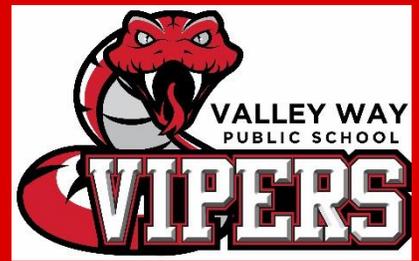


# VALLEY WAY VOICE

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October 2020

#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 2020-2021 school year. I know things are a little different this year but our staff appreciate your support in following our new protocols with everything, from our entry and exit, to daily self-assessment screenings

I cannot stress the importance of ensuring your child is symptom-free before arriving at school in the morning. Both staff and students need to complete a daily self-assessment before arriving. Any students (or staff) that develop any of the following symptoms while at school will need to be picked up right away. The symptoms include:

- Fever/chills (feeling hot to the touch, a temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
- Cough that's new or worsening (continuous, more than usual)
- Shortness of breath (out of breath even when sitting or walking)
- Sore throat (not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions)
- Runny, stuffy or congested nose (not related to seasonal allergies or other known causes or conditions)
- Unusual level of fatigue
- Headache that's unusual or long lasting
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, stomach pain (not related to other known causes or conditions)
- Feeling unwell for an unknown reason

If children display symptoms, they must remain home from school and seek medical attention by a health care provider to see if testing is recommended. You should talk with a doctor if your child feels sick or think they have the cold or flu because symptoms are similar to COVID-19.

For more information, call the Niagara Region Public Health Info-Line at 905-688-8248 or toll-free at 1-888-505-6074, press 7, then press 2 if you're a parent or guardian. This line is available Monday to Friday, 9:15 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 9:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. You may also chat online in 90 different languages with auto-translate through their website or email [healthyschools@niagararegion.ca](mailto:healthyschools@niagararegion.ca). We appreciate your support and cooperation as we work to keep everyone safe.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Rowan's Law Day – Wear Purple ..... Oct. 2
- World Teacher's Day..... Oct. 5
- School Advisory Council .... Oct. 6
- Thanksgiving Day ..... Oct. 12
- Dress Purple Day for Child Abuse Awareness ..... Oct. 27

## PA DAY

Please note that there is *not* a PA Day in October. Our next PA Day will be on Wednesday, November 18. We will be having a regular school day on the Friday before Thanksgiving.



## 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:

<b>MRS. MIHELIC AND MS. O'TOOLE</b> Charlene, Tatianna	<b>MRS. PETRYCHANKO AND MRS. QUIRING</b> Kianho, Naliyah
<b>MS. SCUDAMORE</b> Stella, Finn, Patience	<b>MS. CARTER</b> Zoey, Lillian, Avery
<b>MRS. TAYLOR</b> Emily, Eden	<b>MR. CLANCY</b> Lukas, Zynique
<b>MR. OTT</b> Willow, Joshua, Amelia	<b>MRS. MEGER</b> Rasiah, Casey, Ahmed
<b>MR. DESANTI</b> Austin, Mackenzie, Elias	<b>MR. SARKISIAN</b> Marko, Tyanna, Eden
<b>MMS. BOUCHARD (FSL)</b> Janah, Joshua, Brooklyn, Autumn, Austin	
<b>SHOUT OUTS</b> Josiah, Landon	



## 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.

## 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. At this time, scooters and skateboards cannot be stored inside the school. We encourage students to find alternate forms of transportation to school but if they bring a scooter or skateboard, it must be stored in the bike rack at the back 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 or playground because it is very dangerous to do so!

## ROWAN'S LAW DAY – CONCUSSION AWARENESS FRIDAY OCTOBER 2

Rowan's Law was named for Rowan Stringer, a high school rugby player from Ottawa, who died in the spring of 2013 from a condition known as second impact syndrome (swelling of the brain caused by a subsequent injury that occurred before a previous injury healed). Rowan is believed to have experienced three concussions over six days while playing rugby. She had a concussion but didn't know her brain needed time to heal. Neither did her parents, teachers or coaches.

Rowan's Law and Rowan's Law Day were established to honour her memory and bring awareness to concussions and concussion safety. We wear purple on this day as this was Rowan's favourite colour.

## WORLD TEACHER'S DAY – MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

World Teacher's Day is recognized annually on October 5. I would like to thank our teaching staff for all you do each and everyday to ensure that our Vipers are safe, well, and challenged to do their best. Thank you to our amazing teaching staff for making our community an amazing one to be a part of!



## DRESS PURPLE DAY – CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS – OCTOBER 27

The DSBN has joined the commitment to Dress Purple to support Child Abuse Prevention Month. October is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Wednesday, October 27, 2020 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 27, DSBN will be recognizing Wear Purple Day.

## SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD REMINDERS

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 am, 12:25—1:10 pm, and 2:50—3:35 pm.

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

## TERRY FOX

Due to current considerations, we will not be having a school-wide Terry Fox run this year. Many classes will be learning about Terry Fox and participating in a walk on school grounds with their classmates. Unfortunately, we cannot accept any cash donations for this very worthwhile cause. If you would like to donate, we encourage you to donate directly to the Terry Fox foundation by visiting [terryfox.org](http://terryfox.org) and select "Make a Donation".

## BREAKFAST CLUB AND HOT LUNCHES AND MILK PROGRAM

We hope to have our breakfast club up and running in the near future. Please note that it will look a little different this year. We will provide further information when it is available.

As for our hot lunch and milk program, that is also on pause for the time being. If we are able to run either of these in the future, we will send out further information at that time.

## 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.

## 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 cheque 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 6 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. This year our council meeting will be held virtually. In order to attend the meeting, you will require an invitation code which will also have instructions. Please email [vwy@dsbn.org](mailto:vwy@dsbn.org) to RSVP so that we can send you the required information. We will be holding a vote for our executive at this meeting as we will need a chair for the School Advisory Council.

## 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://dsbn.org/prevalent-medical-conditions).

For more information, please contact the office.

## 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.

## 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.dsbm.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.

PATHSTONE MENTAL HEALTH

#MENTALHEALTHMATTERS



WE'RE READY WHEN YOU ARE.

- ✓ NO FEE
  - ✓ NO HEALTH CARD
  - ✓ NO REFERRAL
- HELP AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH UP TO AGE 18

ARE YOU FEELING...

- SAD
- ANXIOUS
- DEPRESSED
- ANGRY



WALK IN CLINIC SERVICES AVAILABLE **IN-PERSON** *OR* VIA **VIDEO**



BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
1-800-263-4944

WALK-IN CLINIC LOCATIONS

MONDAY - Welland & Thorold / TUESDAY - Fort Erie / WEDNESDAY - Grimsby & Port Colborne / THURSDAY - Beamsville & Niagara Falls / MONDAY to FRIDAY - St. Catharines & Niagara-on-the-Lake\* (\*video counselling ONLY)

WWW.PATHSTONEMENTALHEALTH.CA/WALK-IN-CLINIC