacher as the authority in the classroom.
- NOT confront a teacher regarding disagreements or differences of opinion in the presence of children.
- be respectful of the classroom by not disrupting a teacher's instructional time or student learning.
- Dress modestly and appropriately for a school environment (i.e. midriff covered, no short shorts/skirts, no spaghetti straps).
- Wear a current volunteer nametag at all times when volunteering at the school
- sign in and out at the front office when volunteering at the school.
- record all VCS volunteer hours, including those worked outside of school, on the log sheet in the front office.
- Ensure that all children (e.g. younger siblings, non-students) accompanying the volunteer on school premises are supervised at all times and must not be disrupting school activities.
- arrange for a replacement in the event the volunteer cannot meet their scheduled obligations
- call the school (780-356-2730) 24 hours in advance and inform appropriate staff of any volunteer replacements via voice mail.

I understand that in my capacity as a volunteer for Valhalla Community School, I will acquire information and knowledge which is either legally protected as confidential, or information and knowledge which is of a personal and private nature. I understand and agree that I shall not disclose to any other person or organization, any information acquired during my work as a volunteer without express and written consent of that person or from the school's administration. My signature below constitutes my acceptance of the terms of this confidentiality agreement.

Parent/ Guardian Signature

Date

Valhalla
Community School

PAGE FOR VOLUNTEER TO KEEP

Please contact Linda Mackay 780 354-8504 or the VCS office at 780-356-2370 for more information.
Thank you and warmest regards

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Grounds And Beautification - This group will be responsible for bringing some life into the school grounds by planting and maintaining bushes, trees, and flowers

Classroom Volunteer - Volunteer assists a teacher on a weekly basis. Activities include helping students one to one or in a small group, preparing instructional materials, or helping the teacher with other tasks

Helping Hands - Volunteer responsibilities include typing, photocopying, laminating and preparing materials for use in the classroom or with projects

After School Sports -

Recycling - taking contents of recycling to recycle bins

Trades - Are you a tradesperson willing to offer your expertise?

School Council - is the voice of the parents and students within the school community. Meetings are monthly and parent are encouraged to come to the informal meeting. It's a great way to meet other parents, voice ideas and concerns and connect to the school community. Child care is provided during meeting.

Truck - do you own a truck, which could be used for general hauling (pulling water tank trailer for watering trees)

Hot Lunch - every second Friday is VCS hot lunch program. Organizing orders & food prior to and on the Friday helping to hand out lunch to the classrooms.

Home based volunteering - typing, costumes, baking, telephone calls,

Chaperone - field trips, swimming lessons, school events (playday, parties)

On call- volunteer as needed - Teri Fox Run, Christmas Concert etc

Ski Hill - Each family is asked to adopt a day for management and running of the ski hill. This is a major fundraiser for the school community. Training is supplied and it's a great way to spend the day as a family while contributing to the school community. The ski hill generally operates from January to April depending on snow conditions. Open every weekend and holidays from 10-4. Positions include 2 kitchen staff, 2 rental volunteers and 2 T bar lift volunteers for a minimum of 6 weeks.

Donations - for fundraising and to contribute to the school community. Please indicate donations that would be available or if you would prefer to be contacted

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Grade 7/8 Pulane Children Centre Fundraiser!

Dear Parents:

The grade 7/8 class is preparing to do a fundraiser for the Pulane Children's Orphanage in Lesotho, Africa. The fundraiser will be taking place on October 31, 2012 during noon hour. Students are raising funds to help support the Orphanage over Christmas. The money would be helping the directors to purchase small gifts for each of the kids. Last year the grade 7/8's raised money for Christmas Shoeboxes for kids at this orphanage. This year, the person who organized last year's fundraiser is getting married during the holiday season and is not able to take on the project. Through direct orphanage connections, I was told that supportive funds to help the directors bring Christmas to the kids would be greatly welcomed.

Some may be skeptical about an orphanage overseas and its legitimacy. Well, I can give you full assurance that it is. I have personally visited the orphanage and know the director. As well, my husband helped the director get the Children's Centre running three years ago and worked there until January of last year. There are approximately 80 children that attend this centre. Our grade 7/8 class would once again like to bring Christmas to these children.

We will be making snack packs (candy bags) to sell on Halloween.

We would appreciate everyone's support for this fundraiser. To learn more about the Pulane Children's Centre visit their Facebook page.

Thank You

Mrs. Steele