

# Clarenville Middle School

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## SCHOOL NEWS BULLETIN: Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

### SCHOOL NOTES:

- ✓ **Soup and Sandwiches for lunch on Mondays!** We have a couple of parents who have volunteered to assist but we would love to have a couple of others. If you can help with this nutritious meal, please contact Mr. Pardy or Ms. Winsor. This meal begins on Monday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ **Kevin Collins** will be holding a concert in aid of Project Share on Wednesday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School Gym Complex.. Tickets ( \$7.00) available from the school.
- ✓ Interested in knowing more about the **ISSP ( Individualized Support Services Plan) process?** Mr. Derek Elliott (Educational Psychologist with Vista School District) will be holding a meeting at Clarenville Middle School on **Thursday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>** in the resource centre. Representatives from Vista School District and Health and Community Services will be on hand to review the ISSP process and answer any questions or concerns you may have.
- ✓ Nationally acclaimed authors arranged for a visit to Clarenville Middle School on either Friday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> or Monday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>. **Kevin Major and Janet McNaughton** will work with senior classes on the writing process.
- ✓ **Parent Session on Learning Disabilities:** Thursday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Vista School Board Annex. Please call Trudy Power at 466-3401 (ext. 245) to register.

### STUDENT “WAY TO GO’S” LAST WEEK

- ☺ **Way To Go to Nikita Hibbs**, 4Drover, for bringing the candy alert to the attention of the school to pass it along to all middle school trick-or-treaters in order that they may be safer on Halloween visits. True Middle School behaviour!! (Friday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>)
- ☺ **Grade 9 and under Boys win GOLD** at Provincial Volley Fest during Friday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>! **Way to go** to all the Middle School Alumni (those boys who were in our school last year) and three current grade 8 boys: Bradley Pitcher, Bradley Jolliffe, and Michael Walsh. Great skill and great achievement!

### TIDBITS

- ✓ Confirmation received that two of our staff members will be serving on Department committees for the 2003-2004 school year: Mr. Mills (Int. Technology Education) and Ms. Drover (Primary/Elementary Music) . Good Stuff!

### CONSTRUCTED RESPONSES

Part of our School Development Plan for this school year is to improve upon student’s written responses to questions. The CRT results of May 2003 would validate the need for attention to this area. To this end, the staff have created a set of guidelines (referred to as a rubric) that students and staff can use in evaluating a piece of student writing. On the afternoon of Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>, the staff devised the rubric and put the following actions in place:

- ✓ Model the examples of good written answers to all students. Also, provide examples of written answers from the different levels.
- ✓ Mr. Gerry Organ, to conduct a lesson in this area with all classes and their teachers, again modelling examples of good written answers. The poem “Curse”, taken from a previous CRT, will be used for consistency throughout. Students will be asked to evaluate a sample written answer during this time.
- ✓ To be implemented in all curriculum areas or subjects.
- ✓ To profile the rubric in a newsletter in order for parents to be aware of this initiative.
- ✓ We will add the rubric for writing well constructed answers to the student agenda for the 2004-05 school year.

## Guidelines (Rubric) For Writing Well-Constructed Answers

Level

- 5 Excellent
- completes task with much support from text
- contains complete sentences when required

- contains wide range of vocabulary
- is mostly free of errors in structure and/or spelling

## 4 Very Good

- completes task with support from text
- contains complete sentences when required
- contains good range of vocabulary
- is mostly free of errors in structure and/or spelling

## 3 Acceptable

- adequately completes task with some support from text
- contains some complete sentences when required
- contains minimal vocabulary
- has some errors in structure and/or spelling that do not interfere with communication

## 2 Weak

- task inadequate and/or incomplete
- does not contain complete sentences when required
- contains minimal vocabulary
- has many errors in structure and/or spelling that interfere with communication

## 1 Unacceptable

- does not complete the task OR
- handwriting and/or response is unclear
- response is off topic

**SAMPLE WRITTEN RESPONSE**

The students have been given the following poem and asked to write an answer to the following question:

**Curse**

May whoever left  
the husky tied outside  
in the snow,  
whoever never plays  
with it,  
never strokes its fur,  
nor speaks  
-except to growl  
lie down or stay-  
may he huddle  
in the husky's place,  
day on day,  
night on night,  
for company only the pines  
and falling snow.  
May he know  
lonely.

- Tony Johnson-

- ☉ Do you think the title Curse is appropriate for this poem? Why or why not? Support your answer from the text.

The following are actual student answers and the level provided:

**Level 2 Answers:**

"I think the title curse is appropriate because the owner left the dog all alone in the woods and to the dog it is a curse."

"Curse" is appropriate because buddy will sit in the doghouse.

**Level 3 Answer:**

"Yes because the dog is cursed having to stay out in the snow with no other dogs or people only the pines and falling snow."

**Level 4 Answer:**

"Yes I do think that it is appropriate because the dog's owner will be cursed because he had left the dog outside. Maybe the author wants readers to think that, because that is what I thought of."

**Level 5 Answer:**

"I think the title "Curse" is appropriate for the poem because the author wants to curse any man or

women who treats their dogs like this. As well, I think that the bottom half of the poem (starting with may be huddle) is a curse because the author wants the owner of the dog in the poem to feel how his dog feels.”

**MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS GOING HOME TODAY**