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# November Newsletter

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## St. Stephen's Elementary School

3669 Highland Ave., Halifax, NS B3K 4J9

**PRINCIPAL:** David Madgett **VICE-PRINCIPAL:** Nicole Gerrard

**ADMIN. ASSISTANT:** Heather Cosgrove-Smith

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### Principal's Message

October was a very busy month of learning. We began the month reconfiguring 9 classes and rebooted the school year in some respects. We spent the month celebrating Mi'kmaq history in Nova Scotia. Our grade 6 students completed the Grade 6 Reading, Writing & Math Assessment, and we hosted our annual Scholastic Book Fair fundraiser which grossed record sales of over \$8000.00. We ended the month with our annual Halloween SockHop, we celebrated our rich Mi'kmaq heritage together at our Mi'kmaq History Assembly and notwithstanding a couple hiccups, the Nova Scotia Lunch Program got underway this week.

During November, term 1 comes to an end and we enter the home stretch before Christmas break. We will be having our Remembrance Day service on Friday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Assessment and Evaluation Day will also be taking place later in the month as teachers prepare report cards that will be sent home on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for all your support over the past month with the changes in class configurations, attending field-trips and supporting our various PTA Fundraisers. As we await the arrival of the cookie dough orders, our fabulous PTA has already turned their attention to the upcoming, ever-popular Toy Bingo (please see further down in the newsletter for more info).

Welcome to November and please remember to turn your clocks back an hour on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> as daylight savings time comes to an end. Have a fun and safe night to all who are heading out Trick-or-treating tonight.

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

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### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**

- End of Daylight Savings Time (clocks go back an hour)

**Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

- Picture Retake Day

**Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

- 11am Remembrance Day Service

**Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Remembrance Day (School closed)

**Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**

- 5:15pm SAC Meeting
- 6:30pm PTA Meeting

**Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**

- 2:45pm-6pm Drop-in Flu-shot clinic for SSES students and families

**Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

- 2:45pm-6pm Cookie Dough Pick-Up

**Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- Assessment & Evaluation Day - Elem/Jr High (no classes)

**Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**

- 6:30pm Toy Bingo
- Report cards go home

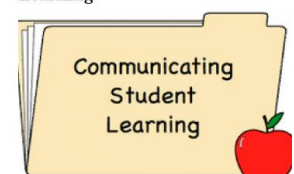
**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

- 1pm Matinee Holiday Concert
- 6pm Evening Holiday Concert

**Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

- PD Day-AM
  - Parent-Teacher Interviews-1-3 & 5-7 PM (**no classes all day**)
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Communicating Student Learning



# What's New

## Nova Scotia School Lunch Program



The Nova Scotia School Lunch Program started delivering meals to students on October 28, this past Monday. This is a provincial lunch program that offers public school students in Nova Scotia nutritious and affordable (pay what you can) lunch every school day. This program provided lunch to approximately 60% of our students. If you need support setting up your child(ren)'s Diner Profile please go to <https://nslunch-support.ednet.ns.ca/>. You can also check out the very comprehensive FAQ section at <https://nslunch.ca/faq/> for more

information.

## Change in Weather

Brrrr! IT IS GETTING COLDER OUTSIDE! The weather has certainly cooled off over the past week. As we head into November, the temperature has dropped to single digits and will get progressively colder. Please ensure your child(ren) comes dressed for the weather. We will be heading out daily for recess and lunch as well as take advantage of outdoor learning opportunities. Gloves/mittens and a tuque are always a safe bet to keep in the backpack just in case. It is very windy most days but with proper clothing, we will be able to stay comfortable outdoors! Please let us know if we can help in any way.

## Volunteering

Volunteers are always needed and greatly appreciated, as you play an essential role in supporting our students and programs. To ensure a safe environment for everyone, we kindly remind all volunteers to complete the necessary background checks. Your involvement makes a big difference, and we are so grateful for your time and willingness to help as chaperones on field trips, etc. Thank you for helping us create a wonderful learning community! Here are the links for the required background checks which are completed online:

1. A completed **Child Abuse Register search**, which can be found [here](#)
2. A certified and true copy of a **Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check** available [here](#), from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies

Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be issued in the three months preceding volunteering and updated every three years.

## Drop-in Flu-Shot Clinic for SSES Students and Families Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

On Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a flu-shot clinic for SSES students and families who wish to get a flu-shot. A registered pharmacist will be administering them between 2:45pm-4:30pm at the school on that day. This is voluntary for families to do after school, there is no obligation. We are offering our school site for this clinic as many families do not have access to a family doctor. More information will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

## Parking Congestion on Normandy and Highland During Arrival and Dismissal times.

With the colder weather upon us, we are seeing an increase in car traffic as students are getting dropped off. Please consider walking to school with your child(ren). We have more students than ever before which means we have more staff who are parked in the permitted areas on Normandy and Highland. Other than the temporary parking by the Excel doors on Highland Ave. there is no parking in front of the school or along the playground on Normandy St. Lately, both sides of the street have cars parked for an extended period making

visibility difficult for traffic passing through. Please also refrain from parking directly in front of the Main Entrance as this our designated bus drop-off and pick-up location.

### Remembrance Day Assembly

For our Remembrance Day Assembly we are creating a Wall of Honour slideshow featuring the relatives and family members of our students who are currently serving or who have served in the military. Please click on the link below to upload a photo and include a little info about your family member or relative. These photos are sent directly to Mr. Madgett through this form and will only be used in our slideshow for the Remembrance Day service. <https://forms.gle/BAwXYBuK2hqPpaZq7> . If you sent in pictures last year, you do not have to send them in again. We will include them with our slideshow this year.

### Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert will be on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. We will have a matinee performance at 1pm and an evening performance at 6pm. For the evening performance each family will be permitted two guests. Tickets will be provided, as Fire Regulations only allow 585 persons in the gym. We encourage grandparents, etc. to come to our matinee performance as tickets will not be required at that time. Our PTA will be sending home information about the front and second row seat raffle that will take place!

### PD Day & Parent Teacher Interviews on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Parent-Teacher Interviews will be conducted in person from 1-3pm and 5-7pm on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. More information will be provided on how to sign up for appointment times during the month of November. As always, if you are not able to meet during this time, please reach out to your child's teacher(s) to arrange a phone call, or another meeting time that is mutually convenient.

### Toy Bingo

Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup>! Doors open at 5:30pm and bingo starts at 6:30pm. More details will be coming on how and when to donate toys and baked goods for the 'canteen' or how you can volunteer at the event (event set up, Bingo card sales, canteen sales, event cleanup).

### Mabel's Labels PTA Fundraising Campaign



Having trouble finding your kids stuff? Mabel's Label's personalized labels and stamps can help you keep track of your child's things! The labels are laundry, dishwasher, and microwave safe, and easy to apply. Visit Mabel's Labels at [www.mabelslabels.com](http://www.mabelslabels.com) , click "Support a Fundraiser" and type "St. Stephens Elementary School PTA (Halifax)" into the search bar. Place your order, and it will be shipped directly to your home. The PTA receives a 20% commission on orders placed through this fundraiser. Questions? Contact the school at [sses@hrce.ca](mailto:sses@hrce.ca) .