

**SESSION 2.3: DISCUSSION**

**TABLE: BLIZZARDS IN 1888 vs. TODAY**

1888	Today
<p>Many small prairie school houses were not equipped for a major storm “Sometimes the building was made of sod, and equipped with homemade benches and there were many small framed schoolhouses; at the time of the storm there were many small frame schoolhouses, some of which had been left unplastered, and all of them offered but meager protection against penetrating winds.” In All Its Fury, page 41</p>	<p>Solid buildings that can withstand most wind from blizzards.</p>
<p>What was used to heat a home or school was very different than today. “The buildings were heated by stoves and the fuel might be coal, wood, cobs, or even hay.” In All Its Fury, page 41.</p>	<p>Most schools are centrally heated by oil, electricity or natural gas.</p>
<p>Schools did not offer a hot lunch. “All, except those who lived near the schoolhouse, carried a cold lunch and drank from a common cup which hung beside the water pail. Often the water had to be brought from the nearest farmstead.” In All Its Fury, page 41</p>	<p>Some students eat the school hot lunch and others may bring their lunch from home. Water however usually comes out of a faucet or drinking fountain.</p>
<p>There wasn’t any advanced warning system that helped people prepare for a storm. People could just look to the sky and make note of changes in the wind and temperature. The fastest communication system that was widely available at the time was the telegraph. The blizzard struck in the middle of the day while many students were at school.</p>	<p>Satellites in space, radar systems on the ground scientific instruments and computers help meteorologists to predict the path and intensity of storms. Communication systems like cell phones, televisions, radios and the internet help meteorologists tell people about the approaching weather dangers.</p>
<p>People learned about what happened from newspapers, magazines, telegraph or from stories that were told from one person to another. “Due to the difficulties of communication in rural communities, which difficulties were greatly increased by the storm, newspaper reports of such experiences were not always accurate. The newsgatherer reported such facts as were obtainable and omitted, or supplied, others. In a single issue of a daily paper we may find three or four spellings of the same name, and no two versions of these stories are alike.” In All Its Fury, page 45</p>	<p>Global communications now allow people to almost instantly see what is happening around the world. The internet connects places that used to be remote. Even with today’s technology, news stories sometimes have errors.</p>