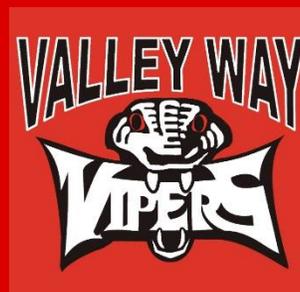


VALLEY WAY VOICE

5315 Valley Way
Niagara Falls, ON
L2E 1X4
905.356.6611

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



September 2017

#IMATTERATDSBN

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

K. Worth

WELCOME TO THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR! On behalf of the staff at Valley Way, I would like to welcome back all our returning students and families. For our students and families new to Valley Way, we are excited that you will be joining our community this year. A new year is always filled with possibilities. At Valley Way, we know that this year will be full of new learnings, new experiences, new opportunities and new friendships.

The first day of school brings life back to the building, such as seeing smiling students eager to share their summer tales and hearing excitement in the air as students settle into their new classrooms. Thank you to Mr. Dunne and Mr. Schuiling, our new caretaking team, for the excellent job they have done this summer getting the school ready to greet our families.

As the hustle and bustle of the beginning of the school year settles, please take the time to come by the office to share your comments, suggestions and questions. This is your school and when the families and the school work together, the possibilities for the students are endless. We are committed to the District School Board of Niagara's vision, "I Matter". Educating children at Valley Way is a team effort. We look forward to working with you to ensure your children know they matter.

We will continue to celebrate student success in a variety of ways including recognition assemblies, newsletters, the school website (www.valleyway.dsbni.org) and Twitter (@ValleyWayDSBN). I am looking forward to learning and growing along with your children this year!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- First Day of School..... Sept. 5
- Intermediate Trip..... Sept. 7
- Forms Due to office Sept. 8
- Terry Fox Run Sept. 15
- Early Release Day Sept. 15
- Dental Screening Sept. 19
- Dental Screening Sept. 20
- Dental Screening Sept. 21
- Open House..... Sept. 20
- Picture Day Sept. 27
- Orange Shirt Day..... Sept. 29
- Recognition Assembly Sept. 29
- Parent Council Meeting TBD
- PD Day..... Oct. 6

EARLY RELEASE DAY

Friday, September 15 has been designated as an Early Release Day for the District School Board of Niagara. Students will be dismissed at 12:10 pm for the remainder of the day. Bus schedules will run 3 hours earlier than usual.



ATTENDANCE AND BELL TIMES

Please help us to ensure the safety of our students by calling in when your child will be absent or late to school. Office hours are 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. Outside of these hours you may call anytime and leave a message on our answering machine. The phone number is 905-356-6611. We always need to know the whereabouts of each and every student. Your co-operation in calling will assist Ms. Mahoney immensely. If we do not hear from you, we will call you either at home, on your cell or at your place of employment. Also, all students who arrive late to school (morning or afternoon) must report to the office to receive a late slip.

Morning Entry	8:45 a.m.
Instructional Block	8:50 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Nutrition Break	10:30 a.m.—11:10 a.m.
Instructional Block	11:10 a.m.—12:50 p.m.
Nutrition Break	12:50 p.m.—1:30 p.m.
Instructional Block	1:30 p.m.—3:10 p.m.
Dismissal	3:10 p.m.

If you are changing your child’s pick up time or location for the day, the office must know by 2:45 pm as it gets busy near the end of the day.

SUPERVISION

Supervision on the playground begins at 8:30 a.m. Bus students are supervised at 3:10 p.m. until they have boarded their buses for home. The playground is not supervised after school. Please note that the FH Leslie Park (across from the school) is not on school property and therefore supervision is not provided at this park at any time.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Student Accident Insurance forms will be sent home this week. Please consider purchasing this insurance as the DSBN does not provide medical coverage for students. Remember to send those insurance forms directly to the company. Do not return the envelope to the school. We encourage you to purchase this low cost student accident insurance that will protect your children from accidental injuries, particularly dental injuries.

