

Saint Mary's Elementary School
5614 Morris Street
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(902) 421-6749
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Emily Johnson, Acting Principal, emily.johnson@hrce.ca
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Saint Mary's Elementary School

April 2025 Newsletter

Dear SMES Families,

This week, we welcome the month of April and the beginning of Term 3! Report cards will go home by email on Monday, April 1, and families will have an opportunity to meet with their child's teachers on April 2 (5–7 p.m.) and April 3 (1–3 p.m.). It's not too late to schedule an appointment; just reach out to Sushmita or your child's teacher. You are welcome to meet with any teacher who supports your child's education—including Ms. Cumming (Learning Centre), Ms. Langille (EAL), Mrs. Potter (Early Literacy), Ms. Wilson (Music), and Mr. MacDougall (Phys. Ed.).

We are always happy to discuss your child's learning and well-being, and we encourage you to reach out anytime. To ensure teachers can give you their full attention, please email or call ahead, as the start and end of the school day can be quite busy.

The end of the school year is fast approaching, but the next few months are filled with exciting learning opportunities! Classes will participate in World Drumming workshops, visit the Pier 21 Museum of Immigration and other cultural sites, and take part in Agriculture Nova Scotia's Chick Hatch Program.


Read on to find out more!

All the best,

Ms. Johnson

Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--|
| UPCOMING EVENTS | APRIL 3 | NO CLASSES Progress Conferences & Professional Practice PP-12 |
| | APRIL 18 | NO CLASSES Good Friday |
| | APRIL 21 | NO CLASSES Easter Monday |
| | APRIL 30 | NO CLASSES Progress Conferences & Professional Practice PP-12 |

 Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

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Important Dates

- **April 1: Report Cards emailed**
- **April 2: Learning Conferences 5-7pm**
- **April 3: No School, Learning Conferences 1-3pm**
- **April 4: GoatsWorks World Drumming Workshops**
- **April 18 & 21: No School, Easter Holiday**
- **April 22: Earth Day, School Yard Clean Up**
- **April 30:**
 - **No School, Professional Practice Day**
 - **SAC Meeting 7:00pm via Teams**

Field Trip Chaperones

Classes have several trips planned over the next few months and we need adults to chaperone. Please reach out to your child's teacher or Emily Johnson, emily.johnson@hrce.ca if your checks are completed and you can volunteer or know someone else who can (like an older sibling or relative)! Parents without their completed checks can accompany their child on a trip but cannot supervise other students.

Change of Address or Contact Information

Have you recently moved to a new address or are you planning to move soon? It is important that you inform the school of any important changes to your address or contact information. We rely on up-to-date information for everyday operations and in the case of emergencies. Please call or email (stmarys@hrce.ca) the school or send the information directly to Sushmita at Sushmita.gurram@hrce.ca

SMES Updates

- A warm welcome to HRCE Math Coach Emily McLennan, who has joined the SMES teaching team for six weeks to support our students with math learning and help prepare for the Grade 3 Literacy and Mathematics Provincial Assessment in May.
- Ms. Cyr's Grade 3/4 class has been selected to participate in Agriculture Nova Scotia's Classroom Chick Hatch Program! We are excited to take part in this special learning opportunity, which begins in May.

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- Thank you to Mr. Caldas and Ms. Francis for leading the first Chess Club sessions for our Grade 5 and 6 students. We hope to welcome younger grades soon!
- A big thank you to Victoria for the freshly baked, whole-grain cake she has been providing for our Breakfast Program. It's delicious, and the students are loving it!

Provincial Lunch Program in Action

Last month was Nutrition Month, and what better way to celebrate healthy eating than to shine a spotlight on the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program!

[Click here](#) to see how students at one HRCE school are using the program to dish out some serious leadership skills. It's a feast of learning and fun!

Measles Prevention in Nova Scotia

We are sharing the following on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health:

Measles cases are rising in Canada. Measles is a virus that spreads easily and can cause serious complications. **The best way to prevent measles is vaccination.** Nova Scotia offers free vaccines to eligible people. These can be given by primary care providers, pharmacists and Public Health. Parents are encouraged to check their family's vaccine records and get the measles vaccine if missing doses. Check your vaccine records at vaxrecordns.nshealth.ca.

Who should get vaccinated?

- Anyone born in or after 1970 should get **two doses** of vaccine, typically given at 12 and 18 months. If missed, children and adults can catch up for free.
- Adults born before 1970 are generally considered immune but can get a single dose if travelling.
- Infants 6-12 months old can get a single dose if travelling but still require two doses after their first birthday to complete the series.

Find out more about measles vaccination: www.nshealth.ca/measles.

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World Autism Awareness Day



Recognizing and celebrating World Autism Awareness Day in our schools fosters inclusion, understanding, and support for those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). On April 2 and every day, we strive to raise autism awareness among peers and educators, celebrate accomplishments and promote acceptance for those with ASD. Join us in creating a positive community where all students can thrive and learn about each other's diverse experiences.

Supporting Literacy At Home

Did you know? Teachers use the [Six Pillars of Effective Reading Instruction \(Français\)](#) to support students' learning.

Reading is best learned when children get clear and structured support in key skills: listening, recognizing sounds in words, learning letter sounds, building vocabulary, reading smoothly and understanding what they read. These skills work together and when you strengthen one, it helps improve the others.

Good reading instruction includes learning how letters and words work and practicing reading in books. The goal is for children to understand what they read, enjoy reading and learn new things from books.

The links below may help you support your children with reading at home:

- [Ideas for parents to help children to practice their reading and writing skills](#)
- [10 Ideas to Raise A Reader](#)