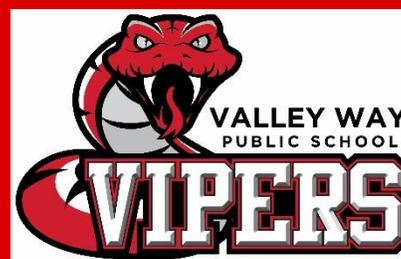


VALLEY WAY VOICE

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March 2020

#IMATTERATDSBN

#VWPROUD

#IMHEREVALLEYWAY

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

In last month's newsletter, we noted the trends in student attendance, including absences and lates up to the end of January for the school year. I encouraged families to set a goal for attendance. How is your family doing with their goal? Each day on the announcements we identify the classes with the best attendance for the previous day and highlight the classes with the best weekly attendance. Below is our attendance summary for the month of February:

Homeroom	Lates	Absences	Students Present and on Time
Mrs. Mihelic/Ms. O'Toole	51	53	70.29%
Mrs. Longval /Mrs. Quiring	33	37.5	79.02%
Ms. Rogers	29	21.5	81.01%
Ms. Carter	14	30.5	82.34%
Mrs. Taylor	46	30	69.84%
Mr. Clancy	11	29	85.71%
Mrs. Bouchard	16	40.5	80.78%
Mr. Ott	26	38.5	79.06%
Mr. Crawford	29	34	80.43%
Ms. Scudamore	20	26	85.06%
Mr. Desanti	29	27	82.61%
School Total	304	387.5	78.98%

Congratulations to Mr. Clancy's class for achieving the best attendance for the month of February with an honourable mention to Ms. Scudamore's class for a close second.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- YMCA Gambling Presentation Mar. 4
- Pizza Day Mar. 4
- Popcorn Day Mar. 6
- Pizza Day Mar. 11
- Dance-a-thon donations due Mar. 11
- Dance-a-Thon – Star Wars theme Mar. 13
- March Break begins Mar. 16
- Welcome back Mar. 23
- Chocolate Bar fundraiser begins ... Mar. 25
- Hot Dog Day Mar. 25
- Homeroom Wars Spirit Day Mar. 25
- Lockdown Drill..... Mar. 26
- Grade 8 Grad Photo Day Mar. 27

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The next School Advisory Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:00 pm.



DANCE-A-THON

The students at Valley Way are extremely excited about the upcoming annual Valley Way Dance-a-Thon. We will hold the Dance-a-Thon on Friday, March 13 and we will have a Star Wars theme. DJ Clancy will be spinning some tunes as requested by the students at Valley Way. There are prizes available for the top fundraisers. The funds raised will be used to support school initiatives, (such as busing for trips and Chromebooks for classrooms). Thank you for supporting this initiative and thank you to Mr. Crawford and Mr. Clancy for your behind the scenes work to get our video advertising the dance-a-thon ready to go. If you haven't seen it, check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYY81pOHhVU>.

GRADE 8 GRAD PHOTOS

Grade 8 Graduation photos will be taken on Friday, March 27 in the morning. All students are encouraged to wear a white, button-down shirt and a tie for the boys. If these items are not available, the photographer will have some to borrow. Further information will be sent home shortly with our grads.

GRADE 8 GRAD

Grade 8 Graduation has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2020. Please save this date! Information will be sent home with more details at a later date.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL CHOCOLATE BAR FUNDRAISER

The parent council has decided to run a chocolate bar fundraiser for the spring season. Information will be coming home in regards to the fundraiser. All funds will be used to bring programs to the school, such as Scientist in the Classroom. If you would like a box of chocolate bars to sell, the permission form must be returned to the school. Additional boxes will be available upon written request when the funds for previous boxes have been returned.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

With School Cash Online, you will be able to approve permission forms and make payments for items online. Understanding that we're quickly becoming a cashless society, we know it can sometimes be a challenge to find exact change for items and then send it to school through your child's backpack. Using School Cash Online, you'll be able to use your debit, credit card or echeque to make quick and easy payments online. It will also allow you to track payments made and receive an invoice for your purchases.

