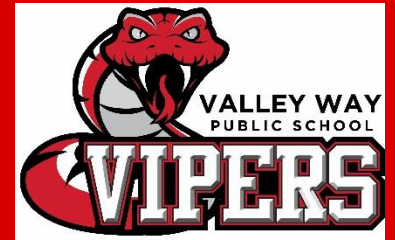


VALLEY WAY VOICE

5315 Valley Way
Niagara Falls, ON
L2E 1X4
905.356.6611

vwv@dsvn.org valleyway.dsvn.org @ValleyWayDSBN



September 2020

#VWPROUD

#IMATTERATDSBN

#IMHEREVALLEYWAY

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

WELCOME TO THE 2020-2021 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.

Although things will look different, we will create an amazing, healthy and safe learning environment for our Vipers!

There is a great deal of information in this newsletter and I appreciate the time you are giving to reading all this information! If you have not already taken a few minutes to read the [DSBN Parent Return to School Guide: In-Class Elementary](#) guide, please do so. This newsletter will supplement the information in that guide with details specific to our Valley Way community.

Please visit the [DSBN website](#) and click on the Return to School Updates – Elementary. You will find many valuable resources to prepare for your child's return to school, including a [Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Guide](#), the [COVID-19 Management Plan](#) release by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education as well as [A Parent's Guide: Preparing for a Mentally Healthy Return to School](#).

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 for the excellent job he has done this summer getting the school ready to greet our students.

I am looking forward to learning and growing along with your children this year! Our amazing Valley Way team of educators and support staff are here to keep our school safe together!

PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If you have a child with a prevalent medical condition (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy or others) we want to make sure we have a current Plan of Care to support your child. 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 school.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- First Day for K and Gr. 1 Sept. 8
- First Day Gr.2 and 3..... Sept. 9
- First Day for Gr. 4-6..... Sept. 10
- First Day for Gr. 7-8..... Sept. 11
- Dot Day Sept. 15
- Orange Shirt Day Sept. 30
- School Council Meeting TBD

RETURN OF BORROWED DEVICES




Did you borrow a Chromebook during the spring Learn from Home session? We will be asking for you to return the technology to Valley Way during the first week of school. Specific details about the process to return the devices will be communicated shortly.



STAGGERED START – THE FIRST WEEK

To help ease your child’s return to the 2020/2021 school year, Valley Way will be implementing a staggered entry return to school for elementary students. Even if your child is in a split grade class, they will follow the staggered start date for their specific grade.

Students attending In School learning					
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	September 7	September 8	September 9	September 10	September 11
 <p>When does my child attend school?</p>	Labour Day - No School	Kindergarten Grade 1	Kindergarten Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3	Kindergarten Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 6	Kindergarten Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8
		Designated Special Education classes will all return on Tuesday September 8.			

PARENT ROLE IN KEEPING OUR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY SAFE

The DSBN Parental Agreement will be available on School Cash Online on the first day of School. As acknowledged in the DSBN Parental Agreement, it is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children on a daily basis before sending them to school. Please be sure to sign and submit this agreement promptly through School Cash Online. If you will require a paper copy, please contact the office.

BELL TIMES AND SUPERVISION

Valley Way entry and dismissal times will be as shown. Please note that morning supervision begins at 8:35 before school. DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY. We will be busy preparing for student arrivals. Bus students are supervised at 3:10 p.m. until they have boarded their buses for home. 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.

Morning Supervision Begins	8:35 a.m.
Day Begins - Period 1	8:50 a.m.
Period 2	9:10 a.m.
Period 3	9:50 a.m.
Period 4	10:30 a.m.
Period 5	11:10 a.m.
Period 6	11:50 a.m.
Period 7	12:30 p.m.
Period 8	1:10 p.m.
Period 9	1:50 p.m.
Period 10	2:30 p.m.
Dismissal	3:10 p.m.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO SCHOOL?

We understand that many families like to purchase school supplies. As always, you are welcome to do this but please keep it simple (pencils, erasers, pencil crayons or markers, scissors, and a calculator for our students in Grade 6-8). However, the school will provide all necessary learning materials. As part of our Enhanced Health and Safety program, students will not be permitted to share school supplies.

