



Valley Way Public School

5315 Valley Way Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 1X4 P (905)356-6611 email: vwv@dsbn.org twitter: @ValleyWayDSBN

NOVEMBER VIPER UPDATE

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

All students will be receiving their Progress Report Card on Thursday, November 16th. Please take time to review with your child their progress and the next steps identified in the progress report. November is an excellent time to reflect and set goals for the remainder of term 1 and the rest of the school year. When parents are engaged in their child's learning, the child will do better at school. We look forward to continuing to work together to support your child's learning throughout the school year.

PARENT -TEACHER CONFERENCES

On the evening of November 23, you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress to date during the parent-teacher conferences. You will receive information next week from your child's teacher on booking a conference time. If you have any concerns or questions at other times, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. If you require 2 copies of your child's report card, please let the office or your child's teacher know.

KINDERGARTEN COMMUNICATION OF LEARNING AND PROGRESS REPORTS FOR GRADES 1-8

On November 16, students in Kindergarten will bring home the Communication of Learning Initial Observations report. This provides parents/guardians with an overview of the initial observations of their child's learning and early evidence of growth in learning related to the overall expectations in the Kindergarten Program. It also provides information about appropriate next steps to further your child's learning

IMPORTANT DATES

Coming soon

- Treaties Recognition Week.....Nov. 5- Nov. 11
- International World Kindness Day.....Nov. 13
- Progress Reports/ Communication of Learning sent home.Nov. 16
- Parent -Teacher Interview Night.....Nov. 23
- PD Day (no classes).....Nov. 24
- Picture Retake Day..... Nov. 30

**** Please see the DSBN**

[Days of Significance Calendar](#)



It serves as the basis for discussion with parents/guardians and as a support for parents'/guardians' ongoing participation in their child's learning.

Also, on November 16, parents of students in Grades 1-8 will receive their Elementary Progress Reports. Although it looks much like the Report Card, the Progress Report has a very different intent. The purpose is to share early and specific feedback on your child's development of work habits and the learning skills. Reporting on the Progress Report is about looking forward and setting a course for the learning journey ahead.

Based on the evidence that teachers see, as well as what teachers know about learning at this grade level, the report communicates the path your child is on towards achieving the grade level expectations by the end of the year. The Progress Report does not include letter grades or percentage marks for academic subjects; it instead identifies whether your child is progressing very well, well or with difficulty. For subjects in which your child is 'Progressing with Difficulty', the teacher will discuss specific next step plans needed for success. Progress reports are intended to be part of discussions, interviews, or conferences with students and are part of ongoing communication with parents and students about student achievement throughout the year.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Friday, November 10, the staff and students at Valley Way will participate in a Remembrance Day assembly and will recognize a moment of silence. We would like to take this opportunity to honour all that have given of themselves to serve Canada. Students involved in cadets or scouting are invited to wear their uniforms. Due to limited space and maximum capacity of our school gym, our assembly will not be open to community members and families. Students will be provided with a sticker poppy if they choose to wear one for the day.

TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK

Ontario has designated November 5-11, 2023 as Treaties Recognition Week with the goal of promoting education and awareness about treaties and treaty relationships. DSBN joins with other school boards across Ontario in encouraging schools to support learning about treaties as an important aspect of our province's history. I encourage our families to take a few minutes to view the video "[Voices from Here](#)" with Rick Hill. For more information on treaties, go to <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties>.

STUDENT COUNCIL AND SPIRIT DAYS

We are in the process of creating our Viper Student Council. Students will work together to plan events and spirit days for our school this year. We will share a list of upcoming spirit days following the student council's first meeting

SPECIAL LUNCH OPTIONS- Returning soon!

We will be sharing information regarding special lunch options for this school year and ordering information next week. Stay tuned!!

BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK

The DSBN Pink Shirt (Every) Day Kick-Off Campaign is taking place November 19 to 24, 2023 during Ontario's

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. Any day is an appropriate day to have a Pink Shirt Day throughout the school year, but we will be acknowledging Wednesday, February 28, 2024 as Wear Anything Pink Day to celebrate a positive school climate.

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. We will share our next meeting date and time once it is confirmed for the New Year. Our meetings are held in our Valley Way Learning Commons/ Library. New members are always welcome to join.

EFN FUNDRAISER

education foundation of niagara

50/50 Draw

Help support kids across Niagara!

Draw Held on December 18th - 1 PM

\$5 each or 5 for \$20

The maximum allowed prize on this draw is \$20K

Follow us!
@EducationFoundationofNiagara
AND @InTheRoundNiagara

Thank you

Order your tickets today!

Max Prize \$20K
Permit No. M818360
4500 tickets printed

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

efn

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.dsbni.org/prevalent-medical-conditions>



REPORTING AN ABSENCE

To report an absence please use the Safe Arrival System <https://www.dsbni.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.dsbm.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](#) to see updates on exciting events. All tweets are linked to our school website as well.

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

Niagara Region Public Health School Health Newsletter November 2023

It's the season – Cold & Flu

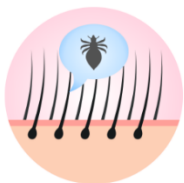
Respiratory illness season has arrived and isn't going anywhere anytime soon. Cold, flu, COVID-19 and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) are all in the mix.

Keeping up to date with vaccines can activate you and your child's immune system's natural fighting ability. Our immune system uses vaccines to practice fighting germs so it knows what to do when faced with them. Getting an [XBB COVID-19 dose](#) and a [flu shot](#) will give the immune system a much-needed top up - just like charging a cell phone battery.



It's safe to take the flu shot and fall 2023 COVID-19 dose at the same time. These vaccines may also be given any time before or after other vaccines, like the ones offered to [grade 7 students](#).

Head Lice



Students are now back into the swing of things and spending lots of time with friends and classmates during school and after school. Lice can spread regardless of a student's age. Head lice are spread by direct head-to-head contact or by sometimes sharing items like

combs, brushes, hats, pillows, etc. Anyone can get head lice, it's not a sign of poor personal hygiene or an unclean environment.

Check out School Health's new webpage on head lice for more information: [Head Lice - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

EpiPen® and Auto-Injectors

During the school day, your child will be in contact with many staff members and other children, moving around to different locations inside and outside. Remember to check if your child's EpiPen® Auto-Injectors are up to date (not expired).

Check out [Food Allergy Canada - elementary school](#) for some great tips and [resources!](#)



Educational Resources

Hand Washing and Germs Teaching Tools – JK/Grade 1

For background information and learning activities on handwashing and germs visit



<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/curriculum/personal-safety-injury-prevention/handwashing-and-germs/default.aspx>

This teaching tool is designed for students in kindergarten and grade one to help students:

- Reflect on how germs and illness are spread
- Practice correct handwashing and hand-rub techniques
- Use correct respiratory etiquette as part of their daily living

National Child Day

November 20th, 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of [National Child Day](#) in Canada – it's a day to honour our country's commitment to upholding the rights of young people and two historic events: the 1959 signing of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.



Young people are influential leaders within their surroundings, consistently shaping their schools and communities daily. Participate in celebrating your students and explore the different learning opportunities in the links below:

- [2023 National Child Day Events Calendar](#)
- [Resources for National Child Day](#)
- [National Child Day: Child Rights Activity Guide](#)

Healthy Schools Spotlights

The Public Health School Health Team wants to shine light on some of the great work that is going on within Niagara schools! The spotlight showcases the Healthy School initiatives at one school in Niagara each month.

Check out our [Healthy Schools Webpage](#) or **#HealthySchoolsNiagara** on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter to see past Healthy Schools Spotlights!

