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# March Newsletter

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## St. Stephen's Elementary School

3669 Highland Ave., Halifax, NS B3K 4J9

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

**ADMIN. ASSISTANT:** Otilie Hayes

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### Principal's Message

If January felt like it went on forever, February proved to be the complete opposite, even with the bonus day today! Even though this is the shortest month of the year, we always seem to be able to pack in a fair bit!

We started the month with a series of "twonie treat" Fridays to raise money for our Coins for Books campaign. We raised just over \$1000.00 to support our school library! We had a valentine day dance planned that was pushed to the following week due school being cancelled. The dance happened, with dance party lights and a great playlist that met the expectations of the majority of little Swifties at SSES! We celebrated the African Heritage of Nova Scotia and ended the month with an uplifting assembly focusing the past, present and future of Black Excellence.

March is another very busy and short month. With March Break coming up in a week, it is also the month where teachers are working on report cards as we wrap up term two. We return from March Break with the assessment and evaluation day on that Monday (no school for students). The following week report cards go home on March 28<sup>th</sup> and then families are invited in with their child to view their work during Student Led Conferences on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

With the "busyness" of March and the imminent promise of spring just around the corner, please keep a close eye on the calendar as there are a few starts and stops throughout the month. Also, keep an eye on the Easter break as it is early this year.

Thank you for all your continued support and have a wonderful March Break.

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

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### Upcoming Events

**Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

- PTA Pancake Breakfast
- Last Day to Order Cotton Candy

**Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

- SSES BBall Team Jamboree at Westmount

**March, 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Ramadan Begins

**March, 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**

- March break (school closed)

**Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

- St. Patrick's Day

**Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

- Assessment & Evaluation Day (no classes)

**Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**

- 6J Ski Martock

**Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

- Reports go home

**Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

- Good Friday (school closed)

**Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

- Easter Monday (school closed)

**Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

- AM PD Day/PM Student Led Conferences (no classes)

**Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Ramadan Ends

- SAC/PTA

**Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

- Eid al-Fitr

**Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- Earth Day Assembly



## What's New

### **PrePrimary & Primary Registration is Ongoing**

Registration starts on February 1, 2024 for the following school year to ensure appropriate resources are in place for September. All registrations and updates for school are completed through the online portal, PowerSchool Enrollment.

Children born in 2019 are eligible for Pre-primary or Primary and children born in 2020 are eligible for Pre-Primary in September 2024.

**For more information on registering for school, please visit:** <https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration-updates>

#### **What's Pre-Primary all about?**

Check out our [Welcome to Pre-Primary](#) site.

#### **What does Grade Primary look like?**

Visit our [Welcome to Primary](#) site.

### **A Couple of Staffing Changes**

It has been a different year where we have seen a few staffing changes already and we have a couple more to announce.

- Lori Stafford, our EAL specialist has taken a new position with HRCE and Noor Humadi will be taking her place. Welcome to St. Stephen's Elementary School Ms. Humadi!!!
- Cara Lappin, our Excel Program Team Leader, will be leaving her role and returning to school this spring to pursue graduate studies.

Thank you both for all you have done to support our students and we wish you all the best in your new pursuits!

### **Pancake Breakfast**

We will be holding a pancake breakfast for all students on Friday, March 1st. Students will come down to the kitchen throughout the morning with their class to enjoy some pancakes and syrup!

### **Lost & Found**

Over the next week, we will be displaying clothing and encouraging students to come and claim what belongs to them. If families have a moment to drop by the school and peruse the lost and found over the next week, we would be grateful. The remaining clothing will be bagged up and sent to the food bank over March Break. Please see the last page of the Newsletter for labelling options for clothing through Mabel's Labels.

### **We Are Planning for September...Do you know if you are moving?**

As you know, we begin planning for the 2024-25 school year beginning in February. If you know that you will be moving could you please let us know at your earliest convenience? The most accurate enrollment projections ensures that our school is properly staffed for the upcoming year.

### **Student Led Conferences**

On April 4<sup>th</sup> we will be holding Student-Led Conferences. In place of the traditional parent-teacher conferences, your child will lead the conference to reflect on their progress, show you their work, and receive feedback. You, your child, and your child's teacher, will participate in the conference. Student-led conferences are a great way to engage children in understanding and taking ownership of their learning. Of course, anyone who feels they need a private meeting with a teacher will still be able to arrange one with their child's teacher. More information on booking a time will follow after March break.

## Dressing for Colder Weather

We continue to have students coming to school unprepared for the colder weather. 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. We will be heading out daily and more frequently. 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.**

## Lunch Program—Healthy Hunger



For families wishing to order lunch and/or are new to the school, we have a lunch ordering option for Tuesday and Thursday. If you need to get set up to order please head to our website for more information. Here is the link [Healthy Hunger Lunch Ordering](#).

## Mabel's Labels PTA Fundraising Campaign



mabel's labels

One of the ways we reduce the size of our lost and found is being able to identify who the piece of clothing belongs to. Mabel's Labels personalized labels and stamps can help you and our school staff keep track of your child's things (i.e. black or navy blue snow pants)! The labels are laundry, dishwasher and microwave safe, and easy to apply. Visit Mabel's Labels at [www.mabelslabels.com](http://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](mailto:anolting@gmail.com)

## The Neighbourhood Walking Bus

Some St. Stephen's families have been doing a walking bus this year through the quiet streets between Novalea and Agricola. What's a walking bus? It's like a school bus, but without the bus! Kids and caregivers walk together along a planned route at a scheduled time. There are a variety of benefits to taking the walking bus. There's the physical activity and social interaction of a group walk which helps to ease the kids into starting the school day. Some kids on the walking bus have been more willing, maybe even eager, to get out the door in the morning knowing that they have friends to walk with and that their friends are waiting to see them too. And sometimes caregivers just can't make it, maybe they have an early meeting or illness, but they can count on the other families to walk their kids to school.

Every day the walking bus starts on the corner of Robie and Stanley St, turns onto Isleville and then heads north to the school picking up kids and families along the way.

If you'd like more information about the walking bus or about starting your own contact Steve MacKay: [mackay.stephen@gmail.com](mailto:mackay.stephen@gmail.com) or 902-499-8507 or just hop on the bus!