If you need these items, many of our community partners will be providing schools with supplies. Please let your school know. Personal non-instructional items in their backpacks will be taken home each day

Please label all items with your child's name.	
Kindergarten	Grades 1-8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A backpack that is large enough to carry their lunch bag. ○ A snack and lunch daily. Consider packing food in containers that can be easily opened by your child. Healthy snacks are encouraged. ○ Refillable water bottle. ○ Headphones to use with technology. Headphones that cover the ears work best. Place headphones in a labeled bag (e.g. a large Ziploc). ○ Indoor running shoes that will be kept at school. (e.g. velcro and slip on shoes). ○ Outer clothing (e.g., jacket, snow pants, etc.) appropriate for the weather. ○ A change of clothes that will be kept in their cubby. Place clothes in a labeled bag (e.g. a large Ziploc bag). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MASKS - The DSBN will be following all mask guidelines as provided by the Ministry of Education and Niagara Region Public Health. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grade 4-8 students will require a non-medical mask each day. Please send a back up mask or two in a labelled Ziploc bag or container, to keep in their backpack. ○ Kindergarten to Grade 3 students may choose to and will be encouraged to wear a mask. ○ OUTDOOR CLOTHING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In addition to fitness breaks, a portion of your child's day will include outdoor learning and breaks for mask relief. Please send your child to school dressed for the weather. ○ PAIR OF INDOOR SHOES ○ WATER BOTTLE ○ LUNCH ○ BACKPACK ○ HAT AND SUNSCREEN ○ SCHOOL SUPPLIES ○ HEADPHONES to use with technology, in a labeled bag (e.g. a large Ziploc)
<p>Things my child should not bring to school from home: Toys or stuffies. Any food containing any nut or nut product. Shared foods (e.g., cupcakes, Timbits)</p>	

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL

Most of our Vipers live within walking distance to Valley Way. We do have some Kindergarten students that arrive by bus. Bus transportation will begin on your child's staggered start date. If your child qualifies for busing, go to <http://www.nsts.ca> for procedures and health and safety guidelines.

Niagara Student Transportation Services is following Ministry of Education protocols.

- If you require transportation, you must complete the Opt-In to Transportation form available in the parent portal
- Opt-In Notice Extended one week to Monday, September 7 at 3:00 p.m. If you do not Opt-In by this new date, transportation will be removed effective the second week of school.
- Students in K to grade 3 are encouraged to wear face masks

When arriving by car, parents may park in the lot at FH Leslie Park and cross at the crosswalk. Make sure to greet our friendly crossing guards. They are sure to start your day with a smile! Using Homewood as a drop off location is not encouraged as there is a bus zone on by the entrance to the yard and we want to ensure we are not blocking driveways of our neighbours.

Of course, we encourage our families to choose active transportation to school by walking or riding a bike (for our students in Grade 4 or older). Bikes must be locked in the bike rack at the back of the school. Unfortunately, we are unable to store scooters or skateboards inside our school at this time and we encourage students to use an alternate method to arrive at school.

MORNING ARRIVAL

As students begin to arrive after 8:35 a.m., parents will say goodbye at the school designated drop off area and staff will direct students to class waiting zones. Due to the need to prevent crowding, and taking up space in the yard, parents will not be permitted on the school yard. There will be designated drop-off and pick-up areas. Our top priority is the health and safety of our students, staff and school community. It is essential we plan for spacing and minimize direct and indirect contacts with staff and other students. Thank you for doing your part to model physical distancing and your help to keep our school community safe.

For the safety and security of all students within our class communities:

- Supervision staff are on duty
- Students must be on time and follow all routines that support the well-being of the whole school.
- Parents are asked to say good-bye to their children at the school yard gates and allow them to enter the school yard to join their friends with the support and guidance of their teachers.
- There are three different locations designated as drop-off and pick-up points (see details below)
- Pick-up and drop-off of students can only happen outside of the school. Parents will not have access to the front foyer, classrooms, and unscheduled visits are not permitted.

