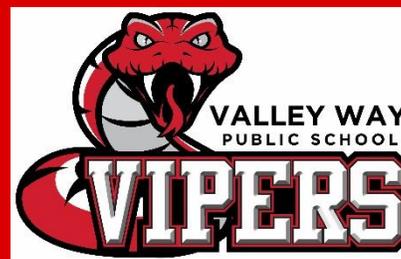


VALLEY WAY VOICE

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October 2019

#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 2019-2020 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.

As you may know, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the provincial government are engaging in a bargaining process. As of Monday, September 30 our CUPE employees are participating in a legal job action. This means that these staff members will not engage in extras, which will impact some of the activities we can offer here at our school.

As a result, pizza will be provided for those that pre-ordered, but it cannot be purchased at this time. We will update you if any other events are cancelled or postponed. Also, there may be a delay in answering the door when you buzz to enter. We appreciate your patience!

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding during this time. The DSBN is hopeful that a fair negotiated agreement focused on the needs of students can be reached.

For updates on CUPE 4156 job action, please visit dsbn.org/job-action.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Stamford Gr. 8 visit..... Oct. 1
- Cross-Country..... Oct. 1
- Photo Day..... Oct. 4
- World Teacher's Day..... Oct. 5
- School Advisory Council Oct. 8
- Colour House Play Day Oct. 10
- PA Day..... Oct. 11
- Thanksgiving Day Oct. 14
- DSBN Cross Country Oct. 16
- Grade 7 Immunizations Oct. 17
- Dress Purple Day Oct. 24
- Halloween Day Oct. 31

PA DAY

Friday, October 11 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. Some students also received a "Shout Out". The following students were recognized:

MRS. MIHELIC AND Ms. O'TOOLE Makklen, Tegan, Gracie	Ms. LONGVAL AND Mrs. QUIRING Alex, Avery, Onyx
Ms. ROGERS Effie-Lu, Ryker, Skye	Ms. CARTER Calleigh, Brayden
Mrs. TAYLOR Quinn, Mi'king	MR. CLANCY Abby, Ben, Violet
MRS. BOUCHARD James, Rylee, Miguel	MR. OTT Casey, Jr, Priyanshu
MR. CRAWFORD Hunter, Katie, Harlow	Ms. SCUDAMORE Ainsleah, Phelan, Zakery
MR. DESANTI Margaret, Owen, Alex	MR. ALLEN (FSL) Hunter, Lakisha, Margaret
SHOUT OUTS Charles, David, Mi'king, Maisey, Abdu, Brienna	



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. Our Grade 1-5 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 8:35 in the back of the school. As our staff are providing supervision, parents are not required to remain with their child. Prior to 8:35, supervision is not provided. We request that once students arrive at school, they immediately enter through the back gate 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 8:50 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:

8:15—9:00 12:50—1:35 2:55—3:40

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 25-28, see all the opportunities schools offer to help students achieve success.

Stamford Collegiate Open House is November 26th at 6 pm.

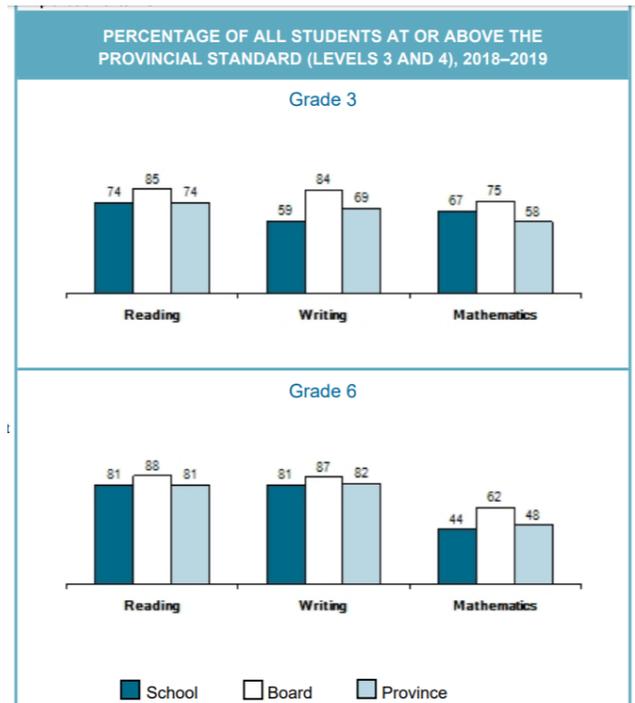
TERRY FOX

On September 26, 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 \$1334 for the Terry Fox Foundation, well over our \$500 goal. Amazing job Vipers! Thank you to our community for your support for this worthwhile charity. Thank you to Mr. Sarkisian and Mr. Mike for allowing our top fundraisers to shave their heads. More information will be coming soon!

EQAO RESULTS

In May 2019, 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 3rd, an in-depth review of our results will be with all in attendance.



BREAKFAST CLUB REMINDERS

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 8:35 am – 8:45 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.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Congratulations to all students who represented Valley Way at the first Cross Country meet on Tuesday, September 24! 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 1! A special thank you to Ms. Carter for coaching.

SOCCER AT VALLEY WAY

Valley Way participated in both the Intermediate and Junior Co-ed Soccer tournaments. Both teams demonstrated incredible perseverance and positive sportsmanship. They represented Valley Way with pride. Thank you to all the parents that volunteered to drive the teams and for cheering on the teams with positive encouragement. Thank you to Mr. Sarkisian for his assistance with coaching.

HALLOWEEN AT VALLEY WAY

Plans are already being made to celebrate Halloween at Valley Way. 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 hot dog days possible! At this time, we can only accept orders that were pre-ordered in September.

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](https://www.dsbn.org/prevalent-medical-conditions).

For more information, please contact the office.

PIC CONFERENCE

Calling all parents & caregivers

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!

Join us for an evening of learning & free workshops!

Register online at www.dsbn.org/pic

Wed. November 6, 2019

4:00 to 8:15 pm at Eden High School

535 Lake Street, St. Catharines



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 8 at 6:00 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. Thank you to the parents that completed the survey and have completed nomination forms. We will be holding a vote for our executive at this meeting. Babysitting for children aged 4 and older will be available.

DRESS PURPLE DAY – CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

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, 2019 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 Thursday, October 24, DSBN will be recognizing Wear Purple Day

CANADIAN COGNITIVE ABILITIES TEST

All Grade 4 students will take the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test in October. 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.

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.dsbn.org>

@ValleyWayDSBN

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.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS...

During the month of September, 84 of 238 students were at school and on time every day, or 35.3%. 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.