



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 May, it's wonderful to look back on all the excitement and energy of April. Despite a surprising snow day late in the month, our students and staff embraced every opportunity to learn and connect. We kicked off April with our always-popular PTA Pancake Breakfast — thank you to our incredible volunteers for making it such a warm and welcoming event!

Student-Led Conferences were a highlight, giving students the chance to proudly share their growth and learning journeys. We were thrilled to see so many families join us in celebrating their hard work. Our extracurricular activities were also in full swing again — Mad-Science resumed, our running club hit the ground running, and Earth Week was filled with meaningful activities. The week concluded with a vibrant assembly where students shared how we can all make a difference in caring for our planet.

On Administrative Professionals Day, we proudly celebrated Ms. Heather in the office for all she does to keep our school running smoothly. Thank you, Ms. Heather, for your dedication and warm spirit!

Looking ahead, May promises to be just as exciting. We will begin staffing for the next school year and our Grade 3 students will be participating in their Provincial Assessments. We are excited to celebrate mothers in our community, recognize and honour Black Excellence, and cheer on our student runners as they participate in the Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run. To top it all off, May will conclude with our much-anticipated PTA Spring Fair — a wonderful event for the whole family.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Here's to a fantastic month ahead!

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 11th

- Mothers' Day

Tuesday, May 13

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

May 13, 15, 20, 22

- Gr. 3 Provincial Assessments

Thursday, May 15

- Black Excellence Day

Saturday, May 17th

- Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run

Monday, May 19th

- Victoria Day (school closed)

Friday, May 30th

- 6J to Bayside

Saturday, May 31st

- 11am-2pm PTA Spring Fair

Monday, June 2nd

- Grade 6 Track & Field

Tuesday, June 3rd

- Grade 5 Track & Field

Wednesday, June 4th

- Grade 4 Track & Field

Sunday, June 15th

- Father's Day

Tuesday, June 24th

- Field Day (rain date 25th)

Friday, June 27th

- Assessment & Evaluation Day (No School for Students)

Monday, June 30th

- Last Day of School



What's New

Morning Arrival Routine Reminder

We would like to remind families about our morning arrival procedures at St. Stephen's Elementary School. The **reminder bell rings at 8:40 a.m.**, and **classes begin promptly at 8:45 a.m.**

Students **should not be entering the school before 8:40 a.m.** If your child arrives before that time, they should be dropped off at the **back of the school**, where their class enters the building. Pre-Primary student drop-off takes place outside in the lower end alcove at 8:45am.

Please note that the **main office entrance is reserved for bus students only** and should not be used for morning drop-offs before 8:40 a.m.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and orderly start to the school day.

2025-26 EXCEL Registration



The EXCEL program is a recreation-based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, offering before and after school care for elementary-aged children.

At each school site, the dedicated and qualified staffing teams plan weekly games and activities that suit the needs and interests of the registered students. These individual plans are framed around EXCEL's overall philosophy which is focused on physical activity and positive social interaction in a safe and fun environment.

Registration for returning children begins May 1st and registration for new EXCEL participants will begin on May 15th. [Click here](#) for more information.

Black Excellence Day

On May 15th we will be celebrating Black Excellence. Black Excellence Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and successes of Black individuals within the community, province and across Canada. It highlights the talent and accomplishments within the Black community, ensuring that Black students have an opportunity to highlight all their positive contributions within the educational system.

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. Child Abuse Register (CAR) Search Results - CAR applications may be made online <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-child-abuse-register-search>
2. A current [Criminal Records Check](#) with a [Vulnerable Sector Check](#) are available online via <http://www.backcheck.net/halifax/> or from your local Police or RCMP detachment. If you go to your local detachment, you will need to provide them with this [this letter](#) and submit it with your VSS application to the Police/RCMP detachment).

Kids Run Club UPDATE!!!

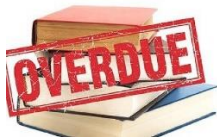
The Kids Run Club at St. Stephen's is in full swing and the students who have joined are coming every week and having fun! One of our goals is to run in the Blue Nose Marathon. Students can be registered in the Doctor's Nova Scotia, 2Km or 4Km fun run. We will be meeting there with

our running club (more information to follow) but Ms. Johnston and Ms. Loo is not in charge of your child's supervision before/during or after the race. You must attend and be with your child. As a reminder St. Stephen's Run Club is Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:45am-12:15pm for students in grades 2-6. We ask that students come prepared with sneakers and a water bottle.

We also have a Jr. Run Club for students in Primary and grade one on Fridays at recess. This is a great chance for our youngest students to drop by and try out running!

<https://raceroster.com/events/2024/81415/emera-blue-nose-marathon>

Overdue or Lost Library Books



As we move into May, we would like to ask all families to please check your homes for any overdue (or misplaced) library books that belong to St. Stephen's Elementary School. Please return these books to your child's teacher and we will make sure they find their way back to our library.

SSES PTA Spring Fair

On Saturday, May 31st, our SSES PTA will be hosting our most anticipated event of the school year, the Spring Fair. Planning is underway for the big day, and a great big THANK YOU is extended to everyone who has contributed so far. More information will be going out via School Messenger as we will be looking for additional volunteers to help, as well as donations for the Cake Walk and of carnival prizes, baked goods, and silent auction items. In the meantime, please check out the St. Stephen's PTA Facebook page for more info and how to get involved.

