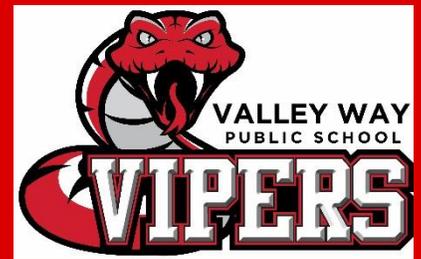


# VALLEY WAY VOICE

5315 Valley Way  
Niagara Falls, ON  
L2E 1X4  
905.356.6611

[vwv@dsvn.org](mailto:vwv@dsvn.org) [valleyway.dsvn.org](http://valleyway.dsvn.org) @ValleyWayDSBN



**December 2020**

#IMATTERATDSBN

#VWPROUD

#IMHEREVALLEYWAY

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we look ahead to the month of December, the holiday season, and the end to the year 2020, I find myself reflecting on the year. The year has brought much change to our lives but it has also shown us how, when we work together, support each other, and focus on the positives, that anything is possible! Thank you to our amazing community (parents, students, and staff) for supporting each other during the last number of months and in particular, in making our return to school such a success.

There is so much beauty in the rich traditions of many faiths, during this time. What is truly wonderful about this time of year, is the common bonds we share, regardless of our beliefs. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas or Diwali, family values and the feeling of kindness and helping others, is what we have in common.

Don't forget that there are many simple gifts to give, like a smile, a kind word or a random act of kindness. On behalf of the staff at Valley Way, we wish you a holiday season filled with joy, peace and good health!

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

I would like to invite all our families to attend (virtually) our next School Advisory Council meeting. We will be meeting on Tuesday, December 1 starting at 6:00 pm. Part of our meeting will include time to discuss the protocol for symptomatic symptoms in children with a nurse from the Niagara Region Public Health Department. If you have questions, this is a great opportunity to have your questions answered.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- School Advisory Council Meeting .. Dec. 1
- Stamford Virtual Visit ..... Dec. 1
- Stamford Virtual Open House ..... Dec. 8
- PIC Virtual Speaker Series..... Dec. 9
- White and Blue Day ..... Dec. 11
- Holiday Hat Day..... Dec. 15
- Grade 6/7 and 7/8 trip ..... Dec. 15
- Ugly Holiday Sweater Day ..... Dec. 16
- Holiday Luncheon..... Dec. 16
- Red and Green Day ..... Dec. 17
- Grade 4 and Grade 5/6 trip ..... Dec. 17
- Holiday Sweater Day ..... Dec. 13
- T'was the Night Before Winter Break (PJ) Day ..... Dec. 18
- Last Day before winter break ..... Dec. 18
- School Resumes..... Jan. 4

## WINTER BREAK

Winter Break is from Dec. 21 to Jan.1 inclusive. We look forward to seeing our families on January 4, 2021 after a restful and healthy break!



## STUDENT RECOGNITION

During the month of November, Valley Way students were recognized for their work as a learner for their learning skills and/or academics, as an individual for their character traits, and as a community member for contributing to the school and/or classroom. The following students were recognized:

<b>MRS. MIHELIC AND MS. O'TOOLE</b> Avery, Gracie, Onyx	<b>MRS. PETRYCHANKO</b> Levi, Emmett
<b>MS. SCUDAMORE</b> Ben, Benjamin, Vivienne	<b>MS. CARTER</b> Camryn, Thor, Dexter
<b>MRS. TAYLOR</b> Aubree, Noah, Gracelyn	<b>MR. CLANCY</b> Madyline, Richard, Ben
<b>MR. OTT</b> Jullien, Brooklyn, Ryleigh	<b>MRS. MEGER</b> Evan, Aiden, Sheldon
<b>MR. DESANTI</b> Gavin, Calvin, Lakisha	<b>MR. SARKISIAN</b> Hudson, Percy, Gracelyn
<b>MME. BOUCHARD (FSL)</b> Eleanor, Madyline, Priyanshu, Logan, Abbey, Owen	



## DREAMBOX LEARNING

DreamBox Learning Math is an online program with educational games that are individualized for your child, adapting the curriculum just for them. It's a fun, effective math learning environment. Unlike other math games that often sacrifice learning for entertainment, DreamBox delivers a rich, tailored learning experience. All of our Primary students (Grades 1-3) have access to a DreamBox account. Please contact your child's teacher for further information.

