



Matthew Matters

Volume 1

September 8, 2011

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Mark Your Calendar!

- * September 14th, 6:30pm, Curriculum Night!
- * September 29—school closed for regional PD event.
- * September 27 - Kinder-Start Session for Parents
- * October 11 — Thanksgiving Holiday.

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.

What Parents Need to Know!!!

Allergy Alert!!!!

As in past years we have children in our school with life-threatening allergies. Please remember that, **Nuts, Nut 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 nut 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 before 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 will be sending home our parking policy signature sheets tomorrow. Please make sure they are returned to your child's teacher promptly and please make sure you follow our policy closely. We will be policing our roadways in the coming days and asking parents to comply to our policy.

Parents should also note that the Bus Student Entrance in the kindergarten wing will only be open for bus students. All students walking, or being dropped off will have to use the Main Entrance, or the Side Entrance by the playing field.

Cafeteria Services
and our Breakfast Program
will resume Monday, September 12.

**Curriculum Night is Wednesday,
September 14th, at 6:30pm. See you then!!!**

Scent Restricted Zone

As is the case in many public buildings, Matthew Elementary works to be scent free. Please make sure not to wear scented cosmetics or products into the school.

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;
- Students and parents need to know that the school reserves the right to monitor the food being brought back to school during the lunch period. Sugary snacks, sport drinks, and caffeine laden drinks like red bull should never be brought to school. Please talk to your child about what he or she buys at lunch time and please make sure you help them make the right choices.
- 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; and,
- 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.

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. 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.

Cafeteria Ordering

We are pleased to announce some changes in our cafeteria ordering routines. Traditionally we would send home a menu every week which parents would fill out and send in. This resulted in an enormous amount of copying, and in some cases was restrictive to parents who might have misplaced the weekly menu and order form. This year we are sending home a menu that can be placed on the fridge or stapled in your child's agenda, and we are asking parents just to write their child's order information on a piece of note paper, or other scrap paper that you might have at home. Please include their name and homeroom teacher's name, along with the correct money for their order, and this will be collected by the cafeteria staff in the morning.

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

**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.**

**Please drop your email address off to the office
so we can add you to our parent email list!!!**