IMPORTANT PAPERWORK – PLEASE RETURN BY SEPTEMBER 8

With this newsletter, your child will be bringing home a multitude of papers containing vital information. This will include:

- ✓ Student Verification Report*,
- ✓ Permission to Participate - DSBN Curricular (Physical Education) Athletic Program form*,
- ✓ Lunch Permission Form*,
- ✓ Agenda form with \$5.00* (may be completed on School Cash Online)
- ✓ an "Acceptable Use Agreement" which must be signed in order for students to use computers within the school*, and
- ✓ Student Accident Insurance (mailed in by parents, not submitted to the office).



Please take a few moments to carefully review and complete the required pages (*) and return them with your child as soon as possible. The first class that returns all their forms will receive a pizza lunch. Many thanks!

STUDENT SAFETY – ENTRY AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Your child's safety is very important to the staff of Valley Way Public School.

The Ministry of Education has introduced a "Safe Welcome Program" as a part of the comprehensive Safe School Action Plan. To comply with the Ministry's program, and most importantly to ensure student safety, all parents and visitors are asked to **PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE**. All visitors and guests of Valley Way School, including parents, are asked to only access the school through the front door, check in at the office, and sign in using the "Visitor Sign In" book located in the main office. Please be aware that after the 8:45 a.m. bell, all exterior doors will be locked. Our students have been reminded that they are not to open the door for anyone, as access into the school will only occur through the front main entrance door. Our visitors will be required to ring the bell for the lock to be released by the staff, and then proceed to the office. We strive to maintain our school as a safe and secure learning environment for our students. All students will be expected to enter and exit through their assigned doors during regular entry and dismissal times. Students arriving late or leaving early must report to the office.

We are asking that parents of all students (Kindergarten and older students) to please allow your child to enter the school with their classmates and to develop the independence and routine of the settling into their classrooms. This is also to ensure the safety of our students as any visitors in the hallways are to sign in at the office prior to going down to classrooms.

If you are dropping off an item for your child or picking him/her up for an appointment, you may simply check in at the office as per usual and allow one of our staff members to take care of your request.

If you would like to speak to a teacher before or after school, please call in advance to make an appointment.

BICYCLE SAFETY

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!

PARKING

Students are encouraged to walk to and from school as this provides exercise and supports a healthy lifestyle. If you must drive to drop off or pick up your child, please park in the parking lot across the street and cross at the cross walk with the crossing guards. Blocking driveways or parking illegally may end up in fines and does not promote a positive relationship with our neighbours. Please avoid parking in the side parking lot as that is for staff parking.



MEET THE 2017-2018 VALLEY WAY STAFF

Ms. J. Roberto, Area 1 Superintendent
 Mrs. K. Worth, Principal
 Ms. B. Mahoney, Administrative Assistant
 Mr. M. Dunne, Caretaker

HOMEROOM TEACHERS		SCHOOL-BASED TEACHING STAFF	
Kindergarten Team 1	Mrs. M. Mihelic Ms. K. O'Toole	LRT	Mrs. N. Fitzgerald Ms. L. Rosito
Kindergarten Team 2	Ms. M. Nagy Ms. O. Mills	FSL	Mr. M. Allen
Grade 1	Ms. L. Rogers	Teacher-Librarian	Mrs. K. Wiens Mr. M. Allen
Grade 1/2	Ms. A. Nagy (LTO)/ Ms. L. Carter	Primary Phys. Ed and Prep	Mr. G. Sarkisian
		SUPPORT STAFF	
Grade 2/3	Mr. B. Clancy	Educational Assistants	Mrs. S. Antonio Mrs. J. Gilliam Ms. K. Keays
Grade 3	Mrs. K. Taylor	Instructional Coach	Ms. K. Martin
Grade 3/4	Ms. L. Rosito Mrs. K. Wiens	Youth Counselor	Ms. L. Barrow
Grade 5/6	Mrs. L. Boles	Primary Lunch Supervisors	Mrs. L. McAllister Mrs. L. Myers
Grade 5/6	Ms. A. Fong	Evening Caretaker	Mr. L. Schuiling
Grade 7	Ms. J. Scudamore		
Grade 7/8	Mr. E. Desanti		

*Please note that class assignments are TENTATIVE and may change due to changing enrollment numbers during the first week of school.

