



# Valley Way Public School

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## DECEMBER 2022- VIPER UPDATE

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing school community (parents, students and staff) for their support and helping to make Valley Way a wonderful place to be.

To celebrate this Holiday Season, we would like to invite families to our **Winter Wonderland Event** on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:30 pm. Activities will be available in different locations throughout the building which families may choose to participate in. We hope to see you there!

During the month of December, there are many days of significance for many faiths that are marked by rich traditions. We know this is a special time for many and on behalf of the staff at Valley Way, we wish you a happy holiday season.

### WINTER BREAK

*Schools Closed- Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>*

*Schools Re-Open- January 9<sup>th</sup>*



**You are invited  
to our Winter Wonderland Event  
on December 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:30 pm!**

### IMPORTANT DATES

December 6.....Hot Chocolate Day  
December 7..... Pizza Day for those  
Pre-ordered

**\*\* December 9...Picture Retake Day**

December 13.....Hot Chocolate Day  
December 14.....**Winter Wonderland  
Family Event 3:30 – 5:30 pm**

December 19.....Cozy Sweater Day  
December 20.....PJ Day  
December 20.....Hot Chocolate Day

December 21.....Toque/Hat/Head  
Covering Day

December 21.....Pizza Day for those Pre-  
ordered

**\*\*December 21.....New Date for Hearing and  
Vision Clinic**

December 22.....Dress like your favourite  
movie/ holiday movie character

December 23.....Festive Holiday Wear Day

December 23.....Last Day Before Winter  
Break

January 9.....First Day of Classes

January 17.....Gr. 7 & 8 Students to  
Living Campus

January 20.....PD Day

January 23.....Grad Photos

**Days of Significance in December:  
Posadas Navidenas, Hanukkah, Christmas,  
and Kwanzaa** [Click here](#) for more  
information about the DSBN Days of  
Significance calendar.

## DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Niagara Region is growing more diverse in creed and/or religious beliefs and practices. The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is committed to fostering diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning and working environments that promote acceptance and protect individuals from discrimination and harassment based on the protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Creed and/or religion is one of the grounds that is both an individual right and a collective responsibility. The DSBN recognizes and embraces the creed diversity represented in its students, staff, and community members.

We invite you to share with us your family's most significant creed-based holiday(s). We will work together through the accommodation request process as Valley Way School recognizes the importance of families celebrating their creed and/or religious beliefs and practices. Please email us at [vvwy@dsbn.org](mailto:vvwy@dsbn.org).

The DSBN has created a [Family Guide: Recognizing and Respecting Creed Diversity](#) to support families in requesting accommodations. This guide has also been translated into the following languages; Arabic, French, Hungarian, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese, which can be viewed on the [DSBN Equity webpage](#). For a list of Days of Significance, please refer to the [Days of Significance Calendar](#)

## GRADE 8 FUNDRAISER

Our grade 8 students will be organizing a variety of events throughout the year to support their class trips and graduation event. The students will be directly involved in planning, advertising and running events with teacher and principal guidance and supervision. They have planned on selling Hot Chocolate to students on December 6th, December 13th and December 20th to students that are interested. If you would like your child to participate, please send a loonie with your child on those days and gr. 8 students will be around to classrooms to collect money and distribute hot chocolate to those that wish to participate.

The following community announcements were designed by Milah and Josh who are both in grade 8.



## JOY WEEK AT VALLEY WAY

At Valley Way we would like to celebrate the Holiday Season by having a Spirit Day every day starting on December 19<sup>th</sup>. As always, students are to make sure that items/clothing are appropriate for our learning environment. Clothing must be free of inappropriate or discriminatory images or wording to maintain the dignity and well-being of all members of our school community.

Date	Theme
December 19th	Cozy Sweater Day
December 20th	PJ Day
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Toque/ Hat/ Head Covering Day
December 22nd	Dress as your favourite Holiday Movie/ Movie Character
December 23rd	Festive/ Holiday Wear Day

## PROJECT SHARE DONATIONS

This year Valley Way is collecting donations to benefit Project SHARE. With your help, we will be collecting food and toys to provide for families in the Niagara Region this holiday season.

**Please ensure that any donations are received by Dec. 7, 2022.**

**Possible donations could include:**

- Canned Fruits and vegetables, pasta and sauce, etc
- Baby food including rice cereal (pablum), baby formula, diapers and Pull Ups
- Toiletry items like shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste

**Thank you for your help and support!**



## HEARING AND VISION CLINIC – REVISED DATE

The Hearing and Vision Clinic will be at Valley Way on December 21, 2022.

## 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 outdoor learning or gym classes. 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.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

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.dsbm.org/inclementweather>.

### 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.

### 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://dsbn.org), all school websites, DSBM social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

Snow Day activities for kindergarten to Grade 8, will be available on the DSBM website on days when schools are closed due to inclement weather.

## Gino Pizza Days

If you would like to order pizza for your child(ren), please see ordering information by [clicking here](#). Pizza Days will be on Dec. 7, Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, Feb. 15, Mar. 1, Mar. 29, April 12, April 26, May 10, May 24, and June 7.

## SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Throughout the year important forms will be posted on School Cash Online. Even if you do not use school Cash Online to make payments, you will need to create an account to complete to access permission forms and other information that will be shared throughout the year. It takes just five minutes to register for this service. You will be able to access the service by visiting our school website and clicking "School Cash Online". You'll find more information about the system and links to registration and support there. It is a safe and secure portal.

## 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>





**ALLERGIES** We strongly encourage parents and students to respect those who have an anaphylactic condition. We are asking students to bring snacks that are free from nuts. Peanut and nut allergies are usually severe and can be fatal. Even tiny amounts of nut particles or residue can cause someone with a nut allergy to have a strong reaction.

## REPORTING AN ABSENCE

To report an absence please use the Safe Arrival System <https://www.dsbm.org/safearrival/> or call 1-866-606-5567. If you cannot access Safe Arrival System, please call the school. 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.

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Our second School Advisory Council meeting was held on Tuesday, November 1. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:00 pm. New members are always welcome to join.

## 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](http://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.