

June 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

Can you believe it is June already? May was a busy and exciting month at St. Stephen's Elementary School. Our students showcased their talents during the SSES Music Showcase, we celebrated Black Excellence Day, and our Running Club wrapped up another successful season with a strong turnout at the Dr. Nova Scotia Youth Run.

June is shaping up to be just as busy! The month begins with our Grade 4–6 students participating in the City Track & Field Meet from June 1–3. These students have been training and practicing throughout May. On June 6, we look forward to one of the most anticipated events of the year—our PTA Spring Fair. Throughout the month, many classes will also be heading out on exciting field trips, providing opportunities for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom and create lasting memories with their classmates.

As we look ahead to the 2026–27 school year, we are actively working on staffing and class organization. Online registration will remain open throughout the summer for any new families joining our school community. Please keep an eye on this month's important dates, and don't forget to check the link at the top of the following page for the 2026–27 HRCE calendar, which includes key dates for the upcoming school year.

As this school year comes to a close, so too does my time at St. Stephen's Elementary School. I can truly say that it has been a privilege to serve the students, families, and staff of this wonderful community over the past six years. We began this journey together during one of the most challenging periods in recent history, a global pandemic, and throughout it all, your support, kindness, and commitment to our school have been unwavering. For that, I am deeply grateful. I leave with countless memories, tremendous pride in all that we have accomplished together, and great confidence in the future of St. Stephen's Elementary School. While this chapter is coming to an end, as I often remind our students, this is not goodbye, it is simply, "I'll see you around." Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be part of your children's educational journey. It has truly been an honour.

Wishing you a fantastic June and an amazing summer!

Yours in Learning,

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

Upcoming Events

- Monday, June 1st**
Grade 6 Track & Field
- Tuesday, June 2nd**
Grade 5 Track & Field
- Wednesday, June 3rd**
Grade 4 Track & Field
- Thursday, Friday, June 4th & 5th**
Track & Field rain dates
- Saturday, June 6th**
11am-2pm Spring Fair
- Monday, June 8th**
1pm Gr.6 to HPJHS
6pm Gr. 6 Parent meeting @ HPJHS
- Tuesday, June 9th**
2:45pm Staff Meeting
5:15pm SAC Meeting
6:30pm PTA Meeting
- Sunday, June 14th**
Father's Day
- Tuesday, June 16th**
Last Day to Return Library Books
- Wednesday, June 17th**
Halifax Public Library visits SSES
- Sunday, June 21st**
National Indigenous Peoples Day
- Tuesday, June 23rd**
Field Day
Gr.6 to Bayside
- Thursday, June 25th**
Gr.6 Leaving
- Monday, June 29th**
Assessment Day (no school)
- Tuesday, June 30th**
Last Day of School



What's New

2026-27 SCHOOL CALENDAR



Halifax

Regional Centre for Education

[HRCE Calendar 2025-26 Now Available!!!](#)

SSES PTA Spring Fair



Our SSES PTA Spring Fair is almost here, and excitement is building! The fair will take place on **Saturday, June 6 from 11am-2pm**, and we are looking forward to a wonderful day of fun for our students and families.

As a reminder, presale tickets and wristbands are available for purchase through [SchoolCash Online](#) until Monday, June 1st. Purchasing in advance helps reduce wait times and allows students to jump right into the fun when they arrive.

The PTA is also still accepting donations online through [SchoolCash Online](#) up until Monday June 1st.

We are also still looking for volunteers. All help is greatly appreciated and signing up for a shift can be done here: [SSES Spring Fair Volunteer Sign Up](#).

Please see the linked flyer below for price-lists and more information.

[Spring Fair Price List and Information 2026.pdf](#)

A huge thank you to our PTA, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners for all of their hard work in preparing for this event. We look forward to celebrating together and making this year's Spring Fair another memorable school community event.

Library Book Returns



All library books are due back to the library by Tuesday June 16th. Please have a look around your home for any books (library or other books that may belong to the school), we will take them all! You may access your child's library account to see what they have out on loan, by doing the following:

1. **Go to** <https://hrce.insignails.com/Library/Login?goto=Loan>
2. **Username:** 10 digit Provincial Student ID number (which starts with 3101 or 3102, and ends with the 6 digits from their GNSPES email account)
3. **Password:** your first name in lowercase

School Advisory Council (SAC)

Have you ever wanted to know more about how our school and regional centre operate? Consider joining our School Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC is an advisory body to individual school principals, as well as the regional centres for education (RCEs). They provide recommendations on a variety of issues related to their local school and the overall school system. Our SAC Executive will have a few openings in September. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:15pm in the kitchen from September–June. More info will follow in the September Newsletter.

PTA Volunteers Needed

Our Parent Teacher Association is a small but very active group of Parents/Guardians/Staff who strive to achieve these common goals:

1. To promote collaboration between parents/guardians and all school staff
2. To support programs promoting the well-being and safety of students in the school
3. To promote an interest in, and a better understanding of, the educational curriculum at the school
4. To provide financial support to the school community to enhance the learning environment
5. To promote more active participation in school related activities by staff/parents/guardians and build community spirit.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:15pm in the kitchen from September–June to talk about current school programming/logistics and planning for upcoming events.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Summer Registration

Registration is only required if:

- your child is new to Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE),
- you have moved and your child will be attending a new school in HRCE
- your child is beginning school in pre-primary or primary.

Students currently enrolled in Pre-Primary that are going into primary next year are not required to re-register for primary unless you are opting for French Immersion in which case you must register with SJAM.

Families are encouraged to register online at: <https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration-updates> If you have questions about the registration process, please contact the school (902)493-5155 or the HRCE at 902-464-2000.

2025-26 EXCEL Before & Afterschool 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.

Halifax Regional Arts Programs



Please check the HRA website over the coming weeks to access free music programming for students interested in Band, Choir, or Strings. Auditioned ensembles will have details embedded in the Registration Page and on the website pertaining to the activity.

Access the Registration Page through our website:

<https://hra.hrce.ca/>

Additional information:

Band Plus: <https://sites.google.com/gnspes.ca/hrabandplus/home>

Choral: <https://sites.google.com/gnspes.ca/hra-choral-23-24/home>

Strings: <https://sites.google.com/gnspes.ca/hrastrings>

Be Tick Aware in Nova Scotia



After a long and snow-filled winter, we're finally headed toward summer – a season when many people spend time at Nova Scotia's beautiful beaches, parks, and wooded areas. However, we need to be mindful of the presence of ticks and how we can protect ourselves. Nova Scotia is home to several kinds of ticks, but only blacklegged tick bites can cause illnesses like Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Powassan virus. Tick-borne diseases can lead to serious illness, especially if they are not noticed and treated quickly.

It's important that we all know what to do about ticks, so if you've asked yourself any of these questions lately:

- What does a tick look like?
- What do I do if I find a tick on me or my child?

- What symptoms should I be aware of?
- How can I prevent ticks?

Visit NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety to learn more.

Operation Landline by Unplugged Canada

[Unplugged Canada](#) has launched a new resource called [Operation Landline](#), designed to help families reconnect kids with safe, healthy communication, without the pressures and distractions of smartphones. The initiative encourages families to bring back the family landline as a simple way for children to build independence, strengthen social skills and stay connected with friends and neighbours in a safer, more intentional way.

Created in partnership with the Institute of Child Psychology, the [complete guide](#) includes practical tips for setting up modern landline options, teaching phone safety and etiquette, and even creating a family phonebook together. Families are also invited to sign the [Unplugged Canada](#) pledge to help create a new community norm around delaying smartphones and supporting connected childhoods.