



**Parent Advisory Council Meeting
Principal's Report
Valleyview Secondary School**

October 16, 2019

New on Staff:

- Roberta Regnier, Ab Ed Worker
- MJ Johnson, Ab Ed Worker
- Caleb Gillis, Math
- Emily Gillis, French
- Emily Olstad, English
- Jennifer Wraight, Science

What has been happening at Valleyview Secondary:

- We are just a breath under 1000 students at 997! That is up approximately 25 students from last June.
- Over 500 parents have signed up to meet teachers tomorrow evening at Parent Teacher Interviews.
 - 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm
- Valleyview has its 10th portable installed. Breaking ground for our new addition to the school will take place this spring!
- ProD day was spent looking at improving learning environments using a Universal Design for Learning. This design strategy honours what our students bring to the classroom and allows for more opportunities to learn using different intelligences.
- Dr. 's Halbert and Kaser from UBC are working with school inquiry teams again this year right across the District.
- Chris Bose, a local Aboriginal Artist is here at Valleyview this year as an *Artist In Residence*. He is working with Ms. Tompkins' senior art students to design a large commemorative mural that celebrates Valleyview's 50th Anniversary. Themes of our past, present and future selves as a community will be the focus. In order to make this work, we applied for and received a large Artists in the Classroom grant of just over \$6000!
- All students at VSS participated in the DEWRS (District Engagement, Wellbeing and Resiliency Survey) at the end of September. This data will help us better understand our students especially with regards to how they feel about school and their studies.
- Grade 8 & 9's participated this week in the Non Fiction Reading Assessment which will inform practice by letting us know what to begin to work towards ensuring all students are meeting or exceeding literacy expectations



Mark on your calendar:

- Oct 18: Dry Grad Parent Meeting 7pm in the library
- Nov 08: Remembrance day assemblies at VSS
- Nov 11: Remembrance day
- Nov 20: Term 1 Report cards home

Our School Goals this year:

These school goals are something that the staff and I are committed to working on this year, and in order to do that, we will be meeting in small groups on Thursday mornings while students are in FLEX block. These goals are based on international research from the OECD which is an organization that looks at influencing factors on economic development. I think many would agree that how well our students do in school really will have an impact on the Canadian economy. From this research then are our goals:

1. **Putting learners at the centre:** This means we are working at designing learning environments that focus on students' cognition and growth. It means exploring inquiry-based and co-operative learning experiences and it means developing self-regulated learners
2. **Building horizontal connections:** This means we are working at designing learning environments that focus on the core competencies that focus on thinking, communication and personal and social awareness that can be transferred to other new situations. It also means connecting the classroom environment to the wider environment and society.

One example of how we are working towards our school goals:

Science for Citizens 11 is a brand new practical science course for students that is using Universal Design for Learning.

Students started off the class by exploring which way they learned best and Ms. Turner then designed her learning environment to suit their diverse needs. One of the basic premises of UDL is to build compassionate learning communities that really honour what students bring to class every day.

This year, Ms. Turner is working with Ms. Reves and they are using UDL in their Science 10 classes. Being responsive to the unique needs of all students really does put *learners at the centre!*