GRADE 1-8 ARRIVAL

There are two drop-off points for students where parents can say good-bye to their children as they safely enter the school yard:

- Primary (Grade 1 – 3): The gate on the east side of the school will be used for primary student entry. This gate will be unlocked in the morning to allow a safe arrival of our primary students. Older siblings will not be permitted to enter through this gate in order to minimize direct and indirect contacts with other students. They may say good-bye to their younger sibling and walk around to their entry point.
- Junior (Grades 4- 6) and Intermediate (Grades 7 - 8): The gate on Homewood Ave. will be used for our Junior/Intermediate students to enter the school yard. Primary students will not be permitted to enter through this gate to minimize direct and indirect contacts with other students.

Each class community will have its own classroom zone for arrival, outdoor learning, and daily physical activity. Students will wait in the zone until the bell rings. Students will not be permitted to enter the front doors of the school, as all teachers will be greeting their class communities outside at their class' zone every morning all year long. Once children arrive at a school yard gate, they will be greeted by Valley Way staff members who will guide them to their class zone and support with routines until it becomes more automatic.

STAGGERING ENTRY INTO THE SCHOOL

Students will be assigned the same door for entry and exit the entire year, based on their division. This will minimize physical contact and ensure space between class cohorts:

- Kindergarten – Ms. Mihelic's class will enter using the door to her classroom and Ms. Petrychanko's class will enter through the door on the east side of the school
- Primary Door – East door at the back of the school
- Junior and Intermediate Door – West door at the back of the school

At 8:50, our instructional day will begin and classes may choose to extend their outdoor learning time. We have allocated 20 minutes during this first portion of the day to ensure all classes can enter the building in a manner that allows for physical distancing. Before entering the school, students will be reminded to physically distance and put on masks. Students will go directly to the homeroom classroom where they will wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer provided. Students will hang backpacks with lunches, indoor shoes and personal item on their seat at their desk. Hooks and cubbies will be unavailable to start the year to minimize touch surfaces and reduce the need for cleaning.

KINDERGARTEN ENTRY AND DISMISSAL

Our Kindergarten classes will be using the Kindergarten play space at the front of the school for entry and dismissal. Ms. Mihelic's class will enter the school directly to her classroom and Ms. Petrychanko's class will enter through the east side doors. Students are to remain with a parent, respecting physical distancing of others, until the teacher has greeted the class when the bell rings. If Kindergarten students arrive after the bell, parents will be asked to say good-bye to their child at the front doors and your child will be brought to their classroom by a staff member. In order to minimize direct and indirect contacts with staff and other students, parents will not be able to walk their child to class. If your Kindergarten child arrives by bus, they will be greeted at the bus stop by a member of our Kindergarten team and brought to their designated spot in the Kindergarten play space.

At the end of the day, students will be dismissed from their side of the play space directly to parents/guardians/caregivers one at a time and when the teacher makes direct visual contact with each parent. Bus students will be directly guided to their waiting location by school staff and be monitored until they board the bus, where they will sit in their assigned seat.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is taken twice daily. Please help us to ensure the safety of our students by reporting your child's absence or if they will be arriving late to school. 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, your place of employment and your emergency contacts. Please note that due to starting our days outside, attendance calls may be a little later than usual. Also, all students who arrive late to school (morning or afternoon) must report to the office. Parents will not be able to escort their child into the building. A staff member will meet the child at the front door and will ensure the child gets safely to their class.

How can I report my child's absence or late arrival? Whether it's an illness, a medical appointment or other important event, there are times when students may need to be away from school. Using the Safe Arrival system, parents will be able to report daily absences, and even schedule absences in one of three ways:

1. Call toll-free before bell time: 1-866-606-5567
2. Logging on to the web portal (<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/account/login>). Using this website, you can set up your account to report and schedule absences.
3. Using your smart phone or tablet. Simply download the SchoolMessenger app. The app is compatible with both Apple and Android devices.

Please report all absences prior to bell time for the current day. If your child has an upcoming appointment, you can also schedule future absences by using one of these three methods. Please do not contact the school directly to report your child's absence. For more information, please visit: <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/>

If you are changing your child's pick-up time, the office must know by 2:30 pm as it gets busy near the end of the day and some classes may be extending their learning outside at that time.

