



Valley Way Public School

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DECEMBER VIPER UPDATE



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing Viper community (parents, students, and staff) for their on-going support and making Valley Way an amazing place to be. During December, many of our families will be celebrating the holiday season and the end of 2023. I hope this holiday season is filled with joy, peace and good health and we look forward to a great 2024!

This year Valley Way will be collecting donations to benefit Project SHARE. With your help, we will be collecting food and toys to provide for families in Niagara this holiday season. Donations can include non-perishable food, new toys, gift cards, and clothing. The Project Share donation barrel is located inside the front entrance of the school for any donations. Students can place donations directly in bins and any gift card donations should be given to the office.

Donations will be accepted until December 6th.



YOU ARE INVITED!

We are inviting parents and guardians to participate in fun activities in their child's classroom on the afternoon of December 14th from 1:30-3:10 pm. Activities will vary from class to class and may include board games, crafts, literacy or math related activities, etc....Our scholastic book fair will also be open during this time and available to parents until 4:00 pm for those interested.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Last Day for Project Share Donations.....Dec.6
- Sub Lunch (pre-ordered).....Dec.6
- Hot Chocolate Day.....Dec. 7
- Turkey Lunch Forms due....Dec.11
- Scholastic Book Fair Preview Day for Classes.....Dec. 12
- Scholastic Book Fair (Student Purchases).....Dec. 13
- Viper Event in classes (Parents and Guardians invited to attend from 1:30-3:10).....Dec.14
- Hot Chocolate Day and cookies fundraiser.....Dec.14
- Scholastic Book Fair (Parent Purchases from 1:30-3:10).....Dec. 14
- Turkey Lunch for Students.....Dec. 19
- **Spirit Week...Dec 18-Dec. 22**
-See chart in this newsletter for themes and dates
- Hot Chocolate Day.....Dec. 21
- Last day of Classes before Winter Break.....Dec.22
- School Resumes.....Jan. 8

**** Please see the DSBN WEBSITE:**

[Days of Significance Calendar](#)



MORE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR INFORMATION COMING SOON!

Mrs. Lovasi, our librarian, will provide more information to students and families regarding the upcoming book fair next week. Students will preview the books on Dec. 12th, be able to make purchases on Dec. 13th and parents can have access to the book fair on Dec. 14th between 1:30-4:00 pm.



SPECIAL LUNCH OPTIONS

Sub lunch will be on December 6, 2023 for those students that ordered.

Turkey Lunch will be provided by the school on December 19, 2023.

GRADE 8 FUNDRAISER- HOT CHOCOLATE DAYS!

Our grade 8 students will be selling hot chocolate and marshmallows every Thursday in December for \$1.00 to fundraise for their end of year trip and graduation. If students would like to participate, they may bring \$1.00 to school on Dec. 7th, Dec. 14th and/or Dec. 21st. Cookies will also be sold only on Dec. 14th for \$1.00 as well.



STUDENT COUNCIL AND SPIRIT DAYS

Our Viper Student Council will be planning events and spirit days for our school this year. Please see below for Spirit Week themes.

Monday, Dec. 18th	School Spirit (wear school colours - red/white/black)
Tuesday, Dec. 19th	Fun Hat/ Accessory Day
Wednesday, Dec. 20th	Cosy Sweater Day
Thursday, Dec. 21st	Guess the Theme (Classes will select their own theme)
Friday, Dec. 22nd	Pyjama Day



INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

There are times in Niagara when weather conditions are so poor that we must cancel student transportation, and/or close schools to preserve the safety of students and staff. The decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools is not taken lightly; a variety of factors are considered when making this choice. To learn more about how these decisions are made, please go to <https://www.dsbns.org/inclementweather>.

