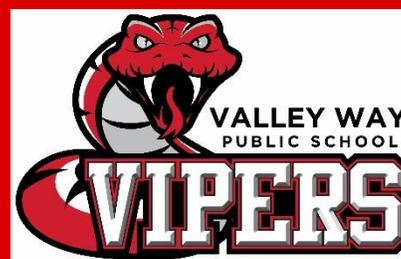


VALLEY WAY VOICE

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Niagara Falls, ON
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October 2018

#IMATTERATDSBN

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would like to extend my thanks to all members of our school community, including students, parents and staff, for an amazing kick off to our 2018-2019 school year.

An important part of developing routines is to ensure students arrive on time each day. Students that arrive late are missing extremely valuable learning experiences. Being late 10 minutes each day, will result in 30 hours of lost learning time for the year. Also, missing 2 days of school each month can cause gaps in learning. We need to have our students at school, on time each day, to ensure they are taking advantage of all the learning opportunities offered. Throughout the year, we will be recognizing students that have consistent attendance patterns.

I encourage families to take some time each week to review events that are coming up at the school. By placing the school calendar (that is attached) in a common area in your home or by regularly visiting the school website, will help to plan for special events. There are many ways to keep up-to-date with newsletters, the school website (www.valleyway.dsbn.org), Twitter (@ValleyWayDSBN), Facebook and by subscribing to the Remind app. If you have any questions about accessing any of these platforms, please contact the school office.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The Valley Way student nutrition program is now running. We work closely with Niagara Nutrition Partners in operating our nutrition program and appreciate their support. However, we are always welcoming of any donations. If you would like to donate, please contact the school office. students in Grades 1-8 will be able to grab some breakfast in Ms. Scudamore's class starting at 8:30 am – 8:40 am. Food will be delivered to Kindergarten classrooms. If a student needs something to eat during the day, they are welcome to come to the office.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Orange Shirt Day Oct. 1
- Photo Day Oct. 2
- School Advisory Council Oct. 2
- Cross-Country Oct. 3
- PA Day Oct. 5
- Thanksgiving Day Oct. 8
- Walk to School Day Oct. 10
- Dental Screening Oct. 16
- DSBN Cross Country Oct. 16
- Math Information Session for Primary Parents Oct. 16
- Dental Screening Oct. 17
- Grade 7 Immunizations Oct. 18
- Municipal Elections Oct. 22
- Dress Purple Day Oct. 24
- Halloween Day Oct. 31

PA DAY

Friday, October 5 has been designated as a PA Day for the District School Board of Niagara.



STUDENT RECOGNITION

During the month of September, 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 MRS. O'TOOLE Effie-Lu, Lillian, Teegan	MRS. LONGVAL AND Ms. PANTILLA Avery, Zoey, Calleigh
MRS. ROGERS Kairi, Isabelle, Bryce	MRS. CARTER Ellie, Sephie
MRS. TAYLOR Maddie, Mia, Seina	MR. CLANCY Dakota, Maddison, Riley
MRS. WIENS/MME. BOUCHARD Austin, Hunter, Savannah	MRS. BOLES Adriana, Ava, Haruto
MS. SCUDAMORE Jordan, Justice, Daniel	MR. DESANTI Alex, Ben, Chyanne
MR. ALLEN (FSL) Lilly, Wie Jai, Hunter	MR. SARKISIAN (PHYS. ED) Korbyn, Joel, Lucas



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.

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 8:30 in the back of the school. As our staff are providing supervision, parents are not required to remain with their child. Prior to 8:30, supervision is not provided. We request that once students arrive at school, they immediately enter and remain on school property to ensure their safety and to keep the sidewalks clear for those still arriving. Kindergarten students will wait with an adult at the front of the building until 8:45 when they are met by their teachers. During nutrition breaks, supervision is provided in the back of the school for students that remain at school during lunch. After school, supervision is provided for our students that take the bus home or to the Boys and Girls Club. If your child is involved in an extra-curricular activity, they will be supervised by the staff member that is volunteering their time to supervise the activity.

SKATEBOARDS, SCOOTERS AND BIKES

Skateboards, scooters and bicycles are healthy forms of transportation to and from school (for students in Grade 4 and older) but must be walked onto the property and appropriately stored during the day. Bikes must be locked in the bike rack at the back of the school. Scooters and skateboards may be stored in the rack in the front foyer of the school. Students must wear helmets when riding a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard to school and are prohibited from riding through the parking lot because it is very dangerous to do so!

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD REMINDERS

We have received concerns regarding the safety of our students when crossing the street on Valley Way. Students are reminded to choose safety over convenience and cross with the crossing guards. Valley Way is a busy street and our crossing guards are available to ensure the safe crossing of our students and to make sure everyone is following the rules of the roads.



The crossing guards are available everyday at the following times:

8:10—9:10 12:40—1:40 2:50—3:50

We thank you for reminding your children to cross with the crossing guards.