FITNESS AND NUTRITION BREAKS

All students will have two 40-minute breaks each day supervised by staff. In order to maintain distancing outside, during breaks, fitness and nutrition breaks are staggered and therefore your child's break time may be different than their siblings' class. You will receive a class specific schedule for each child from the homeroom teacher. Students will engage in 20 minutes of mask free outdoor time, in their designated classroom community zone. For health reasons, students will not be permitted to bring personal sports equipment to use during fitness breaks.

Traditionally, students in Grade 7 and 8 have had the opportunity to leave school property at lunch with parent permission. Families may decide to allow this, but it is expected that your child will be going to their own home for lunch and not visiting local businesses or a friend's house. Please note that due to staggered lunches, we can not guarantee that crossing guards will be available during lunch hours so please keep this in mind if you are planning to have your child go home for a lunch break.

At this time, we will not be having any pizza, hot dogs or milk orders and please do not send treats in for classmates. Also, we will be unable to distribute spoons to students so please ensure students have the necessary utensils in their lunch.

GRADE 1-8 DISMISSAL

In a staggered manner, all students will be escorted by their teacher to their classroom zone for dismissal to parents and caregivers. Primary student parents picking up their child should wait at their designated gate, respecting physical distancing from other. Classes will be dismissed one at a time and teachers will ensure direct visual contact with each parent before dismissing a child. Our Junior and Intermediate classes will be dismissed one class at a time to ensure distancing while exiting the Valley Way property. If an older sibling is to meet a younger sibling, the younger sibling will be waiting on the wall outside the primary classrooms at the back of the school where the siblings can meet up and maintain distancing while exiting the property using the Junior/Intermediate exit gate on Homewood. In order to ensure distancing at this time, staff will be supervising the yard until all students are safely on their way.

MAP OF ENTRY AND DISMISSAL GATES



SCHOOL COUNCIL – LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

We understand that the partnership between home and school is vital to your child’s success. We would love to have you join our Valley Way school council. We need your input. We hold 4 meetings per month. Please complete the form at: <https://forms.gle/wGhL4rS2HoNwn6J68> to let us know the day and time that works best for you. Once we know the time and day and potential number of attendees, we will be able to explore possible dates and whether an in person (with appropriate physical distancing) or virtual meeting would be appropriate. Also, if you are interested in a position on the school council, the nomination form can be completed through this survey as well.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We know that you have many different priorities competing for your attention each day. 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. 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. As we are trying to minimize papers travelling between school and home, we encourage all families to register for School Cash Online. We will be using this platform to send out important beginning of the year information that you can approve with the click of a button!

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!

IMPORTANT FORMS TO SIGN

Most of our very important back to school forms will be available through School Cash Online during the first week of school. With a click of a button, these items can be quickly approved. If you would prefer a paper copy, please let the school know and we will send a paper copy home the first week of school. The back to school forms that are required to be returned include:

- ✓ Student Verification Report
- ✓ Permission to Participate - DSBN Curricular (Physical Education) Athletic Program form
- ✓ Lunch Permission Form
- ✓ an " Information Technology Digital Citizenship Agreement" which must be signed in order for students to use computers within the school

DSBN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR



2020-2021 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

September							October							November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					3-8	3-9	3	1	4-9	4-10	5-1	5-2	5-3	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

December							January							February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		6-9	6-10	7-1	7-2	5						1	2		10-2	10-3	10-4	10-5	10-6	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30	28						

March							April							May							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	11-10	12-1	12-2	12-3	12-4	6					13-8	1	2	3							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29	

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		17-8	17-9	17-10	18-1	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Professional Development Day

Holiday

191 Carlton St., St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P4 • 905.641.1550 • 905.641.2929 • dsbn.org

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

School Student Accident Insurance forms will be sent home during the first week of school. 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.

MEET THE 2020-2021 VALLEY WAY STAFF

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
Kindergarten Team 2	Ms. M. Petrychanko Ms. J. Quiring	Primary and Rotary	Mr. G. Sarkisian
Grade 1	Ms. J. Scudamore	FSL	Mme. T. Bouchard
Grade 2	Ms. L. Carter	SUPPORT STAFF	
Grade 3	Mrs. K. Taylor	Educational Assistants	Ms. C. Johnson
Grade 4	Mr. B. Clancy		Mrs. J. Kostaskey
Grade 5/6	Mr. B. Ott	Youth Counselor	Ms. L. Barrow
Grade 6/7	Ms. S. Meger	Social Worker	Mrs. S. Bennett
Grade 7/8	Mr. E. Desanti	Evening Caretaker	Ms. E. MacDonald
Instructional Coach	Ms. S. Feduck	Lunch Supervisors	Mrs. L. Myers Mrs. A. Dockstader

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 always has the most recent custody orders for your child(ren).

