
December Newsletter

Saint Mary's Elementary School



Phone: 902-421-6749
Website: <https://smr.hrce.ca>

Principal: K. Longard
Admin Assistant: W. Carter

Safe Arrival Toll Free: 1-833-582-6940
PowerSchoolPortal
SchoolMessenger App

Up-Coming Dates

Dec. 4th - No School for Students
(PD Day for Staff)

Dec. 6th - Holiday Concert @ 6:30 pm

Dec. 7th - Holiday Concert Storm Date

Dec. 20th - Last day of school before the
Holiday Break

Jan. 2nd - Classes Resume

Jan. 24th - SAC Meeting via Zoom
@ 6:30 pm

Principal's Message

It is so hard to believe that it is December already! Our staff and students have been engaged in so much wonderful learning this term. We have an amazing school and are thankful that you are all a part of our school community. On behalf of all of the staff of Saint Mary's, I would like to wish you all a fantastic holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

Mrs. Longard



The image is a graphic titled "UPCOMING EVENTS" from the HRCE Halifax Regional Centre for Education. It features a calendar grid with three highlighted dates in red boxes: December 4th (Professional Learning Day, No Classes), December 21st (First day of holiday break, No Classes), and January 2nd (First day of school for 2024, Classes Resume). The text encourages marking these dates on a calendar and provides a link to the 2023-24 calendar.

HRCE Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!
Visit hrce.ca/calendars to view & download the 2023-24 calendar.

DECEMBER 4	NO CLASSES Professional Learning Day
DECEMBER 21	NO CLASSES First day of holiday break
JANUARY 2	CLASSES RESUME First day of school for 2024

Holiday Concert

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 Tuesday, 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. The main doors (facing Morris Street) will open at 6:10 pm. Please bring your child to their classroom upon arrival. The students of the 5/6 class will be meeting in our Learning Centre/Library. After the concert is over, you can return to your child's class to pick them up. We are looking forward to a wonderful event!

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.

Reminders

- Do not send nut or peanut products to school
- No dogs on school property between 8 am-3 pm.
- Respect "No Parking" and "No Stopping" signs when dropping off and picking up your students.
- Send a water bottle and any required forks/spoons with your child each day.

Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be late or absent, please remember to call our Safe Arrival program.

Toll Free: 1-833-582-6940

PowerSchoolPortal
SchoolMessenger App

Did you know?

You can report your child's absence through the SchoolMessenger app!

- Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices
- Sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address) that the school has on record for you
- Click on Attendance
- Follow the prompts



What's Been Happening in Classrooms?



Family members visiting the 1/2 classroom and sharing in their learning.

What's Been Happening in Classrooms?



Partner reading in 2/3 in the dark!



Mrs. Longard bobbing for apples and being cheered on by the 2/3 's.

We're always hiring!

Did you know that HRCE has nearly 12,000 employees serving more than 58,000 students?

Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities!

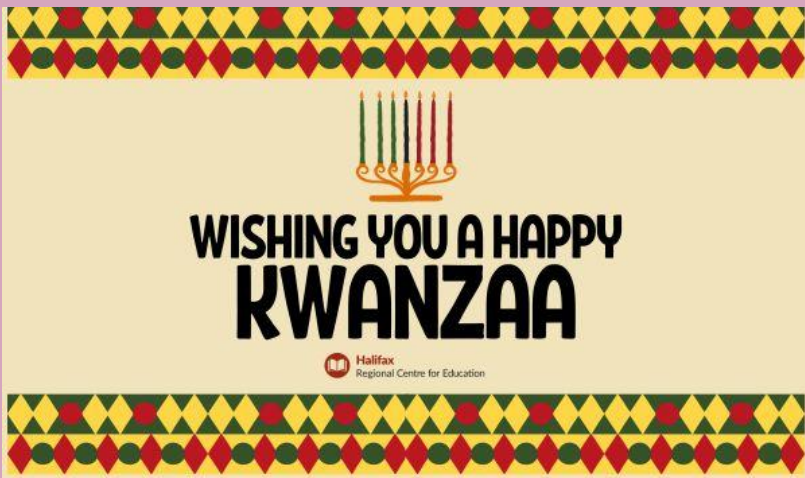
As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Add yourself to a world of learning! Check out new opportunities weekly at www.myhrce.ca/jobs.



Apply today!

Visit www.myhrce.ca/jobs to view open postings!

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What is SchoolsPlus?

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help students with what they need to succeed – from home, to school, and back again!



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Connect with us!

Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus - 12 months a year!



902-464-2041



schoolsplus@hrce.ca



[@HRCESchoolsPlus](https://twitter.com/HRCESchoolsPlus)

Resources & support

Recreation

Help finding and applying for rec programs or funding.

Tutoring

Help understanding and accessing tutoring supports.

Food supports

Help accessing food banks and other local food supports.

Health & wellness

Help navigating healthcare systems.

General support

Help completing paperwork and applications, as well as transportation and accompaniment to appointments.



Schools
Écoles **Plus**

NOVA SCOTIA • NOUVEAU BRUNSWICK



Winter Weather

We love to get outside and plan to spend as many recesses and lunches playing outside as we can throughout the winter. We can't wait for the snow to arrive! We take the temperature and wind chill into consideration when deciding to send students outside but we are able to get out most days. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. When students are sent outside, we do not have supervision for students to stay inside. We require students to wear a jacket, boots and snow pants if they are to play in the snow. This helps avoid students having to sit around in wet clothes after playing outside. Students can easily get wet playing in the snow so it's a good idea to tuck a dry set of clothes in the backpack in case your child needs to get changed during the day.

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 and we want to be mindful of that, especially as the weather is turning colder.



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.