Dear Parents/Guardians,

We had a wonderful start to a new school year! We are looking forward to working in partnership to motivate, inspire, and educate as we have the honour of taking part in shaping the lives of our next generation.

Parents/guardians play a significant role in the success that a child experiences at school. For this reason, the connection between the parent/guardian and the school is an essential one. Your input, support and involvement in setting and maintaining high academic and behavioural standards and goals are encouraged and most welcomed. We hope that you will join us at our School Council meetings as well as take part in volunteer opportunities at our school. If you have a desire to volunteer at Don Valley, please call or drop by the office to discuss this opportunity further. School Crossing Guards are also needed. If this is of interest to you, please contact Toronto Police Services, 33 Division at 416-808-3392 for more information.

We would like to thank the staff as they have been working hard to create the best possible learning environment for your children. The staff at Don Valley believe that open communication and an active involvement in a child’s education are vital and can only enhance the success of our students. We look forward to meeting all of our parents/guardians at our Curriculum Night on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 which will start at 6:30PM in our cafeteria. We will also have sample sizes of our Physical Education uniforms. The purchase form is included in this newsletter.

We have some new staff members this year, who come to us highly recommended. Welcome to Ms. Serebrin and Ms. Radulovic. The names of our entire staff at Don Valley, who are excited to work with your children, are in this newsletter.

Our caretaking staff has done a tremendous job getting the school ready for classes. There has been a lot of construction due to the installation of solar panels on our roof. We would like to thank Ms. Cooper, and Mr. Perras for ensuring that Don Valley’s students return to a healthy, clean and safe school environment. I would like to acknowledge Ms. Phenix and Ms. McDermott, our office staff, who have been busy enrolling new students and making sure that all required information and paperwork were ready for a smooth beginning to the new school year. We are fortunate to have a wonderful team here at Don Valley!

This first newsletter is designed to give you information regarding school routines and upcoming events so that you can familiarize yourself with school expectations and begin planning your fall calendars. Some of this information can also be found in the students’ agendas. Please keep the attached information about Don Valley in a special place at home for reference during the school year. We have list of opportunities for our students to join clubs and sports intramurals or teams. These opportunities will take place at different times of the year. Your child should be listening to our daily announcements for these opportunities; however, the name(s) of the staff leading these great opportunities have been included with this list so that you or your child can inquire about these different opportunities.

We are committed to working with you for the success of our students. We believe that students have a greater chance of succeeding when parents/guardians are involved and informed. There are several ways in which you can assist at home:

- We would like to stress the importance of attending school regularly and punctually. If your child is to be absent or late for school for any reason, please notify our school. A note may be sent to the office prior to an absence or you may call our Safe Arrival Line at 416-395-3012.
- Homework and completion of assignments is vital to the learning process. It is necessary for each student to take time each evening to complete assignments and/or review the day’s work. Parents are asked to monitor progress on a nightly basis.
- Regular sleep habits and healthy food habits contribute to success. We recognize that this is sometimes difficult with our adolescents; however, we encourage parents to make this a priority.
- Have high expectations for academic as well as behavioural standards at home and at school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to give us a call, drop by or make an appointment to see us.

Thank you for your support and partnership. We look forward to working with you this year!

A. Lee
Principal
Staff at Don Valley:

Principal: Ms. Lee  
Office Administrator: Ms. Phenix  
Secretary: Ms. McDermott  
Caretaking Staff: Ms. Cooper, Mr. Perras  

Teaching Staff: Ms. Dinescu, Ms. Hambleton, Ms. Kear, Ms. Micallef, Ms. Nakra, Ms. Radulovic, Ms. Ramlalsingh, Ms. Serebrin, Mr. Smith, Ms. Stellato, and Ms. Tatum  

Guidance: Mr. Fuh  
ESL Itinerant: Ms. Carride  

Educational Assistants: Ms. Baksh, Ms. Gonsalves, Ms. Ash and Ms. Junkin  

Lunchroom Staff: Ms. Lee, Ms. Raghe, Ms. Salarzadeh Jemali, and Ms. Yousif

Allergy Alert

We have several students attending school with severe allergies to peanuts and peanut products. These allergies are potentially life threatening; even the smell of peanuts or peanut butter can trigger a severe, life threatening reaction.

As a result, it is necessary for us to request that parents/guardians and children refrain from sending any food to school which might contain peanut butter or peanuts. We all need to be vigilant in order that no child at Don Valley is put at risk due to a food allergy.

