

# STOPR WINTER NEWSLETTER



Dear Families, Parents and Guardians:

Now that the clocks are turned back an hour winter will soon be here!

It is very important that everyone using the school bus system is familiar with STOPR's winter weather procedures.

STOPR will monitor weather and road conditions during the winter months and will make a decision to cancel school transportation by 06:00 am each morning.

When it is necessary to cancel school transportation, STOPR will post this information on our website at [www.STOPR.ca](http://www.STOPR.ca) and on our "twitter" account @STOPRinfo.

Local radio stations and media will also broadcast cancellation information, however we encourage parents/guardians to follow us on twitter and check the STOPR website for the most up to date cancellation information.

We also encourage Parents, Guardians and older Students to visit our website and sign into the "Parent/Student login" to register to receive automatic email or text alerts for school bus delay or cancellation information.

**Here are some school bus safety tips to help keep your children safe through the winter months:**

- Whenever possible wait with your children at the bus stop or arrange to have someone wait with them;
- Allow extra time to get to your bus stop location;
- Make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the cold winter weather as unexpected mechanical problems with school buses can occur during winter months;
- Wear bright coloured clothing or wear a coat with reflective safety strips for added visibility;
- Talk to your child about staying off of snow banks while they are walking to the bus stop and while they are waiting for the bus;
- Never slide on the snow or ice patches while walking to the bus;
- Never push or shove anyone around the bus, someone could fall and slide under the bus;
- Always use the handrail when boarding or exiting the bus to prevent slipping on wet or icy steps;

**WINTER**  
Safety tips

## What should you do if your bus is late or cancelled?

It is important to talk to your children about what to do if their bus is delayed or cancelled on inclement weather mornings. Here are some suggestions:

- Do your children have a plan if their school bus is delayed or cancelled? For example, do they have an emergency contact person they can call or a neighbour they can go to;
- Do your children have a “bus buddy” or someone they can walk to the bus stop and wait for the bus with?

Always remember that if your school bus is cancelled in the morning due to inclement weather, it will also be cancelled in the afternoon.

Parents and Guardians should know their children’s school bus route number and the name of the Bus Company transporting their children. If you do not know this information, visit our website and sign into the “Parent/Student login” to find and document this important information.



## Tips for staying warm and comfortable during the winter from the Canada Safety Council:

- Wear a hat, most body heat is lost through the head;
- Dress in layers to allow warm air to stay trapped around the body;
- Choose a good pair of winter boots. For warmth and stability look for these features: well-insulated, waterproof, thick non-slip tread sole made of natural rubber, wide low heels and light-weight;
- Wear thick socks and bring an extra pair to school with you;
- Mittens are warmer than gloves, bring an extra pair of mittens to school with you;
- A good balanced diet is important to help you keep warm and healthy in the winter.