GRADE 8 STUDENTS AND PARENTS – SAVE THE DATE!

At DSBN high schools, students are the stars. From November 26-29, see all the opportunities schools offer to help students achieve success and #Instafame. Visit DSBN.org/highschoolopenhouses for a full list of dates and times for DSBN high school open houses.



Stamford Collegiate Open House is November 27th at 6 pm.

See you on the red carpet!

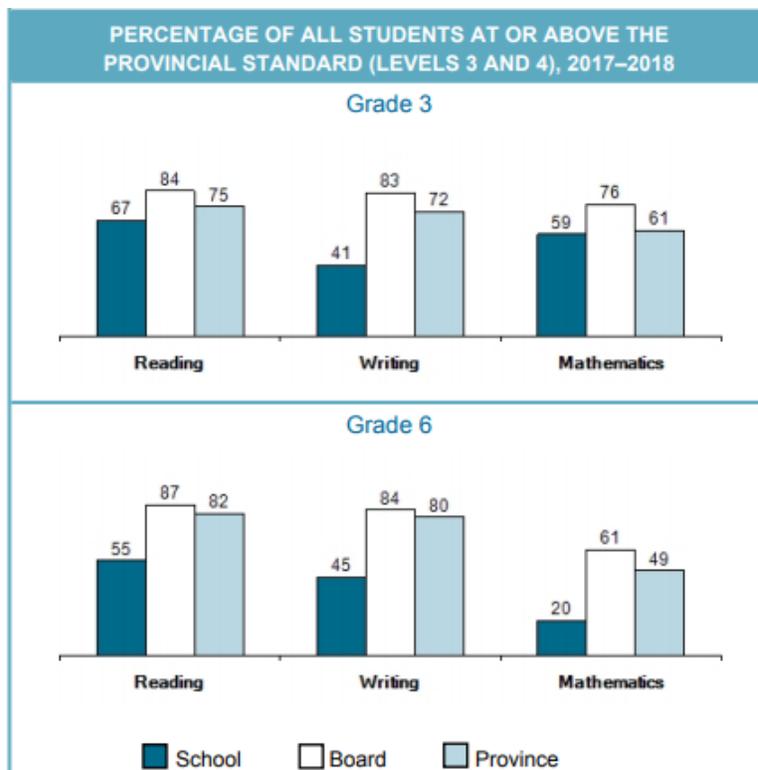
TERRY FOX

On September 27, the students and staff at Valley Way participated in the Terry Fox walk. We had a great time raising funds for such a great cause. Terry Fox hoped that each Canadian would donate one dollar to cancer research. The students brought in \$185 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Thank you to our community for your support for this worthwhile charity.

EQAO RESULTS

In May 2018, our Grade 3 and Grade 6 students wrote the Primary and Junior assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Please see our school's results. The graphs compare the results of our students to those of the District School Board of Niagara and of the entire province. Individual student's results will be sent home to those who participated in the assessments. During our PA Day this month, staff will review our results and will begin to set goals for improvement.

At our School Council meeting on October 23rd, an in-depth review of our results will be with all in attendance.



CROSS-COUNTRY

Congratulations to all students who represented Valley Way at the first Cross Country meet on Wednesday, September 26! All runners finished their races strongly and we were pleased to see our Vipers cheering each other on throughout the afternoon. Good luck at the next meet October 3! A special thank you to Ms. Carter and Mr. Sarkisian for coaching.

SOCCER AT VALLEY WAY

Valley Way participated in both the Junior Co-ed Soccer Tournament. The team demonstrated incredible perseverance and positive sportsmanship, making their way to the semi-finals. They represented Valley Way with pride. Thank you to all of the parents that volunteered to drive the teams and for cheering on the teams with positive encouragement. Thank you to Mrs. Boles for coaching.

HALLOWEEN AT VALLEY WAY

Plans are already being made to celebrate Halloween at Valley Way and share our day with the residents of Eventide. As you prepare for Halloween for school with your child(ren) please remember to avoid costumes that include weapons of any kind or that are overtly violent in nature. We ask that props (such as knives, spears, hooks, etc.) and masks be left at home. More detailed information will be sent home in the next couple weeks.

HOT DAY AND PIZZA ORDERS

We are excited that both our hot dog and pizza days will be in full-swing in October. Thank you to the volunteers that make both the hot dog and pizza days possible! The orders for the next set of dates will be available through School Cash Online on Wednesday, October 4 and will be due Wednesday, October 12. Forms will also be available for cash orders.

POPCORN AND HOT CHOCOLATE SALES

Our Grade 8 students will once again be selling popcorn monthly and hot chocolate during the month of December. These items will be available for pre-orders through School Cash Online until October 10. Students that miss the pre-order may bring cash to purchase these items.

FREE MONEY FOR YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

What is the Canada Learning Bond (CLB)?

