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H1N1 Information for Parents!

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H1N1

In an attempt to keep parents informed we share the following information regarding H1N1 and our school.

Please remember to take your medical advice from your doctor and the medical community. Although we often field questions from parents around sickness and other things, and it seems parents always appreciate the opinion of a teacher, we remind you that our area of professional expertise is in education.

Please stay informed. A number of current websites are available, as well as other information sources, but it appears that parents have not been aware of this. Several of these sites have links from our web site.

Please make decisions for your family based on the information from the medical authorities. Avoid information related to rumor that you cannot link to an expert in the area of health or education.

Please do not be surprised if information from all levels changes periodically. Every agency responding to this pandemic is tracking their response and its impact on a daily basis, but some things just cannot be planned for. Please be assured that when something changes from an educational perspective from what we first communicated, it is because we have found a better way, or the situation and information have changed.

Please expect schools to remain open unless staff levels at the school are depleted such that it would be unsafe to open.

To date our attendance has been exceptional.

If we do experience a level of poor attendance, please do not interpret this as a time when no work is done. In fact, on occasions when student attendance is low, teachers are able to work one on one with children. We look at this as a positive opportunity to get more done, not as a time when we do nothing.

2009/2010

School Holidays

November 11

December 22 -January 3

April 02—09

May 24

June 24 is our Last Day

Mark Your Calendar!

- * November 5th, and 6th, school pictures.
- * November 2nd, Kinder Start.
- * November 9, Remembrance Day Assembly.
- * November 11, school holiday.
- * Christmas Concerts December 9 and 10.

At this point we have no plans to cancel on site co-curricular activities like band or volleyball. These decisions will be made on a case by case basis taking into consideration attendance levels and staff availability. To date, our attendance has been great and we plan to proceed as normal.

At this point the direction on where and when vaccinations are to be completed should be attained from the local public health authority. We understand that there may be a change in the schedule that we distributed for public health earlier this week.

Our only direction with respect to keeping children home would be as we have always communicated. If your child is sick, or showing symptoms of sickness, then we would ask you to keep them home.

If your child gets sick while at school we will call, as we always do, to request that you come to get him or her.

Decisions about keeping your child home are personal and sometimes difficult decisions. Please understand that our best information at this time indicates that unless your child is sick, they should be in school. Will we keep our children home from Trick or Treat, hockey, skating, and other such events? It seems apparent that protecting our children from exposure to this virus will be difficult even if we do these things.

We have also been fielding questions about keeping children out until they are vaccinated. That is a decision you have to make, but realize that we do not yet have a certainty on when vaccinations will be available and that immunity does not result the minute the vaccine is given. Some medical reports indicate 7 to 10 days for immunity to be developed after vaccination. So, if your rationale is keeping them home until they are protected, that could be a very long time out of school.

Please focus on health and wellness as you progress through this ordeal. Good nutrition, active living, and a healthy lifestyle are very important at all times. And, be sure to follow the clean, cover, and contain procedures that have been communicated at school.

**A reminder that there is no Kindergarten
Monday—It is a Kinder Start Day!!!**

**Ms Butler's Kindergarten Classes
Switch Times on Tuesday!!**

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