CLASS ORGANIZATION

Please note that should our student enrolment increase or decrease during the first week of school, we may need to reorganize our classrooms to meet the primary class size cap of 20 students per classroom. It may be possible that your child may (or may not be) in the same classroom that was posted on the first day of school. The reorganization would become effective September 18, 2017. I will keep you informed if student enrolment changes will result in a reorganization. I understand that this can cause some disruption and is a difficult process, but we will do our best to make the transition as smooth as possible. **Changes in class placements will only occur should a reorganization be necessary.**

VOLUNTEERS

Here at Valley Way Public School, there are many opportunities for parent/guardians to volunteer with our students and support the many activities and events that occur during the school year. Some opportunities include supporting nutrition programs, coordinating fundraising activities, and participating in supportive reading programs. We see this as a wonderful way to build our school, family and community connections. We welcome all who are interested and available to please contact the office for a Volunteer Information Form.

MORNING SNACK – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our amazing team of parent volunteers will be hard at work within the next couple of weeks preparing to deliver a healthy snack to our students each morning. If you are able to help prepare, clean up or provide other supports, please contact the office. We anticipate our program resuming by the beginning of October!



MILK

White and chocolate milk are available to be purchased for lunch through a pre-order only. If interested, you may order to have milk delivered to your child(ren) on a daily basis or on selected days. The cost of milk is \$1.00 per carton. Order forms will be sent home approximately every 6 weeks. Milk delivery will begin on Monday, September 18th.

PIZZA AND HOT DOG LUNCHES

Hot Dog Days are the last Wednesday of each month. All other Wednesdays are pizza days. The cost is \$1 per slice of pizza and \$1 per hot dog. Orders will be taken Monday and Tuesday mornings or you may choose to pre-order in advance. Pre-order forms will be sent home with the milk order forms. We will begin with a pizza lunch on Wednesday, September 20th and a hot dog lunch on Wednesday, September 28th. The orders are due on Monday, September 11th.

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.

LUNCH POLICY

Please see the Lunch Form accompanying this newsletter and complete the form in its entirety. All students staying for lunch at school will be eating their lunch in a classroom and will be supervised by lunchroom supervisors and school staff. Please be aware that eating lunch at school is a privilege and all lunch rules are expected to be followed, such as cleaning up, exercising good manners, and self-discipline. Students are not permitted to leave the school property without written permission from their parents.



STUDENT MEDICATION AND MEDICAL CONCERNS

Any prescription or non-prescription medication that is to be administered to students at school must have an authorization form completed by a physician. Forms are available at the office. Medications of any kind must NOT be left in students' backpacks.

If your child requires any medication, please send the medication to the office. We cannot administer medication without an authorized form completed by a physician. Any medical conditions or concerns MUST be brought to the attention of the principal or office.

A form entitled "EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN" needs to be completed for highly allergic anaphylactic children and

asthmatic children. These forms are kept with the necessary medication in the office and the names and photographs of affected students are compiled so that all staff are aware of our students' medical concerns. Epi-pen training is provided to our staff by our school nurse from the Niagara Regional Health Department.

AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS

Please inform the school if there are special custody orders for your child. Any relevant custody orders **MUST** be kept on file at the office. Please ensure that the school has the most recent custody orders for your child(ren) at all times.



TECHNOLOGY

Technology is an important part of our program and there will be many opportunities for learning using desktops, video equipment, cameras, and more. To ensure student safety and appropriate use, we will take on a three-fold approach:

Strict enforcement of the DSBN Acceptable Use policy (see form sent home in package),

Educating students to use technology safely and responsibly, and

Ensuring technology from home doesn't come to school without both parent and teacher permission.

