



April 2024 Newsletter Saint Mary's Elementary School

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

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

Principal: K. Longard
Admin Assistant: S. Gurram

Principal's Message

We are looking forward to seeing and speaking with you about your child's progress during our upcoming Family-Teacher conferences. If you have not already done so, please make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher. Communication and working in collaboration are very important to each child's success and we are so happy to be working with you.

It is hard to believe that we have now moved into the last term of the year. We look forward to a wonderful Spring and rest of the school year.

Mrs. Longard

Upcoming Dates

March 29th - Good Friday (No School)

April 1st - Easter Monday (No School)

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

April 15-19th - Education Week

April 17th - SAC (via Zoom) @ 6:30 pm

May 13-28th - Grade 3 Assessments

May 20th - Victoria Day (No School)



The graphic features a calendar background with a vertical banner on the left that reads "UPCOMING EVENTS" in large, bold, black letters. To the left of the banner is the logo for the "Halifax Regional Centre for Education". To the right of the banner, there are three red rectangular boxes, each containing a date and event information. The first box is for April 1st, the second for April 4th, and the third for April 18th. Each box states "NO CLASSES" and provides details about the event. At the bottom of the graphic, there is a URL to visit for more calendar information.

Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

DATE	EVENT
APRIL 1	NO CLASSES Easter Monday
APRIL 4	NO CLASSES Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences Elementary & Junior High ONLY
APRIL 18	NO CLASSES Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences High School ONLY

Visit hrce.ca/calendars to view & download the 2023-24 calendar.

Reminders

- **There is no supervision for students prior to 8:45 and after 3:00.** Please ensure proper supervision for your children outside of these times. Students in P-3 are to be picked up by an adult. If you have a student in 4-6, please make sure that their teacher knows of the after school arrangements.
- Please ensure that your child comes to school with a water bottle each day.
- Please send any forks/spoons that your child may need with them. We are going through a lot at school.
- Do not send any nut or peanut products to school (this includes Nutella).
- Please send enough food with your child for both lunch and snack(s).
- 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.
- Check students’ heads periodically for lice.



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 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>

Family Teacher Conferences

As indicated in an earlier email to families, you are now able to sign up for Family Teacher Conferences on Thursday, April 4th, using the following link. There is no school for students on that day.

[https://ptcfast.com/schools/Saint Mary s Elementary](https://ptcfast.com/schools/Saint_Mary_s_Elementary)

The conferences will be 10 minutes in length. After selecting your appointment time, please leave your contact number under 'Special Request' if you would prefer a phone call. If you do not leave a phone number in that section, teachers will expect to see you in person at school. One attempt will be made for phone call appointments, so please ensure that you are available at the time requested. **Be aware that the call may be coming from an unknown number.**

If you do not have internet access or are experiencing any difficulties with the system, please contact Ms. Gurram at the school (902-421-6749) to book your conference.

The last day to book appointment times is Wednesday, April 3rd.

Report Cards

Report cards were sent home via email on Wednesday, March 27th. If you have not yet received an email saying your child's report card is ready to view, please take a look in your junk mail folder first.

If you have any difficulty logging in or accessing the report cards, please give Ms. Gurram a call at the main office (902-421-6749) or send an email to the school (stmarys@hrce.ca).

Grade 3 Provincial Assessments

During the period of May 13th - May 28th, our Grade 3's will be participating in the Provincial Grade 3 Assessments in Literacy and Math.

More specific information will be sent home to those families, prior to this time frame.

If families have any specific questions after you receive that information, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or the office.

Weather Notes

As we are now moving into April, we start looking forward to increasingly better weather and longer days. Activity, movement and fresh air help us learn, so we believe it's very important that students get outside to play as much as possible. This means that we go out most days, even when it's chilly or lightly raining. When classes go out for recess and lunch, all students must accompany their class. Teachers and lunch monitors are responsible for the students outside, and there are no extra staff to supervise students who do not go out. Please ensure that students are dressed appropriately for the weather each day.

As we get further into spring, there will be mud and puddles to explore in the school yard. We recommend tucking a change of clothes in your child's backpack in the event they get wet or dirty while playing outside. This will help us avoid calling you to drop off clean, dry clothes.

Education Week 2024 - A Message from HRCE

Nova Scotia's annual Education Week will take place from April 14-20, 2024. This year's theme is Connections to Community and recognizes the work of teachers, student support staff, administrators and Early Childhood Educators who take deliberate effort to enhance and empower their larger school communities, including families and the community at large.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for the impact they have on our students and the outstanding work they do in our school every day.



Happy Education Week to our
hard-working staff!
We appreciate everything you do
for our students!



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

Preparing for the Solar Eclipse

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is pleased to provide all students in Nova Scotia with eclipse glasses to view the upcoming solar eclipse safely. School staff will be sending home those glasses just prior to the event.

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the sun, obscuring the view of the sun from a section of the Earth. This event is extremely rare, with the next solar eclipse not occurring in the province until 2079. Nova Scotia will be just outside of the zone of totality for the solar eclipse; for this reason, it is important that individuals have appropriate protection to view this historic event.

The solar eclipse will begin at 3:27 p.m., reaching maximum coverage at 4:38 p.m., and ending at 5:44 p.m. For more information, visit <https://thediscoverycentre.ca/solar-eclipse-solaire/>.



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.

Our next SAC meeting will be held on **April 17th 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. 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 with that, courtesy of our SAC. Thank you in advance for your help with this!