

April 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

For a relatively short month, we seem to be able to squeeze a lot out of March. The month of March is a month of transition. We usher in the spring season, move from term 2 to term 3 and planning for the end of year and beginning of the 2024-25 school year starts ramping up.

Our student population continues to grow! A year ago today, our enrollment stood at 300 students. Today we are at 326 students, approximately a whole class more than where we were this time last year. Based on our current projections, that trend will continue into next year. If you have a new neighbour that has moved into the community with school age children, please ask them if they have/could register them. Our spring enrollment numbers play a significant role in determining our staffing for September.

April is World Autism Month. It will also be another busy and exciting month starting off with an early Easter Break followed by Student-led conferences taking place next Thursday afternoon and evening. Most exciting of all (perhaps even more exciting than the Easter Bunny) is the possibility of experiencing a Solar Eclipse on Monday, April 8th. The last time this took place, Mr. Madgett was still a year away from starting grade Primary!

Earth Day 2024 is also this month. The theme this year is Planet vs. Plastics. We will have our annual school cleanup, along with different class and school activities. Don't forget to support Earth Day by wearing green on April 22nd!

As you can see, in the month ahead, there is much to celebrate in our learning and in our community! Our staff would like to wish our students and families a Happy Easter this weekend. To our families celebrating Passover a little later in the month, have a Happy Passover starting on April 22nd and to our families who are currently celebrating Ramadan, we wish you Ramadan Mubarek!

We look forward to greeting everyone next week for Student-led conferences!

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 29th

- Good Friday (school closed)

Monday, April 1st

- Easter Monday (school closed)

Tuesday, April 2nd

- 8am Out-Of-Area Requests Begin

Thursday, April 4th

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

Monday, April 8th

- 3:27pm Solar Eclipse

Tuesday, April 9th

- Ramadan Ends
- 5:15pm SAC Meeting (Kitchen)
- 6:30pm PTA Meeting (Kitchen)

Wednesday, April 10th

- Eid al-Fitr

Monday, April 22nd

- Passover Begins
- Earth Day
- Earth Day Assembly
- Green Shirt Day

Tuesday, April 30th

- Passover Ends



What's New

PrePrimary & Primary Registration is Ongoing

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today!

Out-of-Area Requests Begin on April 2nd, 2024

The Out-of-Area request process for the 2024-25 school year begins on April 2, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. The electronic submission will be sent automatically to the receiving school and will include a date and time stamp. Requests for students who will have older siblings in the receiving school in September will be given priority for an Out-of-Area placement if adequate accommodation is available. [Out-of-Area Request Form](#)

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.

Excel Before & After School Childcare Early Registration Info for 2024-25 School Year



Excel is the Before & After School Childcare Program that is open to PrePrimary-Grade 6 students. Please [click this link for more information and details](#) on the Early and General registration process for Excel for 2024-25 as they become available.

Student-led Conferences Thursday, April 4th, 2024

Thursday, April 4th is a PD Day in the morning and Student-led conferences in the afternoon from 1pm-3pm and 5:00pm-7:00pm, by appointment with your child's teacher. Specialists will be available on a drop-in basis. If you are unable to meet any of your child's teacher, please reach out to them to schedule a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Specialist Availability on April 4th

| Specialist | Availability (in person) | Email address |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Mr. Tully (Physical Education) | 1pm-3pm, 5pm-7pm | tullyr@hrce.ca |
| Ms. Haughian (Music) | 1pm-3pm | ruth.frampton@hrce.ca |
| Ms. Fielding (Core French) | 1pm-2:30pm | grace.cameron@hrce.ca |
| Ms Humadi (EAL) | 1pm-3pm | noor.humadi@hrce.ca |
| Ms. MacDonald (Resource) | 5pm-7pm | macdonald.catherine@hrce.ca |

Preparing for the Solar Eclipse on April 8th, 2024



The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is pleased to provide all students in Nova Scotia with eclipse glasses to view the upcoming solar eclipse safely. These will be going home with the students next week.

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, obscuring the view of the sun from a section of the Earth. This event is extremely rare, with the next solar eclipse not occurring in the province until 2079. Nova Scotia will be just outside of the zone of totality for the solar eclipse; for this reason, it is important that individuals have appropriate protection to view this historic event. The solar eclipse will begin at 3:27 p.m., reaching maximum coverage at 4:38 p.m., and ending at 5:44 p.m. For more information, visit <https://thediscoverycentre.ca/solar-eclipse-solaire/>.

Kids Run Club



Kids Run Club will be taking place through April and May in preparation for the Bluenose Marathon Youth Run. Grades 2-6 students will run on Tuesdays and Fridays at lunch time. Please follow this link to register for the [Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run](#)

[\(Saturday, May 18, 2024\)](#)



Earth Day 2024-Planet vs. Plastics



The 2024 global theme for Earth Day is "Planet vs. Plastics". Aside from this global focus, classes will be learning about topics such as the environment, climate change, sustainability, renewable energy, and environmental stewardship to name a few! We will also be taking part in the Great Global Clean-Up and doing our part to clean-up our school grounds.

Education Week 2024

Nova Scotia's annual Education Week will take place from April 14-20, 2024.

This year's theme is Connections to Community and recognizes the work of teachers, student support staff, administrators and Early Childhood Educators who take deliberate effort to enhance and empower their larger school communities, including families and the community at large.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for the impact they have on our students and the outstanding work they do in our school every day.

In PTA NEWS!!! Spring Fair is in the Air!!!

The SSES Spring Fair is fast approaching (June 1st) and planning is underway! This is a hugely popular event, and many volunteers are needed to make it a success. Currently, our PTA is looking for donations from local organizations, businesses and people in our community (here is the [donation letter](#)). Please contact PTA volunteers, Ashley Cormier and/or Adrienne Walsh, if you are interested in helping out at sseshalifaxpta@gmail.com