**School Closings**

 In the winter in Minnesota, there are often school closings due to winter weather. Sometimes businesses close too. Ice and snow make it difficult for people to drive during the winter. If a school is closing or starting late, there will always be announcements made on the radio and television. You can also check on local news websites or even type in, “Minnesota school closings” into an Internet browser like Google. Announcements will also be made if a school is closing early for the day.

 Announcements are usually made by 7:00 AM or earlier on the day that school will be closed. These decisions are made by the superintendent of the school district. The superintendant functions similar to a top manager or president of the school district. The decision to close school is made for student safety. Please do not call school secretaries or teachers about school closings. Turn on the TV or radio. Listen to the TV, radio or check the internet at spps.org or hubbs.spps.org.

 If you have children, please talk to them about where they should go in case of school closings, especially early closings. Children are let out of school earlier if weather starts to get bad during the day. When this happens, children need to know where to go. Schools close more often than businesses do. So you may have to work even though your child’s school is closed. In this case, you must have a plan for what your children will do. Should they still go home? Will they be able to get in?

 If you need to find a different place for your child to go when school is let out early or closed for the day, you should do so right now. Your child needs to know the plans you have made. You could ask a neighbor, family member or friend to watch your children if you are not available. It is very important to talk with your child about your family’s plan is if school is closed.

1. Who decides when schools will be closed?
2. How can you find out about school closings? (Name two ways)
3. Why would a student be dismissed early?
4. Who should you NOT call to find out about school closings?
5. What does “let out” mean?
6. Who is someone who could watch your child if school is dismissed early and you are not available?