Dates to Remember:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terry Fox Run/Walk</td>
<td>September 30th</td>
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<td>Curriculum Night</td>
<td>October 5th</td>
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<td>PA Day</td>
<td>October 7th</td>
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<td>IEPs go home</td>
<td>October 17th</td>
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<td>School Council Meeting</td>
<td>October 26th</td>
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<td>Grade 8 Information Night</td>
<td>October 27th</td>
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<td>Kearney Overnight Trip (7A/7B)</td>
<td>October 24-26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kearney Overnight Trip (7C/7D)</td>
<td>October 26-28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kearney Overnight Trip (8A/8B)</td>
<td>October 31-November 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picture Retake Day</td>
<td>November 4th</td>
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<td>Remembrance Day</td>
<td>November 11th</td>
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<td>Progress Reports go home</td>
<td>November 14th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent/Guardian-Teacher Interviews:</td>
<td>November 17th (PM)</td>
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<td>November 18th (AM)</td>
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Reminder:

The Board’s insurance, “insuremykids Protection Plan”, is part of your September Forms. Please sign up if you need or want it. If you would like another copy, please contact our office.
Parental Contact and Student Emergency Information

If you have moved, taken a new position or purchased a new cell phone, please ensure that we have your contact information in case of an emergency. Please ensure that your contact information is updated and returned to the school as soon as possible. We must have contact numbers for parents and an alternate person’s number in the event that we cannot locate you. As well, please ensure that any potentially life threatening allergies or health conditions are clearly indicated.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Safe Arrival Policy

Attendance is closely monitored by the teachers and the office staff. Students are expected to be on time for school and to be in the school yard by 8:30 a.m. and by 1:15 p.m. if your child is going home for lunch in order not to be late.

In the event that your child will be absent, please notify us by 8:30 a.m. (before 12:30 p.m. for afternoon absence only) using one of the following methods:

Telephone 416-395-3012 as our answering machine will record your message until 8:00 a.m.

If you know in advance that your child will be unable to attend class due to an appointment or family commitment, please send a note to the office explaining when and for how long your child will be away from school.

It is your responsibility to inform the school of your child's absence. Your child's safety is of prime concern to all of us at Don Valley. Should we not be informed of your child's absence, we will follow through with a

School Council

Members of the Council are comprised of parents/guardians of students here at Don Valley. Along with Ms. Lee, Ms. Serebrin and Ms. Tatum, representatives of the teaching staff, we intend to work together to enhance our children’s educational experience. If you would like to contact one of the Council members, we have a School Council Mailbox in the school office.

Our next School Council Meetings will be on October 26th, 6pm in our Library. A reminder and flyer will be sent home closer to the date. Please join us!

The School Council members for 2016-2017 are:

Chair: Fiona Paylor
Vice-Chair: Petek Oktem
Secretary: Kristyn Chepelsky

We have many members at large! Please join us!
## Sports Teams/Intramural Sports/Sports Clubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sports Teams/Intramural Sports/Sports Clubs</th>
<th>Staff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country Team</td>
<td>Mr. Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball Intramural and Team</td>
<td>Ms. Ramlalsingh/Ms. Micallef (Intramural)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Smith (Team)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball Intramural and Team</td>
<td>Ms. Ramlalsingh/Ms. Micallef (Intramural)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Smith/Ms. Phenix (Team)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badminton Club</td>
<td>Mr. Smith/Ms. Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ultimate Frisbee Team</td>
<td>Mr. Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Team</td>
<td>Ms. Hambleton/Ms. Radulovic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Softball Team</td>
<td>Ms. Serebrin/Ms. Radulovic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track and Field Team</td>
<td>Ms. Serebrin/Mr. Smith</td>
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## Clubs/Great Opportunities for our Students

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clubs/Great Opportunities for our Students</th>
<th>Staff/Organization/Parent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Women on the Move/Go Girls</td>
<td>Big Brothers &amp; Sisters/Ms. Serebrin/Ms. Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior and Senior Band and Strings</td>
<td>Ms. Hambleton/Ms. Serebrin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys 2 Men/Cop Chats</td>
<td>Officer Neil and Ms. Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newcomers Club</td>
<td>Big Brothers &amp; Sisters/Ms. Nakra/Ms. Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yearbook/Technology Club (e.g. photography/Videos/Filming)</td>
<td>Mr. Fadaee Tehrani (Parent)/Ms. Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Council (takes care of Eco Initiatives, Dances, Spirit Days, Social Justice Initiatives, fund raising initiatives, etc.)</td>
<td>Ms. Hambleton/Ms. Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knitting and Crochet</td>
<td>Ms. Lee/Ms. Nakra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Helpers and Library accessible for students during lunch hour (daily)</td>
<td>Ms. Kear/Ms. Radulovic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Helpers/Announcers</td>
<td>Ms. Phenix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddies</td>
<td>Ms. Stellato/Ms. Micallef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking/Baking</td>
<td>Ms. Ramlalsingh/Ms. Stellato/Ms. Micallef</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Homework Club (8:05am-8:35am Daily)</td>
<td>Ms. Junkin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video Games</td>
<td>Ms. Nakra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choir/Glee Club</td>
<td>Ms. Serebrin/Ms. Hambleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coding Club</td>
<td>Ms. Tatum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Olympics</td>
<td>Ms. Tatum/Mr. Smith/Ms. Hambleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Club (2 times a week to prepare for our Gauss Contest)</td>
<td>Ms. Dinescu/Ms. Hambleton/ Ms. Tatum/Ms. Nakra</td>
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<tr>
<td>French Café</td>
<td>Ms. Dinescu</td>
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</table>
Character Education: A Partnership with Families

With a new school year ahead, we continue to develop character in all students and this is a shared responsibility between home and school. There is a need for family, community and schools to engage cooperatively to encourage students' learning and maturing as social beings.

