

April 2026 Newsletter

St. Stephen's Elementary School

3669 Highland Ave., Halifax, NS B3K 4J9

PRINCIPAL: David Madgett **ACTING VICE-PRINCIPAL:** Justin Burns

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Heather Cosgrove-Smith



Principal's Message

If March felt like a whirlwind, April has arrived with a fresh burst of energy and excitement! We wrapped up Term 2, enjoyed a well-deserved March Break, and gently welcomed the first signs of spring. We also had a fantastic visit from the Earth Rangers, helping us kick off Earth Month in a fun and engaging way.

We begin April with Student-Led Conferences, a highly anticipated and wonderful opportunity to celebrate student learning, followed by a short pause for the Easter long weekend. As we move through the month, our focus turns to Earth Week, where students will explore how small, grassroots actions can make a big difference in caring for our community and our planet. April is also World Autism Month, providing an opportunity for learning, understanding, and celebrating the diversity that strengthens our school community.

Behind the scenes (and sometimes filling the halls!), our music program has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming SSES Spring Music Showcase that will take place on May 7th. We can't wait to share the talents of our students with you.

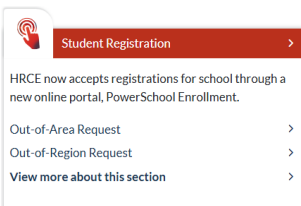
It's shaping up to be a busy, meaningful, and joyful month at SSES. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Justin Burns, Acting Vice-Principal

What's New

PrePrimary & Primary Registration is Ongoing



Registration for the 2026-27 school year is ongoing. Children are guaranteed a space in their designated school based on their address. Schools will be in touch with families closer to the start of the new school year with relevant details.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 1st

- 8am Out-Of-Area Requests Begin
- Report Cards Emailed Home
- Passover Begins

Thursday, April 2nd

- AM PD Day (no classes)
- PM Student Led Conferences (no classes)

Friday, April 3rd

- Good Friday (School Closed)

Monday, April 6th

- Easter Monday (School Closed)

Wednesday, April 8th

- PTA Pancake Breakfast

Thursday, April 9th

- Passover Ends

Tuesday, April 14th

- 5:15pm SAC Meeting (Staff Room)
- 6:30pm PTA Meeting (Staff Room)

Wednesday, April 22nd

- Administrative Professionals Day
- Green Shirt Day
- Earth Day

Wednesday, April 29th

- PD Day (No School for Students)

Thursday, May 7th

- SSES Spring Music Showcase

OUR POWER
OUR PLANET

HAPPY
EARTH DAY
APRIL 22



All registrations and updates for school are completed through the online portal, PowerSchool Enrollment.

Children born in 2021 are eligible for Pre-primary or Primary and children born in 2022 are eligible for Pre-Primary in September 2026.

For more information on registering for school, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration-updates>

What's Pre-Primary all about?

Check out our [Welcome to Pre-Primary](#) site.

What does Grade Primary look like?

Visit our [Welcome to Primary](#) site.

We Are Planning for September 2026...Do you know if you are moving?



As you know, we begin planning for the 2026-27 school year beginning in February. If you know that you will be moving, could you please let us know at your earliest convenience? The most accurate enrollment projections ensures that our school is properly staffed for the upcoming year.

Excel Before & After School Childcare Early Registration Info for 2026-27 School Year



Excel is the Before & After School Childcare Program that is open to PrePrimary-Grade 6 students. Please [click this link for more information and details](#) on the Early and General registration process for Excel for 2026-27 as they become available.

Student-led Conferences Thursday, April 2nd, 2026



Thursday, April 2nd is a PD Day in the morning and Student-led conferences in the afternoon from 1pm-3pm and 5:00pm-7:00pm, by appointment with your child's teacher. Specialists will be available on a drop-in basis. If you are unable to meet any of your child's teachers, please reach out to them to schedule a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Specialist Availability on April 2nd

Specialist	Availability (in person)	Email address
Ms. Coxon (School Counsellor)	1pm-3pm	coxon@hrce.ca
Mr. Tully (Physical Education)	1pm-3pm, 5pm-7pm	tullyr@hrce.ca
Ms. Haughian (Music)	5pm-7pm	phaughian@hrce.ca
M. Bassem (Core French)	1pm-3pm, 5pm-7pm	bassem.salama@hrce.ca
Ms MacKinnon (EAL)	5pm-7pm	susannah.mackinnon@hrce.ca
Ms. MacDonald (ELST)	1pm-3pm, 5pm-7pm	macdonald.catherine@hrce.ca
Ms. MacDonald (Resource)	1pm-3pm, 5pm-7pm	eah.macdonald@hrce.ca

Your staff misses YOU too.



Lost & Found

During student-led conferences please drop by the lost and found and see how much it has grown over the winter! The clothing will be displayed in the gym hallway. If you are not able to attend Student-led conferences, please drop by the school and peruse the lost and found over the next week, we would be grateful. The remaining clothing will be bagged up and sent to the food bank on Monday April 13. Please see the last page of the Newsletter for labelling options for clothing through Mabel's Labels.

Kids Run Club



Kids Run Club will be taking place through April and May in preparation for the Bluenose Marathon Youth Run. Grades 2-6 students will run during lunch time (more info to follow). Please follow this link to register for the

the [Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run \(Saturday, May 16, 2026\)](#)



Earth Day, Week, Month 2026-Our Power, Our Planet



The Theme of Earth Day 2026 continues to be Our Power, Our Planet. This year, the theme calls on communities worldwide to take action during Earth Week to support clean air, clean water, clean energy, protected natural resources, and climate stability. These factors are directly linked to human health, economic predictability, food security, and cross-border infrastructure performance.

Try Carpool Conversations with your Kids

Looking for an easy way to talk with your child about their digital world? Carpool Conversations from Common Sense Media offers short, engaging prompts and mini podcasts designed to spark family discussions about technology, media use, and online behaviour. Many episodes are only a couple of minutes long, perfect for a car ride or while waiting for practice to start. Explore the conversation starters [here](#).

The “Amazing” Adventure Guide

[Unplugged Canada](#) encourages families to reclaim childhood by creating more opportunities for outdoor adventure, independence, and real-world responsibility. Research shows that children thrive when they spend more time exploring their neighbourhoods, solving problems with friends, and contributing meaningfully at home and in their communities. Simple steps like walking to a neighbour's house, biking to a local park, helping plan a family meal or running small errands help kids build confidence, resilience and practical life skills.

Families can support this shift by intentionally creating space for free, unsupervised play and increasing responsibility over time. That might mean designating “no-adult” play zones, encouraging kids to gather in groups of three or more for creative play, or giving them meaningful household roles such as helping with groceries, cooking or caring for pets.

It can feel challenging to step back, but children build independence by practicing it. Families can make it easier by teaming up with other parents in their neighbourhood to create shared boundaries for safe roaming and outdoor play. For more ideas and practical steps, see the full guide: [The “Amazing” Adventure Guide](#) from Unplugged Canada.

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.



PTA NEWS!!!

Our SSES Spring Fair is just around the corner (June 6th), and excitement is already building! This is one of our most popular events of the year, and it takes many helping hands to make it a success. Our PTA is currently seeking donations from local businesses, organizations, and community members. A donation letter will be available soon to support outreach efforts. We are also looking for volunteers to help bring this fantastic event to life! If you're interested in getting involved, please reach out to our PTA team at ssshalifaxpta@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support!