



September

Valley Christian Academy

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Principal's Post

It is great to be back in school again after a hot summer. I trust that our students and you as families enjoyed family time and holidays together. If you went to the lake this summer I'm sure you enjoyed the warm weather, but our farmers really missed timely rains and it was not the harvest they were hoping for this year.

We returned to school this September with more normalcy, with the exception of masking in K-6, but we are happy to be able to offer extra-curricular opportunities for our students this year. We continue to operate using the phrase, "at this time", as things can change in light of our current circumstances in our province having to do with COVID.

We have many teacher changes in our school this year so I thought I would share a list of our teachers and their grades for you. Kindergarten – Mrs. Mikayla Clarke, Gr.1 – Mrs. Andrea Mitchell, Gr. 2 – Mrs. Melissa Ens, Gr.3 – Mrs. Breann Wiebe, Gr.4 – Mrs. Jessica Braun/Mrs. Sharon Penner, Gr.5 – Mr. Tyler Golding, Gr.6 – Mrs. Carie McKenzie, Spec Ed. – Mr. Dayton Reimer, High School – Mr. Jordan Wolff (Sr. Math), Mr. Murray Neudorf (Sr. History), Mr. Jeff Rhinas (Sr. Math), Mr. Matthew Erickson (Middle Years Math), Mrs. Brieanne Froese (Middle Years English), Mr. Talon Hall (Industrial Arts), Mrs. Marcia Norsten (Home Ec.), Mr. Cole Ginther (Sr. Sciences), Mr. Wes Peters (Sr. Electives), Mrs. Arla Schmidt (Middle Years Phys. Ed), Mrs. Florianne Nickel (Sr. English), Mrs. Karin Thiessen (Middle Years Science/Soc.St).

We also would like to welcome 2 interns from the University of Saskatchewan with us this fall. Crystal Klassen is interning with Mrs. Froese and Cathlin Berndt is interning with Mr. Neudorf, both until December where they return to U of S to complete their degree.

Our hope this year as a staff is that we will meet the needs of all of our students and that through our efforts we will bear much fruit. By virtue of our union with Christ we bring forth fruit. Every good work is first in Christ, and then it is brought forth in us, Hosea 14:8, "From me comes your fruit." May our students and staff grow throughout this year and be obedient to the Lords pruning along the way, John 15:1-2.

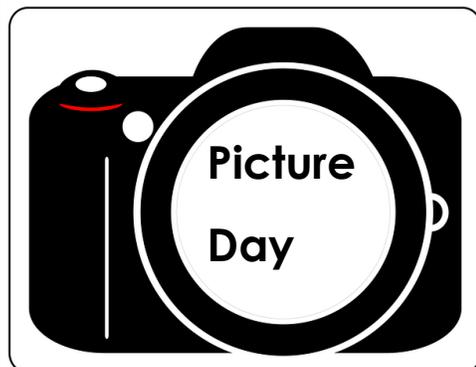
- Mr. Laskowski

Coming up....

September 15	School Pictures
September 30	No School—Federal Truth & Reconciliation Day
October 5 & 7	K-12 Parent / Teacher Interviews
October 8	PD/Prep Day—No Students
October 11	Thanksgiving Monday—No School
October 12	Day in Lieu—No School
October 18-22	High School Spiritual Emphasis Week
October 26	Fall Supper 5—7:30
October 31	Fun Night 5-8

**** Elementary Christmas Concert Date Change**

Due to a date conflict with the Christmas Concert, we will be moving the date from Thursday, December 16th to **Wednesday, December 15th.**



Picture day will be on
Wednesday, September 15th.

New Staff:

Cole Ginther



My name is Cole Ginther and I was born and raised in Warman, Saskatchewan. Growing up, my two brothers and I all attended Valley Christian Academy. After graduating in 2017, I began attending the University of Saskatchewan's Education program. I specifically took interest in the high school education stream, with a major in Biology and minor in Social Studies. In 2020, I was fortunate enough to get married to Alexandra Maccooh, another VCA graduate. We spent a year living in Saskatoon, and now reside in Martensville. My wife is a student at the University of Saskatchewan as well – she recently completed her Psychology degree, and now is preparing to enroll in the College of Education as well. Outside of school, I spend my time at golf courses around the city either playing, working, or teaching lessons as a member of the Professional Golf Association of Canada. I am really looking forward to teaching sciences, along with other courses at Valley Christian Academy and helping coach volleyball and badminton as well. I hope this year is one full of blessing and genuine learning for all the students coming into this school.

