

November 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

October was a month filled with celebration, learning, and community! We recognized Mi'kmaq History Month through stories and storytelling, explored new books during another very successful Book Fair (thank you to Ms. Makmillan and all our volunteers for making it happen) and we enjoyed seasonal highlights like Thanksgiving, Diwali, and our always-popular Halloween Sock Hop. Our Grade 6 students also completed their provincial assessments in Reading, Writing, and Math.

Looking ahead, November brings important moments of reflection and connection, including our Remembrance Day observance, the end of Term 1, and Report Cards, which will be sent home on November 27th. We're also looking forward to our PTA Toy Bingo, a fun tradition for students and families!

As we welcome November, please remember to turn your clocks back one hour this Sunday as Daylight Savings Time ends. Wishing everyone a safe and happy night of trick-or-treating and a wonderful start to the new month! Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

What's New

Planning for Inclement Weather



Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 2nd

- End of Daylight Savings Time (clocks go back an hour)

Tuesday, November 4th

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

Wednesday, November 5th

- Picture Retake Day

Saturday, November 8th

- Indigenous Veterans Day

Monday, November 10th

- 11am Remembrance Day Service
- 2:45pm-5:30pm Drop-in Flu-shot clinic for SSES students and families

Tuesday, November 11th

- Remembrance Day (School closed)

Thursday, November 20th

- 6:30pm Toy Bingo

Friday, November 21st

- Assessment & Evaluation Day - Elem/Jr High (no classes)

Thursday, November 27th

- Report Cards go home

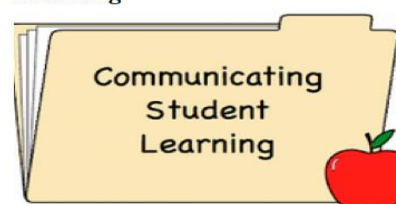
Friday, November 28th

- Provincial SAC Conference

Thursday, December 4th

- PD Day-AM
- Parent-Teacher Interviews-1-3 & 5-7 PM (**no classes all day**)
- Hanukkah Begins

Communicating Student Learning



- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- [On the HRCE website](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

Change in Weather

Brrrr! IT IS GETTING COLDER OUTSIDE! The weather has certainly cooled off over the past week. After enjoying the unusually balmy temperatures this fall, the temperature has started to drop to single digits and will get progressively colder. **Please ensure your child(ren) comes dressed for the weather.** We will be heading out daily for recess and lunch as well as take advantage of outdoor learning opportunities. Gloves/mittens and a tuque are always a safe bet to keep in the backpack just in case. It is very windy most days but with proper clothing, we will be able to stay comfortable outdoors! Please let us know if we can help in any way.

Drop-in Flu-Shot Clinic for SSES Students and Families Monday, November 10th

On Monday, November 10th we will be hosting a flu and covid vaccine clinic for SSES students and families who wish to get the annual vaccine(s). A registered pharmacist will be administering them between 2:45pm-5:30pm at the school on that day. This is voluntary for families to do after school; there is no obligation. We are offering our school site for this clinic as many families do not have access to a family doctor. More information will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

Toy Bingo

Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 20th! Doors open at 5:30pm and bingo starts at 6:30pm. More details will be coming on how and when to donate toys and baked goods for the 'canteen' or how you can volunteer at the event (event set up, Bingo card sales, canteen sales, event cleanup).

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. A completed **Child Abuse Register search**, which can be found [here](#)

2. A certified and true copy of a **Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check** available [here](#), from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies

Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be issued in the three months preceding volunteering and updated every three years.

AI and your child's learning



HRCE teachers and staff are introducing students to artificial intelligence (AI) in safe and meaningful ways that build awareness, creativity, and critical thinking. Together, we can help our learners understand how to use AI responsibly and confidently in their education and everyday lives. This informational sheet provides you with starting points for conversations about AI and learning. [Click here](#) to download the document.

Remembrance Day Assembly

For our annual Remembrance Day Assembly we create a Wall of Honour slideshow featuring the relatives and family members of our students who are currently serving or who have served in the military. Please click on the link below to upload a photo and include a little info about your family member or relative. These photos are sent directly to Mr. Madgett through this form and will only be used in our slideshow for the Remembrance Day service. <https://forms.gle/BAwXYBuK2hqPpaZq7> . If you sent in pictures last year, you do not have to send them in again. We will include them with our slideshow this year.

PD Day & Parent Teacher Interviews on Thursday, December 4th.

Parent-Teacher Interviews will be conducted in person from 1-3pm and 5-7pm on Thursday, December 4th. More information will be provided on how to sign up for appointment times during the month of November. As always, if you cannot meet during this time, please reach out to your child's teacher(s) to arrange a phone call, or another meeting time that is mutually convenient.

Mabel's Labels PTA Fundraising Campaign

Having trouble finding your kids' stuff? Mabel's Label's 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. Questions? Contact the school at sses@hrce.ca .

