

Dear Valhalla School families and community,

June/2011

On behalf of the Charter Board, it is my pleasure to extend a final greeting to all of you as we wrap up the 2010-2011 school year. This has been a very significant year in the life of our young school, due to the intensive evaluation required by Alberta Education in preparation for the application for the renewal of our charter. This evaluation involved extensive preparation of documents for submission in the fall, thorough examination of our activities during the onsite portion in February and now, on June 16, Alberta Ed representatives Zone 5 Director Randy Clarke, Zone 1 Director Terry Wendel, and Education Manager Jan Ruhl came to our board meeting to deliver the results.

We are very pleased with their report. There were many commendations in the report regarding the high level of commitment and effort demonstrated by the board, administration and staff in working to implement the features of the charter; the positive school climate; and the high degree of satisfaction that parents indicated with all aspects of the school. These are tremendously encouraging statements. They speak to the foundation of what we aim to do: carry out the vision of the charter in order to provide an excellent service to our families in the education of their children.

Of course, no review would be complete without some ideas for growth and improvement. Recommendations were made, mostly regarding the common issue for all charter schools of increasing the effort to share the unique aspects of our school with the broader education system. The main requirement listed involves being able to demonstrate improvements in student learning over the core curriculum areas. Once again, since charters are held to a standard where they need to have as good, or preferably better, academic results, we then need to be sure we have a way to show this is occurring. The final report will be available for review on our website as soon as we receive it.

Overall, the final message was that we have been given a positive review and are in favourable position for renewal. This is truly the result of a team effort and for that we thank you all. We could not have received this positive result without the excellent leadership of Superintendent Ray Battochio, who, though brand new, hit the ground running and hasn't looked back since; the remarkable direction of our management including: Principal Steve Mumert, whose newness has presented no obstacle to his excellent abilities; Secretary-Treasurer Mary Ann Westad, with her first-rate financial management; and Transportation Director Doug Kochendorfer, with his focused attention to all aspects of safe transportation; all gracefully supported by Admin Assistant Anna Odd. In addition, as said in the past, we are indebted to the entire staff for daily enacting the charter's vision as they carry out their different jobs, in each interaction creating the kind of school where parents want their children to attend.

Finally, to the parents, the students and the community: Consistently when people come to visit our school they tell us we have a special place here. We tell them they are right and it is because of all of you. Thank you.

Looking ahead to next year we would like to note one staff change. Kerri Kjemhus has been with us from the beginning, was one of our original staff members and we thank her for giving of her talents, especially in her work with the yearbooks. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

Have a great summer and we look forward to the exciting possibilities next year will hold!

Jolene Kochendorfer, Chair Valhalla School Foundation