



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

Bring on the May flowers! As we turn the page to a new month, it's hard not to appreciate the energy and growth we continue to see across our school community.

April was a busy and rewarding month at SSES. We began with Student-Led Conferences, followed by an early Easter break that gave everyone a chance to recharge. Our Lego Club and lunchtime intramurals wrapped up, making way for the start of Running Club and Track & Field practices. We also came together to celebrate Earth Day and Earth Week, with a strong focus on caring for our environment, and took time to recognize Ms. Heather on Administrative Professionals Day for all she does to support our school each and every day.

Looking ahead, May promises to be just as full. We are excited to host our first-ever SSES Spring Music Showcase, a wonderful opportunity to highlight the talents of our students. We will also take time to celebrate Black Excellence just before we head into the Victoria Day long weekend. Our Grade 3 students will be participating in the LM3 provincial assessment from May 19–22. And, just around the corner, our Spring Fair will take place on Saturday, June 6...a much-anticipated community event.

In the midst of all this, May also marks the beginning of the staffing process for the 2026–27 school year. There is certainly a lot happening, so please continue to keep an eye on the school calendar for important dates and updates. As always, we thank you all for your continued support!

Yours in Learning,

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

What's New

Morning Arrival Routine Reminder

We would like to remind families about our morning arrival procedures at St. Stephen's

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 7th

- SSES Spring Music Showcase
 - Matinee 1pm
 - Evening 6:30pm

Sunday, May 10th

- Mothers' Day

Tuesday, May 12

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

Friday, May 15

- Black Excellence Day

Saturday, May 16th

- Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run

Monday, May 18th

- Victoria Day (school closed)

May 19-22

- Gr. 3 Provincial Assessments

Monday, June 1st

- Grade 6 Track & Field

Tuesday, June 2nd

- Grade 5 Track & Field

Wednesday, June 3rd

- Grade 4 Track & Field

Saturday, June 6th

- SSES PTA Spring Fair

Community Health Teams

FREE
Health and
Wellness Programs



Spring/Summer 2026



www.communityhealthteams.ca | 902-460-4560



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.

SSES Spring Music Showcase

We are excited to invite you to our **SSES Spring Music Showcase** on **Thursday, May 7, 2026**. There will be two performances:

Matinee Performance

1:00 p.m. (doors open at 12:40pm)

No tickets required

(Our Grade 6 Band will perform)

Evening Performance

6:30 p.m. (doors open at 6pm)

Two tickets per family

(Our Grades 4-6 Strings students will perform)

We encourage grandparents and extended family members to attend the matinee performance, as tickets will not be required for that show. For the evening performance, doors will open at **6:00 p.m.** Families may enter the gym at that time, and students are asked to go directly to their classroom upon arrival. We kindly ask that families remain for the full performance, which will last approximately one hour, to help create a respectful and supportive audience for all performers. There is also a Grand Finale involving all students!

SSES Spring Music Showcase Front Row Raffle

We are excited to offer a **Front Row Raffle** for the evening performance of the **SSES Spring Music Showcase** on **Thursday, May 7th at 6:30pm**. This raffle is being organized by our PTA as a fundraiser to support school initiatives and activities. Winners will receive **two front row tickets** to the evening concert.

Raffle tickets can be purchased through **SchoolCash Online** at <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>.

Ticket prices are:

- 1 ticket — \$2.00
- 3 tickets — \$5.00
- 6 tickets — \$10.00

Tickets are available starting today and may be purchased until midnight on May 6th. Winners will be notified on the morning of the concert (May 7th)

**SSES Spring Music Performance
Mother's Day Basket Raffle & 50/50**

The PTA will be at both shows for the Spring Performance selling Raffle Tickets for a Mother's Day Gift Basket and a 50/50 draw.

Thursday, May 7th at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm

**Ticket Sales are Cash Only
\$2 each or 3 for \$5**

Both draws will be made on May 8th
Ticket Lottery Permit # AGD-368292-26 & AGD-368293-26

2026-27 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.

[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!

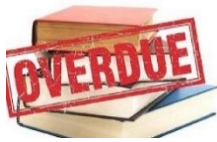


One of our goals is to run in the Blue Nose Marathon. Students can be registered in the Doctor's Nova Scotia, 2Km or the 4Km fun run at <https://bluenosemarathon.com/bn/doctors-nova-scotia-youth-run/>. We will be meeting there with our running club (more information to follow) but Ms. Johnston and Ms. 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 (once the field has dried out). This is a great chance for our youngest students to drop by and try out running!

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, June 6th, 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.

Northern Lights Lantern Festival Needs Jars

The Northern Lights Lantern Festival is currently collecting lantern donations to help bring this special community event to life. If you have glass jars to contribute, they can be dropped off at Needham Recreation Centre or at the SSES main office. Thank you for supporting this creative and community-building initiative!

**JAR
COLLECTION**

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**WE ARE COLLECTING
CLEAN GLASS JARS
TO HELP LIGHT UP
THE FESTIVAL!**

- ANY SIZE MASON OR GLASS JAR WITH A LID
- PLEASE MAKE SURE JARS ARE CLEAN AND LABEL-FREE
- THESE JARS WILL BE USED TO CREATE BEAUTIFUL LANTERN DISPLAYS

DROP OFF LOCATION:
NEEDHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

3372 DEVONSHIRE AVE
HALIFAX, NS B3K 4Y1