

February 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

January was a busy and exciting month at SSES! We kicked off the year by celebrating Lunar New Year and hosting a fantastic Literacy Week filled with engaging activities. Students had a great time writing letters to their families, participating in a book exchange, designing book covers, and cozying up for "Reading Under the Stars." We wrapped up the week with our Literacy Week Assembly, where we unveiled our SSES school-wide book, and ended on a fun note with a movie afternoon watching Horton Hears a Who! with popcorn and friends. Our Grade 6 Basketball season got underway, bringing lots of energy to the court. P-3 students have been enjoying Open Gym on Wednesday mornings, while Grades 4-6 have been actively participating in intramurals on Fridays at lunch. We also launched our Lego Club, which has sparked creativity and collaboration among our students.

Looking ahead, February is African Heritage Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the rich African Heritage in Nova Scotia. We encourage students to engage in learning opportunities and events throughout the month.

Finally, please do not send Crocs to school as the floors are very slippery (right after morning entry, after recess and after lunch). Crocs are great warm weather shoes, but can be dangerous on wet floors, or ice.

Other important highlights for February include:

- **2025-26 Pre-Primary and Primary Registration** opens this month.
- **Mad Science** workshops will be taking place, bringing hands-on STEM fun to our students.
- **Coins for Books Campaign** – a treat fundraiser over the next three Fridays to support replenishing classroom libraries.

Thank you for your continued support in making SSES a wonderful place to learn and grow!

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 1

- African Heritage Month Begins

Sunday, February 2

- Groundhog Day
- Twonie Treat Friday (\$2 Candy Treat)

Monday, February 3rd

- PrePrimary/Primary Registration 2025-26 Opens

Friday, February 7th

- Twonie Treat Friday (\$2 Candy Treat)

Tuesday, February 11

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

Friday, February 14

- Valentine's Day Dance 12:45pm P-3, 1:45pm 4-6
- Pink Triangle Day
- Twonie Treat Friday

Monday, February 17

- **Heritage Day (School closed)**—Honoring Nora Bernard
- Random Act of Kindness Day

Thursday, February 20

- 7pm PTA Oval Skate

Friday, February 21

- Winter Walk Day
- Twonie Treat Friday (\$2 Freezie)

Friday, February 28th

- African Heritage Celebration Month End Assembly



What's New

Celebrate African Heritage Month 2024



This year, African Heritage Month embraces the provincial theme, “Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance.” The theme celebrates the enduring legacy of Black Nova Scotians, paying tribute to the community's resilience, achievements, and impact throughout history. It reflects the brilliance within the community: the stories we share, the lessons passed down by our elders, the rhythms that drive progress, and the powerful ability to honor the past while shaping the future.

Nova Scotia is home to 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities, with a rich and complex history that spans more than 200 years. African Heritage Month is a time to honor this heritage and celebrate the culture, achievements, and contributions of Black Nova Scotians—both past and present. It is a moment to recognize the strength of our shared legacy and the brilliance that continues to inspire future generations. Learn more [here](#).

Looking for ways to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month?

- Attend events happening throughout the month at your local [Halifax Public Library](#).
- While you're at the library, [borrow books](#) that will inspire the whole family to learn more about African heritage.
- Visit local heritage sites, such as the [Black Cultural Centre](#), [the Africville Museum](#), and the [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#).

February is PrePrimary & Primary Registration Month

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

- Registration is only required if you are new to Halifax Regional Centre for Education or your child is beginning school in Pre-Primary or Primary. Current Pre-Primary students are not required to re-register for Primary.
- Expiration dates for all work/study permits are required to be entered in PowerSchool. Schools must monitor and track the expiration dates. Parents/guardians must have valid work/study permits for their child(ren) to attend HRCE schools.
- Registration for new Pre-Primary students begins on February 3rd. For more information, please click [here](#). Principals will need to contact families of current Pre Primary students with rights to both English and Early Immersion programs to determine their 2025-26 choice.
- HRCE Home Address Lookup can be accessed [here](#).
- The Parent and Student Portal for PowerSchool can be accessed [here](#). New registrants to HRCE will be able to access the portal at the beginning of the school year.
- Please contact the school should your child have any special needs that we should be made aware of to help support their successful transition to school in September 2025. If the needs are complex, we will set up a meeting with parents/guardians.

