



March 2024 Newsletter Saint Mary's Elementary School

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Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

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

Principal: K. Longard

Admin Assistant: S. Gurram

Principal's Message

With the arrival of March, we are looking forward to warming weather, more daylight and spring. As we move a bit further into the second half of the school year, it's amazing to see all the learning going on in classrooms, in the halls, and outside. Students were engaged in a variety of learning activities about African Heritage Month over the past few weeks, and they aren't done learning yet. We are committed to continuing our learning about the histories of all of our peoples. Please take some time to read through the rest of this newsletter as it contains a lot of important information.

Mrs. Longard



Upcoming Dates

March 4th-8th: Spirit Week

March 8th - The Big Crunch

March 11th-15th--March Break
(No school)

**March 18th--Assessment and
Evaluation Day (No school for
students)**

**March 27th--SAC Zoom meeting @
6:30 pm**

March 27th - Report Cards sent
home via email

April 4th - PD/Teacher
Conferences (No school for
students)

Spirit Week

As a fun way to move into March Break, we will be participating in some special days next week (March 4th-8th). While completely voluntary, it will add a little something extra to our week!

Monday, March 4th - Mismatched Monday - Wear your favourite mismatched outfit!

Tuesday, March 5th - Wear Your Favourite Colour Day

Wednesday, March 6th - Hat Day or Wacky Hair Day

Thursday, March 7th - Costume Day or Superhero Day - The possibilities are endless!

Friday, March 8th - PJ Day - Wear your comfy, cozy pyjamas.



Reminders

- Do not send any nut or peanut products to school (this includes Nutella).
- No pets on school property between 8:45 am-3 pm.
- Respect “No Parking” and “No Stopping” signs when dropping off and picking up your students. Our lot is shared and there is no space for parents/guardians to remain parked after drop off/pick up.
- Check students’ heads periodically for lice.
- Please send cutlery (forks and spoons) with your child’s lunch.
- Please send enough food for snack time(s).



Registration for new students 2024-2025

If you have a child eligible for primary or pre-primary next September, please register them as soon as possible. Having registrations done now helps ensure that we have the appropriate staffing in place for September. Please pass this information on to anyone you know who is eligible to register.

<https://www.hrce.ca/families/student-registration-updates>

For your information...

For over 30 years...

SOCCER DAY CAMPS

...more than just a soccer camp!

2024



Don't
miss out on our
EARLY BIRD
discount, sign up by
March 31, 2024
to qualify.

Get ready for an
unforgettable
summer
adventure!

- * July & August weeks
- * all kids aged 5 to 13

- * morning & full day sessions
- * before & after care available

Morning sessions from \$139*

Full day sessions from \$214*

*limited time offer, see website for details

royalsoccer.com

800-427-0536

For location & registration details, visit our website.

SAC (School Advisory Council)

Our SAC meets most months, and all school community members are welcome to attend those meetings.

At this time, meetings are held via Zoom.

We are always seeking additional parent/guardian and community members to broaden the voice and perspectives of our school community.

We are particularly interested in ideas that will help us celebrate the diversity of our school community. We would like for everyone to be able to share about themselves and their culture. If you know of a way that we can do this on a classroom or a whole-school level, please plan on attending our next meeting. If you are not able to attend, we would appreciate you sending us a message with your ideas. You can send any messages to stmarys@hrce.ca.

Our next SAC meeting will be held on **March 27th at 6:30 pm**. You can let Mrs. Longard know that you would like to attend, and she will send you the meeting link.

Chaperones Needed

A number of our classes are considering possible field trips over the remainder of the school year. As well, our whole school will be heading to the Nova Scotia International Tattoo in June (more info to come on this). To make these trips happen, **we need chaperones** to accompany us. If you have flexibility in your schedule and would be interested in helping us out in this way, please contact the office to obtain the Child Abuse Register Form and Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector letter.

There is a cost to this but don't let that hold you back. Just let us know if this is a concern and we can help, courtesy of our SAC. Thank you in advance for your help with this!

Do you know how to raise a concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools, or HRCE Central Office, when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child's teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to [HRCE's Parent Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources or connect you with the school supervisor.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

Click here to view the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).



March is Nutrition Month

Did you know? March is Nutrition Month! This is a great time to explore and learn about food. An important part of this is food literacy, which includes having the knowledge and skills to grow, choose, prepare, and talk about food.

Some ways to engage your family during Nutrition Month:

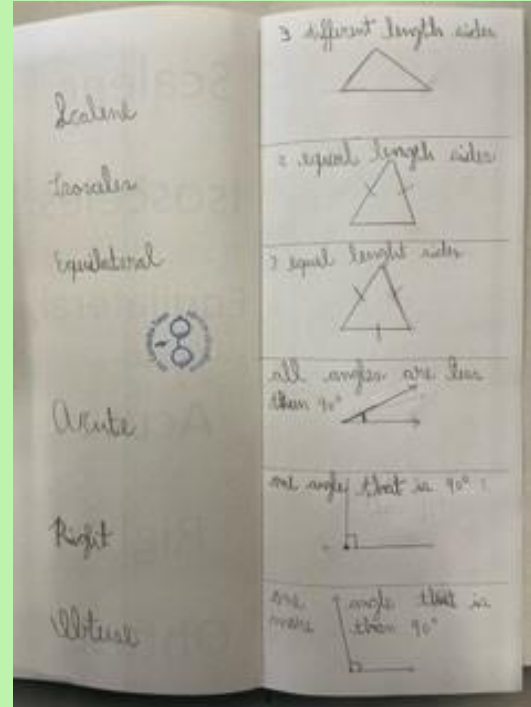
- Get kids involved in meal planning. Ask them to help choose recipes, write out grocery lists and explore grocery store flyers.
- Make cooking a family event! Kids can participate in age-appropriate tasks, such as measuring ingredients or setting the table.
- Enjoy meals together when you are able. Mealtimes can be a great time to connect in conversation.
- Start planning for an indoor or outdoor garden. This is a great way to explore where our food comes from.



As a whole school, we will be participating in the Big Crunch on March 8th. Apples will be provided to everyone. We will also be doing some different activities throughout the rest of the month.

What's Been Happening at Saint Mary's?

Strengthening our knowledge of angles in Grade 6.



What's Been Happening at Saint Mary's?

Measuring in Grade 3



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 6:00 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 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. 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 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.