Students should not bring valuable personal property to school. Loss and theft are facts of life, and often these lost or stolen articles are never returned to their rightful owner. Similarly, other items may cause unwanted distraction and/or confidentiality or safety concerns. Unless given permission by the teacher to complete school assignments or projects, all electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, cameras, IPODs, tablets) must be kept in a student's backpack throughout the entire school day, including nutrition breaks. If any of these items are used during school hours, they will be confiscated and will be returned with the date to be determined as per each offence. Electronic devices are not the responsibility of the school. It is, therefore, best that such items be left at home.



CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION SHEETS

During the first week of school you will receive a computer printout of your child's information on file. Please check this and make any changes, fill in any missing information, and return it to the school promptly. In the interest of health and safety, it is important that students' medical and personal information is updated each year. Please let us know if any of the information changes during the school year!

DSBN CURRICULAR (PHYSICAL EDUCATION) ATHLETIC PROGRAM FORM

Physical activity is essential for normal, healthy growth and development. Growing bones and muscles require not only good nutrition, but also the stimulation of vigorous physical activity to increase the strength and endurance necessary for a physically active lifestyle. Active participation in physical education classes, which includes games, dance, gymnastics, and outdoor pursuits, provides opportunities for students to develop the skills and confidence necessary to play and work co-operatively and competitively with their peers. Students participating in the curricular (physical education) athletic program must complete a Permission to Participate Form. This form includes medical and personal information needed by a coach/staff member in case of an emergency. The DSBN Curricular (Physical Education) Athletic Program Permission to

Participate Form must be completed annually in September and whenever there are any health changes to a student prohibiting or altering their participation in athletic programs. This form must be completed for every student of the DSBN participating in physical education athletic programs.

STUDENT AGENDAS

Every student at Valley Way will receive a student agenda. This is a valuable tool for both organization and communication. Parent and teacher guidance is essential to the success of the student in using the agenda. Please help us help your child develop these important skills. We are asking that each student pay \$5.00 toward the cost of the organizer as soon as possible. Thank you, in advance, for your prompt attention to this matter.

Please take a few minutes to discuss the importance of using the organizer regularly with your son/daughter. Also, please review the Code of Conduct information presented in the front of the organizer and talk about it with your child. Your support in this important matter is appreciated!

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We know that you have many different priorities competing for your attention each day. In order to respect your valuable time, we'd like to make it a little easier and less time consuming for you to connect with our school. We are continuing our partnership with School Cash Online, a portal that will give you the ability to keep up with school events using the device most convenient for you. Our parent community has always generously supported our school initiatives, which have included everything from field trips to athletics and fundraisers.

With School Cash Online, you will be able to approve permission forms and make payments for any of these 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, our newly redesigned learning commons will be available for registration, with staff support, during our Open House/Meet the Teacher event.

LEARNING COMMONS

To see our catalogue of books, visit destiny.dsbnet.edu.on.ca and select Valley Way from the right-hand side. All students will be given the opportunity to take home library books. Students will receive a reminder notice of any late books once a month. This year we will have to charge for lost books. The cost will be \$5.00 for soft cover books and \$10.00 for hardcover books to offset the cost of replacing the lost books. Please visit our newly redesigned learning commons during the school Open House.

DRESSING FOR SUCCESS

We know that you have many different priorities competing for your attention each day. In order to respect your valuable time, we'd like to make it a little easier and less time consuming for you. It is the belief that student dress should be appropriate to an

academic setting, create a separation between the street and the school, and to contribute to an overall positive image of our school. The consistent enforcement of our dress code will enhance our educational environment and help create a tone conducive to the achievement of excellence.

