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January 7, 2016

Dear Parents of Bussed Students:

**RE: LARGE ITEMS ON SCHOOL BUSES AND DRESSING APPROPRIATELY FOR WINTER**

Please be advised that it has been brought to our attention that students have been bringing large items to and from school on the school bus. By large items, we are referring to hockey sticks, skis, lacrosse sticks, large band instruments, curling brooms, skate boards, etc. Buffalo Trail Public Schools Administrative Procedure 701-7AP Roles and Responsibilities as well as the Rules and Regulations Exhibit 1 that parents are required to sign, clearly state that these items are not allowed on the school bus. As per Section 23 of the Commercial Vehicle Regulation, such items can become projectiles in nature on a school bus, and are therefore not permitted.

Small band instruments and skates in a properly secured bag (i.e. not plastic) with skate guards can be transported on school buses. Students must be able to hold all of his or her school items on his/her lap without them projecting out of their seating area, into the aisle or into another student's space. Items no larger than 13" x 13" x 23" can be carried on the school busses. This applies to regular bus runs. School projects that are too large to fit on a student's lap or perhaps contain dangerous materials (i.e. cut glass, chemicals, etc.) are not permitted on the bus. Please transport these projects yourself to school for your child/children. We have asked teachers to be aware that transportation of such projects may be an issue for some rural students.

Bus drivers and contractors have been notified at a meeting on Wednesday, November 25, 2015 that they are not to permit students to carry large items on the school bus. If they do, they will face disciplinary action. Students will also face disciplinary measures if they continue to disobey the school bus rules. Although we understand that large items may be required at school, they are not permitted on the school bus. Parents are asked to make arrangements to have such items transported to school or to keep a spare item (i.e. hockey stick, curling broom, etc.) at the rink.

We would also like to take the opportunity to remind parents/guardians of the requirement of students to dress appropriately for the winter conditions. Students who are not dressed appropriately may be refused school bus transportation once contact has been made with the parents/guardian. It is not safe for students to be on the school bus without proper clothing. Students may carry with them their ski pants, mitts, toques and winter boots. However, they must be dressed appropriately in the event of a breakdown, or the school bus gets stuck in the snow and students are detained on the school bus or have to evacuate. For this reason, shorts, flip flops/sandals and t-shirts are not acceptable winter wear.

All school bus rules and regulations can be found on our website at [www.btps.ca](http://www.btps.ca). You should have received a copy of the school bus rules and regulations that you signed at the beginning of the year. Please review them with your child. We appreciate your cooperation to ensure the safety of your child/children and other children on the bus.

Sincerely,

Chrysti Mannix,  
Director of Transportation