## PARENT'S ROLE IN KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE

Everyone has a role to play in keeping families safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children on a daily basis before sending them to school. We ask parents to use this link: [Ontario Ministry of Education Covid-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool \(https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/\)](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/) to screen their child(ren) daily. The screening tool will provide direction and information to determine if students should attend school, remain home, or seek medical advice. Additionally, parents must have a person available to

pick up their child right away, should they become sick during school. We thank our parents for being diligent with following the screening guidelines and being available to pick up your child when needed!

## DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

As cooler weather approaches, please be aware that children are expected to be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions every day. Coats, hats, boots and mittens/gloves are soon going to be necessary for your child to enjoy the outdoor fitness breaks and gym classes. Students will continue to have gym classes outside during this time. Students that are well enough to be at school are expected to be outside with their friends during fitness breaks as indoor supervision is not available during this time. Classroom teachers will be opening up hooks and cubbies for student use for outdoor clothing items. Backpacks, lunches, and other personal items will continue to be stored on the back of your child's chair.

## ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction to certain food substances. We have students in our school that suffer from a severe allergy which can cause an anaphylactic reaction. An anaphylactic reaction is an allergic reaction so severe that in some cases, it can be life threatening. These children have a severe allergy to nuts. Prevention is the best approach. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in not sending any snacks or lunches containing nut products with your child.

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

In previous years, our community, through generous donations of food and volunteer hours, have hosted a holiday luncheon for our students. I am pleased to announce that although this will look different this year, Valley Way will have the opportunity to provide a holiday luncheon for our students once again this year. We will host a catered Holiday Luncheon with all of the trimmings, on Wednesday, December 16th, for all of our students and staff!

The luncheon will begin at 12:30 pm and students will be eating with their teachers in their classrooms. The hot lunches are pre-packaged, and we will be following the safety protocols that the DSNB has put in place following Niagara Region Public Health recommendations. I know many parents have previously enjoyed supporting this event by volunteering. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept volunteers for this event at this time. We are thankful for being able to enjoy the season with this special luncheon.

## EFN TEACHER TRIBUTE

Are you looking to show your appreciation to your child’s teacher or school staff member but not sure how to do that during this time? Please consider making a donation in honour of someone through the [EFN Teacher Tribute Campaign](#). All proceeds provide basic necessities for DSNB students.

## VALLEY WAY GIVES BACK

Are you looking for a way to give back to the community during this time? Gift cards make the process much easier from a health and safety perspective. Never underestimate the power that gift cards can afford families to have the opportunity to self select items for their children. There are a number of organizations that are looking for donations to support our students and communities.

- EFN (Education Foundation of Niagara) has its [Warm a Heart Campaign](#)
- [Niagara Falls Soup Kitchen](#) is looking for support during this challenging time as well.



- [Project Share](#) is always accepting donations



### HUNGER CAN'T WAIT

The festive holiday season is fast approaching and due to COVID, this year will look different for all of us. At the Soup Kitchen, we are presently serving 165 – 200 hot meals daily. A 40% increase over last year! This holiday season, we are asking community members to please consider donating financially to help us continue to provide warm & nutritious meals to those in need in Niagara.

#### The Soup Kitchen in Niagara Falls needs your support!

- Is your Annual Office or Family Holiday Celebration Cancelled?
- Looking for that perfect gift for the person who has everything?
- Want to find a special way to honour the memory of a loved one?
  - Looking for different ways to celebrate a special holiday?

#### Please consider donating to The Soup Kitchen!

Donate Today And Help Make A Difference In Your Community:

- \$25** will supply bottled water for our guests for 2 days
- \$50** will supply fruit for 1 day for our guests
- \$100** will cover 30 meals for one of our guests
- \$200** will supply protein for 180 meals
- \$600** all meals for a day in your company or family name
- \$** amount of your choice

Grocery store gift cards and food donations are welcomed and greatly appreciated! Donations can be made through CanadaHelps or e-transfer to: [nfctreasurer2@gmail.com](mailto:nfctreasurer2@gmail.com) If your donation is in honour of a special person or for more information, contact Nancy Tester [nancyttester.nfco@gmail.com](mailto:nancyttester.nfco@gmail.com) - Ask us how to set up a monthly/quarterly donation Call 905-354-1640 and press 2 for more information

All donations will be recognized through social media and tax receipts will be issued



## HOURLY OF CODE – DECEMBER 7-13

Hour of Code is an introduction and celebration of inspiring computational thinking in students. Coding can be linked across the curriculum and is now directly embedded in our Math Curriculum. Computational thinking is often associated with computers and coding, but it is important to note that it can be taught without a device (Unplugged coding) and focuses on the thought process of thinking, not just technology or Robots.

