#### St. Stephen's Elementary School Primary Information June 2025

Welcome Class of 2038!

#### A word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First off—breathe. You've done it. You've navigated playdates, snack negotiations, bedtime stories (the same one, 47 times and counting), and now, here you are—preparing to send your little one off to "big kid" school.

Let me say this clearly: we're honoured to be part of your child's first steps into formal education. At St. Stephen's Elementary, we don't take that lightly. We understand the mix of pride, nerves, and "how did they grow up this fast?" disbelief you're probably feeling right now.

You might cry. They might cry. You might both cry. That's okay—we have tissues, caring staff, and the magic of routine on our side. Before long, you'll hear stories of classroom adventures, mystery library books, and how someone almost lost a tooth.

Our team is here not only to teach your child to read, write, and wonder—but also to care for them as the unique and awesome human they are. We believe school should feel safe, joyful, and a little bit magical.

Thank you for trusting us. And remember, you are still your child's first and most important teacher. We're just happy to be joining the team.

Looking forward to a great year together.

Dave Madgett, Principal, St. Stephen's Elementary

#### First Day Thursday, September 4th, 2025

- Prior to the start of school, you will receive a welcome email from your child's teacher.
- There will be a brief meet and greet on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00am with your child's teacher.
- On the first day, find your child's teacher/lineup. All teachers will be on duty the first day to assist you in finding your child's line up.
- Reassure your child that it is going to be okay. Provide them with empathy and warm wishes. Once the bell rings let them begin their day.
- Head to kitchen for PTA Coffee house (to be confirmed prior to 1<sup>st</sup> day)

#### **Staff Introductions**

- Principal: Mr. David Madgett
- Vice Principal: Ms. Nicole Gerrard
- Secretary: Heather Cosgrove-Smith
- Primary Teacher: Ms. Kirchner
- Primary Teacher: Ms. Gerrard/Ms. Cole
- Phys. Ed.: Mr. Tully
- Music: Ms. Haughian/Mr. Lynch
- Learning Center Teachers: Ms. Fontaine & Mr. Jager
- Resource Teacher: Ms. Leah MacDonald
- Elementary Literacy Support Teacher: Ms. Cathy MacDonald
- African NS Student Support Worker: Mr. Brown
- Caretaker: Mr. Beattie

#### **Registration & Required Documents**

- **Register Online**
- MSI Health Card
- Please register you have please diately if you sol imme already done sol not already **Birth Certificate** 
  - **Proof of Residence**





Visit:

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more details!!!

## **Bell Schedule**

- 8:25am Playground supervision begins
   8:40 am Bell to come in the school
- 8:45am Morning Classes begin
- 10:15am-10:30am 1<sup>st</sup> Recess
- 11:45am-12:45pm Lunch
- 12:45pm Afternoon Classes begin
- 2:45pm Dismissal All Grades (PreP-6)

#### **School Supplies**

Please visit the SSES website to find the Primary Supply List at: <u>https://ssh.hrce.ca/ssh/our-</u> school/2025-26-school-supply-

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lists

### **School Safety**

- All parents & volunteers must sign in and check in with our administrative assistant (Main Office) before moving through the building.
- If you need to come into the school, you must enter using the front door.
- Please wait at the outside doors for your children at the end of the day.
- Doorbell system-doors locked at 8:45 AM
- Changes in pick up- please notify both the teacher and the office
- If your child will not be in school, please call Safe Arrival before 8:45am and let us know at 902-493-5155
  - Parking is limited around the school.

#### Weather & Clothing

We go outside a lot...even when it is raining and cold.
Extra Clothing helps minimize calls home
Sneakers (boots when the

weather calls for it).



#### **Before and After School Childcare**

- There are different options for childcare depending on your needs and the needs of your child. HRCE has the <u>EXCEL program</u>.
  - Students cannot be at school before 8:25am as there is no supervision until then.
- Students must be picked up at the 2:45pm dismissal if they are not walking home.
- At the end of the day, students are required to walk/check in with home or to their caregivers before returning to play in the playground.

#### **Breakfast, Snack & Lunch**

- Breakfast Program (info will go home in the first two weeks)
- School Lunch Program
  - Please Create an Account at <u>https://hrce.nslunch.ca/login</u>
- Food Allergies-Please let the office know if your child has any food allergies before the first day of school.

### **Medical Concerns**

- Allergy Alert Forms (contact the school before the first day)
- Medication Forms (contact the school).
- We are a Nut Sensitive/Scent Sensitive School.
- If we need to be involved in your child's daily medical plan, it is important that we meet to discuss that plan and have the necessary documentation to support that plan.

#### What will Your Child Learn

- Language Arts (Reading, Viewing, Writing, Speaking, Listening)
- Math
- Health
- Social Studies
- Science
- Visual Arts
- Physical Education Specialist Classes
- Music Specialist Classes

## Getting Children Ready for School

- Learn respect for authority
- How to hold a pencil
- Print their name with upper and lower case letters
- How to use scissors
- Know the alphabet– letter sounds
- Practice independence
- Bathroom Skills
- Click on the images for more ideas!

