



Matthew Matters

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2009/2010

School Holidays

May 24

June 24 is our Last Day

Mark Your Calendar!

- * April 29th—School Closed for students
- * May 3rd and 4th—Heritage Fair
- * May 5th—Spring Concert

Teachers Leading Teachers

This year a group of teachers from our school planned a provincial conference to help teachers with their learning on Individualized Reading Instruction. This conference will be held at Terra Nova Park Lodge this coming Thursday and so **our school will be closed on that day**. This is another example of the excellence in our school and something of which we can all be proud.

Heritage Fair

Our Heritage Fair will be held on Monday, May 3rd and Tuesday May 4th. Parent viewing sessions have been scheduled for Monday afternoon from 2:30—3:30 and for Tuesday morning from 9:00 to 12:00. Announcements on the winning projects will be made prior to lunch on Tuesday. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Spring Concert

It's that time of the year again!! Our students have been practicing for our spring concert and it will be held on **Wednesday, May 5th**. Doors will open at 6:30, and the concert will start at 7:00. Tickets will be available this Thursday. As with all of our concerts, our tickets will only be \$4.00!

Provincial Funding for Violin Group

Miss Chafe has been busy preparing for the start of a violin group next year. It is our hope that we will be able to purchase the instruments for student use so participation will not depend on parents being required to purchase them. To that end we must thank the Minister of Education, Dr. King, and the office of our Member, Mr. Fitzgerald for supporting this project with a donation of \$1000.00. We can't wait to get this group started.

April 29th — Date for School Closure

May 10th—Next Kinder Start Session

Secure School Policy and Drills

Over the course of this year we have been working to operationalize the Secure Schools Policy mandated by our school district. We have been meeting with teachers and students and feel we are ready to have our first Secure School Drill. As part of our plan we want to provide the following information to parents.

What is it?

A course of action necessary when incidents arise during the school day that pose an immediate threat to student and staff safety and well-being requiring school administrators to restrict student and staff movement throughout the building. Examples of such events are; death on school grounds, natural/industrial disaster, missing child, or any perceived threat within the school where it is deemed that students would be safer in their classrooms. Placing our building on Secure School Status can be used as a first level of security so as to gain time to facilitate an assessment of the school and situation at hand. It is activated and lifted by the principal and does not require a police response.

What does it look like?

An administrator or designate will use the PA to communicate "All staff and Students, Please Initiate Secure School Status". All classroom doors are then closed and secured, after allowing students from the hall to enter. All exit/entrance doors are locked. Attendance is taken by the teacher and teaching is continued. Missing children should be reported to the office through the PA. Emergency situations can be reported and discussed with the office through the PA and students have been informed that they won't be able to leave their classrooms during these times.

Although our District policy requires us to work toward implementing full Lock Down procedures, please do not confuse the two at this time. At this point we are working through the use of Secure Schools and as we move from here to the more serious Lock Down procedures we will be engaging parents.

Our first Secure Schools drill will be held on Wednesday, April 28. We will let you know how it goes!!

After School Plans by Students

Over the last little while we have been dealing with a large number of students who attempt to rearrange their after school plans while at school during the day. They leave home in the morning with the plan being that they will return home after school, but through the day decide they want to go to their friends house, for example. Our communication to them is that they must go home the way they had planned to with their parents in the morning before they came to school. They cannot just change their plans for social reasons. In some cases they rearrange plans expecting to change busses and we cannot permit this. Please make an effort to speak to your child about this.

Ball Hockey

Bonavista Stadium is offering Ball Hockey for all ages from May 1st to June 30th. The cost will be \$20.00 and anyone interested should call Mr. Lloyd Stagg at 468-7886 or 468-7804.

We are on the web

www.matthewe elementary.nl.ca