
December 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

Friday, December 1st

- 6:30pm Toy Bingo (doors open at 5:30pm)
- Star Fund--Freezie Sale
- Concert tickets go home with students.
- **Stop, Drop & Read—Holiday Edition** (bring your favorite holiday book)

Monday, December 4th

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

Wednesday, December 6th

- 1pm Matinee Holiday Concert doors open at 12:30pm
- 6pm Holiday Concert (students arrive to their classroom between 5:30pm-5:45pm)

Friday, December 8th

- Hanukkah Begins
- **Fun Hair/Fun Hat Day & Wear your Holiday Colours**
- 2:45pm-6pm Cookie Dough Pick-Up

Friday, December 15th

- Hanukkah Ends
- **Jersey/Sports Day**

Wednesday, December 20th

- **Comfy Cozy, Hot Chocolate & Movie Day**
- Last Day of School

Thursday, December 21st

- Christmas Break begins.

Sunday, December 24th

- Christmas Eve

Monday, December 25th

- Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26th

- Kwanzaa Begins
- Boxing Day

Sunday, December 31st

- New Year's Eve

Monday, January 1st, 2024

- New Year's Day
- Kwanzaa Ends

Tuesday, January 2nd

- First Day of School

Principal's Message

Where did November go? Suddenly, we are on the doorstep of the holiday season and we're steaming towards the Christmas Break!

As November ends, it brings with it the start to term 2. This past month, we sent home term 1 report cards, had parent/teacher conferences, remembered those serve and have served in our armed forces, celebrated Diwali and teachers took part in a morning of Professional Development around Student Well-Being and Engagement.

Here we now are, moving into the ever-exciting month of December, kicking off the holiday season with the very popular PTA Toy Bingo. Students and staff are excited for the upcoming holiday break that is only a few short weeks away and there are always exciting events leading up to our last day of school on Wednesday, Dec. 20th. We eagerly are anticipating the upcoming SSES Holiday concert "Sno Biz—A Fun-Filled Salute to the Joys of Winter". Our PTA is putting on a frozen treat sale tomorrow morning. Every student will have their name in a draw for a chance to win front row seating at the concert! Throughout the month of December, we will have 4 spirit days to celebrate the Holidays beginning with *Stop, Drop & Read—Holiday Edition* (bring your favorite holiday book).

With January only a few weeks away, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the past year. In summing up 2023, the word that comes to mind is "grateful". We are very fortunate to live, work and/or go to school in this North End community. We are grateful for the support, generosity, kindness and engagement our students, families, and community demonstrate daily. Have a wonderful Holiday with family and friends and safe travels to those who maybe traveling over the break.

We will see you on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2023!

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Roslyn Young, Vice-Principal

What's New

December Spirit Days

Through the month of December we are closing out the calendar year with 3 Days of School Spirit. Please see below for the list of tentative events.

Date	Event
Fri. Dec. 1st	Stop. Drop & Read—Holiday Edition (bring your favorite holiday book)
Fri. Dec. 8th	Fun Hair/Fun Hat Day & Wear your Holiday Colours
Fri. Dec. 15th	Jersey/Sports Day...Represent your favorite sports team
Wed. Dec. 20th	Comfy Cozy, Hot Chocolate & Movie Day

Holiday Concert

We will have a matinee performance at 1pm and an evening performance at 6pm on Wednesday, December 6th. For the evening performance each family will be permitted two guests (tickets will be sent home on Friday, December 1st), as Fire Regulations only allow 585 persons in the gym. We encourage grandparents, etc. to come to our matinee performance as tickets will not be required at that time. Doors open at 5:30pm for families and students are asked to go to their classroom at that time. We ask that families stay for the duration of the concert as all students will be participating in the grand finale at the end.

Star Fund Fundraiser - Freezie Friday - December 1st



The PTA is hosting a Freezie Friday this Friday, December 1. It is pay what you can, with a suggested donation of \$1 for 1/2 Freeze Pop (PP-Grade 3) and \$2 for a full Freeze Pop (Grades 4-6). All students who would like a Freezie will receive one. All money collected will go towards the Star Fund (the Star Fund is a school administered fund to assist some of our St. Stephen's families, especially at this holiday time). St. Stephen's Star Fund is administered by the school

administration to help families in the school community who need a little extra support, especially around this holiday time of year. If you would like to donate to the Star Fund, you can send cash, gift cards, or cheque (payable to St. Stephen's Elementary School) to the school office.

Holiday Concert 50/50 draw:

At both holiday concerts on December 6, we will be selling tickets for a 50/50 draw. There will be one draw at 7:30pm at the end of the evening concert. The prize is half of the revenue from the 50/50. If the winner is not in attendance at that time, they will be notified. Please consider bringing cash to purchase tickets: 1 for \$2, 3 for \$5 or 6 for \$10. Thank-you! The funds raised will be used by the Star Fund, a school administered fund to assist some of our St. Stephen's families, especially at this holiday time. Thank you for your support.

Dressing for Colder Weather



It is important for students to get daily fresh air and have an opportunity to play outside. It is very windy most days but with proper clothing we will be able to stay comfortable outdoors! Rain/Snow pants, gloves/mittens and a tuque (as well as a change of clothes) are always a safe bet to keep in the backpack as well. Ensuring your child(ren) come to school dressed for the weather is essential to a great day at school. Please let us know if we can help in obtaining any of the above items by contacting the office.

Winter is Coming: Guidelines for Inclement Weather

Making the decision to alter the regular operations of school and/or school buses due to inclement weather is never an easy task. To learn more about how the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) makes this call, visit www.hrce.ca/weather.

When is the decision made?

HRCE's goal is to make the decision as close to 6 a.m. as possible.

A 6 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and all bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If the weather deteriorates through the school day, the HRCE can decide to dismiss early. In the event of an early dismissal, the decision will be communicated as close to 11 a.m. as possible.

An 11 a.m. dismissal means:

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will families be notified?

- Families will receive an email and text message (*opt-in is required: text Y to 978338*)*
- Check our website at www.hrce.ca
- Follow us on Twitter at [@HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- Call the HRCE information line at 902-464-INFO (4636)
- All local radio stations are informed

Please Note: students in Grades Primary to 6 will not be released from school until parents/guardians or designates have been notified by the school.

[Click here](#) for a printable PDF of our guidelines.

**If you know someone who is NOT a parent/guardian who would like to receive an email and/or text message, let them know they can sign up here: www.hrce.ca/notifications*

Head Lice

Head lice and/or nits do commonly occur in children of this age. It is our practice to keep parents informed when cases of head lice are reported. Please check your children's hair periodically for any signs regarding this issue. Reducing the frequency of head lice incidents is best accomplished through cooperative efforts between home and school.

Mabel's Labels PTA Fundraising Campaign



Winter coats, snow pants, hats, mitts and boots can be a nightmare to keep track of for any family. Mabel's Labels' personalized labels and stamps can help you keep track of your child's things! 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. Questions? Contact Allison @ anolting@gmail.com

