

January 2025 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

December was an exciting month at St. Stephen's Elementary School, filled with holiday spirit days, our wonderful Holiday Concert, and the anticipation of the holidays. We hope you had lots of good times with family and friends and found some time to rest and recharge.

As the winter season unfolds, our students will be engaged in a variety of educational experiences that make learning fun and meaningful. From Mad Science to Literacy Week, January promises to be a month filled with curiosity and discovery. We could also use a little snow...It helps with the learning, right?

With winter weather upon us, it is inevitable that we will be seeing snow shortly. Please ensure that your child(ren) come prepared for the weather outside. An extra set of clothes in their book bags would not hurt either. Also, as tempting as it might be, **please do not send sleds and 'Krazy Carpets' to school.** We have a class set of these for teachers to sign out with their class throughout the week.

As we enter the new year, we are filled with hope and enthusiasm for all that 2025 will bring. Thank you for your continued support, and here's to a year of growth, success, and memorable achievements. A reminder that January 3rd is the first day back for students. January also brings exciting events such as Family Literacy Day and Literacy Week activities. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that intramurals will begin for students in grades 4-6, and Thursday morning gym sessions will start for our P-3 students.

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 1st

- New Year's Day
- Kwanzaa Ends

Thursday, January 2nd

- First Day Back For Staff...Happy New Year! (No School for Students)
- Hanukkah Ends

Friday, January 3rd

- First Day for staff and students

Thursday, January 8th

- 1pm Mad-Science Assembly

Tuesday, January 14th

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

Monday, January 27th

- Family Literacy Day
- Beginning of Family Literacy Week

Wednesday, January 29th

- Chinese/Lunar New Year (Year of the Snake)

Saturday, February 1st

- African Heritage Month Begins
- Registration for PrePrimary/Primary 2025/26 begins

Sunday, February 2nd

- Groundhog Day

What's New



Star Fund

We would like to send out a heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who contributed to our efforts to support students and families in need through our Star Fund. Your generosity and kindness have truly made a difference. A special thank you to the Canadian Progress Club



Halifax Citadel, our incredible PTA, and all the members of our broader community who came together to help us raise over \$1,700. These funds have gone directly to supporting many St. Stephen's Elementary families, ensuring that they have what they need during challenging times. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the power of community and the compassion we share for one another. Together, we are making a meaningful impact in the lives of our students and their families, and for that, we are deeply grateful. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to building a stronger, more caring community.

Electronics and Toys



Following the holidays, many children will have received electronic devices such as cell phones and toys for Christmas. Just a reminder that we cannot guarantee the security of these items, so we ask students to please keep these at home. Cell phones are permitted but must be turned off and put away while the student is on the property without exception.

Family Literacy Day/Literacy Week



Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. The Family Literacy Day 2025 theme is "Learn to be Green, Together." Make a pledge as a family to learn ways to be greener. Use less electricity, commute together, and reuse items. Being green together is a fun way to learn as a family while being kind to the environment. More news will be sent home about Literacy Week activities later in January.

African Heritage Month (February 2025)

This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme is "Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance." This theme highlights the living legacy of Black Nova Scotians, honoring the impact and perseverance of the long-standing community. It highlights the greatness we hold, the paths we lead through our deep connection with our elders, storytelling, the rhythms of change, and the ability to look back to move forward.

Dressing for Colder Weather



Students go outside to play every day. While a combination of wind, rain, an/or cold all dictate how long we stay out, we do get outside for the most part on a daily basis. Please insist that your child(ren) come to school with a winter jacket, hat, mittens/gloves, socks, boots, and snow pants. If you need any support getting any of these items please let Mr. Madgett/ Ms. Gerrard know. It is very windy most days but with proper clothing we will be able to stay comfortable outdoors! **Please ensure your child(ren) come to school dressed for the weather.**

Mabel's Labels PTA Fundraising Campaign



mabel's labels

Winter coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, and boots can be a nightmare to keep track of for any family. Mabel's Labels 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, 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 and the proceeds go to supporting school events. Questions?