

The Valhalla Viking

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2010

Valhalla Community School *Teaching Focus: Leadership*



In 2008, when the community of Valhalla Centre made the historic step to apply for a charter school, people banded together around an idea that shaped what would become northern Alberta's first rural charter school. When you think of the number of volunteer organizations that make rural Alberta so active, leadership skills are of prime importance.

So, with this in mind, Valhalla Community School's Charter centres around two educational goals:

First, is to get the kids

speaking intelligently. For this, we focus on the 3Rs by emphasizing teacher-directed, traditional instruction in all classes and subjects. Special permission was granted by the Minister of Education to teach in this manner when he approved our Charter.

We also incorporate a second language into every student's day:

German or French.

Next, Valhalla Community School teaches its kids tangible leadership skills. We believe true leadership is not merely being seen and heard, but rather acquiring a knowledge of the way community organizations work so you can become a productive volunteer. So, we teach kids how to be presidents, secretaries and treasurers; to take minutes, account for money and run meetings. With a little knowledge under their belt, the kids attend community meetings to observe how it works in the real world.

Good community skills.

Good job skills.

4H: In terms of leadership, the highly acclaimed 4H program is a great fit for Valhalla Community School.

Parliamentary procedure.

Public speaking.

Community involvement.

This year, students in grade 5 to 8 were members of VCS's first Multi-Club, forming an executive, holding regular meetings, participating in leadership activities and taking part in a community clean-up.



As time passes, we look forward to watching this aspect of Valhalla Community School get better and better.

The recent 4H Study of Positive Youth Development highlights interesting research on how 4H helps kids. To read about it, go to:

<http://4-h.org/about/research.html>

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STAYING CONNECTED

Since the opening of VCS as a charter school, it has become more important than ever to stay connected.

Every charter school has a mandate to keep its stakeholders informed of its activities.

This newsletter is meant to be a combined community group effort.

Written by: Leslie Loberg

With the help of: Tara Fehr and individuals affiliated with groups cited in this paper.

VCS RURAL LEADERSHIP CHARTER

- Traditional Teaching
- 4H Parliamentary Procedure & Public Speaking
- Second Language in all grades
- Cultural Knowledge: etiquette, music and more

Valhalla Rec Centre

After some quiet years, the Valhalla Rec Centre (formerly the Valhalla Curling and Skating Club) has been picking up speed. In late 2009, a small committee formed and by January of 2010, the club had regained its society status and has almost completed the process of re-qualifying for its casino! The VRC is working toward reaching a financially stable position.

Also, the club is pleased to report that an enthusiastic group is in the process of starting an **archery club** in the curling rink building! The length of the ice arena presents a lot of advantages for indoor archery. Watch for more information as details arise.

We are very excited at the thought of revitalizing the curling rink, which was once a busy community centre.



The Rec Centre is pleased to acknowledge many signs of community support throughout this year.

Special thanks go to:

- Valhalla Community Library & Mercantile Café: sold memberships
- West Peace Building Supplies: donated toilet
- Richard & Judy Cunningham: donated water heater
- Sandra & Shawn Beattie: donated water heater
- Anne Harpe: audited financial reports for Society revival.

Thanks also to those who bought memberships and

made use of and helped maintain the ice this year. It stays cold in the arena so skaters were able to make use of the facility long after the other arenas had switched off their ice plants.



The Valhalla Community School Council

The community of Valhalla is very fortunate to have an active parent council, also known as the Valhalla School Council.

Every VCS parent is a member of this group and many work tirelessly to support the school in every way imaginable from making sure the school has hot lunch programs to filling needs as they arise.

Notably, the School Council has, for the second winter in a row, organized an enthusiastic volunteer staff to operate the

Spring Lake Ski Hill.

Thanks to the School Council's hard work, along with the dedicated volunteer base who have joined them, the Spring Lake Ski Hill has been open for business during the winter months. For the last two years, this effort has given the school kids and families in the surrounding area a place to ski and has ended up to be a major support for the school.

Community members in Valhalla are very grateful for the dedicated efforts of the School Council!

Valhalla Heritage Society Fundraising Projects

Since the start of the new charter school, the Heritage Society has taken on the position of financially supporting some of the school's pursuits. They purchased the school building from Peace Wapiti School Division and also purchased the school's four buses. Charter schools are not allowed to carry any sort of debt, so the Heritage Society's willingness to provide "ownership support" has been pivotal to the success of the school.

