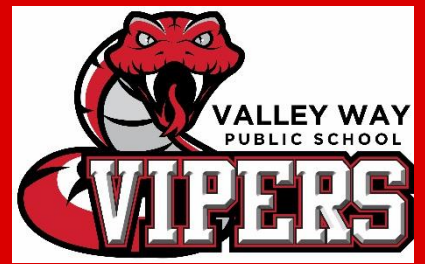


VALLEY WAY VOICE

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November 2020

#IMATTERATDSBN

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

When parents are engaged in their child's learning, the child will do better at school. With this in mind, November is an excellent time to reflect on how we are working together to support your child's learning.

All students will receive their Progress Report Card on Thursday, November 19, marking the mid-way point for Term 1. Please take some time to review, with your child, their strengths and next steps that have been identified in the progress report. On the evening of November 25, you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress to date during the parent-teacher conferences. Please note that parent-teacher conferences will be conducted through MS Teams or with phone calls this year. Information will come out shortly in regards to booking a time. If you have any concerns or questions at other times, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

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.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our second School Advisory Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1 at 6:00 pm. This meeting will again be a virtual meeting through Microsoft Teams. At the last council meeting, Ms. Mary Blake and Ms. Kristy Korten were acclaimed as our co-chairs. Come out and have your voice heard.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Random Act of Kindness	Nov. 1
Treaty Week Begins	Nov. 2
International Inuit Day	Nov. 7
Remembrance Day Ceremony ...	Nov. 11
Flannel Day	Nov. 13
Raise the Flag for Louis Riel Day	Nov. 16
Bullying Prevention Week	Nov. 16
PA Day	Nov. 18
Progress Reports Home	Nov. 19
Interview Evening	Nov. 25
Viper School Spirit Day	Nov. 27

PA DAY

Wednesday, November 18 has been designated as a PA Day for the District School Board of Niagara.



STUDENT RECOGNITION

During the month of October, 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:



I Matter At Valley Way

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 from Grades 1-3 have access to a DreamBox account. Please contact your child's teacher for further information.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

On Wednesday, November 11, the students at Valley Way will participate in our virtual Remembrance Day assembly and will recognize a moment of silence at 11:00 am. We would like to take this opportunity to honour all of the family and friends of our school community that have given of themselves to serve Canada. If you have a family member or a friend that you would like to honour during our assembly, please submit a photo (in uniform if possible) with the following information: name of the student, name of veteran or person currently serving and relationship to the student, rank (if known), years of service (if known), any other relevant information you are willing to share. This information is due by November 4 to be included in the assembly.

PINK SHIRT DAYS – BULLYING AWARENESS

The DSBN Pink Shirt (Every) Day Kick-Off Campaign is taking place November 16 to 20, 2020 during Ontario's Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Any day is an appropriate day to have a Pink Shirt Day throughout the school year, but we will be acknowledging February 24th, 2021 as Pink Shirt Day to celebrate a positive school climate.

TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK

Ontario has designated November 2-6, 2020 as Treaties Recognition Week with the goal of promoting education and awareness about treaties and treaty relationships. DSBN joins with other school boards across Ontario in encouraging schools to support learning about treaties as an important aspect of our province's history.

For more information on treaties, go to <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties>.

MRS. MIHELIC AND Ms. O'TOOLE Carson, Caden, Felix	MRS. PETRYCHANKO AND MRS. QUIRING Isaiah, Benjamin
Ms. SCUDAMORE Marko, Sophia, Marley	Ms. CARTER Tyanna, Josiah, Elayna
MRS. TAYLOR Isabelle, Olivia, Ryelend	MR. CLANCY Eleanor, Lily, Rhett
MR. OTT Maddison, Chase, Joel	MRS. MEGER Kiki, Savannah, Dannilyn
MR. DESANTI Haylee, Landon, Darius	MR. SARKISIAN Hayley, Meadow, Stella, Marley
MMS. BOUCHARD (FSL) Lukas, Jordan, Willow, Savannah, Haylee	
SHOUT OUTS Caraline, Mr. Clancy's class, Ms. K., Ms. Q., Zynique	

THE ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORT – GRADES 1-8

On November 19th, your child will bring home their Elementary Progress Report. The format was created after years of consultation with parents/guardians, teachers, principals and students across the province. Although it looks much like the Report Card, the Progress Report has a very different intent. The purpose is to share early and specific feedback on your child's development of work habits and the learning skills.

