

# September Newsletter Saint Mary's Elementary School



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Phone: 902-421-6749

Safe Arrival: 1-800-582-6940

Website: <https://smr.hrce.ca>

Principal: K. Longard

Admin Assistant: W. Carter



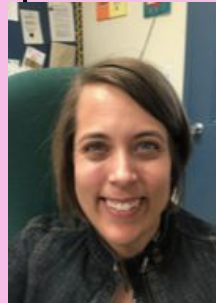
## Up-Coming Dates

- Curriculum Night - Wed. Sept.20th from 6:30-7:30 pm.
- School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting on Wed. Sept. 27th @ 6:30 pm via Zoom.
- Picture Day - Fri. Sept. 22nd. (Re-takes on Oct. 19th)
- National Truth & Reconciliation Day Sat. Sept. 30th (Observed Mon. Oct 2nd - No School)

A message from Mrs. Longard...

We had a very positive beginning to our school year. It has been so nice to see our returning students as well as our new ones coming in with big smiles on their faces. Staff are continuing to get to know and build relationships with their students and will be sharing about their learning as was indicated in their initial communications with you.

Thank you so much for all of your help with the transition back to school. We are looking forward to a great year!



## Information Booklet

Please take a moment to look through this year's Saint Mary's Information Booklet as it contains a lot of important information. You can access the booklet on our school website or by clicking on the link provided below.

[https://smr.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/smr.hrce.ca/basic-page/2023/06/saint\\_marys\\_welcome\\_booklet.pdf](https://smr.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/smr.hrce.ca/basic-page/2023/06/saint_marys_welcome_booklet.pdf)

## Reminders

- Do not send nut or peanut products to school.
- Students are not to arrive prior to 8:45 am as there is no supervision prior to that time.
- Please send water bottles to school with your child.
- Keep checking our school website for updates.

## Staff Info

We would like to welcome a number of new staff members to Saint Mary's this year.

Ms. Eleni Zelios - P/1

Ms. Heather Cumming - Learning Centre

Mr. John MacDougall - Phys Ed

Ms. Sarah Power - EPA

Ms. Alisha Fall - EPA

Mr. Riley Henry - EPA

Ms. Brittany Best - EPA

Ms. Kim Hollebhone - Resource

Ms. Colleen Liiva - SLP

We are very excited to have you with us!

## Cross Country

Students in grades 3,4, 5 and 6 are all invited to join our Cross Country team. Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-8:50 for the next four weeks, to prepare for the upcoming Meet in October (more information to follow on that). The practices are really short, fun and rewarding. Our new Phys Ed teacher Mr. McDougall ([imcdougall@hrce.ca](mailto:imcdougall@hrce.ca)) will be facilitating this opportunity. Interested students will be coming home with more information and a permission slip in the next couple of days.



## Website

If you haven't already done so, please check out our school website at <https://smr.hrce.ca/>. It is updated on a regular basis and contains a lot of useful and important information, such as our school's Communicating Student Learning Policy. You can also check out upcoming dates and find contact information for any of our staff.

### **Health Information**

It is important that the school have access to the most up to date health information for your child. Please ensure to update records when requested and please inform us of any changes to your child's health. Medications cannot be administered at school without the proper documentation and they must be kept at the office. If your child requires medication while at school, please call the main office at 902-421-6749 and we will ensure that forms are made available for you to fill out and sign.

### **Emergency Drills**

The start of a new school year requires us to practice being safe while at school. One way we do this is to practice exiting the building in case of a fire. School staff will be discussing this in their classrooms, at age-appropriate levels, this week and we will be doing our first drill next week. Another way we practice being safe at school is by participating in what we call Lockdown and Hold and Secure Drills. Look for a separate message with more information regarding this in the coming days. The third way that we practice safety is with bus evacuation drills. This is especially important when classes begin to take field trips. Our bus evacuation drills will take place on October 20th.

### **Head Lice**

Please ensure that you are checking your child's head frequently for lice. If you find any live lice, or nits, students can return to school once they have been treated.

### **Safe Arrival**

If your child is going to be late or absent, please remember to call our toll free attendance line at 1-833-582-6940. The only option available is to excuse the student for the day. If the student arrives later, attendance will be changed upon their arrival.

## **Curriculum Night**

We are pleased to announce that we will be having an in-person curriculum night on Wednesday, September 20th from 6:30-7:30 pm. This will be a drop-in event which gives you an opportunity to come to school, meet your child's teacher, see their classroom and find out what they will be learning this year. If you wish to discuss any other concerns with your child's teacher, please set up a separate meeting time with them.

You will enter the school through the same door that your child does. We look forward to seeing you on the 20th! In the event that you are unable to attend, please let your child's teacher know and they will send you some relevant information.

## **Breakfast Program**

Having a solid breakfast in the morning before school is very important for your child's learning. Breakfast items will be available for every child who wishes, beginning on Monday, September 11th. Items will be brought to your child's classroom each morning.

## **Picture Day**

Picture Day will take place on Friday, September 22nd. Pictures will begin in the morning, with each class taking their turn. Information about ordering will come home with your child on that day.



