



Clarendville Middle School

"Where Children Come First"

DECEMBER 13TH, 2005



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Principal

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ✓ Senior 6- 8 Choir performs 1:00 p.m. at Cross Memorial Hospital : Tuesday Dec. 13th
- ✓ Junior 4-5 choir performs 1:00 p.m. at the Legion Seniors party : Tuesday Dec. 20th
- ✓ Christmas Assembly - Thursday Dec. 22nd at 10:30 a.m.
- ✓ Christmas Recess - Thursday Dec . 22nd at 1:00 p.m.
- ✓ School Re-opens - Wednesday Jan. 4th, 2006 - Day 1 on the student timetable.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST FOR STUDENTS

On the morning of Thursday Dec. 22nd a wonderful group of parents will be serving the students a pancake breakfast. Last year the students went to the lunchroom by class and were served a great breakfast. The spirit of the season! If any parent is interested in assisting please contact Ms. Trudy Davis at 466-2840.

POOR WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSURES

Before deciding to close school, the administration of our school system will speak directly with the meteorologists and the highway's supervisors to get a first hand account of the conditions and forecast for our area. If school is in progress, before any decision is made to send them home early direct contact with Works and Transportation will be made. This will assure that busses are strategically placed behind highway equipment. For example, before the Port Blandford bus left Clarendville we would be in direct contact with either Bill Harris or Oliver Pelley, Supervisors with the Dept. of Works, Services and Transportation, to find the most appropriate time for their departure home.

ONLINE MESSAGE CENTRE FOR SCHOOL CLOSURE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eastern School District has a new on-line school closure message centre called Status Central. Status Central is very convenient for parents. If for any reason school must close, either early morning or midday, the Status Central message board will be updated. Every effort will be made to have school closure announcements posted to Status Central by 6:30 a.m., and depending on the weather, anytime throughout the day. Please note that school closure announcements will continue to be broadcast on local radio stations. To access Status Central, log on to the Eastern School District website: www.esdnl.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: ❶ Click on the My Status Central symbol ❷ Select the schools you want to view ❸ Click the Submit button at the bottom of the page when finished ❹ When completed, you will get the message -- Configuration Saved. To ensure up-to-date information on stormy days, remember to refresh your screen regularly.

NEXT TIGER TRACKS NEWSLETTER: TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 2006



TIDBITS



- ✓ Thank-you to Justin Hiscock's (8Noel) parents for the donation of a microwave for the lunchroom and a coffee maker for the enjoyment of the volunteers at our kitchen.
- ✓ Clarenville PeeWee Hockey Team will represent our region at the upcoming Provincial Winter Games. On Sunday November 24th our local players, many middle school students, won decisively in the Championship Game against Glovertown. **Congratulations** and good luck to those middle school hockey players who will be participating at the upcoming Winter Games on the West Coast: Andrew Smith, Taylor Pittman, Lucas Slade, Matthew Reid, Lucas Goobie, Jared Harding, Justin Abbott, Nicholas Hann, and Ryan Fillier. Read the headlines in the December 5th edition of the **Packet**. Check out the large photo of Lucas Slade, goaltender, as he snags a puck shot by the opposition. Super save!
- ✓ Middle School Volleyball Players **SHINE** At Eastern Bantam Volleyball Championships this past weekend!! Boy's TAKE **GOLD** : After going undefeated throughout the regular schedule, the highly skilled middle school group stayed the course and captured the championship match against Mount Pearl Intermediate School. A great display of sportsmanship and skill was displayed. Way to go to all team members and a special nod to Kenneth Neil who was selected tournament MVP. Girl's Miss Cross Over Play **by two points!!** The calibre of our girls play has certainly increased since the last time playing teams from St. John's. In the deciding game to select the top four teams out of 18, our girls squad came up short by two points in the 3rd game of a best of 3 match. The squad from Mount Pearl Intermediate advanced on to the play-offs. Great showing girls! You have lots to be proud of, the least of which is your skill and attitudes! THANK-YOU: A big thank-you to coaches Mr. Randell and Mr. Walsh for your dedication and commitment to our students. All students are richer as a result of your involvement!
- ✓ **MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT ROCKS!!** In front of 350- 400 people, our choirs and bands performed the magical sounds of the season to the delight of all. The sounds were commendable as well as your appearance - smiles that lit up the whole gymnasium. A magnificent job by a wonderful, talented group of Middle School musicians. Thank-you to **Chantelle Rochon** who emceed the event, to Mr. Organ (on occasion compared to Mr. Drover - Ha!) who looked after the sound, Ms. Drover and Ms. Warren who were the masterminds of the gala event, and to the many teachers who helped supervise and spend a special evening with our talented students.

VEGETABLE HAMPERS ... **Vegetable Hampers** available at the school for \$10.00 with all proceeds going to the music program. Please fill in the slip attached and return to the school. Hampers will be available for pick-up at week's end. Stay tuned to CKVO's- early morning school announcements for pick-up times.

BUSSING PICK-UP TIMES ... Log on to our school's homepage and find out the times of early morning pick-up for all Middle School students. The purpose of this is to avoid students waiting at the bus stop during the winter months any longer than necessary. Drivers have been informed NEVER to be early, but obviously they may be delayed due to road, mechanical or **overall weather conditions**. All times are coordinated with CKVO/VOCM time.

CAN YOU ASSIST? ... Thursday lunch volunteers will be missing a couple of members in the new year. Ms. Carmel Smith will be returning to the ski hill while the Austin family are re-locating to Iqaluit. Thank-you to both and a special farewell to Vanessa and Cpl. Austin who have been great supporters of CMS since their arrival from Burin. Mrs. Thistle will be in need of some assistance in the kitchen for the Thursday Taco special in the new year. If you can assist, please notify Mr. Pardy or Mr. Walsh.

