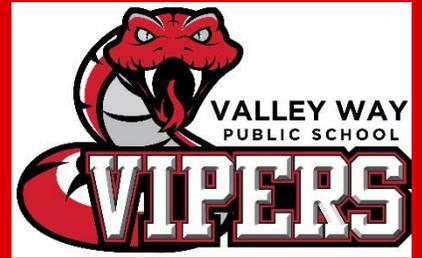


VALLEY WAY VOICE

5315 Valley Way
Niagara Falls, ON
L2E 1X4
905.356.6611

vwv@dsbn.org valleyway@dsbn.org @ValleyWayDSBN



February 2021

#IMATTERATDSBN

#IMHEREVALLEYWAY

#VWPROUD

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the staff at Valley Way, we want to thank all our families for the support. We know that it can be a challenge to have your child log in each day and participate in the learning. The staff is truly grateful for your perseverance and amazing efforts. We are also so proud of our students. They are working hard! We love seeing our students connecting with us in our virtual classrooms every day. This is truly a family effort!

I also would like to send a "Shout Out" to our amazing staff and all of the ways they are engaging our Vipers in their virtual classrooms, while also providing support with technology issues as they come up.

It is important that we ensure we are maintaining balance with our families. Please ensure you take some time to care for your physical and emotional health and well-being. What can you do as a family to balance these needs? Take a family walk, play with your dog in the backyard, build a snowman, or perhaps bake some special treats. Sending uplifting messages can also improve our own mood. When we share our gratitude, it helps us feel more positive, build strong friendships, and deal with challenges. Tell someone why they are important to you.

If you would like to send a "Shout Out" to someone in our Valley Way community, please send us an email to vwv@dsbn.org and we will share your thanks or congratulations with them!

With Term 1 Report Cards and the Kindergarten Communication of Learning coming home in February, this is a great opportunity to reflect on your child's progress and set some goals for the remainder of the year. If you have any questions, comments, and or concerns, your child's teacher. Please see the important information in regard to our Term 1 report cards and the Term 1 Kindergarten Communication of Learning.

As you are aware, the province announced that we would not be returning to in person learning this week. At this time, we do not have a return date. As we continue to learn more, we will communicate the information with you. Once we have a return date, we will send information that will include reminders about our protocols and routines.

Stay safe and healthy Vipers!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<u>Black History Month</u>	Feb 1-28
World Hijab Day	Feb. 1
Groundhog Day	Feb 2
100 th Day of School	Feb. 11
Spirit Day - Wear Hearts or Red, Pink and White or 100 of Something	Feb. 11
Chinese New Year	Feb 12-17
PA Day	Feb. 12
Family Day holiday	Feb. 15
<u>Term 1 Reports and Kindergarten Communication of Learning go home</u>	Feb. 18-19
<u>Pink Shirt Day</u>	Feb. 24

PA DAY

On Friday, February 12, all DSBN schools will be closed for a PA Day in which teachers will be engaged in professional learning activities.



STUDENT RECOGNITION

During the month of January, 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:

Mrs. MIHELIC AND Ms. O'TOOLE Aurora, Charlene, Gracie	Mrs. PETRYCHANKO Henry, Paige
Ms. SCUDAMORE Ben, Gage, Hudson	Ms. CARTER Camryn, Percy, Zoey
Mrs. TAYLOR Brycen, Dylan	Mr. CLANCY Lexaah, Logan, Seina
Mr. OTT Cole, Leia, Rylee	Mrs. MEGER Mina
Mr. DESANTI Austin, Logan, Max	MME. BOUCHARD (FSL) Calvin, Gavin, Logan, Priyanshu, Rhett



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 students have access to a DreamBox account. Please contact your child's teacher for further information.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATES

Our next School Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for March 2 at 6:00 pm. This year, our council meetings are being held virtually. In order to attend the meeting, you will require an invitation code which will also have instructions. Please email vwy@dsbn.org to RSVP so that we can send you the required information. If you have a topic you would like to have considered during this meeting, please include that in your email. We are looking forward to have parents join us in this meeting.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History month. During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation it is today. Just a few of the notable people who have helped shape Canadian heritage and identity are Harriet Tubman, Viola Davis Desmond, and the Honourable Lincoln Alexander. Do you know why Harriet Tubman has a DSBN school named after her? Do you know why Viola Desmond is on the \$10 bill and why we recognize Lincoln Alexander day on January 21? We look forward to celebrating many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians, past and present, throughout the month.

