March 2020

Valleyfield JS Newsletter

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers:

Spring is upon us and we are all looking forward to more sun and less snow! February was a fun month for our students as they were able to take part in Scientists in the School, Valentine's Day celebrations and the TDSB, "I Read Canadian" initiative.

Special thanks you to parents who were able to participate in Parent/Teacher interviews, whether in person or by phone. Your active participation in your child's education is essential to their success. If you missed your appointment, please reschedule with your child's teacher.

With the March Break around the corner I want to take a moment to wish everyone a safe and relaxing week off. Hopefully the sun will shine and you will have some time to spend with family and friends.

To assist us in organizing classes for next year, we need to know if any of our present students will be moving over the summer months. If you are moving please let the office know.

We are continuing to accept Kindergarten Registrations for the 2020-2021 school year. In order to register, please bring the required information as was discussed in the previous newsletter.

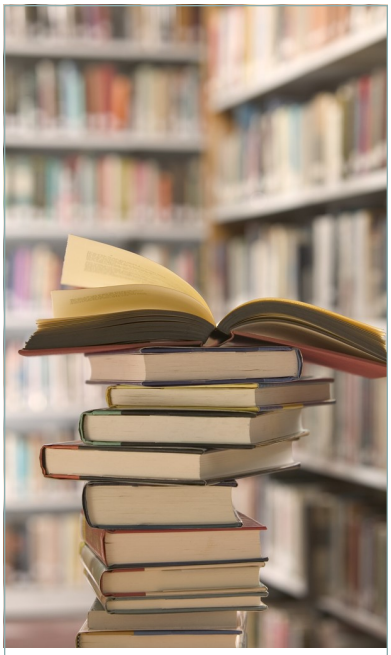
Staff at Valleyfield Jr. School wishes you and your family a great week off. See you on Monday, March 23, 2020.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dixon
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES:

- March 12
  Parent Council Meeting
- March 16-22
  March Break
- March 28
  Parent Conference



END OF THE DAY PICK UP

If you will be picking up your child at 3pm and you do not want them to go on the bus, please call the main office by 2:30pm so that your child's teacher may be notified to make the necessary arrangements.

If your child is regularly picked up at the end of the day, *please meet them outside* at the pick-up area at Exit 2 located at the North East end of the school. Kindergarten students and their siblings are picked up in the Kindergarten yard. There will be a teacher there to supervise pick up. It is important that you pick up your students on time at 3:05pm.

DROPPING OFF LUNCHES

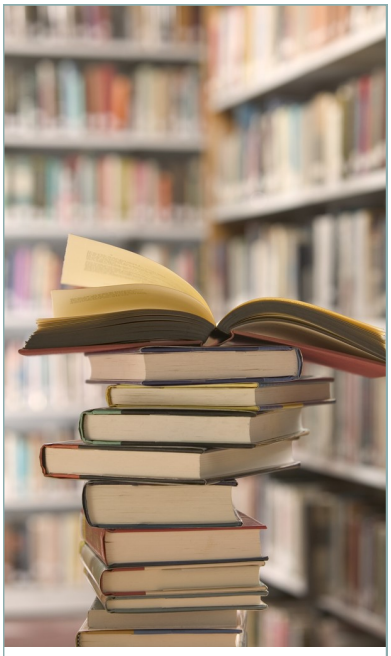
Please remember to drop off lunches no later than 11:15am. You may put the lunches on the table located in the main hall by the office. Labels are provided.

PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Our next parent council meeting will take place on **Thursday, March 12** from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Babysitting is available. All are welcome!

LOST AND FOUND

We have many items left behind by students. Please remind your child(ren) to check the lost and found for misplaced/lost items. If you happen to be at the school, please check the lost and found for your missing items.



Toronto District School Board Parent Conference 2020

Join us for the Parents as Partners Conference on Saturday, March 28, 2020!

This all-inclusive conference is organized by TDSB parents for TDSB parents, guardians and caregivers. Participate in workshops, network with parents and community agencies and learn new strategies to support your child's success.

Registration opens in 2020! Register early as there is limited space in each workshop!

Who:

- ALL parents/guardians/caregivers of TDSB students are invited and welcome to attend.

What:

- Parents as Partners Conference 2020 is a FREE conference. Whether your child is just beginning on their educational journey in elementary school or closer to graduation and planning for the future, there are informative and empowering sessions for parents/guardians/ caregivers of students of all ages and stages of education.

Where:

- Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Rd, Etobicoke, Ontario

Why:

- The Parents as Partners Conference 2020 is planned by parents, for parents and we are so pleased to be able to offer a selection of sessions that cover a broad range of topics to provide parents with useful information and resources to help your child improve their achievement and well-being at school and at home.

We continue to monitor the ongoing labour situation and the potential impact it may have on the Parents as Partners Conference. As of now, the conference is scheduled as planned and registration will open in late February. If plans change, registrants will be notified by email. Thank you for your continued support.

Toronto District School Board
Finance Department
E-mail: belltimes@tdsb.on.ca

Dear Parents/Guardians at Valleyfield JS,

Last June, Toronto District School Board Trustees approved an operating budget plan for the 2019-20 school year that required $67.8 million in staff reductions and changes to programs/services to address provincial government funding reductions and the TDSB's annual structural deficit.

One of the changes approved last year was to stagger school start and end times at a number of elementary schools starting September 2020. Staggering school start and end times allows us to plan bus routes more efficiently, which is projected to save the TDSB approximately $2.5 million dollars. This is important as the TDSB currently spends more on student transportation than we receive from the government. We anticipate that these changes will also result in improvements to our transportation services.

As of September 2020, the start and end times of your school will change to:
Start time (morning bell): 8:15 a.m.
End time (afternoon bell): 2:50 p.m.

Please note that supervision will continue to be provided 15 minutes before the morning bell and 15 minutes after the afternoon bell.

We understand that this may be a change to your family's routine. However, if we did not reduce transportation costs by staggering school start and end times, we would have to reduce other services and supports to students that would have more direct and negative impact on classroom teaching.

Beyond the cost savings of adjusting bell times to find efficiencies in student transportation, other benefits include:

- Improving service to remaining routes, as fewer bus drivers will be needed, which will help address the ongoing bus driver shortage;
- Ensuring that we maintain transportation services for all students currently being bussed (no service reductions) and maintain other important supports and services for all students; and,
- Removing approximately 55 busses from transportation routes, thereby reducing the board's carbon footprint by approximately 2,750 metric tonnes per year.

Public Meetings and Webinars

We will be holding in-person and online information meetings to answer questions and provide any additional information parents/guardians may need in order to assist with this transition.

In-person Information Meetings:

Thursday, March 5 at 7 p.m. at Richview CI (1738 Islington Ave., Etobicoke)

Thursday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at David and Mary Thomson CI (125 Brockley Dr., Scarborough)

Child-minding and interpretation services will be available upon request for the in-person meetings. Please email belltimes@tdsb.on.ca to request these services.

Virtual Information Meetings – Online Webchat:

Thursday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Thursday, March 26 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca at the dates and times listed above to connect to the Virtual Information Meeting (online webchat).

While we understand that these changes may impact some families more than others, we are hopeful that everyone will understand that changing school start and end times will help prevent further cuts to programs and supports for students.
Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/belltimes for more information about the changes. If you have any questions, please email belltimes@tdsb.on.ca or speak with your school Principal.

Sincerely,

Craig Snider
Executive Officer, Finance