

lest we forget

 Halifax
Regional Centre for Education



November Newsletter Saint Mary's Elementary School

Phone: 902-421-6749

Safe Arrival Toll Free: 1-833-582-6940

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

Principal: K. Longard

Admin Assistant: W. Carter

Principal's Message

Welcome to November! November is always a great time to reflect on how much we've already learned this year and look forward to the next few months. It is also an important time to reflect on peace and freedom as we move towards Remembrance Day. Our school Remembrance Day observance this year will be an in-person assembly for our students and staff next Wednesday, November 8th.

In this newsletter you will find learning that is taking place in our school, as well as important information for our families. We hope you find it useful and informative.

Parent/Guardian-Teacher Interviews and Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home electronically by end of day on November 22nd. Please follow the steps outline in a previous email and ensure that your most up-to-date email is in PowerSchool. Family/Teacher conferences will be held during the afternoon/evening of Thursday, November 23rd. More information to follow on this.

Report cards and Family/Teacher conferences are not the only way that we communicate student learning and progress through the year, and they are not the only times you can speak with your child's teacher. Communication and collaboration between school and home are essential to student success.

Holiday Concerts and Events

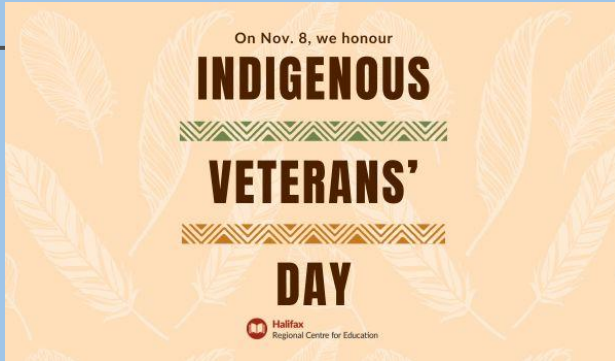
This year's holiday concert will be an in-person event here at school. It will take place on **Wednesday, December 6th (storm date of Thursday, December 7th) at 6:30 pm**. Due to capacity requirements, each family will be allocated 2 tickets for the concert. You will need to bring them with you to the event for entry. Tickets will be sent home to families on December 5th. Please check the backpack of your youngest child for the tickets. Students who are not at school on December 5th will receive their tickets on the day of the concert.

Remembrance Day

This year to commemorate Remembrance Day, we would like to thank all of the present and past serving members of our community.

Our in-person ceremony will be on Wednesday, November 8th for staff and students. This is also recognized as Indigenous Veterans' Day. Students are encouraged to wear their Scout, Guide and/or Cadet uniforms if they are members. They could also wear black or red clothing if they choose.

There will be no school for students and staff on Monday, November 13th as we all observe this day in our own way.



SAC (School Advisory Council)

Our SAC meets most months, and all school community members are welcome to attend meetings. At this time, meetings are held via Zoom.

We are currently seeking additional parent/guardian and community members to broaden the voice and perspectives of our school community. You are able to access SAC Minutes posted on our website <https://smr.hrce.ca>.

Our next SAC meeting will be held on November 22nd. You can let Mrs. Longard know that you would like to attend, and she will send you the meeting link.

Water Bottles

It is very important that students bring a water bottle with them each day to school. They are able to fill the bottles during the day but it is helpful if they come to school full.

Updating PowerSchool

If you have not already done so, please follow the instructions below for how to update your child's information in PowerSchool.

Visit the PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/>.

From inside the Parent Portal:

1. Select the student you wish to register along the top
2. Select the "HRCE Demographic Updates" icon from the Navigation menu on the left side
3. Enter the Date of Birth
4. Complete the form



I can't remember my login for the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

If you aren't able to retrieve your login credentials using the "Having trouble signing in?" link on the Sign In page, please contact your school directly for assistance logging in to the Parent Portal.

Do I have to answer all the questions?

No, but some questions are marked "Required" and must be answered before you can submit your form.

What if I make a mistake?

If you would like to make a change prior to submitting the form, you can either navigate back to the page using the "Previous" and "Next" buttons or if you are on the Review page select the underlined field. If you have already submitted the form you will need to contact your student's school so they can make the changes for you.

I've completed the form, now what?

Once you have finished entering your information select "Submit." This will send all of the information you've entered to the school. If you cannot select this button you will need to make sure that you have answered all required questions.

What if I have more than one student in the district? Do I need to do this for each child?