School Closures:

When the decision to close schools is made, it refers to all schools. Every effort will be made to share school closure information before 6:00 am on the day of the school closure. You will find it on [dsbn.org](https://www.dsbns.org), all school websites, DSBN social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

Transportation Cancellations:

Information about transportation delays and cancellations are posted to <https://portal.nsts.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. When transportation is cancelled, every effort is made to communicate the decision by 6:00 am on the day of the cancellation. There are times when transportation is cancelled, but schools remain open. If, on those days you feel it is best for your child to stay home, please report your child's absence <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/> so we can make sure they are safe at home.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

As cooler weather approaches, please be aware that children are expected to be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions every day. Coats, hats, boots and mittens/gloves are soon going to be necessary for your child to enjoy the outdoor fitness breaks and some gym classes or outdoor learning experiences. Students that are well enough to be at school are expected to be outside with their friends during fitness breaks as indoor supervision is not available during this time.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our second School Advisory Council meeting of the 2023-2024 school year was held on Nov. 6, 2023. Our next parent council meeting will be held on February 6, 2024 at 5:00 pm in our Valley Way Learning Commons/ Library. New members are always welcome to join.

EFN FUNDRAISER



Help support kids in serious need - Get your 50/50 Tickets for the December draw in support of the Education Foundation of Niagara!

Order on-line to have tickets delivered to your school:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/EFN5050DRAW>

Please follow us @InTheRoundNiagara and @EducationFoundationofNiagara

PARKING LOT SAFETY REMINDER

Our parking lot is an incredibly busy place before school and at the end of the day. Ensuring the safety of students is a primary concern. Please remind your child(ren) to look both ways when crossing the parking lot and to use the sidewalk to walk to the playground entrance. Even though it might not be a street, cars are coming and going, so looking left and right for traffic is important. We have asked students to avoid walking across the parking lot and to use the sidewalk only.

PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If you have a child with a prevalent medical condition (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy and or other conditions) 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 a new Plan of Care and submit it to the school. You can download forms at

<https://www.dsbm.org/prevalent-medical-conditions>



REPORTING AN ABSENCE

To report an absence please use the Safe Arrival System <https://www.dsbm.org/earlylearners/safe-arrival-program> or call 1-866-606-5567. If you cannot access the Safe Arrival System, please call the school as we have an answering machine after hours which will take your messages. Any unexplained absence will be checked using our call-back system. This means we will call home/work to find out where your child is.

REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE

Whether it's an illness, a medical appointment or other important event, there are times when students may need to be away from school. The District School Board of Niagara is introducing a new method for parents to report their child(ren)'s absences. Using the Safe Arrival system, parents will be able to report daily absences, and even schedule absences in one of three ways:



Call toll-free before bell time:
1-866-606-5567



Logging on to the web portal by **clicking here**. Using this website, you can set up your account to report and schedule absences.

[LOGIN](#)



Using your smart phone or tablet. Simply download the SchoolMessenger app. The app is compatible with both Apple and Android devices.

[IPHONE](#)

[ANDROID](#)

We know that some mornings, despite best efforts, students occasionally arrive late. Your child's safety and whereabouts are critical to us, because of this, it is essential for us to know when your child is absent or late from school. Please use the REPORT AN ABSENCE link on our school website or call the school if your child is going to be late.

Being on time for school is an important habit to teach your child. We stress the need for every student to be at school on time in order not to miss important lessons or information being shared. Late students must report to the office to obtain a late slip for their teacher.

STAY 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 - valleyway.dsbni.org

Our website includes links to relevant information and our most recent Tweets.

SCHOOL MESSENGER - Using the School Messenger program, all families will receive an email with reminders about events or other important information. If you are not receiving these emails, please check your contact information with the office to ensure we have the most current information.

SOCIAL MEDIA - Please follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/dsbn) to see updates on exciting events. All tweets are linked to our school website as well.

