

January 2024 Newsletter



St. Stephen's Elementary School

3669 Highland Ave., Halifax, NS B3K 4J9

PRINCIPAL: David Madgett **VICE-PRINCIPAL:** Nicole Gerrard

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Otilie Hayes

Principal's Message

I hope this Newsletter finds you well-rested and filled with excitement for the brand-new year ahead. Welcome back to school, and a Happy New Year to each and every one of our wonderful students and families!

January brings with it a sense of renewal and a fresh start. It's a time for setting new goals, embracing new challenges, and celebrating the joy of learning together. Keep an eye on our Upcoming Events and website calendar as we have some exciting things planned.

As the winter season unfolds, our students will be engaged in a variety of educational experiences that make learning fun and meaningful. From Mad Science to Literacy Week, January promises to be a month filled with curiosity and discovery. We could also use a little snow...It helps with the learning, right?

Finally, looking at the winter forecast, it is inevitable that we will be seeing snow shortly. Please ensure that your child(ren) come prepared for the weather outside. An extra set of clothes in their book bags would not hurt either. Also, as tempting as it might be, **please do not send sleds and Krazy Carpets to school.** We have a set for teachers to sign out with their class throughout the week.

So, welcome back and may the New Year bring you joy, good health, and prosperity. Thank you for your continued support, and here's to a year of growth, success, and memorable achievements.

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

What's New

Electronics and Toys

Following the holidays, many children will have received electronic devices such as cell phones and toys for Christmas. Just a reminder that we cannot guarantee the security of these items, so we ask students to please keep

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 1st

- New Year's Day (school closed)

Tuesday, January 2nd

- First Day Back...Happy New Year!!!

Tuesday, January 9th

- Mad Science Presentation
- 5:15pm SAC Meeting
- 6:30pm PTA Meeting

Monday, January 22nd-26th

- Literacy Week (More info to follow later in January)

Wednesday, February 1st

- African Heritage Month Begins
- Registration for PrePrimary/Primary 2024/25 begins

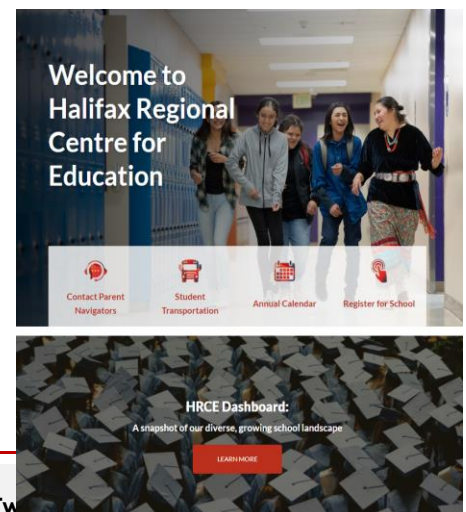
Friday, February 2nd

- Groundhog Day

Saturday, February 10th

- Lunar New Year (Year of the Dragon)

[Check out the HRCE webpage Makeover](#)



these at home. Cell phones are permitted but must be turned off and put away while the student is on the property without exception.

Staffing Changes in the New Year

In follow up to the communication sent out on Monday, December 18th, 2023, we would like to remind students and families of the following changes in staffing:

Starting in January		
Class	New Staff	Email
Vice Principal	Nicole Gerrard	gerrardn@hrce.ca
Core French	Beverley Fielding	beverley.fielding@hrce.ca
Learning Center	Maya Iatrou	maya.iatrou@hrce.ca
Music	Brenda Haughian	bhaughian@hrce.ca
Grade 4/5	Ruth Frampton	ruth.frampton@hrce.ca
Schools Plus	Brenda McNutt	bmcnutt@hrce.ca

Winter is Here! Guidelines for Inclement Weather & School Closure

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*

Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day takes place each year on January 27 to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. **This year's theme: Let's have a family party!** Make food, sing songs, and play games. The possibilities for learning are endless – and it's fun when you do it together in our family at home or with our school family. More information will follow about Literacy Week (Jan. 22nd-Jan. 26th) next week.

Dressing for Colder Weather

Students go outside to play every day. While a combination of wind, rain, an/or cold all dictate how long we stay out, we do get outside for the most part on a daily basis. Please insist that your child(ren) come to school with a winter jacket, hat, mittens/gloves, socks, boots, and snow pants. If you need any support getting any of these items please let Mr. Madgett/ Ms. Gerrard know. It is very windy most days but with proper clothing we will be able to stay comfortable outdoors! **Please ensure your child(ren) come to school dressed for the weather.**

Mabel's Labels PTA Fundraising Campaign



mabel's labels

Winter coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, 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