



Winter Break 2020

### Snow Days at VC

Most students know who Ben Noll (VC Class of 2009) is although he graduated awhile ago and lives half a world away in New Zealand! Who could imagine a world without Ben Noll's Snow Day predictions? Not VC.

Snow days are not something that VC is ready to let go of yet. For now, VC plans to use our snow days and then if needed go remote.

VC has a total of seven snow days. Three can be used without having to make them up. The next four are "banked" in the VC school calendar and are made up in this order:

4th Day: May 27th is a school day

5th Day: March 26 and May 27

6th Day: March 26, April 5 and May 27

7th Day: March 26, April 5, May 27 and May 28

The District had its first snow day on December 17, 2020.



## VCSD Takes A Proactive Approach to Education Post-Pandemic

The Coronavirus Pandemic has shaken all aspects of our lives to the core forcing a global restructuring of education. It has magnified the importance of connections and social-emotional learning. Just as VCSD worked hard to facilitate the reopening of schools in September, we are hard at work not only providing education during the pandemic but looking ahead to how we can best serve our students' educational needs as we eventually return to schools as we knew them with the lessons learned through the pandemic experience.

Before the Pandemic, Valley Central was delving in to Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and its importance in fully equipping our students for success. The Pandemic has magnified how very important SEL is. Connectivity applies beyond internet access. Students need to feel connected to the adults in their schools.

The "House" concept of schools are effective for building a sense of community, camaraderie and identity. *(continued on page two)*



Viking Strong

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# VCSD Takes A Proactive Approach to Education Post-Pandemic (continued from page 1)

The Alternative Learning Center at Maybrook is like a House of the High School and Middle School. Since its inception, it has been very successful in creating community and camaraderie for our students. To apply this concept on a larger scale, VCSD has decided to embark on restructuring the High School to a collaborative co-principal model.

Valley Central High School will consist of two Houses: a grade 9/10 House and grade 11/12 House. Each House will have a Principal and Assistant Principal. The 9/10 House will focus on Social Emotional Learning to make sure students are acclimated and prepared for success in the upper grades of high school. The 11/12 House will be focused on college and career readiness, being sure that students are prepared for success on the paths they will take post-high school.

The District began considering the House approach prior to the Pandemic, and then decided to implement it quickly as it became apparent that students will need more support than ever as we continue to deal with the Pandemic's effects on now and well beyond the end of the Pandemic.

Superintendent John Xanthis sees a mid-year restructuring to the new system as a perfect opportunity to have the House system firmly in place for the upcoming year. Decisions for an upcoming school year are made starting in January of the prior year, so this transition will allow the co-principals to be fully in charge of those decisions. It is hoped to have the co-principals in place as early as the beginning of the second semester of this school year.

**WINTER BREAK: December 23-January 3 - No Classes**

## January Dates

January 4: School Resumes- Remote Learning Only

January 11- BOE meeting Livestreamed on our Youtube Channel.

January 18- MLK, Jr. Day

January 19: Hybrid Learning Resumes: Team 2 reports to school

January 21: UPK Info Night

January Regents Cancelled

January Concerts and Drama Productions Postponed