

October 2024 Newsletter

St. Stephen's Elementary School

3669 Highland Ave., Halifax, NS B3K 4J9

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

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Heather Cosgrove-Smith



Principal's Message

As we step into October, I want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic start to the school year! It's been a busy and exciting first month, filled with a growing enrollment, positive energy and many memorable moments. We completed a few key safety drills to ensure everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency, and I'm happy to say the students handled them like pros!

We had an amazing turnout for both the PTA BBQ and Curriculum Night – thank you to everyone who came out to support our school community. It was wonderful to see families engaging with staff and taking part in such special events. Another highlight was our Pink Shirt Day, where students and staff stood united against bullying, showing the strength of our school's values.

Looking ahead, October brings new opportunities for learning and growth. We begin this month by reconfiguring classes from Grades 2-6 to best meet the needs of our students. Additionally, we are excited to celebrate Mi'kmaq History Month, focusing on the significance of food in Mi'kmaq culture. This is an enriching time for students to deepen their understanding of our shared history.

Next week, our Grade 6 students will participate in Provincial Assessments for literacy and math. We wish them all the best! After Thanksgiving and two important PD Days for our staff, we'll wrap up the month with our Mi'kmaq Heritage Assembly and some Halloween fun with the sock hop and trick-or-treating for the students.

October promises to be another wonderfully busy month of learning and celebration. Please keep a close eye on the calendar for important dates and upcoming events. Thank you for your continued support and have a splendid October!

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Oct. 1st

- Treaty Day

Wednesday, Oct. 2nd

- Picture Day

Friday, Oct. 4th

- Terry Fox Run/Walk

Oct. 7th-10th

- Grade 6 Provincial assessment
- Relocation Drill (this week)

October 8-10

- Scholastic Book Fair

Tuesday, Oct. 8th

- PTA Cookie Dough Fundraiser Begins
- 5:15pm SAC Meeting
- 6:30pm PTA Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 9th

- 3:45pm Gorsebrook X-Country Meet

Friday, Oct. 11th

- PD Day (No classes)

Monday, Oct. 14th

- Thanksgiving Day (School Closed)

Friday, Oct. 18

- School Lunch Program ordering window opens

Wednesday, Oct. 23rd

- School Lunch Program ordering window CLOSES

Thursday, October 24th

- Halloween SockHop

Friday, October 25th

- 12pm Cookie Dough Fundraiser—Last Day for orders
- Provincial Conference Day

Monday, October 28th

- First delivery of lunches

Wednesday, October 30th

- Mi'kmaq Heritage Assembly

Thursday, October 31st

- Halloween



What's New

Our New Configuration

With the receiving of an additional teacher, our configuration will look quite different. Overall, we will have 16 classrooms with 2 Preprimary classes, 2 Primary classes, 2 Grade 1 classes, a Grade 1/2 class, 2 Grade 2 classes, 2 Grade 3 classes, 2 Grade 4 classes, a Grade 5 class, a Grade 5/6 class and a Grade 6 class.

More information about the reconfiguration will be sent home on Thursday, October 3rd.

Our School Website's New Look

We're excited to announce the refresh of our school's website! Explore its new look and features and stay tuned as we continue restoring content throughout October. We appreciate your patience during this update!

School Lunch Program



Our School Lunch Program is set to launch later this month. Famolex Integrated Consult Limited DBA Flenjor Foods is our contracted food service provider. To order please go to <https://nslunch.ca/>. Please take note of the following dates:

The first ordering date: October 18 – October 23

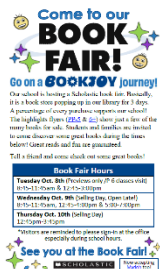
Meals will be delivered starting on Monday, October 28

October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month



Food gathers us together for celebration, nourishment and comfort. It is central to our ceremonies, considered part of our medicines, and key to our resiliency. Sharing freely honours each other and blesses our families and communities so no one is harmed or struggles. The long-ago treaties with the first plants and animals of Mi'kma'ki require us to love and to protect msit no'kmaq (all our relations). Living through the values and ways of netukulimk over thousands of years has carried our communities through times of abundance and scarcity. For more info please visit: <https://mikmaqhistorymonth.com/>

Scholastic Book Fair



Our school is hosting a Scholastic book fair. Basically, it is a bookstore popping up in our library for 3 days. A percentage of every purchase supports our school! The highlights flyers (PP-5 & 6+) show just a few of the many books for sale. Students and families are invited to come discover some great books during the times below! Great reads and fun are guaranteed. Tell a friend and come check out some great books! Families are invited to come to the school and make purchases on October 9th, from 5pm-7pm. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Makmillen at jmakmillen@hrce.ca.

The Gorsebrook Gr 3-6 Elementary School X-C Meet

The Gorsebrook Gr 3-6 Elementary School X-C Meet will be held on Wednesday, October 9 at 3:45pm-approximately 4:30 (Rain date on October 10).

Race Order:

- Grade 6 Girls then Boys (2 laps, same course on the periphery of the field, ending by tennis courts)
- Grade 3 Girls then Boys (1 laps)
- Grade 4 Girls then Boys (2 laps)
- Grade 5 Girls then Boys (2 laps)

Permission slips will be handed out to students this week. Please contact Mr. Tully at tullyr@hrce.ca for more information.

Lunch Monitors Needed

If you have a spare hour between 11:45am and 12:45pm Monday-Friday and would like to be a lunch monitor, please contact Otilie in the office at 902-493-5155 or by going to [Careers at HRCE](#) to apply. Candidates must have a valid Criminal Record Check / Vulnerable Sector check as well as the Child Abuse Register check completed prior to starting.

Label, Label, Label



If you were at Curriculum Night, you no doubt saw the accumulation that has already started in our lost and found. Please label your child's clothing, boots, shoes, lunch bag, school bag, hat, etc. Our PTA has an ongoing fundraiser with Mabel's Labels. Mabel's Labels are laundry, dishwasher and microwave safe, and easy to apply. Visit Mabel's Labels at 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.