GRADE 1 FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

The French Immersion program (offered at French Immersion sites) is open to all Year 2 Kindergarten students. 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. [Check out this video about our program!](#)

Registration is now open and will close February 16th, 2021. For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit www.dsbni.org/fi.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR



Normally I'd invite you inside one of our Kindergarten classrooms so you and your child could look around with me, but to keep each other safe, we have to wait to do that another time. What I can do is help you find all the information you need to register your child for Kindergarten at the DSBN! I put it on <https://www.dsbni.org/earlylearners/kickstart/home> for you. It has important information like:

- How to register your child online
- A video about a typical day in Kindergarten
- A Kindergarten classroom 360° virtual tour
- An e-book about how I overcame my first day fears

Register today at dsbn.org/kindergarten. I can't wait to meet you and your child at school!



Hi! I'm Barkley. Your child's Kindergarten sidekick. I'm here to tell you that it's time to register for Kindergarten!

PINK SHIRT DAY

Anti-Bullying Day, also known as Pink Shirt Day, is recognized on the last Wednesday in February in Canada. On February 24, we encourage all members of the Valley Way community to wear something pink to symbolize that we at Valley Way will not tolerate bullying.

What is bullying?

Bullying is aggressive behaviour that is typically repeated over time. It is meant to cause harm, fear or distress or create a negative environment at school for another person. Bullying occurs in a situation where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Is conflict the same as bullying?

People may sometimes confuse conflict with bullying, but they are different. Conflict occurs between two or more people who have a disagreement, a difference of opinion or different views. Conflict between students does not always mean it's bullying. Children learn at a young age to understand that others can have a different perspective than their own, but developing the ability to gain perspective takes time and the process continues into early adulthood (Stepping Stones: A Resource on Youth Development, page 26). (The above information is taken from www.ontario.ca/page/bullying-we-can-all-help-stop-it)

DSBN ACADEMY: VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 8

Learn about the DSBN Academy at the Virtual Open House on **Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM!** Join us to find out:

- How this unique program prepares students to attend, and succeed at, college and university
- What extra opportunities are offered and how your child can benefit
- If the DSBN Academy is a good fit for your child

The DSBN Academy is a Grade 6-12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university. Staff and students are committed to the belief that, with hard work, all students can achieve their dreams.



Students in Grade 5, 6, and 7 will participate in a Virtual Roadshow during class time and learned more about the DSBN Academy and everything it has to offer. **Online registration is open at [ACADEMY.DSBM.ORG/APPLY](https://academy.dsbm.org/apply). Registration will close on FEBRUARY 15, 2021. Limited spots available.**

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY TO DSBN ACADEMY?

- Student must live within the Niagara Region
- Student is entering Grade 6, 7 or 8 in September 2021
- Student would be the first in their family to graduate from a college or university program
 - If a sibling has attended post-secondary but the parent(s)/guardian(s) have not, the student is still considered a First Generation Student
- Student is achieving current grade level expectations or just below
- Student has demonstrated the potential for achieving "good" or "excellent" learning skills
- Student is willing to attend a school that may be out of their community with free transportation provided
- Student understands there are mandatory after-school academic supports and *ENCORE* programs
 - After-school *ENCORE* options include: Mixed sports, Board games, Photography, Yoga, Makerspace, Choir, Reading, and many more!
- Families understand that the DSBN Academy is a single-track pathway beginning in Grade 9 (academic level only)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: Derek.Harley@dsbn.org - Elementary Principal

TERM 1 REPORT CARD UPDATE

Elementary Provincial Report Card (Grades 1-8) and the Kindergarten: Communication of Learning

Due to the extension of remote learning, the Elementary Provincial Report Card (Grades 1-8) and the Kindergarten: Communication of Learning will be issued over two days between February 18-19. Families can expect to receive additional information about the Report Card distribution process from their school administrator, once further information about the return to "in-person learning" becomes available.

Report cards give a summary of student achievement at the end of each term. Teachers use their professional judgement and consider factors such as consistency, recent improvement and amount of evidence in order to determine students' grades or marks. Teachers and students work together to gather evidence of their learning over time from observations, conversations and student products.

This year, the Ontario Ministry of Education updated [the math curriculum](#) for Grades 1 to 8 which started in September 2020. The new mathematics curriculum is part of a [four-year math strategy](#) designed to:

- improve student performance in math
- help students solve everyday math problems
- increase students' employability to attain the jobs of the future

UPDATES TO ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION IN MATHEMATICS (GRADES 1-8)

To foster a cohesive approach to both instruction and assessment across the elementary mathematics curriculum, achievement in mathematics will be reported in the Elementary Report Card as one overall letter grade (Grades 1-6) or percentage mark (Grades 7-8), with supporting comments. Comments will describe significant strengths demonstrated by the student, and identify next steps for improvement. Teachers may also describe a student's growth in learning.

The Ministry has provided more information about the new math curriculum for parents on the following website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8>. If you have any questions, please make arrangements to speak with your child's teacher.

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.

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.