

# Topsail Elementary Newsletter

January, 2010

## Volunteers Required

Volunteers are required to help support the “Kiss and Go” program in the mornings to help open car doors for students as their parents drop them off. This makes the drop off go much quicker and helps the kids get into the school quicker and safer.

As well, on Friday mornings we have a weekly recycling program. A few more volunteers would be very helpful to lend a hand to the dedicated volunteers who have been doing it weekly since September. You do not have to commit to every Friday if you are interested. Please contact Mr. Deveaux at 834-2968 or through email at [rogerdeveaux@esdnl.ca](mailto:rogerdeveaux@esdnl.ca).

## Window Replacement Program

Topsail Elementary will undergo scheduled preventative maintenance sometime between now and the spring to replace the windows. The windows will be replaced one classroom at a time. As a classroom is having their windows replaced, the class will be moved to another room for the day. It is anticipated that it will take one day to complete each classroom.

## Emergency Closures

With winter coming, the chances of early closures are more likely. An early closure refers to situations when the school is already in session and there is a decision to close the school early. The

main ways the school communicates these closures to parents are:

- Synervoice Automated Phone Calls
- Direct Phone Calls from the School
- E-mail Notification
- Radio Announcements
- School & School Board Website

Please make sure that your child’s teacher is notified of any changes in your contact information. Cell phone numbers are the ones that change the most frequent, so please notify the school if you have changed your cell phone number.

## Early Morning Closures Prior to 8:25

There are two different ways to find out if school is going to be closed or have a delayed opening because of weather or other issues. The closure will be announced on a number of local radio stations including VOXM, CBC, OZ FM and Coast 101. As well, an early morning closure will be listed on the Eastern School Districts Website under Status Central. It is strongly suggested to visit the School Board’s website over the next week at [www.esdnl.ca](http://www.esdnl.ca). Once on the site, you can go to Status Central, which is located on the right hand side of the page. Then you can customize the site to only display Topsail Elementary. This would make it instantaneous when you are looking on the site for a closure. By bookmarking it, you may prevent an abnormal wait time waiting for the system to scroll through to Topsail Elementary’s Status.

Please note that if the school is closed prior to the day starting, there will not be a **Synervoice**

message. Synervoice is only used when there is a closure during the day. As well, there will not be a message on the School's Web Site.

### **Metro School System**

Decisions regarding closures are communicated through the radio stations in groups of schools defined by different criteria. Topsail Elementary is part of the Metro School System. Thus, if there is a closure, it will often just say that the Metro School System is closed and not include the individual names of the schools.

This becomes more important when all the schools are closing except the schools in the Metro System. The schools in Avondale, and further west often close and the schools from Kelligrews east, or the Metro Area Schools stay open. Thus, it is important to remember that so you are not left wondering if Topsail is closing or staying open.

### **Outdoor Clothing**

Now that winter is here, please ensure that your child is coming to school properly dressed for outside playtime.

Please encourage your children to wear their hat, mittens and boots when going outside. As well, it is strongly advised to write their first and last name on their clothing. After the first week of going outside, we have successfully returned a number of pairs of snow/ski pants and boots because the child's name is on them. However, we have also lost a number of items because the children's names are not on their belongings.

### **Outside Play Time**

A general rule of thumb for deciding if it is an outside playtime is when the temperature with the wind chill is above -10° C we go outside. On most days, the administration goes outside and then makes a decision based on the specific conditions at the school.

### **Parking Lot Safety**

#### **Student Drop Off and Pick Up**

The parking lot entrance on the Rectory Road side is becoming very congested. We are requesting that vehicles do not park along the side of the fence (to the drivers right as they enter the parking lot). As well, there is a very faded cross walk going from the Church Parking Lot to the School Parking Lot. Cars are parking on the side of Rectory Road on top of the crosswalk. This is making it difficult and dangerous for students trying to use the side walk because they need to poke out around the parked cars.

One of the challenging parts of the Parking Lot is that when the weather is wet or snowy, that is when we have more traffic. We would ask that people avail of the Church Parking Lot to park and come over to get their children.

We are asking for everyone to please take a few extra minutes to park in the Church Parking Lot and make it safer for all our students.

To increase safety, PLEASE DO NOT BACKUP on the school parking lot. If there is no parking spaces on the lot, then please go over to the Church Parking Lot.

#### **Skating Program**

Topsail students from grades k-3 will be partaking in a skating program starting in February. Schedules and permission slips will go home in January. By notifying parents early, we hope that this gives parent enough notice to equip their child with proper fitting skates and a CSA approved helmet. The school does have a limited supply of skates and helmets that may be borrowed. Please contact Mr. Baggs at [derickbaggs @esdnl.ca](mailto:derickbaggs@esdnl.ca) if you require assistance.

#### **Hats For Haiti**

On Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, the school will be collecting money for the relief effort ongoing in Haiti. The students will be encouraged to wear hats and to bring in a **toonie** or an amount that one is comfortable with. The students are wearing the hats as a symbol that they are aware of the

situation in Haiti and are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. As well, the hats will serve as a symbol for the day about how important it is to help out fellow citizens in time of need.

### Family Literacy Day

Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> is Family Literacy Day, which promotes the importance of reading and learning as a family. A Bingo game card..... is being sent home with your child today.

As well, each year we have a **Loonie for Literacy** day on the Family Literacy Day at the school. Families are asked to send in one loonie as a donation that goes directly to the Conception Bay South Literacy Council.

Thus, there will be two fundraisers next week. If it makes it easier, you are welcome to send in the \$3.00 dollars on Tuesday to cover off both fundraisers. If you are only choosing to support one, then we would know by the amount being sent in. If you choose to donate more to either fundraiser, which some parents have already expressed they would like to do, please specify which fundraiser you would like the extra money to go.

### Fundraiser

The Cod Nugget Fund raiser was a huge success in December. There was over \$6000.00 raised, which resulted from a grand total of 1000 bags of nuggets being sold. We would like to thank all our parents for supporting the school and their children with this fundraiser. There have been two new Interactive Whiteboards ordered for the school from the money raised from this fundraiser.

### KINDERSTART

Kindergarten parents are reminded that because of the Kinderstart program there will be no school for our Kindergarten students on the following dates:

February 12<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, and June 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Summary of Important Dates

January 26 <sup>nd</sup> .....	Hats for Haiti (bring a toonie)
January 27 <sup>th</sup> .....	Literacy Day (bring a loonie)
February 12 <sup>th</sup> .....	No School for Kindergartens Kinderstart program

Mr. Roger Deveaux  
Principal

Mrs. Debbie Smith  
Assistant Principal

**Please inform us of any change in your email address or phone numbers. Print clearly.**

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Homeroom Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New email address:** \_\_\_\_\_