



**Matthew Elementary
School Announcements
November 3rd, 2009**

H1N1 Vaccinations!

Unfortunately we have no information to offer at this time with respect to when, where, or how the vaccinations for school children will be carried out. Our best advice for parents is for you to contact the Department of Health, who is the authority responsible for this. We will be sure to contact you when we get any specific information, and our webpage will always have our most current information.

Where can I get updates?

When information becomes available to us we will share it with you as quickly as possible. Recognize that our area of expertise is education and although we appreciate your confidence in us, we really cannot offer advice from a medical perspective. We will endeavor to keep our web site updated so you can always check there for new information. We also have our Synervoice system which we will use to inform you when information warrants, and we will continue to update you regularly in written form. Please consider these sources before calling the school office for information. Although we are available to you at any time, our priority at the moment is dealing with calls from parents regarding absences, locating parents for children who may get sick during the day, and attending to staffing issues related to the flu. And, please do not leave change of transport information on our voice mail system. If you need to change the way your child will get home at the end of the day, please speak to one of us personally.

School Photos!

We will be going ahead with School Photos on Thursday. There will be another session planned for retakes so do not be disappointed or pressured if your child is sick on Thursday. We do plan to do all the students in attendance on Thursday, so please send them prepared.

Homework for the Sick?

If your child is out over the next week with flu and cold symptoms, please do not stress over the homework. On one hand the children are not well enough to do the work, and on the other we do not wish to add to the responsibilities of caregivers as they work to support their sick children. It is also difficult for us to plan for work to be done at home because all of the children will be at different places, and because some of the work may require direct instruction from the teacher.

What about poor attendance?

Please do not let poor attendance rates be an indicator for you that there is nothing beneficial that we can do with the small numbers. Teachers are always eager to work with small numbers of students, and if numbers are low we will begin to focus on areas of development specific for each child.

When should my child return to school after being sick?

If a child has been off sick from school, parents are usually the best judge on when they can return. A good rule of thumb which seems to be followed in many institutions is to keep your child home until they have been symptom free for 24hrs.