



**St. Stephen's Elementary School**  
**Primary Information**  
**June 2023**

**Welcome Class of 2036!**

# **First Day**

**Thursday September 7th, 2023**

- ▶ Prior to the start of school, you will receive an email from your child's teacher.
- ▶ On the first day, find your child's teacher/lineup. All teachers will be on duty the first day to assist you in finding your child's line up.
- ▶ Reassure your child that it is going to be okay. Provide them with empathy and warm wishes. Once the bell rings let them begin their day.
- ▶ Head to kitchen for PTA Coffee house (to be confirmed prior to 1<sup>st</sup> day)

# Welcome & Introductions

## ▶ Introductions

- **Principal:** Mr. David Madgett
- **Vice Principal:** Ms. Roslyn Young
- **Secretary:** Ms. Otilie Hayes
- **Primary Teacher:** Ms. Kirchner
- **Primary Teacher:** Ms. Gerard
- **Phys. Ed.:** Mr. Tully
- **Music:** Ms. Frampton
- **Learning Center Teachers:** Ms. Gloyne & Ms. Fontaine
- **Resource Teachers:** Ms. Young & Ms. MacDonald
- **African Nova Scotia Student Support Worker:** Mr. Brown
- **Custodian:** Mr. Beattie

**Please register immediately if you have not already done so!**

## Registration & Required Documents

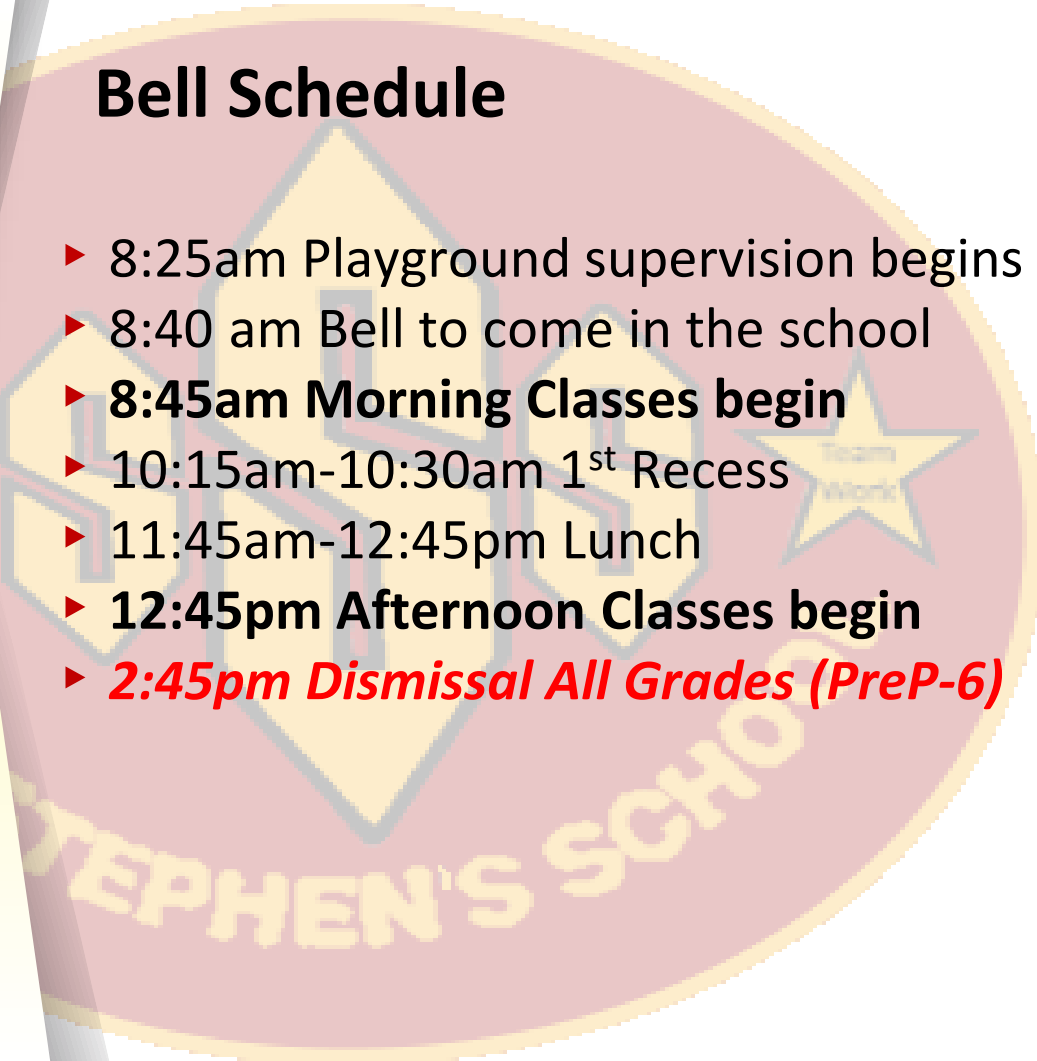
- [Registration Online](#)
- MSI Health Card
- Birth Certificate
- Proof of Residence

