

# September 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

We hope this message finds everyone rested, refreshed, and excited for the new school year! It is with great anticipation that we welcome you all back to what promises to be an amazing year of learning, growth, and success. Whether you're returning to our school or joining us for the first time, we're thrilled to have you as part of our St. Stephen's family. Once again, this year, we have experienced higher than usual enrolment (we will be starting the year with 338 students enrolled) and consequently there will likely be some shifts in class composition throughout the first few weeks of school.

Please take note of the dates and events coming up in September. Throughout the school year we add to our calendar to keep you as up to date as possible. Curriculum Night will be combined with a PTA BBQ and more details will follow next week.

Finally, I cannot thank you all for your tremendous support on the first day of school. While you may have missed the PTA Coffee House, be sure to check out the PTA BBQ later this month.

We look forward to meeting and greeting all our students and families together over the course of this school year.

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

## Upcoming Events

### Monday, September 9

- Fire Drill this week

### Tuesday, September 10

- 5:15pm SAC Meeting (Kitchen)
- 6:15pm PTA Meeting (Kitchen)

### Thursday, September 12

- **Pink Shirt (Stand-up Against Bullying) Day**

### Monday, September 16

- Lockdown Drill this week (info will be sent home the week before)

### Thursday, September 26

- 5pm PTA BBQ (More info to follow)
- 6:15pm Curriculum Night

### Friday, September 27

- SAC Conference

### Monday, September 30

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No School)

### Tuesday, October 1

- Treaty Day
- Orange Shirt Day (Every Child Matters)

### Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Smile!!! It's Picture Day

## What's New

### We Need Lunch Monitors

Interested in becoming a lunch monitor? Lunch Monitors provide support and assistance to students during lunchtime activities under the direction of the school principal. The Lunch Monitor will oversee students in a variety of settings including the classroom, lunch area, and outside play



areas. For more information, please contact our Admin Assistant, Mrs. Cosgrove-Smith at [hcogrove-smith@hrce.ca](mailto:hcogrove-smith@hrce.ca) .

## When Visiting the School

Visitors are welcome! Please be aware of the following few protocols listed below to ensure the safety of our students:



- For the safety of students and staff, all visitors must enter through the front (main office) doors at all times. Please press the buzzer and wait to be greeted by Ms. Cosgrove-Smith.
- Check in with our secretary, Ms. Cosgrove-Smith, at the office.
- All visitors must sign-in (sign-in book is in main office foyer) and always wear a visitor or volunteer tag in the building.
- If you are meeting with your child's teacher, administration, or another staff member, please make sure an appointment time has already been established before coming to the school.

## School Advisory Council (SAC) Meetings

Have you ever wanted to know more about how our school and regional centre operate? Consider joining our School advisory council (SAC). The SAC is an advisory body to individual school principals, as well as the regional centres for education (RCEs). They provide recommendations on variety of issues related to their local school and the overall school system. Our SAC Executive has a few openings for those who are interested. Please contact the Principal, Dave Madgett, at [dmadgett@hrce.ca](mailto:dmadgett@hrce.ca) .

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:15pm in the kitchen from September–June (no meetings in December or March).

## Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Meetings

Our Parent Teacher Association is a small but very active group of Parents/Guardians/Staff who strive to achieve these common goals:

1. To promote collaboration between parents/guardians and all school staff
  2. To support programs promoting the well-being and **safety of students in the school**
  3. To promote an interest in, and a better understanding of, the educational curriculum at the school
  4. To provide financial support to the school community to **enhance the learning environment**
  5. To promote participation in school related activities by staff/parents/guardians and build community spirit.
- Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:15pm in the Library from September–June to talk about fundraising and planning for upcoming events – ALL ARE WELCOME!

## Dogs on the School Grounds

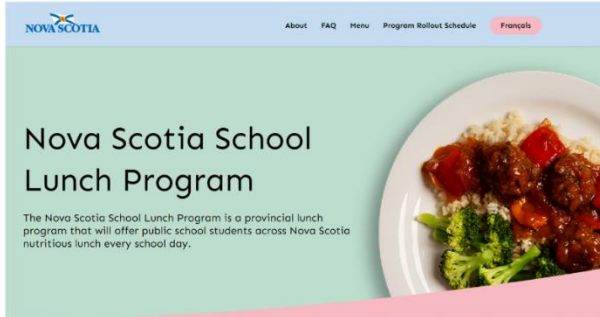


Just a gentle reminder that dogs must remain off the school grounds at all times. While Mr. Madgett would happily like to spend the day outside playing with all the neighbourhood dogs, not everyone shares that same comfort. We ask that if you have your dog with you, please stay off the grounds and do not crowd the entrances/exits around the property.

## Curriculum Night/PTA Family BBQ

Curriculum Night take place at the school this year on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:15pm-7:15pm. Our PTA will be hosting a family BBQ on this same night from 5pm-6:15pm! More details will follow on how this will happen in the coming weeks.

## Nova Scotia School Lunch Program



As you know, the Nova Scotia School Lunch program is set to begin in HRCE schools that include elementary school grades (pre-primary/primary to Grade 5) this October.

The province has launched [www.NSLunch.ca](http://www.NSLunch.ca), where you can find up-to-date information about the program as well as answers to frequently asked questions. At the end of September, you will also be able to order your child(ren)'s meals on this website.

In early September, school-specific details will be shared with families about Nova Scotia's School Lunch Program, including when you can begin the ordering process. Please look for that email shortly after the start of the school year. In the meantime, visit [www.NSLunch.ca](http://www.NSLunch.ca) for the latest program information.

## October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month



This year's History Month poster theme: food and its significance in Mi'kmaq culture. From sharing piteway (tea) at kitchen tables to harvesting and safeguarding traditional sources, food is central to Mi'kmaq life. Mi'kmaq History Month is a time to educate and celebrate our history and culture, offering a chance to deepen understanding of the Mi'kmaq's relationship with food and pass on these teachings to the younger generations and beyond. For more info follow the link: <https://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/>

## Life Threatening Allergies and Scent Sensitive School



We have several students who have life threatening allergies to peanuts and nut products. Please respect their health and well-being by sending your child with snacks and lunches that do not contain nuts. Additionally, some of our students have medical conditions that are be worsened by scented products.

## Label, Label, Label



We would like to avoid an accumulation of clothing, etc. over the coming months in our lost and found. Please label your child's clothing, boots, shoes, lunch bag, school bag, hat, etc. To help families ensure that misplaced clothes are returned to their rightful owners 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](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.