School Cash Online is a safe, reliable portal that will ensure the security of your information. The system is already active. You are able to gain access through the School Cash button which has been placed on our school website. We are asking that you click on the button and follow the simple instructions to register. Registration should take less than five minutes. If you registered last year, you do not need to register again!

If you require some assistance registering for School Cash Online, please visit the office and we will be happy to help you get started.

SPIRIT DAY – HOMEROOM WARS

On Wednesday, March 25 we will be having a 'homeroom wars' spirit day. Each homeroom will choose a theme of their choice. The homeroom with the highest level of participation is the winner, as well as collecting colour house points. We are looking forward to seeing the creativity of our homerooms!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION – IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Do you know a child who will be turning 4 before December 31, 2020? If so, spread the word that Kindergarten registration is here! If you missed our open house, please come visit Ms. Mahoney at the office to register and get ready for Kindergarten! We have gift bags full of fun learning resources and information to help children develop their school readiness skills.

DO YOU NEED CHILDCARE?

Are you in need of before and/or after school childcare? Let Niagara Region know by registering through the Niagara Region's OneList (<https://niagara.onehsn.com/>) by March 13. The Niagara Regions uses this information to determine the viability of childcare in schools. If you would like to register but need some assistance, please stop by the office and we would be happy to help get you registered.

POPCORN DAY

The Grade 8 students will be selling popcorn for \$1.00 a bag during second break on Friday, March 6. All proceeds will go towards graduation and their year end trip. Thank you for supporting the Grade 8 students!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS – OLDER STUDENTS

Did you know?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job.

What can you do?

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school everyday, make that the expectation.
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety.

If you require some assistance improving your child's attendance, please contact your child's teacher or the school office. This information is used with permission of Attendance Works.

SOCIAL WORKER SUPPORT

Do you have questions about your child's mental health and well-being, such as anxiety, behaviour or self-harm?

Do you need support in accessing supports in the community?

Do you need advice for setting goals to help with regular school attendance?

Do you have any questions or looking for support regarding a certain aspect of parenting?

If these are some questions that you have, please speak with your child's teacher or Mrs. Worth. Sue Bennett is a DSBN Social Worker that works with families in Niagara Falls schools, including Valley Way, to provide an additional layer of support to help our students and families achieve success. She is an invaluable member of our Valley Way team and is looking forward to connecting with families.

CONNECT WITH US!

In our busy lives, events can sometimes be overlooked. Technology allows us multiple ways to connect with families. The following is a list of ways we use to connect with families to ensure all families are aware of the many events happening throughout the year.

SCHOOL WEBSITE - <http://valleyway.dsbns.org> Please take some time to visit the Valley Way Public School website. Our website includes current newsletters, school calendars, code of conduct, school council information, a school year calendar, classroom websites, and bell times. Our website also includes the most recent Facebook posts and Tweets.

SCHOOL MESSENGER: Using the School Messenger program, all families will receive a phone call and email on Sunday afternoon (Monday's on a long weekend) with reminders about events for the upcoming week. If you are not receiving these phone calls and emails, please check your contact information with the office to ensure we have the most current information. We have received many positive comments about this method of communication!

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER: Please follow us on these social media platforms to see updates on exciting events. All posts and tweets will be updated on our school website as well.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER: All newsletters will be posted to the school website and sent via School Messenger through email on the first school day of the new month.

PROM PROJECT NIAGARA

Prom Project Niagara is a one-day, fun free formal wear extravaganza! Students can select their perfect head-to-toe look for their graduation for FREE!

If you know of a student who could use this program, please join us on Saturday, April 4, from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at St. Catharines Collegiate.

For more information on Prom Project Niagara please call 905-641-2929 ext. 37710, email carson.welychka@dsbn.org or visit www.efnniagara.ca.

LOCKDOWN DRILL

We are scheduling a lockdown drill on Thursday, March 26, 2020, during the school day. The practice gives us an opportunity to implement our Safe School Plan to ensure the safety of all our students and staff should an emergency lockdown occur. We are required to do two lockdown drills a year. The second lockdown drill will occur in April. If you arrive at school during the lockdown drill, we will not be able to let you enter until the drill is complete.