## School Advisory Council (SAC)

The SAC is a group of parents, staff and community members who act in an advisory capacity to the school principal and Regional Centre of Education on a range of issues related to the school and school system. SACs play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level. We are seeking additional parent/guardian and community members so if you are interested, please contact Mrs. Longard at [KLongard@hrce.ca](mailto:KLongard@hrce.ca)

Our next SAC meeting will be Wednesday, September 27th at 6:30pm via Zoom. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend. Please email Mrs. Longard and she will send you the meeting link prior to.



**WE ARE GROWING!  
CHANGE IS  
HAPPENING.**



Wear orange on September 29  
in honour of

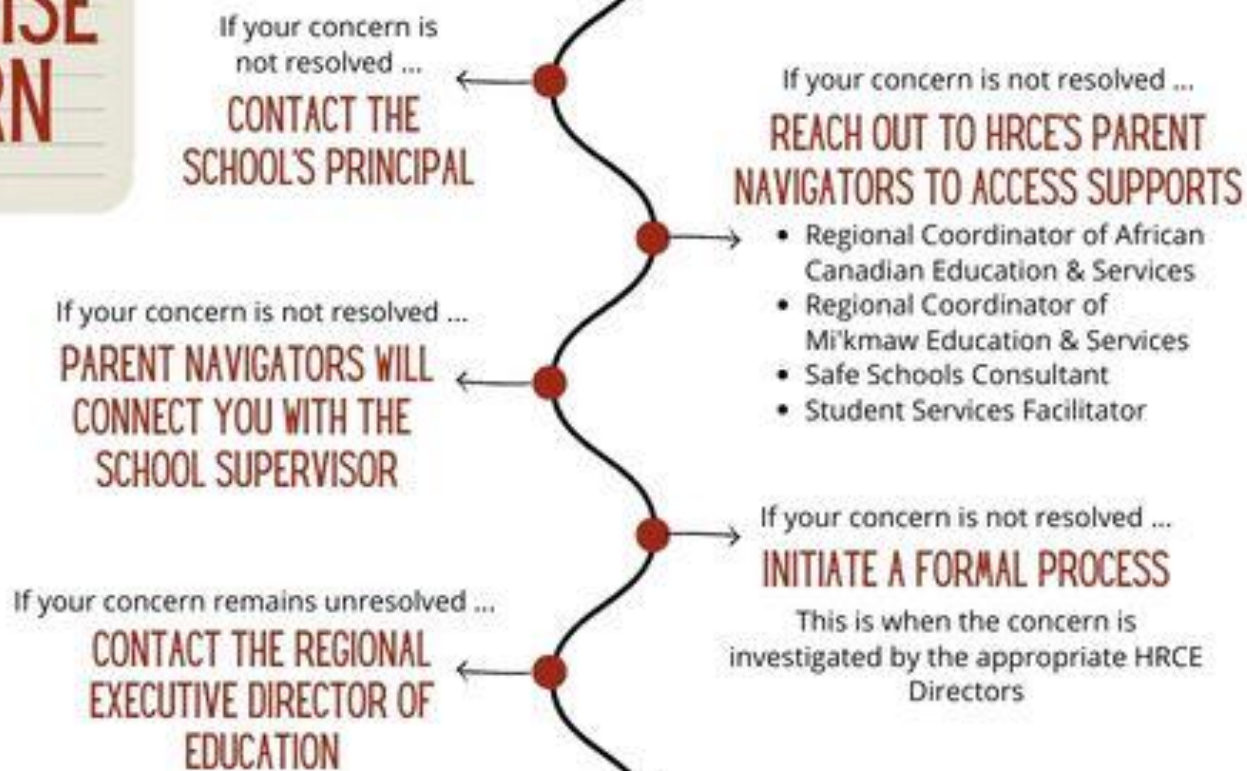
**NATIONAL DAY  
FOR TRUTH &  
RECONCILIATION**





Halifax  
Regional Centre for Education

# HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN



## Inclement Weather and School Cancellations

In the event of school cancellation due to inclement weather and other exceptional circumstances, the decision to cancel school is made as close to 6 am as possible. Here are some ways you can find out:

- HRCE Website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)
- Follow HRCE on Twitter at [Twitter.com/HRCE\\_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- Call the information line at 902-464-4636
- Listen to the radio (all local radio stations)
- Sign up to receive text messages from the HRCE

At times schools may be cancelled by “Family of Schools”. **We are in the Citadel High family of schools.** In the event school is cancelled during the school day, the decision is usually made by 11 am. The school will contact all families to confirm procedures to release your children. Please ensure your child knows what to do in case of early closure and ensure that your phone numbers and email addresses are up-to-date so we can contact you. Students are not released until we have made contact with a parent/guardian or designate as you identified on the registration forms sent home in September.

If school is cancelled during the day, we will dismiss students as per their parent/guardian instruction at 11:30 am. If you can avoid it, do not come to pick your child up early as this will result in a number of parents/guardians in close contact. Parents, guardians and caregivers are requested to wait outside their regular dismissal door at 11:30 am for their children. All students who need to wait for a later pick-up will be supervised until they are picked up.

On days when conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time but it is predicted that conditions will improve, a 2-hour delayed opening may be considered. In this situation, students cannot arrive before 10:45 and classes will begin at 10:55. Lunch and dismissal times will not be affected.