



Matthew Matters

Volume 4

November 3, 2008

Inside this issue:

School Photos	1
Your Child to Work	1
Scents	1
Remembrance Day	1
Spelling	2
Safe Schools	2
Writing Rubric	

School Photos!

School photos will be taken on November 6th and 7th. It is our intent that you would get them before Christmas. **Grades k-4 will be done on November 6th, and Grades 5-8 will be done on November 7th.** We will also be taking appointments for family pictures on November 6th. There is a \$10 sitting fee for family portraits. Please call the school to book an appointment

Take Your Child to Work Day!

November 5th is the national Take Your Child to Work Day. If any parent is planning to take part in this activity please let us know so that your child's attendance can be recorded properly.

Scents Restricted Zones!

A thank you to all of the parents and caregivers who continue to support us in our efforts to restrict scents in our school. Of particular concern are the Axe line of products, usually worn by our older males, and the scented hand sanitizers used by our younger students. Please make sure you pay careful attention when buying any of these products.

Remembrance Day

Our Remembrance Day assembly will take place on November 10th. It is scheduled to start at 9:00 am and as always, parents are welcome to attend.

2008/2009

School Closures

November 11
December 22 -January 4
February 16
March 16
April 10—20
May 18
June 25 is our Last Day

Mark Your Calendar!

- * November 6th, and 7th, school pictures.
- * November 10, Remembrance Day Assembly.
- * November 11, school holiday.
- * Christmas Concerts December 10 and 11

Thank you to the grade four students who saved \$120.00 in pennies to donate to our Breakfast Program! How many pennies is that?

How do you know?

Christmas Concert Dates

Grade 1, 3, 5, & 7—December 10.
Grade k, 2, 4, 6, & 8 December 11.

We Don't Do Spelling Anymore—Do We?

It has been interesting listening to the comments of students and some parents relative to changes we have made in some grades with respect to traditional spelling tests. Some research suggests that the traditional spelling test, which your child prepared for by memorizing a number of words, has little affect on a child's ability to spell, or on the child's ability to understand what is spelled. Consequently, many of our teachers are trying new things, and are meeting with great results. The fact that we are moving away from the traditional spelling test, however, does not mean that we have stopped teaching or assessing spelling. We just do it differently. Our goal is to individualize spelling as much as we can and to recognize the areas your child has trouble with so we can address his or her needs. As well, some of our spelling activities are geared at motivating the children to move forward, and are considered more fun by the students. So, spelling is very much alive at Matthew! The "Spellers" might be gone, but "spelling" is not.

Safe and Caring Schools.

This year we are focusing on several administrative issues related to Safe and Caring Schools. Ms. Harvey is heading an initiative to set up and train a new "Tragic Events Team", and the school administration is working to bring our school into compliance with the District Policy on School Security and School Lock Down procedures. These specific policies can be viewed through the District Web Site, but we will be communicating more formally with parents about school lock down procedures for primary and elementary schools. This is an important piece of work, and we will be meeting with parents as our plans are finalized.

CRT's and the Writing Rubric.

Some parents have been asking a lot of questions relative to the writing rubric we send home with report cards. In an attempt to help you understand this assessment tool we have scheduled an open meeting on November 26th, at 7pm, in the school Resource Centre. This will be a good time for you to ask questions, and to share in the schools initiative to improve student writing.

Parent Teacher Interviews will be taking place on December 4th, from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

Please limit the Halloween Treats your child is eating at home, and please do not send them to school. Halloween is fun, but we are still working to maintain a nutritious school environment.

Congratulations are extended to Sarah Pevie who won an honorable mention in a Provincial Natural Resources Poster Contest. Sarah had her work published in a 2009 calendar being promoted by the Department of Natural Resources.

Way to go Sarah!!!

We are on the web
www.matthwelementary.nl.ca