RECENT STUDENT "WAY TO GO'S"

The following items were published in the morning bulletin. We celebrate the many wonderful student actions and deeds that occur in and outside CMS. We have much to be proud of !

- ✓ Way to go to **Kaitlyn Critch** (4Drover) from the volunteers who work to prepare hot meals. Ms. Balsom (Allie and Ashley's mom) stated that every Tuesday Kaitlyn comes along and thanks the parents stating that the meal was really good! Tuesday November 22nd Kaitlyn stated to the volunteers, "**the meal was absolutely great!**" We celebrate CMS students using great manners!
- ✓ Way to go to **Alicia Holloway (5Fleming)** who was seen opening the main door for fellow students on the morning of Thursday Nov. 24th. Super job Alicia!
- ✓ **Way to go to** the members of the grade 4 & 5 choir who sang angelically last night in the opening of the Random Mall's Angel Tree. A big crowd was on hand to hear the wonderful Christmas selections performed by you. We can't wait to hear you in the upcoming Christmas Concert on Wednesday Dec. 7th. The bands, senior show choir and Recorders will join you!
- ✓ Way to go to **Abigail Hann**, 7Parrott, who won a 2nd place medal in Martial Arts for her class and age category in St. John's on November 26th. The December 5th edition of 'The Packet' has a picture of the Clarenville Team, with our Abby included (section C, page 3). Check it out!
- ✓ Way to go to members of 6Avery who played the game 'BUZZ' on December 6th in their Intensive Core French class. Great job with the French 'numeracy' impressing your audience - Kudos to Ryan Hollohan, Robert Pond, Ryan Lane, Tyler Balsom, Devon Ramjohn, Ryan Fillier, and Luke Sawler. C'est bon !!

CURRICULUM FEATURE

In each **Tiger Tracks** our goal is to add a curriculum feature, an educational segment, for the benefit of the students' number one teacher - the parent(s). The second entry deals with root words. What's *that* you say?

Root Words

- ✓ Roots are the core of a word's meaning. The term "root" usually refers to a word of Latin or Greek origin that is not a complete word in English, for example, *dict* (speak) in words like *dictate* and *dictionary*. Some roots are recognizable words to which a prefix and/or a suffix is added; for example, **graph**, **autograph**, and **telegraph** can be formed from the root word **graph** (write).
- ✓ Understanding how a word is constructed, and what its different parts are, is a major tool for spelling. Many words are built using a prefix plus a root (*inspect*), or a root plus a suffix (*spectacle*). Some words are built using a combination of several kinds of word-parts, for example, *inspection*, which has a prefix, a root, and a suffix. A knowledge of roots can help students understand how words are built and therefore help them understand their meaning and how to spell them > piece-by -piece!

Identifying Roots

A common approach to spelling is to understand that many words contain a 'root' and a 'prefix'. This knowledge will help avoid common spelling mistakes. For example, one of the most often misspelled words in English is "misspell". Students often spell it with only one 's'. Once the student understands that this is a root word with a prefix - mis/spell- the error can be avoided. The same can be applied to words in which the prefix ends with the same letter as the beginning of the root, for example, **preempt** and **dissimilar**. In some words letters are often mistakenly doubled, for example, *reccomend*. This error is less likely to occur if the root word and prefix can be identified: **re commend**.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE CLARENVILLE SCHOOL SYSTEM ?

The consultant's report is out and by now you must have heard much discussion about schools in the Eastern School District possibly being closed or re-aligned. The Reorganization Report released on December 8, 2005 can be viewed at

<http://www.esdnl.ca/board/planning/>

We will be having a link to this document in the near future. Here is a summary of the reports tentative plans for the Clarenville system. It is taken word for word from the report.

DIRECT:

Effective September 2007, consideration be given to:

- (1) closing Clarenville Primary and designating Balbo Elementary as a K-3 school to accommodate primary students living in the Balbo and Clarenville Primary catchment areas,
- (2) transferring grades 4-8 students from Balbo Elementary to Clarenville Middle School, and
- (3) securing the necessary funds from government to construct an extension to Clarenville Middle School to house the additional students.

The opening of the road linking the upper section of Manitoba Drive to Shoal Harbour significantly reduces travel time to that community. Increased travel times for primary age students now bussed to Clarenville Primary, from communities east and west of Clarenville, will be minimal. Under this arrangement, the combined K-3 enrolment is projected to be less than the capacity rated for Balbo. Clarenville High and Middle schools are of brick and steel construction and are in good to very good condition. The two buildings are linked by an atrium and, combined, can accommodate approximately 950 students. The transfer of grade levels from one building to the other can be done seamlessly as the need dictates, without changing bussing routes or distances for students. The district may wish to consider merging the operation and administration of these two schools into a campus facility providing increased flexibility and site based decision making opportunities. This change is not recommended if administrative allocations to the schools are negatively impacted.

INDIRECT:

Effective September 2006, consideration be given to designating South West Arm Academy, Little Heart's Ease, as a K-9 school, transferring senior high students to Clarenville High school.

Effective **September 2008**, consideration be given to designating Random Island Academy as a K-6 school, and transferring grades 7-LIII students to Clarenville Middle and High schools.

Effective September 2006, consideration be given to designating Swift Current Academy as a K-6 school, transferring grades 7-LIII students to Tricentia Academy, Arnold's Cove. Consideration may be given to providing parents the collective option of sending their children to Clarenville, given that links with that community are somewhat stronger. The distance, however, is seven kilometers greater than that to Clarenville.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
from the students and staff of Clarenville Middle School