#### prepare them for school activities, such as printing and scisse cutting. They need good upper body strength and stability to give their hand a stable base to work from. They need to have welldeveloped fine motor skills to hold and manipulate a pencil efficiently. They need to develop good visual-motor coordina to be able to copy simple shapes and designs so they can then learn to print letters. The following activities are designed to help your child develop these skills and have fun: Upper Body Strengthening Play on playaround equipment - climb lac across monkeybors, and push a swing. Do the bear, crab, or wheelbarrow walk Throw and catch balls of different sizes The activities on vertical surfaces - on easel of poper taped to the wall Do activities on the floor while tu weight through the foregroup. Fine Motor Skills

Get Ready. Get Set for Sch

Suggestions for Parents

- Notor Skalls
   Pick up as many pennies/cheerios/Skittles as possible using only 1 hand (pick them up one at a time and keep them all in the one hand) - then put them in a container or, for edible chicasts and them one at a finance.
- objects, eat them one at a time. "Shred" (tear) paper to be recycled with 2 hands
- Play with squirt gurs or water plants with a spray bottle.
- Use tongs or tweezers to pick up cotton balls, sponge pieces or pom-pom balls.

IFE School Compation April 2009



#### Preparing Your Child for Grade Primary

School readiness is built through your child's experiences before entry to grade primary. Family support is important in shaping these experiences. Children take great pride in being able to do things independently. Here are some tips to improve your child's success when participating in daily activities in their first year of School!

	Begin with:	Next Step:
Shoes/Boots	Velcro straps or slip-on shoes     Have well-fitting shoes that have a rigid heel     cup and are made of firm material	Laces or buckles
Pants	Elastic waist bands, loose fitting	<ul> <li>Buttons (<u>note</u>; large buttons are easier than smaller), belts, snaps</li> </ul>
Jacket/Coat	<ul> <li>Large, sturdy zipper</li> <li>Add a zipper pull to make the tab easier to grasp (avoid multiple flaps covering the zipper; also if there is a flap, ideally it can be folded back out of the way easily and is not filmsy)</li> </ul>	Buttons, snaps
Hats	Pull-on; Velcro chin straps	<ul> <li>Tie-up chin straps</li> </ul>
Scarves	Neck warmer/neck tube/ infinity scarf	Long scarves (may pose a safety risk and are often not suggested for younger children)
Gloves	Mittens or rigid gloves     Mittens that attach together     through sleeve of coat	Tight, stretchy gloves

#### **Some Literacy Readiness Ideas**

Personal Information –
Rhymes and Beats and Claps and Hops and Raps and...

- Print Readiness
  - Reading
  - Click on image for more information

#### Getting Ready For School: Literacy Readiness

 Personal Information - use rhymes, little songs, clapping games, practice reading and writing it, play telephone, write with sond, play dough, make business cards, etc.

- First and Last name (find little words in their names, artwork, illustrate letters)
- a Birthday/Age (day, month, year)
- Address and telephone number (caution to give to appropriate school staff only)
- a Shoelaces good luck with this one

#### 2. Rhymes and Beats and Claps and Hops and Raps and...

"But if I ren the zoo, said a young Gerald MaGree I'd make a few changes. That's what I'd do."

Songs - "Down by the Boy", "In the Quartermaster's Store," Riddles - "Nat too big, not too small, just the size of Montreal" Books on CD - Public Library (for developing sense of narrative structures)

3. Print Readiness "Te liamo maliana" bLD&DO TEAsubi Emetise, the dell'rold undri the deb and I cudintari it.

- Have children "read" environmental print on your outings. Point out some of the letters that are in their names. Practice printing and making the sounds of the letters of the alphabet (pavement chalk, alphabet pretzels, bathtub foam letters, airbruck gigantic letters).
- Play GO FISH/BINGO with letters/animals.
   Write family members names from shortest to longest.
- Work with numbers as well.
- a Look at calendars and recite the days of the week.

#### Supports Within our School and Accessed Through our School

- School Social Worker
- Speech Language Pathologist
- School Psychologist
- School Guidance Counselor
- English as Additional Language (EAL)
- Early Literacy Support
- Reading Recovery
- Child & Youth Care Practitioner
- Learning Centre & Resource Teachers
- African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker
- Schools Plus Outreach Worker
- Public Health Nurse
- HRCE Program Staff Support
- HRCE Students Services
- Parent Navigator

#### Communication

#### • Website

- Calendar (found on SSES website)
- Newsletters (found on SSES website)
- Assemblies
- Curriculum Night/ PTA BBQ(*tentative* date: Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm)
- Special Events
  - Halloween SocHop
  - Toy Bingo
  - Holiday Concert
  - Spring Fair
  - Class Trips
  - ...and much more!!!

# Volunteers NEEDED School Advisory Council (SAC)

School Advisory Councils (SAC) play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level.

A School Advisory Council is an advisory body to the school principal, Regional Centre for Education, on a range of issues related to the school and the school system.

Membership can vary, but generally consists of the school principal, parents, teachers, and other community members. The SAC meets at the school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 5:15pm-6:15pm.

## Volunteers NEEDED Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA is the school *FUNdraising* committee made up of parents, teachers and school administration. They organize fundraising events such as bingo, dances, spring fairs, and meet and greets with Santa in order to raise money for technology needs, reduce costs of field trips, etc.

The PTA is always in search of volunteers. They function on the premise of "many hands make light work." Your level of involvement is totally up to you.

The PTA is a great way for Primary parents to get engaged with other families in the school and to have a real impact on providing much needed financial support to the school. The PTA meets at the school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 7pm-8pm (immediately following the SAC meeting).

## **School Activities**

- Breakfast/Snack/Lunch Program
- Choir
- Leadership Activities
- Running Club
- School Basketball team
- Intramural activities
- Violin
- Band
- Lego Club
- Chess Club
- Assemblies
- And more...