The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) is a government program that gives \$500 in education money to children born on or after January 1, 2004 whose families receive the Canada Child Benefit Supplement (family net income of \$45,916 or less or more based on number of children).

Sound good? Keep reading...

- The Government will add \$100 more every year the child is eligible, up to age 15.
- Each child could get up to \$2000 (plus interest) in RESP contributions!
- NO family contribution is required
- The Canada Learning Bond is retroactive for children born 2004 or after

Great! Here is How You Get Started:

Go to: StartMyRESP.ca/EFNiagara



PIC CONFERENCE

Registration for this year's PIC Conference is only available online. If you are interested in attending this worthwhile event, and are unable to register online or need some support in doing so, please stop by the office and we will support you in registering for this amazing evening of information.

WE ARE A NUT AWARE SCHOOL!

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, including peanut butter and Nutella.

KEEPING OUR SCHOOL SAFE AND HEALTHY

If you have a child with a Prevalent Medical Condition (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy) we want to make sure we have a current Plan of Care to support your child. The Plan of Care form is a new document that replaces the Emergency Action Plan. All parents of children with Prevalent Medical Conditions are asked to fill out the new Plan of Care and submit to the school. You can download the forms here dsbn.org/prevalent-medical-conditions. For more information, please contact the office.

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!.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our first School Advisory Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 2 at 3:15 pm. In the past, the School Advisory Council have helped fund events for the students, provide experiences for the students and help with their input on many school issues. Come out and have your voice heard. Babysitting for children aged 4 and older will be available.

Calling all parents & caregivers

IT'S TIME TO SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, November 7, 2018
4pm to 8:15pm at Eden High School
535 Lake Street, St. Catharines

Join us for an evening of learning & FREE workshops!

Mark your calendar for the 2018 DSBN Parent Involvement Conference, at Eden High School in St. Catharines. Join us for an evening of free workshops for parents and caregivers of DSBN students of all ages.

For more information about the event visit www.dsbn.org/pic





Early Bird Draw!
Register before October 3, 2018
and you could WIN \$500 of support
for your School and School Council!

DRESS PURPLE DAY

The DSBN has joined the commitment to Dress Purple to support Child Abuse Prevention Month. October is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Wednesday, October 24, 2018 is Dress Purple Day, a provincial day of action when students and staff are encouraged to wear purple and show your support for child abuse prevention. On Wednesday, October 24, DSBN will be recognizing Wear Purple Day

CANADIAN COGNITIVE ABILITIES TEST

All Grade 4 students will take the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test during the period of October 9 and 22, 2018. This assessment helps to identify individual student needs and abilities to ensure appropriate programs are provided as well as information about student strengths in verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal reasoning. The assessment provides a benchmark as students complete future achievement tests, whether these tests are teacher-generated, board-wide or provincial.

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY – OCT. 10

Students are encouraged to walk to and from school as this provides exercise and supports a healthy lifestyle. Wednesday, October 10 is International Walk to School Day. We are hoping that all families will take this opportunity to walk to school together.

REMIND APP – STAY INFORMED WITH SIMPLE TEXT MESSAGE REMINDERS

In our busy lives, events can sometimes be overlooked. Sign up for the free Remind App and receive text or email reminders about school events. To sign up, text @73836 to the number (289) 806-1173 or download the Remind App and register with class code 73836.

STAY INFORMED AND CONNECTED

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. You can find our website and Twitter account at:

<http://valleyway.dsbns.org>

@ValleyWayDSBN

SIP N' CHAT WITH S. BENNETT - WED. OCTOBER 3 FROM 9:00 – 10:30 AM

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?

Drop in and chat with one-on-one with Sue Bennett to discuss some questions or concerns you may have.

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. Refreshments will be available.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS...

During the month of September, 72 of 238 students were at school and on time every day, or 30.3%. The students who had one or fewer absences and zero lates had their names entered into a draw during the monthly assembly. While we encourage students to stay home when they are ill, we also want to see them at school as often as possible. Please see below for '10 Facts About School Attendance.'

Facts About School Attendance

1. Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
2. Over 7 million (1 in 7) U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year.
3. Absenteeism and its ill effects start early. One in 10 Kindergarten and Grade 1 students are chronically absent.
4. Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of Grade 3.
5. By Grade 6, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
6. Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.
7. Students who live in communities with high levels of poverty are four times more likely to be chronically absent than others often for reasons beyond their control, such as unstable housing, unreliable transportation and a lack of access to health care.
8. When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.
9. Attendance improves when schools engage students and parents in positive ways and when schools provide mentors for chronically absent students.
10. Most school districts and states don't look at all the right data to improve school attendance. They track how many students show up every day and how many are skipping school without an excuse, but not how many are missing so many days in excused and unexcused absence that they are headed off track academically.

If you would like some support in setting goals and routines to improve your child's attendance, please connect with Mrs. Worth.