



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

❖ **AUGUST** ❖

Wednesday, Sept 14th
Board Meeting 5:45 p.m.

Monday, Sept 26th
Board Meeting 5:45 p.m.

[Click here to view VCS Calendar 11/12](#)

Friday, September 9, 2011

Please take a moment to read the following letter from one of our parents, Daniel Claudon. I asked Daniel if I could share this letter with the whole community because I found that it brought forth some very important points. I have many reactions to a letter like this, but the main thing I am reminded of is that discussion brings around awareness...awareness of my own views, judgments, and perceptions. And with this awareness there is growth.

As we start the year, it is a good time to as we start the year to open up discussion around how we chose to implement our policies that are based on the philosophies that guide our school's mission and vision.

I want to thank you, Daniel, for taking the time to speak directly to me regarding your concerns. It is my steadfast belief that every parent in this community is doing the very best he/she can to care for our children, the environment and the community as a whole. We are all in a constant state of learning and there is no one right way to do something. I would like to invite our community to share their ideas about how we can continue to support the mission and vision of the Village in a way that is free of judgment and shame.

Rebecca

Dear fellow parents

I feel a need to share some thoughts following an incident at school with my son Paul. I am a single full time dad with no outside support system from family or friends and am currently working 7 days a week at 5am. I needed a quick solution for a meal due to time constraints.

I CHOSE to put an INandOUT burger in my sons lunch along with fruit. This was taken away from him in class. Other children chimed together "that is against the rules". The burger was replaced with pretzels, a food high in sodium, and almost no nutritional value according to the charts. I am aware there are many vegan families here. I have taught my son the reasons people choose to be vegans or vegetarians, and that it is their personal family CHOICE.

I think VCS is a fantastic school staffed by incredibly dedicated teachers and administrators. I value highly their mission statements, and philosophies. I believe they always strive to have our children's best interests in their hearts. BUT no matter how well meaning, it is a violation of civil rights to tell a parent what their child cannot have to eat in their lunch unless the school provides lunches for all children. Schools cannot be the food police. It is a slippery slope when the school starts telling parents they cannot put packaged yoghurt or apple sauce etc in a lunch. While discussing this with Rebecca, she mostly agreed, expressed deep understanding of my struggles, but still said, "If a child comes with a soda or candy bar we would definitely not let them have it during school and tell them to save it for after school". Do I advocate sodas, candy, burgers etc for school lunch? Of course not. But my point is no school may make "rules" regarding what is in a school lunch or snack with exception of allergies. The children's reaction to Pails lunch put him in the place of being a rule breaker. I teach my son to obey rules, why society has laws like not speeding, and that he must respect those rules and laws. Clearly, the children have been taught and believe these are the food rules, not a strong suggestion. A violation of parents civil rights is not ok. This is a teachable moment. I see an opportunity here for children to learn the difference between a rule and a strong suggestion, with education, which attempts to bring about healthy CHOICE. Children do have rights in the US unlike many places. My personal choice as a parent is to teach my son self regulation and all things in moderation. Your choices as a parent may well differ from mine.

Isn't it great we live in a place where these rights, no matter how small, are protected. Having lived for many years in countries where an exercise in speaking freely would end in prison, where police could murder with impunity, employers could pay a bribe to have a trouble maker incarcerated, and teachers were allowed to beat children might make me more sensitive than others to civil rights and how important they are.

I am asking the school to explain to the children what is in their fellow classmate's lunch, good or bad, is the right of the parent or legal guardian to choose, as opposed to a rule, such as no peanut products in class because of a risk to life for a classmate.

I hope this leads to healthy discussion. My intent is not to be the fly in the ointment. Maybe we could start with the discussion with the candy and soda machine our kids pass many times a day. A cover for it during school hours?

Respectfully,

Daniel Claudon

Thank you work day volunteers!

This last weekend, a number of our families gathered to create two new play spaces for our children...step one of our yard improvements! Thank you to all the following people for your time, energy and equipment:

Derek Trowbridge and Dore Hayes for your labor and fork lift	Jeanie Kelly for your vision
The Morris-Dragna family	The Stedman family
Mark Breining for the wonderful picnic tables	Chris Van Stone
The Nagel Family	Alexandra Jacobs
Peter Wittreich	Alicia Feltman
Mary Ellen Wells	Carol Dubay
Neil Raphael	The Kushins family
The Hamlett Family	Sarah Keiser and Thomas Garvin
Claudia Leiva and Alvaro Estrada	Rick Gormley
The Williams family	The Miller Family
Scott Townsend for the constant computer support (despite what your shirt says)	

There was such a wonderful turnout and I apologize if I left a name off the list. Your help is always appreciated and I am grateful that our school rests in the hands of this community. THANK YOU!