**Visit:**  
**<https://www.hrce.ca/registration>** for more details!!!



# Bell Schedule

- ▶ 8:25am Playground supervision begins
- ▶ 8:40 am Bell to come in the school
- ▶ **8:45am Morning Classes begin**
- ▶ 10:15am-10:30am 1<sup>st</sup> Recess
- ▶ 11:45am-12:45pm Lunch
- ▶ **12:45pm Afternoon Classes begin**
- ▶ ***2:45pm Dismissal All Grades (PreP-6)***



## School Supplies

- ▶ Please visit the SSES website to find the Primary Supply List at:  
[www.ssh.hrce.ca](http://www.ssh.hrce.ca)



# School Safety

- All parents & volunteers must sign in and check in with our administrative assistant (Main Office) before moving through the building.
- If you need to come into the school, you must enter using the front door.
- Please wait at the outside doors for your children at the end of the day.
- Doorbell system-doors locked at 8:45 AM
- Changes in pick up- please notify both the teacher and the office
- If your child will not be in school, please call Safe Arrival before 8:45am and let us know at 902-493-5155
- Parking is limited around the school.

# Weather & Clothing

- We go outside a lot...even when it is raining and cold.
- Extra Clothing helps minimize calls home
- Sneakers (boots when the weather calls for it).
- Backpacks





## Before and After School Childcare

- There are different options for childcare depending on your needs and the needs of your child. HRCE has the [EXCEL program](#).
- Students cannot be at school before 8:25am as there is no supervision until then.
- Students must be picked up at the 2:45pm dismissal if they are not walking home.
- At the end of the day, students are required to walk/check in with home or to their caregivers before returning to play in the playground.
- [HRCE Excel Childcare](#)

# Breakfast, Snack & Lunch

- **Breakfast Program** (info will go home in the first two weeks)
- **Hot Lunch** (through Healthy Hunger website--see SSES website for link and information to register your child in September)
- **Food Allergies**-Please let the office know if your child has any food allergies before the first day of school.

# Medical Concerns

- ▶ Allergy Alert Forms (contact the school before the first day)
- ▶ Medication Forms (contact the school).
- ▶ We are a Nut Sensitive/Scent Sensitive School.
- ▶ If we need to be involved in your child's daily medical plan, we need to meet and discuss that plan and have documentation.

# What will Your Child Learn

- Language Arts (Reading, Viewing, Writing, Speaking, Listening)
- Math
- Health
- Social Studies
- Science
- Visual Arts
- Physical Education Specialist Classes
- Music Specialist Classes

# Getting Children Ready for School

- Learn respect for authority
- How to hold a pencil
- Print their name with upper and lower case letters
- How to use scissors
- Know the alphabet-letter sounds
- Practice independence
- Bathroom Skills
- Click on the images for more ideas!

**Get Ready, Get Set for School!**  
Suggestions for Parents

There are many skills that children need to have in order to prepare them for school activities, such as printing and scissors-cutting. They need good upper body strength and stability to give their hand a stable base to work from. They need to have well-developed fine motor skills to hold and manipulate a pencil efficiently. They need to develop good visual-motor coordination to be able to copy simple shapes and designs so they can then learn to print letters. The following activities are designed to help your child develop these skills and have fun:

**Upper Body Strengthening**


- Play on playground equipment – climb ladders, swing across monkeybars and push a swing.
- Do the bear, crab, or wheelbarrow walk.
- Throw and catch balls of different sizes.
- Try activities on vertical surfaces – on steel or paper taped to the wall.
- Do activities on the floor while tummy-lying and supporting weight through the forearms.



**Fine Motor Skills**






- Pick up as many pennies/cheerios/skittles as possible using only 1 hand (pick them up one at a time and keep them all in the one hand) – then put them in a container or, for edible objects, eat them one at a time.
- “Shred” (tear) paper to be recycled with 2 hands.
- Play with squirt guns or water pistols with a spray bottle.
- Use tongs or tweezers to pick up cotton balls, sponge pieces or pom-pom balls.

