



St. Stephen's Elementary School

3669 Highland Ave., Halifax, NS B3K 4J9

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

ADMIN. ASSISTANT: Otilie Hayes

Principal's Message

What a fantastic month April was! We started the month coming off an Early Easter break and had an awesome turnout of students and families for our Student Led conferences. Many of our families got to experience a "once in a lifetime" cosmic event with the solar eclipse without a cloud in the sky. Some of our families ended Ramadan with Eid al-fitr and others celebrated Passover a little later in the month. Finally, we celebrated earth day, cleaned up our grounds and learned about ways to reduce plastics. Classes passionately presented Earth Day Promises during our Earth Day assembly and learned about ways they can become involved in advocating for a cleaner planet!

The month of May is upon us. We enter the homestretch of the 23-24 school year! Running club is underway leading up to the Bluenose Marathon weekend (more info in the Newsletter) and track and field tryouts have gotten underway for grades 4-6 students. On May 15th, we will be celebrating Black Excellence.

May is also a busy month for staffing. If you know of anyone who has not registered for school starting this September, please ask them to get in touch with us as soon as possible. Our transition meetings will take place this month for our grade six students who will be moving on to Highland Park Junior High!

May will be done before you know it, so please keep an eye on the calendar as we near the final month of school. The Spring Fair (our PTA's biggest undertaking of the year) takes place on June 1st. If you can spare some time to volunteer behind the scenes or on the day of the event please reach out to the school and we will get you in touch with our PTA. Thank you all for your continued support!

Yours in Learning,

Dave Madgett, Principal and Nicole Gerrard, Vice-Principal

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 12th

- Mothers' Day

Monday, May 13-16

- Gr. 3 Prov. Assessment

Tuesday, May 14

- 5:15pm SAC Meeting
- 6:30 PTA Meeting

Wednesday, May 15

- Black Excellence Day

Saturday, May 18th

- Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run

Monday, May 20th

- Victoria Day (no school)

Saturday, June 1st

- 11am-2pm PTA Spring Fair

Tuesday, June 4th

- Grade 6 Track & Field

Wednesday, June 5th

- Grade 4 & 5 Track & Field

Tuesday, June 18th

- Field Day (rain date 19th)

Sunday, June 16th

- Father's Day

Thursday, June 27th

- Assessment & Evaluation Day (No School for Students)

Friday, June 28th

- Last Day of School



What's New

REMINDER: Student Use of Cellphones and Smart Watches at School



Parents provide their children with cell phones for safety reasons, and we understand that students will bring their cell phones to school for this purpose. Students can call parents immediately upon arrival on school grounds or at dismissal at the end of the day. Other than that, cell phones must remain turned off and stowed away during the school day including morning arrival, recess, and lunch.

Students are not to call, text, or message their friends and/or family members during the school day. If students need to reach a member of their family, they can use the phone in the main office. Students may not photograph or take videos of any staff members or other students in and outside of the building.

Parents & guardians can help us enforce this policy by not texting or calling your child(ren) during the day and encouraging them to use the office phone should they need to get in touch with you.

Cell phones and smartwatches that are being used to make calls, text (parents or peers) or play games during the day will be confiscated and returned to students at the end of the day.

2024-25 EXCEL Registration



The EXCEL program is a recreation-based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, offering before and after school care for elementary-aged children.

At each school site, the dedicated and qualified staffing teams plan weekly games and activities that suit the needs and interests of the registered students. These individual plans are framed around EXCEL's overall philosophy which is focused on physical activity and positive social interaction in a safe and fun environment.

Registration for returning children began April 29 and registration for new EXCEL participants will begin on May 13. [Click here](#) for more information.

Black Excellence Day

On May 15th we will be celebrating Black Excellence. Black Excellence Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and successes of Black individuals within the community, province and across Canada. It highlights the talent and accomplishments within the Black community, ensuring that Black students have an opportunity to highlight all their positive contributions within the educational system.

Kids Run Club UPDATE!!!



The Kids Run Club at St. Stephen's is in full swing and the students who have joined are coming every week and having fun! One of our goals is to run in the Blue Nose



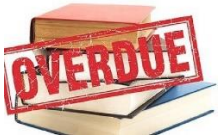
Marathon. Students can be registered in the Doctor's Nova Scotia, 2Km or the 4Km fun run. We will be meeting there with our running club (more information to follow) but Ms. Johnston and Ms. Loo is not in charge of your child's supervision before/during or after the race. You must attend and be with your

child. As a reminder St. Stephen's Run Club is Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:45am-12:15pm for students in grades 2-6. We ask that students come prepared with sneakers and a water bottle.

We also have a Jr. Run Club for students in Primary and grade one on Fridays at recess. This is a great chance for our youngest students to drop by and try out running!

<https://raceroster.com/events/2024/81415/emera-blue-nose-marathon>

Overdue or Lost Library Books



As we move into May, we would like to ask all families to please check your homes for any overdue (or misplaced) library books that belong to St. Stephen's Elementary School. Please return these books to your child's teacher and we will make sure they find their way back to our library.

SSES PTA Spring Fair

On Saturday, June 1st, our SSES PTA will be hosting our most anticipated event of the school year, the Spring Fair. Planning is underway for the big day, and a great big THANK YOU is extended to everyone who has contributed so far. More information will be going out via School Messenger as we will be looking for additional volunteers to help, as well as donations for the Cake Walk and of carnival prizes, baked goods, and silent auction items. In the meantime, please check out the St. Stephen's PTA Facebook page for more info and how to get involved.

