

March 1, 2011

# Valhalla Community School

## Charter Review On-Site Visit Completed!

You did it VCS! You “let your light shine!”

A huge thank you to students, parents, staff and board members for all the concern, hard work, surveys, interviews, etc. Successful completion of this very important process is the result of the contributions of the entire VCS community.

While we won't see the final report of the committee for some time, indications from the Review Team are that the report will be favorable.

I can say that the men who were with us the past week saw and commented on many things that they were very impressed by. Parent and student support for the school was tremendous. The direct instruction programs and research/training projects were talked about a lot. The dedication, hard work and competency of the staff members were noted. Many good things.

They also had a few ideas about things we could begin to work on, as we continue to get established; opportunities that could help us maintain the momentum of the good things happening at VCS. One theme common to several of these thoughts was the idea of taking the great parent support we already enjoy and by improving school – parent communication and involving parents more in the daily operations of the school to heighten parent support into a



rich school culture or community. That's something we're already working on!

## Flu Update

We continue to have many students absent due to illness at VCS.

Students are reminded to take precautions, including frequent washing, no sharing of water bottles or food, covering mouth when coughing or sneezing, etc.

We would ask that parents keep children home if they're showing symptoms of the flu so children can recover.

## Nomination Time!

**Valhalla School Foundation Annual General Meeting - Wednesday, March 23, 2011 - 7pm - VCS gymnasium.** Are you interested in letting your name stand for a three year term as a charter board director?

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## Inside this Issue

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### Attachments:

Minor Soccer Info Sheet

***Don't forget!  
Badminton Practice on  
Thursday, Mar.3 after  
school.***

*Nomination Time (cont.)*

If you are 18 years of age or older, a parent or guardian of a child attending

VCS or a community member who is supportive of the VCS mission, you can be a director. Staff currently employed by the VCS may not be a director. An information package for nominees can be picked up at the school office. To enter your name as a nominee for director, sign the Valhalla Director Nomination Profile Agreement, in the package, and return it to the school, attention Mary Ann Westad, electoral officer, by March 14 at 4 pm. After the deadline, names of nominees will be posted in the school newsletter and on the school website.

## Parent Council News

The next School Council Meeting will be held March 8, 5:30pm @VCS. If you have a child attending Valhalla Community School you are a member of the School Council. We are looking for volunteers to help out with the Spring Lake Ski Hill and our school hot lunch program.

### Grade 1 and 2 Math Students

The grade 1 math students have been learning their numbers (printing), number sets and number words (spelling their numbers) up to 20. They also have been working on reciting the days of the week (beginning with Sunday) and the months of the year in order. Lastly, they will need to demonstrate mental mastery (memorization) of their basic addition and subtraction facts up to 10 by the end of June. We will be starting timed mad minute math facts this week (addition first) to aid in this. Any practice you can do at home with your child (flash cards) will be very helpful in their learning and success in grade 1 and provide for a great transition into grade 2.

The grade 2 math students have also been learning their numbers, but up to 100. As well as being able to recognize and read them, write them and spell them (up to 40), they are also practicing their counting by multiples of 2's, 5's, 10's and 25's up to 100. Grade 2 students have also been reciting the days of the week and months of the year in order. Lastly, they will need to demonstrate mental mastery (memorization) of their basic addition and subtraction facts up to 20 by the end of June. We will be starting timed mad minute math facts this week (addition first) to aid in this. Any practice you can do at home with your child (flash cards) will be very helpful in their learning and success in grade 2 and provide for a great transition into grade 3.

*Mrs. Flint*

## Charter Bits

### **"On Memory Work and Penmanship"**

*Excerpt from VCS Charter*

*The VSF holds in high regard for its students the skills of memorization of both prose and arithmetic, mental calculation and dignified visual presentation of written work in the form of excellent penmanship and recognizes the role of diligent drill and practice in fostering regular, automatic presentation of said mastered skills.*

**In other words, students need to learn to memorize information and have excellent handwriting skills. We aim to give them that the practice to help it happen!**

## Kindergarten Parents

**Please note.**

There will be no Kindergarten on Friday, March 3. The next Friday session of Kindergarten will be on March 18.

## Upcoming Events

**March 8, 2010  
5:30pm, VCS  
Parent Council Meeting**

Join us to support the school!

**March 10-11, 2011  
No School  
Teachers' Convention**

**March 17, 2011  
Report Cards**

**March 21, 2011  
Beginning @ 4pm, VCS  
Parent Teacher Interviews**

Come out and connect with the teachers! Call to book an appointment.

**March 23, 2011  
7pm, VCS Gymnasium  
Valhalla School Foundation AGM**

Don't miss this important meeting!

**March 25, 2011  
Day off School In lieu of Parent  
Teacher Interviews**

**March 28, 2011  
Spring Break Begins**

## Need Math Help??

*Mrs. Flint will be available to offer students extra help with Math on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch. This would be a great opportunity for some one-on-one instruction and help to get those corrections caught up and complete.*