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the September 2025.



LEGO Club is Underway!

Thank you to everyone who signed up. There is always lots of demand for Lego Club, we have created the following schedule to make sure everyone has a turn. Happy Building!

Date	Group 1 (11:45 – 12:10)	Group 2 (12:15 – 12:40)
Mon. Jan. 20	1 Loo, 1/2 D'Cruz, 6 Johnston, 5 Burns	P Kirchner, P Iatrou, 1 Giles
Mon. Jan. 27	2 Collings, 2 O'Leary, 3 Richter	3 Francis, 4, Dodge, 4 MacDonald, 4/5 Frampton
Mon. Feb. 3	1 Loo, 1/2 D'Cruz, 6 Johnston, 5 Burns	P Kirchner, P Iatrou, 1 Giles
Mon. Feb. 10	2 Collings, 2 O'Leary, 3 Richter	3 Francis, 4, Dodge, 4 MacDonald, 4/5 Frampton
Mon. Feb. 24	1 Loo, 1/2 D'Cruz, 6 Johnston, 5 Burns	P Kirchner, P Iatrou, 1 Giles
Mon. Mar. 3	2 Collings, 2 O'Leary, 3 Richter	3 Francis, 4, Dodge, 4 MacDonald, 4/5 Frampton

Dressing for Colder Weather

We continue to have students coming to school unprepared for the colder weather. 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. We will be heading out daily and more frequently. It is very windy most days but with proper clothing we will be able to stay comfortable outdoors! **Please check the forecast in the morning and ensure your child(ren) come to school dressed for the weather.**

Slow down in school zones

To ensure our students' safety, here are a few reminders for drivers navigating school zones.



- Follow school zone speed limits whenever children are present. This always applies, not just during school hours.
- Be prepared to stop for a school bus at any time.
- Remember to stop whenever you approach a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing, regardless of the direction of travel or which lane the bus is in.
- Give yourself extra time during your morning commute.
- Always watch for pedestrians. There are more kids walking, riding, and getting dropped off in school zones.
- Always obey crossing guards.
- Avoid distractions while driving.

Mad-Science Begins in February & Additional Mad-Science Spring Classes Open for Registration

Mad-Science gets underway for the next six weeks for the first session (Wednesday Gr. P-2, Thursday Gr. 3-6). The response for the winter program has been out of this world, and with waitlists for our upcoming classes filling up quicker than we anticipated, **Mad Science has decided to open up registration for spring classes early!** Don't miss this opportunity to secure a spot for your little scientist before these classes fill up too! 🧪 ⚡

👉 [Click here to register now!](#) 👈

Spots are limited, so don't wait too long – the science adventure is calling! 📌 ⚡

Annual SSES PTA Oval Skate



Calling all skaters! Warm up to winter by meeting your fellow school friends at the Emera Oval for an ice skate on February 20, at 7pm-9pm. Bring your skates, gloves and CSA approved multi-impact hockey helmet. Need gear? Rent for free at the oval (bring valid photo identification). Students must be supervised by parents / guardians (no student drop-offs). Look for SSES PTA volunteers on the benches for a drink and treat. There are buses on Robie Street from our neighborhood to Quinpool Rd, which is

a short walk to the oval at Halifax North Common (corner of North Park St and Cogswell St). There is also parking around the commons or adjacent side streets.

Mabel's Labels PTA Fundraising Campaign



One of the ways we reduce the size of our lost and found is being able to identify who the piece of clothing belongs to. Mabel's Labels personalized labels and stamps can help you and our school staff keep track of your child's things (i.e. black or navy-blue snow pants)! 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.