- Hats or head coverings must be removed upon entry into the school and not worn indoors.
- Shoes must be worn indoors due to safety/fire regulations.
- Students are not permitted to wear inappropriate clothing which includes: short shorts, halter tops, tub tops, spaghetti straps, "see through" tops or mesh tops (unless worn with an undershirt).
- Exposed undergarments, bare midriffs and backs are not permitted. Shirts, blouses, T-shirts and sweaters must be long enough to cover the midriff.
- Clothes bearing written statements, or images (pictures, logos, people) that do not promote a positive and safe environment; that are racist, suggestive, or in bad taste, or that advertise alcohol, drug or tobacco products are not permitted.

Remember, positive school culture and tone are integral to the creation and enhancement of a school environment committed to the achievement of personal and academic excellence.

I MATTER

These two words seem so simple but are truly very powerful. You will see these words throughout Valley Way and you will hear these words as well. We want our students, parents, community members, and staff to understand and believe that everyone has something to contribute and "I Matter."

I matter ...As an Individual.

I matter...As a Learner.

I matter...As a Community Member.

This is also the foundation for the DSBN Strategic Plan. To learn more about the DSBN Strategic Plan, please visit www.dsbn.org/imatter

TERRY FOX RUN

On the morning of Friday, September 15, all Valley Way students will be participating in the Terry Fox run. This year, we will be staying on school property for the run. In keeping with Terry's dream of every Canadian donating \$1.00, we are encouraging each student donate \$1.00 to the Terry Fox Foundation. If we all donate, we can raise over \$250 dollars for such a worthy cause. More information will be sent home shortly with schedules and donation information.

Terry was, and he continues to be a 'super hero' so we invite students to dress as their favourite superhero on Friday, September 15.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Residential School survivor Phyllis Webstad's account of having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The initiative calls for every Canadian to wear an orange shirt in the spirit of healing and reconciliation. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes and placed in residential schools, and because it provides an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. This year, DSBN will be recognizing this day on Friday, September 29. Please join our school staff in wearing an orange shirt on September 29.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Did you know that every elementary and secondary school in Niagara has a school nurse?

The school nurse provides teachers, parents and students support and resources on health related topics, including:

- Healthy eating
- Physical activity
- Tobacco use prevention
- Parenting
- Mental and emotional health
- Puberty and sexual health
- Drugs and alcohol

To learn more about the school nurse call 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7379 or visit www.niagararegion.ca and search school nurse.

SEPTEMBER IS...SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD AWARENESS MONTH

As you may know, the City of Niagara Falls provides all our schools with Crossing Guards for student safety. All school crossing locations and shift times are now posted on the City of Niagara Falls' website! The amendments to the Highway Traffic Act in Bill 31 were put into place to help improve the safety of both the School Crossing Guard and their pedestrians. Please take some time to update your understanding of Bill 31 by reviewing the information on the following page.

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

A REMINDER TO PARENTS

Parents who are meeting their child at the end of the school day are asked to wait outside of the building to ensure the smooth and safe dismissal of ALL the children. Should your child need to be picked up sometime during the school day for appointments, please come to the office and wait for your child to arrive at the office. We ask that you sign out your child in our binder to indicate that you have taken your child from school. We will be discouraging student requests to phone home or your place of work for parents/guardians to bring their homework, gym clothes or nutrition break food. Students should make all arrangements for after school activities before arriving at school in the morning. Please help us in promoting responsibility amongst our students.

PICTURE DAY

School photographs will be taken throughout the day on September 27. Additional information will be sent home regarding this. Please try to avoid this date for appointments for your child, as we would like all students to be present for their picture.

SAVE THE DATE!

Calling all parents & caregivers

IT'S TIME TO SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, November 1, 2017
 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 2017 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





NEWSLETTER

In order to be more environmentally friendly, this will be the final hardcopy newsletter that will be sent home. If you would like to continue receiving a hardcopy newsletter, please return the following to the office:

Youngest Student(s) Name and Teacher: _____

All families not returning this slip agree and are able to access the newsletter via our website.