It has also meant a new set of financial considerations for the Valhalla Heritage Society. If you are interested in assisting them to this end, the **Valhalla Heritage Society is a registered charitable society and is able to issue charitable tax receipts.**

Also, **corporate advertising**

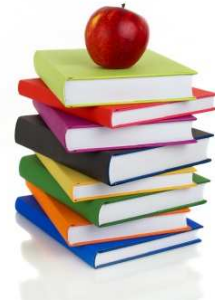
is available for sizable business donations.

Donations made to the Valhalla Heritage Society will contribute to stable financial future for both the school and its community groups.

Building Project:

Since becoming a charter school and phasing in the junior high, the people of Valhalla have had to shift gears from finding ways to fill up the school to figuring out ways to fit everything into the school!

The Valhalla Heritage Society owns the school building. Together with the Valhalla Community Library and the Valhalla School Foundation, they are now considering their options for adding a new



library onto the original building so that the school can use the classroom which currently houses the community library. Project estimates hover around \$500,000.

Bus Fleet:

The Valhalla School Foundation operates a fleet of four school buses which deliver nearly a hundred children to and from locations in Beaverlodge, Goodfare, Buffalo Lakes and Valhalla.

Special thanks to **Devon Canada and Conoco Phillips**, who each made generous contributions to the buses in 2009.

VSF Financial Donors

The Valhalla School Foundation is also very grateful for the generous financial donations from many personal contributors as well as several community and corporate sponsors through various financial gifts and grants, including:

Bethany Banner Historical Society

County of Grande Prairie

Peter Martens

MTK Ventures

Weiso Acres

Paul & Aimee Gibson

Trans Canada Pipeline

TOG Systems Ltd.



devon



ConocoPhillips

Valhalla Directory:

Valhalla Heritage Society
President, Emily Loberg

Mercantile Café: 780-356-3535
Clara's Collectables: 780-356-3900

Valhalla Lutheran Church
780-356-2264
Pastor Ella Loberg

Valhalla Rec Centre
President, Lorraine Gerow

Valhalla School Foundation
Co-Chair, Andre Harpe & Jolene Kochendorfer

Valhalla Community Library
780-356-3834
Head Librarian, Gail Perry

Valhalla 4H Beef Club
Group Leader, Pat Moutray

Valhalla Community School
780-356-2370

Valhalla Women's Institute
President, Joyce Hatton

Valhalla TOPS Club
Contact: Dorothea Omlid

Valhalla Communities in Bloom
President, Dave Harder

Valhalla Cemetery Committee
Contact: Morris Tofteland

Valhalla School Council
President, Anna Odd

Homestead Hall Association
Contact: Linda Johnson

Bethany Banner Historical Society
Contact: Dorothea Omlid

Valhalla Kids: Summer Fun

With school out, there's lots to do in town for kids of all ages:

Summer Reading Program "Destination Jungle"

Kids: 6+, Registration: Free
Valhalla Community Library
July 7, 14, 21; Aug 4, 11, 18
Phone Library for start times.

Kids in the Kitchen

3 day cooking camp.
Homestead Hall
August 17-19, Registration: \$150
Phone Tara for pre-registration: 780-402-9301

Communities in Bloom: National Judges August 4th!

On August 4th, the CIB committee is pleased to welcome Donna Mcilmoyle and Gordon Day to Valhalla Centre.

Members of Valhalla and the County of Grande Prairie will spend the day introducing these national CIB judges the very best Valhalla Centre has to offer.

The CIB evaluation is based on tidiness, community involvement, environmental awareness, natural and cultural heritage conservation, urban forestry, landscaped areas, floral displays and turf grass

management.

As mentioned in the last issue of the Valhalla Viking, Valhalla is one of the first two rural communities in Alberta to advance to the level of national competition.

The community's success with the charter school was named as the reason for such an honour. "Tusen Takk" to all who join together to keep Valhalla Centre thriving and growing through your volunteer and beautification efforts.

Vacation Bible School "Prayer Safari"

Kids: preschool-grade 6
Valhalla Lutheran Church
July 19—23
1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Activities, games, snacks
Phone Roxy Vig for details: 780-356-2500



Come join our...

CANADA DAY PARADE! Thursday, July 1 NOON

All parade entries welcome. Participants meet in school yard at 11 a.m.

Hot dogs, homemade pie and fun for the kids.

Call Emily with questions. 356-2403

Contributing groups: 4H, WI, VHS, TOPS, Hythe Legion and individuals.