Please let Carolyn know if you are interested in being a part of the yard committee.

Notes from Extended Care

We have been enjoying spending time with your wonderful children and getting to know them better. Thank you so much for all of your support and donations. Many parents have asked what else we are needing for the aftercare room so we put together another list. Thanks!

- Pillows
 - Chalk
 - Bell (for calling in kids)
 - Pencil sharpener
 - Modeling Clay
 - Couch (loveseat style)
 - CD's (nature music, instruments, relaxation, multicultural)
 - Apple corer/slicer (for all our fresh fruit!)
 - Origami paper (Tamique will be teaching students new origami folds he learned over the summer)
 - Large neutral color tapestries (to reduce the noise/echo)
 - Gender-neutral, peaceful-type dress ups
 - Books, especially for the 9-11 & 12+ age group
 - Any extra arts/craft supplies you would like to purge from home
 - Snack time is at 3:45, please send extra snack in your kindergartners
 - Mug with your child's name for those who don't have a water bottle
 - Another shelf to store activities/books/games/supplies
- Play silks
 - Books
 - Dry erase markers/eraser
 - Paper
 - Origami Paper

Back to School Night TONIGHT....Friday, Sept. 9th

We will be holding a Back to School Night tonight, Friday, September 9th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. The main focus of this evening is classroom meetings – a time for parents to hear about the expectations, needs and general goings on in their child's classroom. Following the classroom meetings there will be information tables where you can learn about how you can become more involved in the school community.

We ask that this time be child free however if you are in a bind staff will be on hand to provide care. Please be prepared to pay \$5 cash per child at time of drop off.

Fingerprinting:

All VCS volunteers working with students are required to be approved by the Department of Justice (DOJ) prior to helping in the classrooms or chaperoning on field trips. VCS no longer maintains a budget to cover fingerprinting expenses. Dates will be arranged for families to have fingerprints done on site throughout the school year. Fingerprinting takes approximately 2 weeks to get clearance from the DOJ.

Fingerprinting Fees: \$52 to be paid upfront to VCS

This fee covers the following costs:

- Fingerprint cost through TruScan (\$20)*
- DOJ application fee (\$32)

*\$25 for mobile service through TruScan

Driver's License: All volunteers must supply the school office with a copy of their current driver's license. Remember to update expired licenses upon renewal.

Auto Insurance: Village Charter School's insurance company requires that all drivers carry a **minimum of \$100,000.00 of Property Damage and \$100,000/person and \$300,000.00/occurrence of Bodily Injury coverage**. We will need a copy of the **declaration page** from your insurance demonstrating this coverage. It is also possible to obtain one-day coverage from your insurance company at this level of coverage.

Please take care of fingerprinting, driver's license and auto insurance **prior** to your volunteer date.

Star Testing Results

Star Test results are in from last spring's testing. Parents who would like a copy of their child's report should come in to the office.

PGP DONATIONS

Don't forget you can make your payment online through PayPal.

www.villagecharterschool.net

"DONATE NOW ONLINE"

Please include extra for service fees

Potter's Wheel Wanted

Miss Malika would like to find a portable electric potter's wheel for her 1st grade students to work with. If you have one that she can borrow please email Malika at ravengirl@2xtreme.net.

Staples Rewards - Ink Cartridge Recycling

Can you help with ink cartridge recycling? Here is what needs to be done:

1. Register with Staples Rewards. www.staples.com
2. Turn in up to 10 ink cartridges per month to your local Staples store. Ask friends and neighbors for theirs.
3. Receive a rewards coupon via email.
4. Bring coupon to VCS office.

It's that *EASY!*

Every cartridge reduces \$2 from the school's supply budget.

Ongoing Fundraising Opportunities

eScrip www.escrip.com

PAYPAL DONATIONS

<http://www.villagecharterschool.net/donations.html>

Community Smart Card www.communitysmart.com

Staples: Ink and toner cartridge recycling

And now... Molsberry Market