



Valhalla Community School

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Weekly Newsletter - Website Version

November 9, 2010

VCS Remembers!

This week is the week of Remembrance Day. Students have been discussing the tragedy of war for the past while. The point is not to glorify the horror, but to honor the sacrifices and learn the lessons of the past.

Here at the school we are anticipating a very meaningful Remembrance Day ceremony on November 10. A local World War Two veteran is coming to share his experiences with us. Mr. Arne Nordby served in the American army during the war, seeing action in the Pacific theatre.

We're also extremely fortunate in a related event. VCS will be hosting a presentation on December 10 by a holocaust survivor. Eva Olsson, currently living in Ontario, is coming to speak to our students and community. She is a survivor of the Nazi death camps and speaks inspirationally of her experience and the need to treat all people with respect and humanity. For more information about Eva, and to view a trailer of her speaking, go to her website at www.evaolsson.ca Please join us for both of these events if you're able.

Do You Need to Get Started on Christmas??

Do You Need to Get Those Christmas Cards Sent Out??

Do You Plan on Buying Gift Chocolates for Your Friends and Family??

Why Not ...

... Buy Through the School??

The Gifts and Cards You're Buying Anyway Can Help Support the School!!

Thank You!!

The school wants to acknowledge and thank people who contribute in any way to our improvement and success.

School Assemblies

Each month here at VCS, we hold a student assembly. As a rule they are held the Tuesdays following the early dismissal Mondays. We celebrate birthdays, deal with school business, give announcements, etc. We're also beginning to incorporate some student performances or activities as well. Assemblies are generally fairly short and begin at 12:40pm, shortly after the students' noon recess.

If you are a parent or relative of one or more of our students, or an interested community member, please accept our invitation to join us for these assemblies. You are most welcome.

(It may be a good idea to phone in the day ahead just to make sure the assembly time is as usual) ☺

Bus Drivers' Corner

We appreciate that our bus drivers take their jobs very seriously and that they are anxious to avoid leaving anyone behind. In order to help keep this from happening please be diligent about contacting your driver or the transportation director if your child will not be on the bus. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent notify the driver and the school with written notes, even for students in the higher grades. This will avoid any confusion from mixed or forgotten messages and confirms your plans for your child.

If it becomes apparent that the student will not be on the bus after the routes are running (6:50 a.m.) contact the transportation director, Doug Kochendorfer 831-5701 or 356-2114, and he will radio the driver to inform him or her. It is illegal for bus drivers to talk on their cell phones when driving and it is unsafe for drivers to stop to check messages on busy roads. Our thanks to all of you for working with the drivers to ensure all of the students get transported safely and on time.

Hello everyone!

Round 2 of the Aviva Community Fund Contest is now over and Valhalla's school bus project came in around 1850 votes. This is a very impressive standing as it was accomplished largely through word of mouth (along with newsletter, Facebook and email). And the mouths spread the word far and wide. We've had reports of voters in Vancouver, Toronto, Newfoundland, up north in the NWT and even Canadian voters in Bahrain.

By the end of the two week vote period, we accumulated 320 registered email addresses voting for us. Hopefully we can keep those 320 ready to go right away in the next round as that will automatically put our vote count in the neighbourhood of 3200 given that each registrant has 10 votes.

That puts us in an extremely respectable position.

This week we'll be looking at ways to increase the number of registered voters to 600 or more and figuring out a way to get more organized about reminders to vote daily. 5000 votes will have us in the semi-finals. If you have any ideas, please feel free to call Leslie Loberg at 780-831-7684 or email at leslie.loberg@gmail.com.

Please consider inviting people to join the Facebook page (Help Valhalla Community School Pay Off Their Buses) and encouraging others to register as a voter so they know what to do as soon as the starting bell sounds.

<http://www.avivacommunityfund.org>

Search "Valhalla" or our contest code "acf7715" to see our voting page.

Thank you for your continued efforts in this contest. Not only does it hold out the possibility of \$160,000 for the school buses, it has also been a great way to share our story across Canada and beyond.

Be sure to watch for Round 3 voting to start November 15, 2010 at 12 PM ET!

Thanks again.

Operation Christmas Child

Christmas Shoeboxes

Last week we began our Christmas Shoebox campaign. Many of you will remember we ran this project last year as well. We're asking each student if possible to bring one toonie to donate to this cause, to be used to fill shoeboxes with small gifts of toys and practical items to send to children around the world.

The deadline for bringing donations is November 10, as supplies then need to be purchased and boxes filled in time for the Operation Christmas Child deadline. Please feel free to contact the school for more details.

Festival of Trees

Can it be that the Christmas season is already approaching? So it seems as VCS is scheduled to sing at the Festival of Trees on November 19.

This year we hope to try something a little different. We are scheduled to sing at 12:15pm on November 19. Following singing we will be boarding buses and heading out to Hythe to sing carols for seniors at the Hythe Continuing Care Centre and the Hythe Pioneer Home.

Of course if any parents wish to come hear the students sing we would be delighted. Families may also choose to pick up their children to stay at the Festival longer. We only ask that prior notice be given the school.

Parents please return signed consent forms to the school by to Monday November 15th.

Community News

Valhalla Community Library:

Library Hours: Tuesdays 11am-5pm, Wednesdays 10am-6pm, Thursdays 11am-5pm. New members always welcome; memberships are free!

Valhalla Archery Club:

Valhalla Archery Club Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Upcoming Events

November 10, 2010

1:00pm, VCS

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Join us to remember

November 19, 2010

12:15pm, TEC Centre,

Evergreen Park

Festival of Trees

Meet us for early Christmas fun!

November 23, 2010

By appointment, VCS

Parent Teacher Interviews

Come see us for coffee and connecting!

November 30, 2010

5:30pm, VCS

Parent Council Meeting

December 10, 2010

1:15pm, VCS

Eva Olsson Presentation

Join us for Eva's inspirational presentation