

## August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 UPDATE

# St. Stephen's Elementary School

3669 Highland Ave., Halifax, NS B3K 4J9

**PRINCIPAL:** David Madgett **VICE PRINCIPAL:** Roslyn Young

**ADMIN. ASSISTANT:** Otilie Hayes

### Principal's Message

With just under a week to go, we are just about ready to welcome all our SSES students and families back to school for what I am sure will be an amazing year! The big news is that we are growing. This year, we will be starting the year with 307 students. We are still adjusting our class lists, reconfiguring grade levels and adding new students daily, so we want to make sure that families are aware that until you receive an email from your child's teacher next Tuesday afternoon, please do not refer to what is on PowerSchool.

Please take a moment to look over the dates and note that the first day of school is on **Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**.

Have a wonderful start to the school year!

Yours in Learning,

Dave & Roslyn

## 2023-24 Bell Times

**8:25am-8:40am** Yard Duty (Supervision of students begins)

**8:40am** Entry Bell

**8:45am** Class Begins

**10:15am-10:30am** Recess

**11:45am-12:45pm** Lunch

**2:45pm** Dismissal



## Upcoming Events

### Friday, September 1

- **Organization Day (No school for students)**
- Primary Student Visit 11:00am-11:30am

### Monday, September 4

- **Labour Day (No School for Students)**

### Tuesday, September 5

- **PD Day, (No School for Students)**
- Gr. 1-6 Welcome emails go out to families in the afternoon.

### Wednesday, September 6

- **PD Day, (No School for Students)**

### Thursday, September 7

- First Day of School – Welcome Back!
- PTA Coffee House 8:25am-9:30am outdoors (or in the kitchen if it is raining)



## Visitors:

Visitors will be permitted back into schools this year. This is great news!!! For the safety of our students we ask that all visitors follow the protocols listed below:

- For the safety of students and staff, all visitors must enter through the front (main office) doors at all times. Please press the buzzer and wait to be greeted by Ms. Hayes.
- Check in with our secretary, Ms. Hayes, at the office.
- All visitors must sign-in (sign-in book is in main office foyer) and wear a visitor or volunteer tag at all times in the building.
- If you are meeting with your child's teacher, administration, or another staff member, please make sure an appointment time has already been established before coming to the school.

## Pre-Primary News

For students going into **Pre-Primary**, teachers will be in touch with families toward the end of this week or early next week.

## Grade Primary Class Lists & Informal Meet and Greet

For students going into **Grade Primary**, teachers will be emailing families a welcome letter today and will have an informal "meet and greet" with their students tomorrow, Friday morning for a half hour from 11:00am-11:30am by their designated entrance (which will be shared in the welcome letter). This will give our primary students and families a chance to briefly meet the teacher before school starts.

## Grade 1-6 Class Lists (How will you find out who is teaching your child?)

On Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> PD day, **Grade 1-6** parents will receive an email from their child's teacher welcoming them to that class. Details such as what entry door they are to use on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> will be included in the email.

## A Word About Class Lists

Much time goes into the making of class lists in June. Student learning profiles, social networks, needs, staffing etc. are all considerations when creating class lists for the following year. Among all the happy and excited students, there are always a few who feel let down. Please know that every effort is made to accommodate requests but ultimately, we can't honour all of them. Therefore, we will not be considering any requests for class changes until the end of September when our enrollment numbers are finalized. It is also important to know that due to class caps, any such moves generally require a child to move out of the other class.

## Lunch

We will be resuming our Lunch ordering program with Healthy Hunger beginning Monday September 18<sup>th</sup>. More information will be sent home in the September Newsletter.

## Breakfast Program

Breakfast program will get under way on Monday September 11<sup>th</sup>. We will pick up where we left off last year with fruit, and granola bars and we will expand from there. There will be more information to follow once we get under way in September!

**More info will follow in our September Newsletter next week. Please enjoy the last bit of summer vacation and the long Labour Day weekend.**