## STUDENT MEDICATION AND MEDICAL CONCERNS

Any prescription medication that is to be administered to students at school must have an authorization form completed by a physician. Forms are available at the office. Medications of any kind must NOT be left in students' backpacks.

If your child requires any medication, please send the medication to the office. We cannot administer medication without an authorized form completed by a physician. Any medical conditions or concerns MUST be brought to the attention of the principal or office.

A form entitled "Plan of Care" needs to be completed for children with highly allergic anaphylactic reactions, asthma, epilepsy, and diabetes. Please contact the office to complete the form.

## 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.

## WINTER IS ALMOST HERE!

With the cold and wet weather upon us, we have a few reminders for comfortable and safe outdoor play during the winter months:

1. Bring appropriate outdoor clothing to school daily (hat, mitts, jacket, snow pants, and boots).
2. Have dry indoor shoes and keep an extra outfit at school too (in case shirt and pants get wet outside).
3. Students are not permitted to throw snow or slide on ice patches. Students who disobey these rules will be sent indoors to the office.

If you need a winter coat, snow pants, boot, hats, gloves or mitts, please contact the school office by phone or email ([wwy@dsbn.org](mailto:wwy@dsbn.org)) to inquire about the support we can provide in getting these much needed items for your children.

Even though we will be re-opening our gym soon, all students will continue to have gym classes outside, in the winter months. Kindergarten children will also continue to have outdoor exploration time during the winter months.

Our 2 outdoor fitness breaks will occur regularly throughout the winter except in when an extreme cold weather alert is issued by the Niagara Region. For this reason, it is essential that students come prepared for the weather! We appreciate your efforts!

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures. At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children in school on that day rests with the parent or guardian.

**Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.**

A key resource in any emergency is the DSBN Emergency Information form that you filled out at the beginning of the school year. Please let the school know of any changes in contact information or procedures you wish to be followed throughout the school year.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

### Websites and Subscription Features

[www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org)      DSBN Facebook or Twitter      [www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca)      NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

### Phone:

Niagara Student Transportation Services      905-346-0290      Voice Auto Attendant

### Radio Stations:

CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines	CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines	CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines
CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie	WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton	K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton
CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton	CHML (900 AM) Hamilton	Y-108(107.9) Hamilton
CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton	GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland	

## 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.dsbnschools.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! In order for School Messenger to be it's most effective, it is imperative that we have up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses. There is also a School Messenger App that you can download on your phone or device. This app can also be used to report student absences as well as receive messages from the school. Parents are encouraged to use this app as it is a quick and easy way to report a child's absence.

### FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM

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. You can find us on Facebook and Twitter at: @ValleyWayDSBN

### 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.

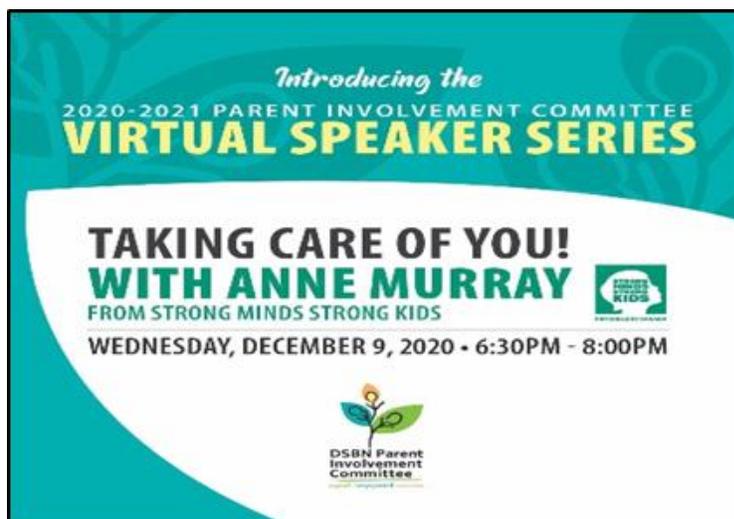
## PIC VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES

The DSBN is excited to introduce the 2020-21 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Virtual Speaker Series! Parents and families can join these free and interactive presentations over the school year, and hear from influential speakers about a variety of topics that are helpful to families.

