



# HOMESCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Valley Christian School

March 2005

## A Note From Kathie ...



We're into the home stretch. We've touched first base, rounded second and third and are racing towards home plate. Your team has been working well together, and the scoreboard bears that out. Everyone is cheering you on. Take a deep breath and catch that second wind because the last few yards may be the hardest. But you can do it.

Maybe it was my style of home schooling, but I always found the last part of the year the hardest, probably because I was tired and running out of ideas and steam. The Monday mornings just kept on coming, preceded by the Sunday nights when I did my marking and planning. In order to cope, I occasionally did spur of the moment activities that gave all of us a break from the routine and a special appreciation for the freedom homeschoolers have. (Blessed are the flexible, for they will not break when the winds blow hard.) Like the times, and there were at least several times, we grabbed our watercolours and paintbrushes and spent a few hours beside our creek or at the lake, using pattern, texture and colour to paint breathtaking masterpieces! Maybe the most benefit for my Rembrandts was simply to be outside together in the spring sunshine enjoying the beauty of God's creation. Other times we packed up cloth bags, book lists, and some snacks and headed out into the sunrise to stand in line before the door opened at a FVR Library book sale. Sometimes we came away with only a few special treasures; other times we managed to find boxes of special books. Still other times we joined other homeschoolers for an impromptu picnic or field trip. By the end of May or at least by mid June, we would have finished our school work in great strides of stamina and be ready for yard work, vacation or whatever. I always tried to end the year with some special times- perks—that would remind my kids how special their home schooling experience was. I planned to leave a good taste in their mouths so that they would be eager to resume in the fall again.

So, if you're feeling the pressure of the game, call a time out to collect your thoughts, catch your breath and then make a flying run for home plate.

*Kathie*



## Used Curriculum/Book Sale

Many of you have been asking when our annual Used Book Sale will be. Please feel free to share the following information with other home schooling friends and families.

Date: Saturday , May 7th  
Place: Valley Christian School  
Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

There is no cost to use a table, but you are limited to ONE table only. If you are selling material, please arrive at 8:45 am. DOORS WILL NOT BE OPEN for sales until 9:00 am.

## Re-registration Forms

A registration form for next year has been included with this newsletter for your convenience. Remember that forms can be faxed (604-826-2744), mailed, or brought to the school at any time. Make sure that you designate whether you would like Option 1 or Option 2. The deadline for registration is late September.



### Special points of interest:

- *March-April—CTBS testing available upon request*
- *March 21—April 1—VCS Spring Break*
- *May 7—VCS Curriculum/Book Sale*
- *May 14—VCS Fun Fair*
- *May 31—Option 2 Deadline for curriculum receipts*
- *June 9,10, 11—Home school Convention*
- *July 15—Option 2 Refunds Available*



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## Valley Christian School

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.valleychristianschool.ca](http://www.valleychristianschool.ca)



For 2005-2006, Valley Christian School is again offering 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.

## BC Home School Convention

This year, the BC Home School Convention is being held on June 9th, 10th, and 11th at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel at 15269 104th Avenue, Surrey. Early registration is as follows:

One Day: \$60 per person or \$80 per couple (Convention registration includes admission the Exhibit Hall)

Two Days: \$80 per person or \$90 per couple (Convention registration includes admission the Exhibit Hall)

Exhibit Hall only (register on site) \$5.00 per adult per day, children under 16 free.

Exhibit Hall hours: Friday 9:00 am–5:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am–5:00 pm

For late registration, add \$20.00 to costs except for the Exhibit Hall. No refunds or mailed confirmations after May 30th. Note that convention registration includes admission to the Exhibit Hall.

For more information or to register on line, go to [www.bchomeschool.org](http://www.bchomeschool.org) and click on the convention tab. Please be sure to drop by our booth and say hi.

## BookReturns/Orders

If you have loaned materials from the office, please return them by June 24th or call me to make other arrangements. Orders for material can be placed at any time, however, may not be filled completely until July or August. We are beginning to place school orders from suppliers and hope to have the curriculum delivered by August. Our Book Room is stocked with a good variety of consumables, texts, teacher editions, and readers all throughout the year. You are welcome to come and check it out.



## CTBS Testing

CTBS material is available upon request, if you would like to test your children. There is no cost for this service provided by VCS and it is especially helpful for new home schooling families and for those who have been focusing on special academic areas and would like to see what improvement has been made since previous years' testing. Although the test results are facilitated through VCS, the results are confidential and no records will be kept by Valley Christian School. This is your information and yours alone. You may contact me by telephone until March 19th or by email ([info@valleychristianschool.ca](mailto:info@valleychristianschool.ca) or [kathiekrahn@shaw.ca](mailto:kathiekrahn@shaw.ca)) to request a pickup or return of CTBS materials during Spring Break. I will be in the office again on April 4th. It is important that the CTBS testing booklets are returned to VCS by May 7th **AT THE ABSOLUTE LATEST!!!!!!**