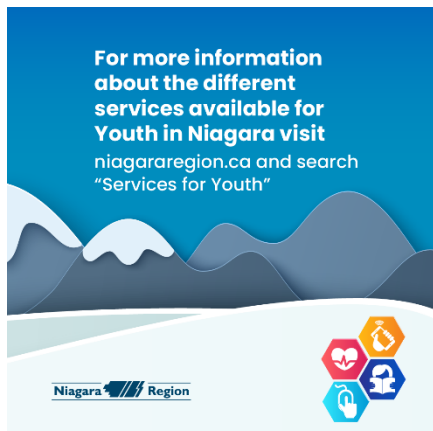
SCHOOL BREAKING NEWS- <https://sites.google.com/dsbn.org/valleywaynews/home>

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter

December 2023

Holiday Expectations

The holidays may be a difficult time for your child. A change in routine and different holiday expectations can be stressful and isolating. Here are some tips and resources to share with your child throughout the holiday season:



1. **Validate Feelings:** Let your child know it's okay not to feel happy during the holidays. Their thoughts and emotions are valid. Encourage open conversations about any concerns.
2. **Find Quiet Relief:** When things get overwhelming, suggest to your child that they find a quiet place to take a break. This can help alleviate anxious feelings.
3. **Explore Support:** Help your child discover available support services and guide them in accessing what they believe will be most beneficial.

For more information about the different services available for Youth in Niagara visit:

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/youth-services.aspx>

Reminder to Report your Child's Vaccines to Public Health

Don't forget to let Public Health know about your child's vaccinations! Sometimes, even if your child is all caught up on shots, Public Health might not have the record.

Every time your child receives a vaccine, be sure to

- [Online](#)
- By phone: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 or
- Fax: 905-688-8225

[Find out which vaccinations are required and recommended](#) for children attending school.

Report your child's vaccines

Each time your child receives a vaccine, report it to Public Health.

Health care providers don't do this for you.

If there is a disease outbreak, Public Health uses the vaccine information to:

- Identify children at risk
- Reduce the spread of disease

report it:

ext. 7425



Giving Back

Supporting families in need during the holiday season is a wonderful way for a school community to come together and make a positive impact. Here are some charities and



organizations in the Niagara region, or those that have a presence in the area, that you can consider supporting:

[Community Care](#)

[Newark Neighbours](#)

[Salvation Army](#)

[Community and Family Services](#)

[Pelham Cares](#)

[The HOPE Centre](#)

[Project SHARE](#)

[Grimsby Benevolent Fund](#)

[Port Care Reach Out](#)

[Centre](#)

[Open Arms Mission](#)

[United Way Niagara](#)

[Jammies for Families](#)

Niagara Parents

[Niagara Parents](#) provides a variety of services to help you raise a happy and healthy family. Individuals can connect with a Public Health Nurse instantly in whichever language they are most comfortable speaking.



Providing supports & services to help you raise a happy and healthy family

Connect with Niagara Parents

Live chat or speak with a public health nurse in **90 different languages available:**

- niagararegion.ca/parents
- 905-684-7555 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7555

- parents@niagararegion.ca
- Niagara Parents
- niagaraparents

Niagara Region

Services offered:

Questions or concerns about parenting, your child's health, or pregnancy.

Parenting classes, breastfeeding support, prenatal appointments and more.

Postpartum support.

Links to services within the community.

Connect with a Public Health Nurse Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. through phone, live chat, video call, or email. Live chat is available in 90 different languages.

Find Niagara Parents on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for different activities you can do with your kids, relevant resources and virtual events for parents.



Educational Resources

Notice and Identify – ONE CALL

Teachers are vital in helping students who are facing difficulties by connecting them to the resources they need for success. Identifying issues early can prevent future mental health issues. [School Mental Health Ontario](#) has developed **ONE CALL** to guide teachers in supporting their students. The **ONE CALL** process offers educators a clear step-by-step approach to help students showing emotional or behavioral issues.



**School
Mental Health
Ontario**

To learn more information check out the [ONE-CALL desk reference](#) a resource created for educators.

Jingle Bell Walk!

December's [Active School Travel](#) theme is the annual Jingle Bell Walk! It's a great time to use the holiday spirit to promote Active School Travel!

Activity Idea: Host a Jingle Bell Walk by asking parents and students to walk to school with bells or anything that jingles. You can also suggest wearing warm festive hats – or topping their hats off with antlers!