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## Preparing Your Child for Grade Primary

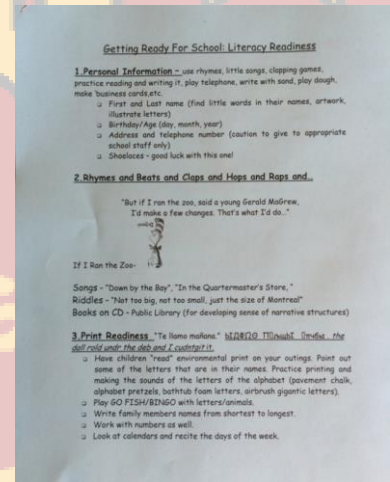
School readiness is built through your child's experiences before entry to grade primary. Family support is important in shaping these experiences. Children take great pride in being able to do things independently. Here are some tips to improve your child's success when participating in daily activities in their first year of school!

Practice new routines at home - getting ready in the morning - getting up early, getting dressed, and the full journey to school - dressing and undressing with all clothing items		
Begin with:		Next Step:
Shoes/Boots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Velcro straps or slip-on shoes</li> <li>• Have well-fitting shoes that have a rigid heel cup and are made of firm material.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laces or buckles</li> </ul> 
Pants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elastic waist bands, loose fitting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buttons (note, large buttons are easier than smaller), belts, snaps</li> </ul>
Jacket/Coat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large, sturdy zipper</li> <li>• Add a zipper pull to make the tab easier to grasp (avoid multiple flaps covering the zipper; also if there is a flap, ideally it can be folded back out of the way easily and is not flimsy)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buttons, snaps</li> </ul>
Hats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pull-on, Velcro chin straps</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tie-up chin straps</li> </ul>
Scarves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neck warmer/neck tube/infantry scarf</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long scarves (may pose a safety risk and are often not suggested for younger children)</li> </ul> 
Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mittens or rigid gloves</li> <li>• Mittens that attach together through sleeve of coat</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tight, stretchy gloves</li> </ul> 

Modified from CanChild: preparing your child's independence workshop

# Some Literacy Readiness Ideas

- Personal Information –
- Rhymes and Beats and Claps and Hops and Raps and...
- Print Readiness
- Reading
- Click on image for more information



# Supports Within our School and Accessed Through our School

- School Social Worker
- Speech Language Pathologist
- School Psychologist
- School Guidance Counselor
- English as Additional Language (ESL)
- Early Literacy Support
- Reading Recovery
- Child & Youth Care Practitioner
- Learning Centre & Resource Teachers
- African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker
- Schools Plus Outreach Worker
- Public Health Nurse
- HRCE Program Staff Support
- HRCE Students Services
- Parent Navigator

# Communication

- [Website](#)
- Twitter @SSEShrce
- [Calendar](#)
- Newsletters
- Assemblies
- Curriculum Night/ Ice Cream Social  
(*tentative date: Sept. 21st @ 6:00pm*)
- Special Events
  - Halloween SocHop
  - Toy Bingo
  - Holiday Concert
  - Spring Fair
  - Class Trips
  - ...and much more!!!



## ▶ Volunteers NEEDED

- **School Advisory Council (SAC)**

**School Advisory Councils (SAC)** play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level.

A School Advisory Council is an advisory body to the school principal, Regional Centre for Education, on a range of issues related to the school and the school system.

Membership can vary, but generally consists of the school principal, parents, teachers, and other community members.

**The SAC meets at the school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 5:15pm-6:15pm.**

## ▶ Volunteers NEEDED

- **Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)**

The PTA is the school **FUNdraising** committee made up of parents, teachers and school administration. They organize fundraising events such as bingo, dances, spring fairs, and meet and greets with Santa in order to raise money for technology needs, reduce costs of field trips, etc.

The PTA is always in search of volunteers. They function on the premise of “many hands make light work.” Your level of involvement is totally up to you.

The PTA is a great way for Primary parents to get engaged with other families in the school and to have a real impact on providing much needed financial support to the school. **The PTA meets at the school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 7pm-8pm (immediately following the SAC meeting).**

# School Activities

- Breakfast/Snack Program
- Choir
- Leadership Activities
- Running Club
- School Basketball team
- Intramural activities
- Violin
- Band
- Art Club
- Chess Club
- PALS program
- PEBS Assemblies