

September 2023 Newsletter

St. Stephen's Elementary School

3669 Highland Ave., Halifax, NS B3K 4J9

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

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Otilie Hayes



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 5

- PD DAY (No school for Students)

Wednesday, September 6

- PD DAY (No school for Students)

Thursday, September 7

- First Day of School--WELCOME BACK!

Monday, September 11

- Fire Drill this week

Tuesday, September 12

- 5:15pm SAC Meeting (Kitchen)
- 6:15pm PTA Meeting (Kitchen)

Thursday, September 14

- **Pink Shirt (Stand-up Against Bullying) Day**

Friday, September 15

- Picture Day 😊

Monday, September 18

- Lockdown Drill this week (info will be sent home the week before)

Thursday, September 21

- 6:15pm Curriculum Night
- PTA BBQ (More info to follow)

Sunday, September 24th

- Nourish Your Roots orders due

Wednesday, September 27

- Terry Fox Run (Rain Date Thursday Sept. 28th)

Friday, September 29

- Orange Shirt Day (Every Child Matters)

Monday, October 2

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Observed) No School

Principal's Message

It's official, the 2023-24 school year is under way! Thank you to all our families for helping with the smooth transition on Thursday morning. September is an exciting but very busy month in schools. Once again, this year, we have experienced higher than usual enrolment (we will be starting the year with 307 students enrolled) and consequently there could be some shifts in class composition throughout the first few weeks of school.

Please take note of the dates and events coming up in September. Throughout the school year we add to our calendar to keep you as up to date as possible. Curriculum Night will be combined with a PTA BBQ and more details will follow next week.

Thank you for all your support and patience over the past few weeks as we have been welcoming our many new students to St. Stephen's Elementary and to our north end community. We look forward to meeting and greeting all our students and families together over the course of this school year!

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Roslyn Young, Vice-Principal

What's New

We Need Lunch Monitors

Interested in becoming a lunch monitor? Lunch Monitors provide support and assistance to students during lunchtime activities under the direction of the school principal. The Lunch Monitor will oversee students in a variety of settings including the classroom, lunch area, and outside play areas. For more information, please contact our Admin Assistant, Mrs. Hayes at ohayes@hrce.ca.

When visiting the School

Visitors are welcome! Please be aware of the following few protocols listed below to ensure the safety of our students:

- 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 always wear a visitor or volunteer tag 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.
- In the next week we will be sending home a form that you could fill out indicating ways in which you can volunteer at St. Stephen's Elementary School.
- Please remember that masking is voluntary and that we have masks on site should visitors and volunteers wish to wear them (you may still bring your own).

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meetings

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 variety of issues related to their local school and the overall school system. Our SAC Executive has a few openings for those who are interested. Please contact the Principal, Dave Madgett, at dmadgett@hrce.ca.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:15pm in the library from September–June.

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Meetings

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 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 Library from September–June to talk about fundraising and planning for upcoming events – ALL ARE WELCOME!

Overdue Library books

We are still experiencing many outstanding books that were borrowed by students last year. Due to the impact of the CUPE strike late last year, there are likely many of these books still in homes. We are asking for the assistance of families to help students look for these books at home over the coming days. In the meantime, students can continue to borrow books.

Some options for addressing lost or overdue library books include:

1. Return the overdue book as soon as possible (always the preferred option),
2. Pay the cost to replace the book.

3. Physically replace it with a suitable substitute (please check with me first)
4. Have a parent/guardian contact Ms. Makmillen at jmakmillen@hrce.ca or the school if you need assistance with this matter.

The above actions help keep our collection full of good books with a wide variety for our students to choose from. Please let us know how we can help.

Nourish Your Roots Fundraiser campaign



This year, SSES will again participate in the Nourish Your Roots fundraiser! Nourish Your Roots partners with local farms to sell boxes of fresh, seasonal Nova Scotia produce. Each box costs \$38, and the school receives \$9 from each box sold.

Money raised helps support healthy food programs at our school. The selling period will start next week and run until September 24th. Boxes can be picked up at the school on Wednesday, October 4th, just in time for Thanksgiving weekend. If you would like to support this fundraiser, but don't need a box yourself, you can donate a box to the school. These boxes will be distributed by staff to the school community or our local food bank (donated boxes do not need to be picked up by the customer). **Details on how to order will be communicated via email next week.**

Curriculum Night

Curriculum Night take place at the school this year on Thursday, September 21st from 6:15pm-7:15pm. With the help of our PTA we hope to combine a family event on this same night! More details will follow on how this will happen in the coming week.

October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month



Mi'kmaq History Month educates and celebrates our history and culture, and the poster is produced each year as a resource for teaching and for helping audiences better understand significant aspects of Mi'kmaq life. This year's poster is inspired by the thousand of athletes that will be gathering this July in Mi'kma'ki for the 2023 North American Indigenous Games. For more info follow the link:

<https://mikmaqhistorymonth.ca/>

Life Threatening Allergies and Scent Sensitive School



We have several students who have life threatening allergies to peanuts and nut products. Please respect their health and well-being by sending your child with snacks and lunches that do not contain nuts. Additionally, some of our students have medical conditions that are be worsened by scented products.

Label, Label, Label

We would like to avoid an accumulation of clothing, etc. over the coming months in our lost and found. Please label your child's clothing, boots, shoes, lunch bag, school bag, hat, etc. To help families ensure that misplaced clothes are returned to their rightful owners our PTA has an ongoing fundraiser with Mabel's Labels. Mabel's 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 Allison anolting@gmail.com.