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## Studying Artwork

As we introduce our children to various pieces of famous artwork, it can be difficult to get a child to express what they like about the artwork, or what they do not like about the artwork. These questions can aid you in directing your children to appreciate a piece of artwork. The author of these questions is unknown.

1. Does this picture use warm colors or cool colors?
2. Which picture makes you feel happiest or saddest to look at?
3. Which picture would you like to be in?
4. If you were in this picture, where would you be?
5. Can you find some patterns in this picture?
6. Does this picture use more curvy lines or straight lines?
7. Does this picture look most realistic? Or most like a photograph?
8. Do the people in this picture look like people look today? Why (or why not?)
9. Do you think this is a painting of some place in North America, or does it look like it's from another part of the world?
10. Which picture shows the most detail?
11. How many \_\_\_\_\_ color things are in this picture?
12. How many \_\_\_\_\_s are in this picture?

This year, Valley Christian School offered two options for homeschooling families:

**Option 1:** Support & encouragement, borrowing texts & readers, purchasing consumable workbooks from our main suppliers at our cost, opportunity for involvement in a nominal-cost-to-you weekly event. CTBS testing if desired. No reporting required, no samples of work to be handed in.

**Option 2:** Rebate for homeschooling materials you have purchased to a maximum of \$125 per child, based on reimbursement for purchases made by the parents for receipts submitted. This is a registration only option and gives those seeking complete independence and responsibility that option. CTBS testing is available. No reporting required, no samples of work to be handed in. Christian curriculum is receiptable. If desired, involvement in the weekly/monthly events can be arranged on a fee basis.

Please take care to keep your receipts from curriculum and resource purchases so that they can be submitted to us by May 31, 2005. We will send the rebate cheque to you by July 15, 2005. Please send these on time as doing the work in one batch helps keep our costs low. Late claims will be discounted by \$10 and there is a final deadline of August 31, 2005.

## Free Art Lessons

This website has a beginner's curriculum for art. There are eight units with each unit having 5 to 8 lessons. The units deal with colour, lines, textures, space, drawing, masks, weaving, and special projects. The lessons are easy to understand and complete.. [Http://members.aol.com/mrsspyboy/index.htm](http://members.aol.com/mrsspyboy/index.htm)



H10KS



## HOMESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Valley Christian School

December 2004

## A Note From Kathie

This has been a very busy fall for me, with a steep learning curve. Thank you for being so patient. Not only did I become Homeschool Coordinator at VCS, but with homeschool coordinator responsibilities and the other office duties that my position entails, it made for a very intensive preparation for the October Ministry Inspection that every independent school undergoes every six years. It was so rewarding to hear the inspection team give a glowing report of VCS— "a phenomenal school," they said, "one of the best kept secrets in the Valley." Absolutely everything was evaluated, including our home-school program and files. Everything received an "A+".

But now we need to go on. There are new ideas, new thoughts that haven't even been thought! If you have ideas or needs that might be of interest to me as I coordinate this program, or to other homeschool families, please take the time to contact me. Meeting with you and getting to know you is one of the favourite parts of my position.

I would really, really like to continue or expand our weekly classtime that we started this fall. I think it was so worthwhile for those involved, but we need to have families signing up, parents teaching classes, and even picking up other families that have no transportation.

Last, but probably most important, on behalf of us all at Valley Christian School, I would like to wish you a joyous and peaceful Christmas as you celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace.

*Kathie*

## Home Stay Families Needed

In the New Year, VCS will be hosting several groups of Korean students. These students are in need of homes for the months of January and February while they attend classes at our school. If you are interested in hosting one or two students an application form is available in the school office

## Tutors Available

We have the names of several tutors in the Abbotsford and Mission area if you are needing some help with a difficult subject or portion thereof.



### Special points of interest:

- VCS Christmas Program— December 10, 2004—7:30 pm
- VCS office closed—Dec. 18th to Jan. 3rd.
- CTBS testing available upon request for March
- Option 2 Deadline for curriculum receipts.—May 31, 2005



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## Recorder Class Taught by Ralph Neumann



Madison Holgate (front left) , Janelle Holgate (front right) and Landon Stark (background) and others have enjoyed the Monday morning recorder class taught by Mr. Ralph Neumann which began October 25th. Mr. Neumann chose recorders that even the youngest musicians could use, and provided music which the students could accomplish the first day! After practicing during the week, the melodies sounded even better by the following Monday.

The six weeks of classes will draw to a close on November 29th and the orchestra will disperse ... taking with them new skills and a greater appreciation for music.

Students and parents would like to give a hearty thank you to Mr. Neumann for making these classes so enjoyable. Thanks so much.

## Recorder The Woodwind Family

“The recorder is usually made of wood or plastic. It is made in five different sizes. The smallest is a descant or sopranino recorder. The soprano or treble recorder is the recorder most used in schools. There are also

“Many famous composers, including Bach and Handel, wrote music for the recorder.”

alto, tenor and bass recorders. These five recorders can play five-part music. A group of recorders is called a *consort*. The recorder is not generally used with other instruments because it is too soft to be heard. Although many think that recorder is just an instrument to play in school, learning the recorder as a serious instrument can also be rewarding.

All recorders have eight holes. The left hand covers the thumbhole at the back of the recorder and the first three holes. The right hand covers the four holes at the bottom of the recorder. Sound is made by blowing softly into the recorder mouthpiece. It is very easy to overblow the recorder and make an ugly sound. Blowing softly and steadily produces the best sound.

### History of the recorder:

The recorder is a very old instrument. The recorder was popular during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Many famous composers, including Bach and Handel, wrote music for the recorder.”

### Related Links:

Recorder sites at Yahoo!  
Recorder sites at Looksmart  
[Www.hypermusic.ca/inst/recorder.html](http://www.hypermusic.ca/inst/recorder.html)



## Homeschooling Classes Offered

This January, we would like to offer another set of classes for homeschoolers, but in order to do that, we will need parents to come forward to teach a small group of homeschoolers. We have someone interested in teaching sewing, but there should be at least one more class. Wouldn't you like to offer to teach:

- art?
- drama?
- science?
- gym?
- computer?
- a language such as French, German or Swahili?

Please let me know if you'd like to teach one of the above classes or another class of your choice or if you'd like your children to attend any classes. Thanks so much.



## Library News

Hello to all homeschool parents from the Valley Christian School library. Please feel free to come and take a look at our books and resources. You may borrow up to 15 items at one time for a 3 week loan period.



The Library hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 am until 3:00 pm, but if you pop in on another week day, the Library can be opened for you so can enjoy finding just that right book.

Please come in to visit us and look over our books, resources and other material. Flo Rempel, the librarian, would be happy to assist you if you are looking for something specific.

## Workout in the Gymnasium

Either prior to the recorder class each Monday (to wake everybody up) or sometimes following recorder class (to save the sweaty competition for last), homeschoolers joined Mr. Ralph Neumann in the VCS gym for a vigorous floor hockey game, basketball scrimmage, or a game of soccer. The VCS gym afforded a good place out of the rain for these six Mondays, and the selection of equipment necessary was easily at hand.

Once again, Mr. Neumann, thanks so much. This was no doubt a highlight of the week for these kids.