Throughout the year, we will continue to focus on the 10 attributes identified at the TDSB and we encourage parents to reinforce these attributes at home whenever possible: Respect, Responsibility, Empathy, Kindness and Caring, Teamwork, Fairness, Honesty, Co-operation, Integrity and Perseverance.

Some tips for supporting Character Development in the Home, include:

- Use the language of character development and be clear about your values
- Model and teach respectful manners
- Listen to your children and spend time with children in shared activities
- As a family, take part in community service projects or civic activities
- Establish family traditions and enjoy family celebrations together
- Teach your children to be responsible and discerning with their choices in media, entertainment and online activities
- Teach your children how to resolve conflict in a peaceful, respectful way
- Become involved in your child's school life from Kindergarten to Grade 12
- Live and model character every day

For more information, please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/character

For the month of September Don Valley focused on Good Manners and Respect!

Code of Conduct

We strive towards a peaceful, safe and happy learning environment for your children. The Code of Conduct gives us a shared understanding of the expectations and the consequences.

Please take time to go through this with your child. More information is in your child’s agenda. Let us all work together to ensure that Don Valley is a safe and happy school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our Code of Conduct is based on the recognition of each person's basic rights.

General premise:

- Follow directions the first time they are given
- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself
- No name calling, teasing or swearing
- Remove your hat or hood, and walk quietly and respectfully in the school
- Play games that are safe and don't hurt others
Too Sick for School?

Sometimes it is hard to decide if your child is well enough to come to school. Students that are sick with nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, coughs, sore throats and colds need to stay home until their temperature is normal for 24 hours and until they have no vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours. This helps prevent the spread of germs in your child's classroom as well as allow the child to regain their strength.

We want Healthy Children who are Ready to Learn at school. The silver lining is that with each illness, your child will develop some immunity to that particular virus or Don Valley has assisted in the establishment of guidelines to help protect your family from illness, particularly as we enter flu season.

Among the ways to protect your family from illness are:

- Keep children who are sick home. Do not send them to school.
- When calling the school to report a child’s illness, please report the symptoms that the child is experiencing. This will help the school office administrator quickly identify clusters of children with similar symptoms.
- Teach your children to wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and avoid other people until they are well.

Safety First at Don Valley

Visitors to the School and Lunchtime Procedures

For security reasons and to minimize the disruption of classes or unknown adults in the school yard or in the school, all visitors to Don Valley must report to the office. This is also the case for parents/guardians who want to stay on school property while our students are playing during lunch recess. For safety reasons, we require you to come to the office to sign in, wear a visitor’s tag and enjoy your visit at Don Valley. It is important that our staff and students identify you as a visitor and not a stranger. Please also remember to sign out when your visit is over.

Parents/guardians have signed a form to indicate that your child will either stay at school for lunch or go home for lunch. If your child is staying for lunch, for safety reasons, your child will not be allowed to leave school property during the lunch hour unless parents/guardians make that request by calling us or that request is in writing and received in our office.

We have high expectations for our students so it is understood that students who are staying for lunch will:

- Be courteous, respectful and polite
- Observe school Code of Behaviour
- Cooperate with lunch supervisors and staff on duty
- Not leave school property during the lunch hour without written permission/call from parent(s)/guardian(s) received in the office

Thank you for supporting Safety First at Don Valley!
Dear Parent, Guardian, or Caregiver:

Your child is involved in learning activities designed to develop good character and help children make good choices. Our focus in October will be on RESPONSIBILITY.

What does responsibility mean to you?

Your child can show responsibility by:
- taking care of himself or herself and others in the family
- getting up on time, getting ready for school, and having breakfast
- completing homework and keeping his or her school work organized
- helping with household chores without being asked
- keeping promises

Questions to discuss with your child:
- What is responsibility, and what does it mean to be responsible?
- What are some of your specific responsibilities at school, at home, and in the community?
- How can acting irresponsibly affect others?

Projects to do together:
- Assist your child with organizing his or her school notebooks and agenda.
- Plan family activities, and involve your child in the planning process.
- Set clear expectations for your child, and hold him or her accountable for his or her actions (for example, setting bedtimes, curfews, and wake-up times).
- Teach your child to be financially and environmentally responsible.

Encouraging Responsibility in Your Child:
- Remind your child about being responsible for his or her school work by checking his or her agenda and/or school work every day.
- Remember to be patient as your child learns to become responsible.
- Encourage and praise your child when he or she is responsible.
- Share an example of a situation in which someone you know behaved responsibly.

Thank you for supporting our Character Development program.