



# Matthew Matters

Volume 7

December 10, 2008

## Inside this issue:

School Data	1
Concerts	1
December 17th	2
December 19th	2
Grade 5	2

## Updating School Office Data! Last Chance!!

We will be having a trial run of our home communication system this week. We hope that our system will fill an important role in communicating such things as parent teacher interviews, curriculum meetings, and emergency closures. This system has the capacity to call all of our parents in less than five minutes, but it depends on the accuracy of the telephone contact numbers that you provide us. As well, please be sure the second contact number you have provided is still accurate, and that the residence or business attached to that number is aware of our coming communications. **To date we have had no parents call to edit contact information and we are almost certain there should have been some calls.**

**It is also important for you to acknowledge receipt of the call by pressing the phone key indicated. If you do not acknowledge the call the system will keep calling you and your alternate numbers.**

## Christmas Concerts!

We are so excited that our concert nights have finally arrived. **The concerts start at seven and doors will not open until 6:30. We do not plan to sell tickets at the door!** Please observe the line up if you decide to come early, and please dress your children for the weather if they will be in line with you. We thank you in advance for being patient and courteous as you wait for the doors to open. **Please be sure to let all of your family members know that the doors do not open until 6:30pm. This is very important given the rain that is in the forecast.** At some times in the past we have had nans and pops who have had to wait in a cold and wet line up for longer than they expected. Please remind everyone as well that you are required to stay for the entire show. It is proper etiquette not to leave a show early, and you are coming to enjoy all of our students perform, not just your own.

We ask parents to think carefully about bringing very young children to the show. If you feel they may be disruptive, then please arrange for them not to come. They will be required to sit in their seats for the whole show, and this is as much a safety issue as it is an issue of courtesy. In addition, please remind all of your family members that we work to maintain a scent free environment. Ask nan to go easy on the hairspray as several of our students, and some staff, have life threatening reactions to scents.

### 2008/2009

#### School Closures

December 15  
December 22 -January 4  
February 16  
March 16  
April 10—20  
May 18  
June 25 is our Last Day

### Mark Your Calendar!

- \* Christmas Concerts December 10 and 11
- \* School Closure December 15
- \* Skating Parties December 17
- \* Early dismissal December 19
- \* Back to school January 5th

**School will be closed for students on Monday, December 15th.**

**Teachers will be involved in Professional Development activities!!**

**They LOVE learning too!!!**

## Schedule for Wednesday, December 17

On Wednesday the 17th we will be taking part in some skating activities.

**K to 4 students will be at the stadium from 9:15—10:15, & 5—8 students will skate 10:30—11:30. Afternoon Kindergarten and Pre Kindergarten students are welcome at 9:15 but they must be accompanied by an adult.**

**Certified Helmets MUST be worn. Bike helmets are NOT suitable!!!**

## Schedule for Friday, December 19

On Friday, students will be involved in a variety of activities. We are trying to protect our instructional time as much as possible but some large group activities have been planned. We plan to keep all of our students through lunch and then dismiss them at **1:00pm**. Please make sure you adjust your schedule for this early dismissal and that you provide lunch for your child. Cafeteria services will be available.

## Grade Fives Want Your Help!!!

Ms. Chard's grade five class is eager to support the gift of giving this Christmas. They want to give back to our community and are encouraging everyone to support our local food bank. They will be collecting during the Christmas Concerts and throughout the week. Please help support this worthy cause and drop of an item at the school. As well, we are decorating our Mitten Trees, so a hat, mittens or a scarf would be great!

Parent Teacher Interviews were a big success—thank you for attending and being a part of your child's education.

Thank you to Ms. Lori O'Brien for her endless hours of work and dedication in keeping our breakfast program running—We LOVE her!!!

Thank you in advance to Mr. Kent Short, Mrs. Short, Ms Abbott, Mr. Elliott, and all the staff that worked to put this years concerts together. You make Matthew GREAT!!

Excellent!! Great! Exceptional!! Way to go Kelsey Hogan who won 1st place in two Remembrance Day poster contests and a writing contest. You make Matthew Rock!!!

We are on the web  
[www.matthewelementary.nl.ca](http://www.matthewelementary.nl.ca)