



Matthew Matters

Volume 1

September 8, 2008

Welcome Back!!!

We hope you all enjoyed a fabulous summer and we are very pleased to welcome you back to what we are sure will be an amazing year. This volume of Matthew Matters will provide information necessary for us to start the year, but if you have any questions about information not covered in this document, please call us.

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Mark Your Calendar!

- * September 15—
Curriculum Night.
- * September 17 & 18—
school closed for regional
PD event.
- * September 23 - Kinder-
Start Session for Parents
- * September 29—Terry
Fox Walk and Healthy
Commotions
- * October 13 — Thanksgiv-
ing Holiday.

What Parents Need to Know!!!

Curriculum Night is September 15, at 7:00pm

This is your first formal opportunity to show your children that their education is important to you. Come meet our new staff members, your child's teacher, and find out what is new at Matthew!!

Allergy Alert!!!!

As in past years we have children in our school with life-threatening allergies. Please remember that **Peanuts, Peanut Products, and Fish** are not permitted in our school. Be sure to check the labels of the products you buy for your child's snacks to ensure they are free of these items. A friendly reminder that some restaurants use peanut oil to cook their foods and these are not permitted in our school. Please check with the business you are purchasing from as most have switched to other peanut free oils. We ask you to also make sure that the business has not stored the nut free product directly with other nut laden foods, as these could carry enough of the allergen to kill a child. It is also very important to remember this before sending class snacks during special events. Please make sure you check with your child's teacher preparing class items. We say a very big **THANK YOU** in advance for helping us keep our school safe.

Parking and Student Drop Off

We thank all of those parents who have returned the parking policy signature sheets that we sent home Friday. It is very important that we follow this policy to ensure the safety of our students.

Fundraising

As per previous years we try to limit fundraising. There will be two fundraising ventures before Christmas—Our vegetable sale will go ahead for Thanksgiving, and we are very excited about a partnership we have formed with Downhome and will be circulating more info on this fundraiser when it becomes available. We thank you in advance for your support and involvement.

Grade Seven and Eight News!!!

Through discussions with students, staff, and parents we are highlighting some particular policies and guidelines to help shape our school day with adolescent students. Parents need to be aware that:

- grade seven and eight students can leave our building at 12:00 to go for the lunch period. If parents do not want their children to leave the school they should contact us;
- we will be closely monitoring attendance and lateness. Please make sure your child gets to school on time;
- Parents and students need to know that if we smell smoke on a child we will be contacting the home. It is illegal for students of this age to smoke, and if we find cigarettes on any student it will be treated as an illegal offense;
- parents need also to speak to their child about the need to get assignments handed in on time. We will be watching this very closely as the year progresses; and,

Because of the maturity level of our grade eight students we will be planning events to capitalize on their leadership potential and abilities. We ask parents to encourage their children to get involved in these activities as they will make school more enjoyable and fulfilling.

Breakfast Program

We must send a very big Matthew Elementary Thank You to all of the volunteers who made our Breakfast Program a success last year. We are planning to start this program again on September 15. If you are available from 7:45am—9:00am, and you would like to help out please call us at the school, or email Lori O'Brien at loriob@nf.sympatico.ca

School Foot Wear and Dress

As you know, students are **expected to change their outdoor footwear immediately after arrival at school**. Please be sure that **any footwear purchased for school has a non-marking sole**. If you inadvertently purchase shoes that leave marks on the floor they will not be able to be worn in school. We remind you as well that **sneakers with wheels** are not allowed at school. They are the “in thing”, but they are extremely dangerous in and around school, and, they leave terrible black marks on our floors.

And please do not forget our school dress code which prohibits the showing of bellies and backs, clothing with offensive symbols or writing, and very short skirts.

Nutrition!!

One of the most important things parents can do to help their child learn is to ensure they have lunches that are nutritious. Water and milk should replace sugary drinks and pop, and we must find substitutes for chips and bars as lunch or snack items. The world health organization is quoted as saying that the children we have in school today are the only generation not expected to outlive their parents. Preparing lunches is a difficult job—but our children's future depends on the adults making the right choices for them.

**Please return your
child's Emergency
School Contact sheet
as soon as possible!!!**

Welcome Chartwells Catering Service, our new food service provider.

Service will start on Thursday September 11.

Please let us know how you like our new menu and service.

Please remember that only bus students are permitted to ride the bus. If you require your child to ride the bus, or change routes, please send us a note in advance.