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR TEACHER

To minimize the amount of materials travelling between home and school, electronic communication through email or class platforms such as Google Classroom or D2L is encouraged. Your child's teacher will communicate their preferred form of electronic communication. At this time, if you would like to meet with your child's teacher, please understand that this will take place over the phone or through a virtual meeting until further notice. Parents are welcome to call the school or email to request a phone meeting time.

PARENT ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL

One of our goals is to maintain a school environment that minimizes the number of potential contacts for students and staff. For that reason, parents should not enter the school. Pick-up and drop-off of students can only happen outside of the school. Parents will not have access to classrooms and unscheduled visits are not permitted. Please note that ALL visitors must make an appointment with the office prior to entering the school. If you have made an appointment, you must complete the [Visitors Self-Assessment](#) on the DSBN webpage and wear a mask to enter to school.

WHAT IF I NEED TO GET SOMETHING TO MY CHILD?

If your child has forgotten something that they cannot do without, we will have you ring the bell at the front door and let our staff know who the item is for. You may leave the item in the designated space at the school entry. Staff will take care of delivery for you. We will see that your child receives it.

STUDENT USE OF PHONE

In order to minimize touch surfaces and direct and indirect contact with others, including our office staff, students will not be permitted to use the phone unless it is an emergency. Any after school plans need to be arranged prior to the start of the school day.

TECHNOLOGY AND DEVICES

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 "Information Technology Digital Citizenship Agreement"
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.

DRESSING FOR SUCCESS

Everyone has their own unique style and aesthetic. We celebrate students' individuality and respect their ability to express themselves. Our only expectation is that all students come to school dressed appropriately for a learning environment.

When deciding clothing, we ask that all members of our school community are mindful of:

- Health and safety concerns,
- The dignity and well-being of all students and staff (i.e. clothing that is free of inappropriate or discriminatory imagery or wording).

SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY CONTINUE AT VALLEY WAY

The Valley Way staff are excited to continue building our school spirit, with some adjustments. Our previous cross-graded colour house teams will be replaced by our Homeroom Teams. We will have friendly competitions between homerooms to earn points for their team by participating in spirit days, and challenges. This will continue to strengthen our Valley Way community. We will kick off our School Spirit Days with Dot Day on September 15, a Valley Way school spirit day on September 25 where we will wear our school colours (red and/or white) and Orange Shirt Day on September 30. We encourage all our students and families to participate in these special days throughout the year.

INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Observed annually on September 15th, International Dot Day is a holiday in which people of all ages are encouraged to harness their own creativity and embrace their own confidence as they make their mark on the world. On this day, people are encouraged to embrace their talents – regardless of whether it's writing, painting, drawing or some other creative medium and share their Dot Day inspiration with others.

On Tuesday, September 15, let's get creative and wear dots to school. Parents are encouraged to join in the fun and share a photo of the family wearing their dots and/or embracing your talents at home. Photos can be sent to wwy@dsbn.org. Students that wear dots to school will earn points for their team and families that participate will also earn points for their child's team.

VALLEY WAY SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Being a Valley Way Viper is something to be proud of so let's show off our school spirit. On Friday, September 25, we challenge all students to wear their Valley Way colours (red and/or white). Each student that shows their school spirit by wearing their school colours will earn points for their team. Parents are encouraged to send a photo to wwy@dsbn.org of the family joining in the fun to earn additional points for their child's team.

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 Wednesday, September 30. Please join our school staff in wearing an orange shirt on September 30. We hope to see all of our students and many community members wearing orange on September 30.

SO MANY WAYS TO 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.dsbnschools.ca>

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 its most effective, it is imperative that we have up-to-date phone numbers and email addresses.

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

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.