

VALHALLA COMMUNITY SCHOOL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



It's snow pant season!

December is here, and Christmas is just around the corner!

We're excited to invite families to our Christmas Chronicles production and Silent Auction Night on December 12. Please note there will be no hot lunch on Dec. 12, but students can look forward to a pizza lunch on Dec. 19.

A big thank you to Canadian Natural for their generous \$2,500 donation to our Hot Lunch Program—your support makes a huge impact!

And don't forget—our holiday food drive is underway. Every donation earns house points for students, so let's fill those hampers and show our community spirit!

Key Dates To Remember

- Dec 1- Early Dismissal 2:30pm
- Dec 4- Poinsettia Orders Arrive
- Dec 5- CSW- No School
- Dec 12- Dress like your favorite teacher day. NO Hot Lunch
- Dec 12- Christmas Concert & Silent Auction
- 1:00 & 7:00pm showtimes
- Dec 15- Board Meeting 6:30pm
- Dec 19- PJ Day and Pizza for lunch!
- Dec 22- Christmas Holidays Begin!

We are still looking for donations for our Silent Auction! Please have them to the office by Dec 9th!

FACT:

Attendance is the
#1 predictor of dropout
& graduation rates



Moving our Education Plan to Action

Priority # 1 - Student Growth & Achievement

Our kindergarten students have been busy spreading Christmas cheer! Be sure to check out the adorable Christmas tree art displayed by the kindergarten class—each one carefully crafted with bright colours, tiny details, and lots of kindergarten creativity. Their festive masterpieces are bringing big smiles to everyone who walks by!



Moving our Education Plan to Action

Priority # 2 - Excellent Teachers & Leaders



Valhalla Community School is steadfastly committed to its second priority of fostering excellent teachers and leaders, and this dedication is clearly demonstrated through its structured professional development initiatives. On the first Monday of every month, students benefit from an early dismissal to allow teachers to participate in a focused one-hour session with the Alberta Professional Learning Consortium. During these sessions, teachers collaboratively engage in the process of new curriculum implementation, exchanging insights and strategies to enhance instructional effectiveness. This targeted professional development not only enriches teachers' instructional practices but also empowers them with the tools and knowledge to lead their classrooms with innovation and confidence, ultimately benefiting the students and the broader school community.

Priority # 3- Charter Goals

We are thrilled to share how our junior high students are embodying the core goals of our charter through various leadership initiatives. One exciting development is their active role in morning announcements, allowing them to hone their public speaking skills and take charge of daily communication within the school.

In addition, our students have embarked on student-led research meetings, a platform where their innovative ideas and collaborative spirit truly shine. This initiative not only fosters critical thinking but also empowers them to take ownership of their learning.

Furthermore, in partnership with the Beaverlodge Blades hockey team, our students engage in volunteering opportunities by assisting with ticket sales and security at home games. These experiences not only enhance their leadership skills but also strengthen their connection with the community. We are immensely proud of our students for stepping up and making a positive impact both within our school and beyond.

Moving our Education Plan to Action

Priority # 3- Charter Goals

Our students did an outstanding job at this year's Remembrance Day ceremony. Their respectful participation, thoughtful presentations, and strong leadership helped create a meaningful and heartfelt tribute. We are incredibly proud of the care they put into honouring our veterans and reflecting on the importance of remembrance. Their efforts truly made the ceremony a memorable and impactful event for our entire school community.



Moving our Education Plan to Action

Priority # 3- Charter Goals

Invitation to Mentor our Student Led Community Based Research Projects: Empower Students to Pitch Bold Ideas for Their Community

We're inviting community members, innovators, and creative thinkers to join us as mentors for the month of **November!** Our junior high students are developing **project pitches**—creative ideas designed to meet real needs in their communities. Over the next few weeks, they'll explore local challenges, design solutions, and craft persuasive pitches to present to a review panel.

We're looking for mentors who can:

- Listen to student ideas and help them refine and strengthen their project pitches
- Encourage creative and “outside-the-box” thinking
- Offer constructive feedback and real-world perspectives
- Inspire confidence as students prepare to present their ideas

You'll receive the criteria and resources the students are using, and you'll join us for mentoring sessions to provide feedback and guidance. No special expertise is required—just a willingness to share your experience, insight, and encouragement.

If you're interested in supporting the next generation of community changemakers, please reach out to Betty Randall (erandall@valhallacommunityschool.ca).

Bonus opportunity: If the pitch you help mentor is selected to move forward, you'll be invited to stay involved through to May, offering continued mentorship as students bring their ideas to life.

Together, we can help our students see what's possible—and give them the courage to pitch it.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Community Powwow Practice & Youth Groups in Hythe!
Join at the Hythe Community Centre for fun, connection, and movement this season.

Powow Practive- Select Tuesdays 5-7PM
Youth Groups (Ages 10-15)- Select Tuesdays 3:30-5:30PM
Open to All!

Register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-sHn1KVw-Vz5QfMvjFxWoo4a3PCoqqYlqxbzPNlot7jmNNQ/viewform>

Questions? Email: teenhealthyr@gmail.com



Youth Groups

Held select Tuesdays at Hythe Community Centre
3:30-5:30 PM

Separate groups for young women
& young men

Dates for each group in registration



About

- * Open to Indigenous & non-Indigenous
- * 2SLGBTQ+ Welcome 
- * Snacks provided

Contact

Monique 
Teenhealthyr@gmail.com

Scan QR code  register



Drop-in

Community Powwow Practice

held in the gym at Hythe Community Centre

Select Tuesdays 5-7pm

Nov 25 . Dec 19 Jan 20. Feb 17. March 17.
April 21. May 26



Open to everyone of all ages, abilities & backgrounds. Children 12 and under must have supervision of someone 16+



TIME FOR ADVENTURE!

FOR AGES
5-12

CSW DAY CAMPS

Starting in
November



\$35

NuVista Energy Centre
1016 4th Avenue



8am - 4pm



November 7
November 21

2026 Dates to Follow

- Sports & Games
- Swimming
- Cooking
- Crafts & Activities
- Special Presentations

**Pre-registration is required by the Wednesday before camp.*

*Please bring a bagged lunch, water bottle and swim gear.**

Register Now 780-354-2203 or csr@beaverlodge.ca

School Contact List

VCS Administration:

Superintendent: Loriann Stienwand
lstienwand@valhallacommunityschool.ca

Prinicpal: Harmon Lee hlee@valhallacommunityschool.ca

Admin:

Jacqui Peters j.peters@valhallacommunityschool.ca

VCS Staff:

Victoria Lewis vlewis@valhallacommunityschool.ca
Elizabeth Randall erandall@valhallacommunityschool.ca
Samantha Pilgrim spilgrim@valhallacommunityschool.ca
Richard Smith rsmith@valhallacommunityschool.ca
Gina Shepelwik gshepelwik@valhallacommunityschool.ca
Megan Hudson mhudson@valhallacommunityschool.ca

VCS Transportation Staff:

Transportation Lead:

Shellie Tofteland -- shellie@valhallacommunityschool.ca
780-832-7600

Drivers:

Floyd Hiltz 780-814-3994
Teresa Boucher 780-814-4827
Ken Death 877-509-1356 (school text service)

VCS: 780-356-2370 Our office hours are 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.