The first virtual event of the series will focus on mental health and well-being with Anne Murray from Strong Minds Strong Kids Psychology Canada, presenting, Taking Care of You! Anne works with families, educators, and youth to coach and facilitate ways to recognize, reduce, and develop strategies for managing stress.

Anne's presentation will support you to:

- Learn more about stress and tools for how to cope
- Learn how to better understand and support your child cope with their own stress
- Virtual Speaker Series: Topic 1 – Mental Health and Well-Being



Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Registration link: <https://www.dsbnschools.org/pic/speakerseries.html>

# STAMFORD VIRTUAL SNEAK PEEK

## SECONDARY SCHOOL VIRTUAL SNEAK PEEK

HOSTED BY



**STAMFORD  
COLLEGIATE  
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

### AGENDA

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

**Start time - 6:00PM**

- Welcome from the Principal
- Introduction to our school
  - 360° School Tour
  - Live Q&A with staff

To attend, visit this link:

[dsbn.org/sneakpeek/stamford-collegiate](https://dsbn.org/sneakpeek/stamford-collegiate)



## GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION SESSION

Registration for the French Immersion program (starting September 2021) offered at Prince Philip School (3112 Dorchester Road, Niagara Falls) is open to all students in Year 2 (Senior) Kindergarten. If you want your child to develop a high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer. To learn more, please attend the virtual open house. Please note that you must register to attend the virtual session.



**At the DSBN, French Immersion  
starts in Grade 1**

**Save  
the  
Date** | **TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER  
15th  
2020**

**6:30-7:00PM**

Please join us for our Virtual  
Information Night for families  
considering French Immersion!

**Go to [dsbn.org/fi](https://dsbn.org/fi) to register!**

## MR. H'S ARTISAN CARD CONTEST

# MR. H'S ARTISAN CARD CONTEST

DSBN Director of Education Warren Hoshizaki, known as Mr. H in schools, would like to give students an opportunity to show off their skill and creativity by designing artisan cards. To enter, create a piece of artwork to commemorate a month of the year and what makes it special.

Mr. H would like to give students another opportunity to shine by designing artisan cards that can be shared with family, friends, and the wider Niagara community.

### WHAT'S AN ARTISAN CARD?

DSBN Artisan Cards commemorate what's special about the different months of the year. Each student entering the contest is asked to pick one month and create a piece of artwork about what makes that month stand out. For example, September marks the start of the new school year, in December, many of our thoughts turn to the holidays. Let your imaginations run wild and create artwork that will inspire and delight.

### HOW DO I ENTER?

#### SIMPLE!

- Begin by creating your artwork. It can be any medium you prefer, including digital, mixed media, or traditional drawings or paintings
- Bring it to your school along with a signed permission form

#### OR

- Take a clear photo of your artwork and permission form and email them to [communications@dsbn.org](mailto:communications@dsbn.org)

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to the volume of submissions, only winning entries will be returned.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF I WIN?

Mr. H is a big believer in celebrating successes big and small. Students whose artwork is chosen to become Artisan Cards will be invited to be recognized at a virtual Board meeting on January 26, 2021. There, Mr. H and the Board of Trustees will congratulate students. A certificate and a package of printed cards featuring the winning artwork will be sent to each winner.

Take a look at some previous winning art!



## PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE FORM

# MR. H'S ARTISAN CARD CONTEST

DSBN Director of Education Warren Hoshizaki, known as Mr. H in schools, would like to give students an opportunity to show off their skill and creativity by designing artisan cards. To enter, create a piece of artwork to commemorate a month of the year and what makes it special.

### HOW TO ENTER:

- Create artwork
- Send your artwork to your child's school or email with permission form to: [communications@dsbn.org](mailto:communications@dsbn.org)

**DEADLINE: MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021**

### SUBMISSION CRITERIA:

- All artwork must include a signed consent form (below)
- Submissions must be original DSBN student work
- Can be any medium: mixed media and digital artwork will be accepted
- Please note: Due to the volume of submissions, only winning entries will be returned

### STUDENT RECOGNITION:

- Students will receive a set of their own cards that include their name, grade and school
- Students will be invited to be recognized at the virtual Board Meeting on January 26, 2021

Student Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Artwork: (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Consent:** I hereby grant the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) permission to use my child's artwork and to take photographs of my child and use their name for use in any and all media publication in connection with the above identified contest for such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, fundraising and web content. I also authorize DSBN to distribute my child's artwork to third parties for the purpose of accomplishing the goals described above.

**I have read and understand the above and agree to the conditions outlined above.**

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

