

St. Teresa's School
École Ste-Thérèse
NEWSLETTER

Issue # 4 December 3rd,
2019 www.sts.k12.nf.ca.

Twitter:
[@StTeresasSchool](https://twitter.com/StTeresasSchool)

FAMILY CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

This year we are offering a Family Christmas Movie Night to our school Community. This will take place on Tuesday, December 17 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Bring along a blanket, pillow and anything else that will make you more comfortable. Popcorn will be provided. Feel free to bring a non-perishable food item. The name of the movie will be announced next week. We look forward to a great night!

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – EARLY

DISMISSAL School closes for students on **Friday, December 20th at 1:00 p.m.**

Children will be having a break mid morning so a larger recess snack will be necessary. There will be no hot lunch served on this day. School will reopen on **Monday, January 6th**. It will be Day 6 on the schedule. **On behalf of our entire staff at St. Teresa's School, we would like to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season. May it be a very special time spent with your family and friends.**

PARKING LOT

We ask parents to be patient and vigilant when driving on the school lot. If you park in one of the parking stalls, please walk your child across the parking lot. No child should be permitted to weave in between parked vehicles while trying to cross the parking lot. We are also asking people not to park in our spaces designated for disability parking only.

Please refer to the attached diagram of how to use our parking lot safely.

PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE

–STUDENT/SCHOOL SECURITY In an attempt to create a safe and secure environment for all students, we ask all students, parents/ guardians or any visitor who comes to the school during the regular school hours to use the main entrance and **not proceed to the classroom area without first checking with the office.** We will gladly assist if you are dropping off an item for your child(ren) or picking them up. This school policy will allow our staff to know who is in the building at all times and ensure the safety of all of our students. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter. **Parents are not permitted to proceed to their child's classroom.**

Please note during the morning dropoff there is a huge concern for safety in the area of the cafeteria entrance where students enter the building for the breakfast program. We are again asking that parents either drop off in the kiss and ride lane or park in a stall at the front and drop off. Please cooperate as we keep everyone safe on the school parking lot.

ALLERGIES Some of our students and staff have *serious allergies* that can result in these people suffering from a *life threatening condition known as Anaphylaxis*. Breathing difficulties, and a drop in blood pressure or shock can result which are *potentially fatal*. To help ensure that our students and staff are safe at school **please avoid sending the following food items: All nuts – including peanuts, kiwi, and eggs.** Your understanding and co-operation in this matter is sincerely

appreciated.

CAFETERIA SERVICE

**Please note the following updates.
School Lunch will start on Monday,
January 6th.**

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING The next school council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 14th at 6:00 p.m.** All parents / guardians are welcome to attend.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE

Thank you to all parents/guardians who attended parent teacher conferences. Families and school need to work together to help your child succeed. If you could not make the parent teacher conferences please contact your child's teacher to make another appointment.

KINDERSTART SESSION DATES

Kinderstart sessions will begin on Friday December 6. A letter was sent out earlier this fall informing you of dates and times. If you know of a child born before December 31, 2015 please remind them to register for Kinderstart. This can be done by dropping by St. Teresa's School with your child's MCP card and proof of address.

OUTDOOR CLOTHING Playing outdoors is an important part of our school day and benefits not only the social and physical well being of our students, but also has a profound impact on learning. The fresh air is also welcomed by many! **We will continue to go outside during our lunch period when the weather is suitable. Please ensure that your**

child(ren) arrive(s) at school dressed appropriately for the weather.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

As we approach December we are preparing for yet another exciting Christmas Concert. This year our grade 3's will be performing here on Thursday, December 19 1:30- 2:00pm and the Fine Arts Concert is on Wednesday night, December 18 at 6:30 pm.

Parents/Guardians will be able to purchase two tickets for each performance starting December 9th at the price of \$3.00 per ticket. After the 16th of December, any tickets that are not sold will be open for anyone to purchase. All ticket sales are done through the school office.

RECYCLING We try to teach our students the importance of being respectful to our environment. Recycling is a fantastic program that promotes environmental awareness and provides funds for our school. We encourage everyone to participate in our recycling program. **Please drop off your recyclables every Wednesday morning.** In the meantime, families may drop off their recyclables to your nearest recycling depot and have the refund credited to St. Teresa's Elementary.

PLEASE NOTE-EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES As in previous years we are prepared for the safe dismissal of our students when an early closure is necessary. District office personnel will make an announcement via **local AM/FM radio stations, Twitter and Status Central** (please note below the steps to follow to access this system through the District website). The target time will be 6:30 a.m. however, if it is determined that schools will close during the

day because of weather the School District communicates that decision through the radio stations and Status Central as well. **Please read – important ...**We are continuing to use a system called **SynreVoice**. This system will allow the school to call the phone numbers you've provided on your child's registration form. The automated system then informs you of the message. It therefore continues to be essential that the school *has up to date contact information*. *If the information which you provided in September on your child's registration form changes throughout the year please make contact with the office and your child's teacher*. It is also important that your child is aware of the plans that you've put in place for them in the case of a school emergency. **How to access Status Central** To access **Status Central**, log on to the Eastern School District website: www.nlesd.ca. (The Status Central notice board is on the right side of the main page.) You can also customize **Status Central** and chose only those schools you want to view. 1. Click on... Click Here to Customize. 3. Select the schools you want to view. 4. Click the Submit button at the bottom of the page when finished. 5. When completed, you will see the message – Configuration Saved. To ensure you're getting up-to-date information on stormy days, remember to refresh your screen regularly.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE We are attempting to shine the spotlight on student attendance. After three months of school approximately 75% of our students are attending school on a regular basis with very little absenteeism. **However this leaves 25% of our students missing between 10.5% and 51% of the school days.**

The excerpt below is taken from The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

Newfoundland and Labrador report from January 2019 called *Chronic Absenteeism: When Children Disappear*.

Article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child speaks to a child's right to a quality education. In the case of chronic absenteeism, other factors impede this right. It is vitally important to ensure a shared response to this issue so that children do not continue to fall through these gaps. Without a solid education to ground them in life, children will be disadvantaged in their opportunities for success, both as children and as adults. A collective strategy to address chronic absenteeism is required. We must do more to ensure the quiet problem of chronic absenteeism does not continue. As this report demonstrates, there is sufficient research, existing practice models and understanding of best/promising practices to guide action now. There is ample room for flexibility. Any further delay to address this issue is not an option. In light of this, please contact the school if you have questions, suggestions to help, or have a request for help. Our future and our children's future depend on us adults to help them in any way we can.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

St. Teresa's Elementary, in partnership with Froude Community Centre, are pleased to offer a school community breakfast on Saturday, December 14th. To accomodate all, this breakfast will be offered at St. Teresa's School in our cafeteria at both 9:00 am and 10:15am. The breakfast is free of charge, and will include a variety of: tea, coffee, milk, eggs, hash browns, bacon and toast. Although there is no cost associated with this breakfast, there will be a place to submit donations to our school if desired. All children attending

this breakfast must be accompanied by an adult member of the family. In order to ensure availability of resources, please cut off and respond to the attached confirmation of members attending and RSVP by Monday, December 9th.

Please return by December 9th.

**St. Teresa's
Elementary
Community Breakfast**

Name of Student:

— — Class Teacher:

— — Number of family members attending: _____

Please Return by December 9th!

**St. Teresa's
Elementary
Community Breakfast**

Name of Student:

— — Class Teacher:

— — Number of family members
attending: _____