



Matthew Matters

Volume 8

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SynerVoice

The reviews are in—SynerVoice is a success! Almost all of the comments we have gotten about our call home system have been positive, particularly after we worked out a few of the bugs in the beginning. Thank you for your support and patience as we brought the system on line, and thank you for continuing to keep your contact information updated at the office. We are hoping that this will form an integral link in our communication with parents.

Please be aware, however, that this system is only meant to aid in our communication and is not meant to replace our OZ FM broadcasts or web site updates. As the SynerVoice system becomes more a part of our culture we may learn to depend on it more, but for the time being it is still just an add on.

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Family Literacy Day!

A big thank you to Ms. Ryder who decided that we should REALLY celebrate Family Literacy Day at our school. We had an awesome day and the students really enjoyed the activities. We were so pleased to see all of the parents that attended, and we look forward to your involvement in future such events.

Breakfast Program News

Our Breakfast Program is running better than anyone could have imagined and we owe it all to the many volunteers who show up every morning to help our children, and to the parents and community groups that continue to provide materials and funding. We are currently serving about 100 students per day, and our students are really enjoying the benefits of this program.

A reminder to parents that this program is open to all students and to please encourage your child to drop by for breakfast. It is not our intention to continually canvas parents for food items, but many of you continue to ask what you can drop off. The list provided by the organizing committee includes Cheese Whiz, butter, Cheerios, Rice Crispies, Corn Flakes, or Special K.

Parents should also know that we stop serving breakfast as close to 8:30am as we can. Please make sure that if your child walks to school, or is dropped off, that he/she gets to school in time to be served.

Again, our many thanks to those who work to make this program happen—the impact it has had on our school is immeasurable.

2008/2009

School Closures

February 16

March 16

April 10—20

May 18

June 25 is our Last Day

Mark Your Calendar!

- * February 13th—100's Day
- * February 16th—Holiday

Fish Cakes Fundraiser

Order forms for our Fish Cake Fundraiser will go out this week. This year's fundraiser will be used to supplement the cost of our year end field trips and we thank you all in advance for your continued support.

100's Day!

Yes we are approaching the 100th day of school—can you believe it!! This year's celebrations will take place on February 13th and we are very excited about the activities we have planned. A more detailed notice will go home to parents as that date approaches.

Cell Phones & Digital Cameras

It is necessary for us to inform parents that Cell Phones and Digital Cameras are not permitted in school. There is the obvious problem of the phone being disruptive to the class, but more serious than that have been things like cyber bullying that have occurred when students have taken pictures of other students and displayed them on the internet in demeaning and hurtful ways. Please make sure your child does not bring these electronic devices to school.

Instrument Insurance

We wish to encourage parents with children who have expensive musical instruments to check with their insurance company for options to cover these items on their home owners' plan. Some of our band students have expensive instruments and there are options for insuring them with most companies.

Keep Active!!

We know that it is sometimes hard to get outdoors and keep active over the winter months, but please make an effort to keep your children active. Exercise is a powerful thing—it helps with physical and emotional health, and it even helps with learning!!!

Many of our students are now riding their own skidoos in their free time. Please remind them to avoid the use of the school parking lot as a thoroughfare, and PLEASE ask them to be very careful crossing the roadways. Every year we witness very close calls where younger skidoo riders have crossed the road without looking and have been almost hit by a car. Please help us prevent a tragic accident.

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