Matt Erickson

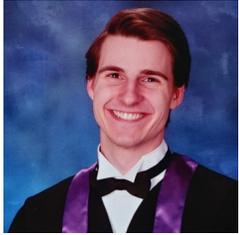
Hello Parents and Students,

My name is Matthew Erickson, and I am the new Grade 9 homeroom teacher at VCA this year. I am also teaching grade 7/8 Math as well. I am thrilled to be starting here this year! This is my 4th year teaching, and I have previously taught at Warman High and Blaine Lake Composite School. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at both schools, but I am extra excited to get started here this fall. I was born and raised as a Pastor's Kid my entire life, and so I have been raised in a loving Christian home. I have two younger brothers, and we love to play sports! We have all played post secondary volleyball throughout our time in college and university. I played for the University of Saskatchewan for 4 years, and helped coach the team for the following 3 years. In addition, I have coached club volleyball for 4 years. I am also very excited to be taking the lead with the Sr. Girls Volleyball team this season, and to be able to share my knowledge and experiences to help them develop as a team in a sport that I love! I have been married to my wife Anna for 5 years today (!!), and we have two young boys. My oldest is Myles and he turns 3 in November, and my youngest is Noah and he turns 5 months at the start of September. We met at Columbia Bible College in Abbotsford, BC, where we both played on the varsity volleyball teams. Our lives are very busy but also filled with so much joy, as we have 2 amazing children. This summer we were very busy, taking a trip out to BC to be with Anna's family for a couple of weeks, spent some time at our family cabin just south of Elbow, and took a trip to visit some old friends in Grande Prairie. One of our favourite family past times is Disc Golf, and we played a ton this summer!



Anyways, I look forward to meeting and getting to know everyone very soon!

New Staff:



Talon Hall

Hi everyone! My name is Talon Hall, and I am excited to be joining the VCA community on a half time basis. I have the great privilege of teaching PAA to Grade 7, 8 and 9 students, which is an area that I love teaching and have had a lot of fun teaching in the past. I was born and raised in Saskatoon and attended multiple Christian schools during my upbringing, which makes me even more excited to get the opportunity to teach at a Christian school. When I am not at school, I read history and political books (my record is three books in one day), play sports, develop my woodworking skills, and spend time with my family. I am thrilled to be joining this community and I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks!

Marcia Norsten

Hello to all and what a fabulous start to September we have been given. My name is Marcia Norsten and I will be filling in as the Home Economics teacher until the end of January. I started teaching in 1993 and continued until I started my family in 2001.



I have 3 children who have kept me running for the past 20 years. I was fortunate to be able to continue working as a substitute teacher once all 3 were in school. Doing this has kept me in touch with the numerous changes that the education system has experienced over the years.

My husband, of 30 years, and I live by the North Saskatchewan River at Petrofka. Our spare time is spent watching our children participate in their numerous sports. We enjoy spending time as a family playing games, snowboarding and participating in most water sports down at the river.

I am looking forward to a positive year with your children at VCA.

Elementary Chapel

Elementary is looking for volunteers to do a short 5 minute kid friendly devotional. Please email Mrs. Braun at jessica.braun@spiritsd.ca for more information.





Guitar Lessons

If any parents/students are interested in taking guitar lessons this year, please call or email the office.

Our Counsellor



My name is Christa Shepherd Hills and I'm the school counsellor. This is my fourth year at VCA and I'm delighted to be part of the Christian school community here! I enjoy the opportunity to speak openly with students about our faith as I support them in navigating difficult life experiences, mental health issues and learning

challenges. Most of my time is spent in individual counselling with students. I also connect with parents who have questions or concerns about their child's social, emotional, and psychological wellbeing. Another part of my job is helping teachers meet the needs of students with neurodevelopmental differences and psychiatric diagnoses. Many senior students will recognize me from classroom visits to introduce the concept of mental health, talk about my role, and address questions or concerns coming up in that age group. I'm at VCA on Thursdays. I take referrals from teachers, parents, and directly from students. You can connect with me by leaving a message at the office or by email: christa.shepherd_hills@spiritsd.ca



Fall Supper

Our fall supper is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26th from 5:00—7:30 pm. Mary Fehr will be heading up the supper this year and next year. She would like to find someone who would be interested in taking it over. She would be willing to train you over the next 2 years. Please email the office if this is something that you'd like to take part of and we will connect you with Mary.