Reporting on the Progress Report is about looking forward and setting a course for the learning journey ahead. Based on the evidence that teachers see, as well as what teachers know about learning at this grade level, the report communicates the path your child is on toward achieving the grade level expectations by the end of the year. The Progress Report does not include letter grades or percentage marks for academic subjects; it instead identifies whether your child is progressing very well, well or with difficulty. For subjects in which your child is Progressing with Difficulty, the teacher will discuss specific next step plans needed for success.

We look forward to partnering with you and your child for a year of great learning and growth.

KINDERGARTEN: COMMUNICATION OF LEARNING

On November 19th, your Kindergarten child will bring home their Communication of Learning Report. The Communication of Learning Report is to share key learnings, growth in learning, and next steps in learning within the Kindergarten Program. Key Learning refers to the most important or significant skills and/or understandings (knowledge) that your child has demonstrated during the reporting period. Growth in Learning refers to positive developments in learning that your child has demonstrated over the reporting period. Next Steps in Learning refers to ways in which your child can move forward in developing knowledge and skills both at school and at home.

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!

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.

THE NOSE KNOWS: NO SCENTS MAKES SENSE

Scented products have chemicals that can cause health reactions in people with asthma, migraines, allergies, or environmental sensitivities. Please help keep our air breathable for everyone and use unscented or scent reduced products where possible.

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 DSBN Facebook or Twitter 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	

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.

STAY INFORMED AND CONNECTED

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.

DSBN SOCIAL WORKER SUPPORT AVAILABLE

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.

SUPERVISION REMINDERS

Your child's safety is very important to us at Valley Way. In order to help us keep your child safe, we ask that you keep in mind the supervision schedule for students. Supervision for students in Grades 1-8 begins at 8:35 in the back of the school. Students should not be arriving prior to 8:35, as supervision is not provided. We request that once students arrive at school, they immediately enter through their assigned gate and remain in their classroom designated space to ensure their safety, to keep the sidewalks clear for those still arriving, and to ensure physical distancing. After school, supervision is provided for our students that take the bus home or to the Boys and Girls Club. Upon leaving school property, students and parents are encouraged to continue maintaining physical distancing.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM NIAGARA REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter



DON'T TAKE THE RISK THIS SEASON: GET YOUR FLU SHOT

It is more important than ever to get your flu shot this year. The flu shot won't protect you from COVID-19. The flu shot will protect you from influenza and help keep people out of the hospital. Remember, the flu vaccine still prevents and reduces the severity of the flu, even if it's not a perfect match.

Getting the flu shot won't increase your risk of COVID-19 illness.

Where to Get Your Flu Shot

Free flu shots will be available across Niagara. Please make a plan to get your flu shot with your health care provider. If you do not currently have one, see a list of [family physicians in Niagara who are accepting new patients](#). Flu shots are also available at participating pharmacies (for children five years of age or over) and walk-in clinics. You can also monitor Public Health's [Where to Get the Flu Shot](#) webpage to see if there are any community flu clinics run by community health care providers.

More Information

Visit Public Health's [Flu Shot and Activity](#) webpage for more information about the flu.



WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should NOT enter school or child care. They should return home to self-isolate.

The next steps for children depend on what kind of symptoms they have. For information visit our website <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/reopen/schools.aspx> - scroll down to "Prevention and Protection" and click on "what to do when a child has COVID-19 symptoms."

Adults with any one symptom of COVID-19 should always self-isolate and seek assessment by a health care provider or self-refer for testing. **It does not matter what kind of symptom they have.**