

VALLEY WAY VOICE

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Niagara Falls, ON
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905.356.6611

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September 2018

#IMATTERATDSBN

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

K. Worth

WELCOME TO THE 2018-2019 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 Viper family 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.

There is a great deal of information in this newsletter and I appreciate the time you are giving to reading all of this information!

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. Schuling, our 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. September 15th is international 'Dot Day'. This is a day that challenges us to "Make your mark and see where it takes you." What mark can you make this year?

We will continue to celebrate student success in a variety of ways including recognition assemblies, newsletters, the school website (www.valleyway.dsbnschools.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. 4
Forms Due to office	Sept. 7
Orange Shirt Orders Due	Sept. 11
Early Release Day	Sept. 14
Grade 8 Trip	Sept. 21
Rowan's Law Day	Sept. 26
Terry Fox Run	Sept. 27
Open House	Sept. 27
Orange Shirt Day	Oct. 1
Recognition Assembly	Oct. 1
Picture Day	Oct. 2
PD Day	Oct. 5
Parent Council Meeting	TBD

EARLY RELEASE DAY

Friday, September 14 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.

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.

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.

SUPERVISION

Supervision in the back of the school 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 7TH

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.

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.

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.

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.

MEET THE 2018-2019 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 Mrs. L. Boles
Kindergarten Team 2	Ms. K. Longval	FSL	Mr. M. Allen Mme. T. Bouchard
Grade 1	Ms. L. Rogers	Teacher-Librarian	Mrs. K. Wiens
Grade 1/2	Ms. L. Carter	Primary Phys. Ed and Prep	Mr. G. Sarkisian
Grade 2/3	Mrs. K. Taylor	Prep Coverage	Mrs. D. Mauiri (on leave) LTO – To Be Determined
Grade 3/4	Mr. B. Clancy	SUPPORT STAFF	
Grade 4/5	Mrs. K. Wiens Mme. T. Bouchard	Educational Assistants	Ms. S. Haas Mrs. J. Gilliam Ms. K. Keays
Grade 5/6	Mrs. L. Boles	Instructional Coach	Ms. K. Martin
Grade 6/7	Ms. J. Scudamore	Youth Counselor	Ms. L. Barrow
Grade 8	Mr. E. Desanti	Social Worker	Mrs. S. Bennett
		Primary Lunch Supervisors	Mrs. L. Myers Mrs. A. Dockstader
		Evening Caretaker	Mr. L. Schuiling

*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 17, 2018. 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.**

OPEN HOUSE MEET THE TEACHER EVENT

We would like to invite all families to join us on Thursday, September 27 between the hours of 4:30 – 6:00 pm to tour the school and meet your child’s teacher. Please remember that this is an informal event. If you would like to discuss specific concerns, please schedule an appointment with the teacher to ensure your privacy and the teacher’s undivided attention.

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 24th.

REAL FOOD CHALLENGE

Packing lunches is a challenge and packing healthy lunches is even more challenging. This month, we are encouraging families to pack 'real food'. Processed foods are convenient but also high in *sugar* and *fat* and contain few nutrients. Students will earn points for their colour house team by bringing in 'real food' for snacks and lunches.

Some suggestions include:

- Apples, bananas, grapes, pineapple, orange slices, pears, peaches, pomegranate, berries, etc.
- Carrots, cucumber, broccoli, peppers, celery, cauliflower, cherry tomatoes, etc.
- Salads (fruit or veggie), boiled eggs, sunflower seeds

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 hot dog lunch on Wednesday, September 26th. The orders are due on Friday, September 21th.

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 all lunch rules are expected to be followed, such as cleaning up, exercising good manners, and self-discipline. Grade 7 and 8 students are not permitted to leave the school property without written permission from their parent/guardian. Younger students are expected to remain at school during this time.

STUDENT MEDICATIONS 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:

1. Strict enforcement of the DSBN Acceptable Use policy (see form sent home in package),
2. Educating students to use technology safely and responsibly, and
3. 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 to ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information!

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.

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.

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, please visit the office and we will be happy to help get you set-up and ready to go!

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. 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 September 27, 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 27.

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 Monday, October 1. Please join our school staff in wearing an orange shirt on October 1. If you would like to order an orange shirt, please submit your order and payment by September 11. No late orders can be accepted.

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.

PICTURE DAY

School photographs will be taken throughout the day on October 2. 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.

DISMISSAL REMINDERS

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

EXCITING CHANGES – A NEW PLAYGROUND!

As you may have noticed, Valley Way Public School has a new addition – a playground! It has been many years since we have had a playground and we would like to thank the generous support of the DSBN in purchasing the playground equipment. There are a few important notes in regards to the new equipment. Each grade will be assigned times in which the playground will be accessible to the students in that grade. This will ensure that the playground is not overcrowded and is safe for all students. Also, the playground structure is unavailable before school. We will not have the required supervision at this time. Finally, the playground is also not available after school as there is no supervision for students at the end of the school day. There will be plenty of opportunities for students to utilize the equipment during their fitness breaks and at other times throughout the day.

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.

BILL 31 AMENDMENTS - HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT

NEW ROAD RULES IN EFFECT!

A REMINDER TO ALL DRIVERS AND CYCLISTS!
As of January 2016, all motorists must stop and yield the whole roadway at:

- Pedestrian crossovers;
- School Crossings where there is a guard displaying a school crossing stop sign.

Motorists can **NO** longer turn left, right or proceed through a crosswalk on the clear half of the roadway.
 You now **MUST** wait until the entire crosswalk is empty of both pedestrians and the School Crossing Guard.

Stop, when you approach a School Crossing Location
Take notice of whether there is a guard on duty
Obey the Highway Traffic Act and wait for guard to completely exit the crosswalk
Proceed with caution



THIS REMINDER IS BROUGHT TO YOU ON BEHALF OF THE PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOL CROSSING PROGRAMS ACROSS THE NIAGARA REGION:



SO MANY WAYS TO STAY INFORMED AND CONNECTED

Please take some time to visit the Valley Way Public School website. Our websites 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.dsbnschools.ca>

@ValleyWayDSBN

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.

COLOUR HOUSE TEAMS

The Valley Way staff are excited to be bringing Colour Houses later this month. We will kick off our colour house competitions for our annual Terry Fox fundraiser and our real food challenge. All students and staff will be assigned a colour house and will earn points for their house by participating in spirit days, special assemblies, and challenges such as the real food challenge. This will give our students to connect with other students from all grade levels and further strengthen our Valley Way community.

SAVE THE DATE!

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.dsbni.org/pic




Early Bird Draw!

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

NEWSLETTER

In order to be more environmentally friendly, this will be the only 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 to access the newsletter via our website.