

1. Why are students leaving the school not dressed properly in the cold weather?

When the temperature gets to be minus 25°C, we keep the students in the school at recesses and noon hour. At the end of the day, if the temperature is still below our cut off point, we load buses from the Community Center. Students are asked to wear all of their clothing so that if the bus ever broke down, they would be warm while they waited for help. The students who walk home or walk out to parents are asked to dress in coat, ski pants, hats and mitts. Many students do not want to wear these items and wait until the teacher is speaking with someone else and head out the door. We have students who will even go so far as to wear their warm clothes out of the school, take them off once around the corner of the school and stuff them in their backpack. We do what we can to ensure that students are dressed properly but the parents need to speak to their children about the importance of being dressed properly.

2. I keep reading about the Attendance Board. What is it and why do parents get reported to them for students missing school?

Schools understand that students will miss school for appointments, sickness and sometimes holidays. These usually occur on a non-consistent basis. When we have students who are missing excessive amounts of school, we get concerned. Teachers are not able to go back and reteach concepts when students miss a great deal of instruction. In class activities and assessments cannot be repeated or sent home. If students are falling behind, it is our obligation to inform parents how much school their child has missed. If after notification, attendance does not improve then it is essential that we meet to determine why attendance is poor and how we can support an improvement. After all of these measures, if attendance still doesn't improve, then we ask the Attendance Board to become involved. The Attendance Board will review the situation and if deemed necessary, will fine parents for every day that their child does not attend school without proper documentation. According to the School Act, it is the law for students to attend school until they are 16 years old.

3. I would like to volunteer both in the classroom and for the School Council. How do I go about doing this?

We love it when parents want to volunteer. Parents can contact the classroom teacher to set up times and dates to volunteer. Teachers will ask what type of activities you would like to assist with; like reading with the students, practicing basic facts, completing crafts etc. Parents are always welcome but we do ask that notice is given to the teachers to ensure that they have materials prepped. As for the School Council, attending the meetings is a great way to learn about what we are doing. It is also a good idea to watch facebook and remind for the different activities to help out with. I will also suggest contacting our School Council chair, Joanne Dixon.