Yes you will need to provide information that is specific to each child. We recommend that you complete and submit one form and then start another. This will allow you to "snap" (or share) selected family information, which saves you time.

Upcoming School Event

Please join our School Advisory Council (SAC) at a free event to celebrate National Children's Day. Together, we can ignite hope and create a brighter future for our Saint Mary's families.

Join us on **Monday, November 20th, 2023 from 6:30-7:30 pm** in our school's gymnasium. **You can enter the building through the front doors and then head down the stairs to the gym.** This is a drop-in event where you and your children can engage in some fun activities together, while continuing to build a strong relationship between home and school.

You do not need to bring anything other than yourselves. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on November 20th!



Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found items have been adding up quickly. If your child is missing any items, please remind them to have a look at school. To make it easier to reunite students with their items, please make sure their name is on all clothing and lunch boxes.

Weather Appropriate Clothing

Students should come to school each day dressed for the weather conditions. Students go outside multiple times each day and it is important for them to be dressed warmly as the weather gets colder. This includes a warm coat, a hat and gloves or mittens. We will go out in all but extreme conditions. We only stay inside if temperatures reach -20 degrees or lower (with the windchill). It is also a great idea to keep a change of clothes in your child's backpack in case they need them.

Lice

Please remember to check your student's head periodically for lice. Students who have lice may return to school after they have been treated and there are no live lice on their heads. If you need support through this process, let us know and we can send home information.

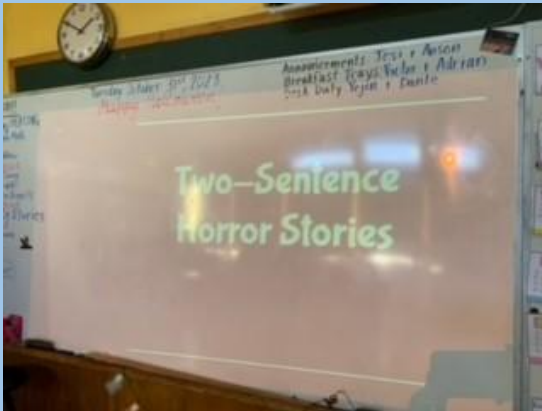


What's happening at Saint Mary's...

Writer's Workshop

Writers workshop is a student-centred framework used to teach a specific learning target that will move writers forward. This predictable framework begins with a whole group lesson to activate their prior knowledge, followed by explicit teaching through the use of demonstration and modeling. The next step is called guided practice. Students are given a chance to actively try the skill together before going off to try it within their own work as writers. The workshop is brought to a close with a Share Time during which writers share their piece with a partner or whole group audience.

Writer's Workshop is serious work at all levels, and students use a variety of tools to support their writing, including pencil & paper, chromebooks, pictures and even building a story before writing it.



Upcoming Dates

- Nov. 13--Observance of Remembrance Day - no school for students and staff
- Nov. 17--Assessment and Evaluation Day--no school for students
- Nov. 22--Report Cards emailed home (by end of day)
- Nov. 23--PD and Parent/Guardian-Teacher interviews--no school for students

Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be late or absent, please remember to call our Safe Arrival program. Excuse them absent for the day and it will be changed upon their arrival.

1-833-582-6940 (Toll Free)

Reminders

- Do not send nut or peanut products to school
- No pets on school property between 8:45 am-3:00 pm.
- Respect “No Parking” and “No Stopping” signs when dropping off and picking up your students.
- There is no parking available for visits to the school during the instructional day. Our lot is shared with the South End Community Daycare as well as Spencer House.

Safe Dismissal

Please send teachers a note if there is a change to your child’s dismissal procedure (ie, someone different is picking your child up, they are going home with a friend, etc.) This allows us to ensure that children are getting safely to their after school place.

Playground Safety and Supervision

Students are not to be arriving at school before 8:45 am and must come directly into the school upon arrival. There is no supervision for students arriving early to play before school.

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
- 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 11:00 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 when you updated information on PowerSchool in September.

If school is cancelled during the day, we will dismiss students as per their parent/guardian instruction at 11:30. If you can avoid it, do not come to pick your child up early as this will result in congestion in the office area. Parents, guardians and caregivers are requested to wait outside their regular dismissal door at 11:30 for their children.

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 at Saint Mary’s cannot arrive before 10:45 am and classes will begin at 10:55 am. Lunch/recess and dismissal times will not be affected in this case.