



Valley Way Public School

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NOVEMBER 2022- VIPER UPDATE

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Our staff and students have been working hard over the past couple of months. When parents are engaged in their child's learning, the child will do better at school. With this in mind, November is an excellent time to reflect on how we are working together to support your child's learning.

All students will receive their Progress Report Card on Thursday, November 17, marking the mid-way point for Term 1. Please take some time to review, with your child, their strengths and next steps that have been identified in the progress report. On the evening of November 23rd, you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress to date during the parent-teacher conferences. Information will be provided in regards to booking a 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.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES

Treaties Recognition Week.....	Nov. 6
International Inuit Day.....	Nov. 7
Indigenous Veteran's Day	Nov. 8
Remembrance Day.....	Nov. 11
Diabetes Awareness Day.....	Nov.14
Louis Riel Day.....	Nov. 16
Progress Reports Home	Nov. 17
School Spirit Day - Wear school colours/ spiritwear.....	Nov. 18
Dental Screening.....	Nov. 21-23
Interview Evening.....	Nov. 23
PA Day.....	Nov. 25



PA DAY

Friday, November 25 has been designated as a PA Day for the District School Board of Niagara.

KINDERGARTEN COMMUNICATION OF LEARNING: INITIAL OBSERVATIONS AND THE ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORT- GRADES 1-8

On November 17, 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. 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 17, 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.

We look forward to partnering with you and your child for a year of great learning and growth.

TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK

Ontario has designated November 6-12, 2022 as Treaties Recognition Week with the goal of promoting education and awareness about treaties and treaty relationships. DSNB 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>

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

On Friday, November 11, the 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 of the family and friends of our school community that have given of themselves to serve Canada. If you have a family member or a friend that you would like to honour during our assembly, please submit a photo (in uniform if possible) with the following information: name of the student, name of veteran or person currently serving and relationship to the student, rank (if known), years of service (if known), any other relevant information you are willing to share. This information is due by November 9 to be included in the assembly.

PINK SHIRT DAYS – BULLYING AWARENESS

The DSBN Pink Shirt (Every) Day Kick-Off Campaign is taking place November 14 to 18, 2022 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 22, 2023 as Pink Shirt Day to celebrate a positive school climate.

SPECIAL LUNCH ORDERS: Pizza Days are returning!

We will be starting Pizza days later in November. Ordering information will be sent home with instructions as how to order.

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.dsbn.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.dsbn.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 7th, 2022 at 5:00 pm. New members are always welcome to join.

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, all school websites, DSBM social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

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.

MONTHLY UPDATES- Our updates are sent via School Messenger through email on the first school day of the new month.