



May 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

Welcome to May! We have two months of school left and lots of fun and learning to experience.

May is Asian Heritage Month in Canada. Asian Heritage Month has been celebrated in May since the 1990s and was officially declared in 2002. It is also Canadian Jewish Heritage Month, an opportunity to discover and celebrate Jewish culture, faith and history, as well as the tremendous contributions of Jewish communities to our country's social, political and economic fabric. The month of May has special significance for Jewish communities around the world. It often coincides with the holiday of Shavuot, the "Feast of Weeks," which celebrates the spring harvest and commemorates the gift of the Torah.

We continue to celebrate all of the wonderful people and cultures that make up our school community.

Mrs. Longard

Upcoming Dates

- May 8 - SAC meeting @ 6:30 pm (via Zoom)
- May 15&16 - Grade 3 Literacy Assessments
- May 20 - Victoria Day (No School)
- May 22&23 - Grade 3 Math Assessments
- June 26 - Whole school trip to the NS International Tattoo
- June 27 - Assessment & Evaluation Day
(No classes for students)
- June 28 - Last day of school



Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

MAY 20	NO CLASSES Victoria Day
JUNE 26	NO CLASSES Assessment & Evaluation Day - High School ONLY
JUNE 27	NO CLASSES Assessment & Evaluation Day - PP-12

Halifax Regional Centre for Education

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Grade 6 Transition to Gorsebrook and Info for incoming Primaries

Our Grade 6 students have been invited to visit Gorsebrook Jr. High on the morning of May 9th. We will be walking up together and Gorsebrook staff and students will have fun, welcoming activities for our 6's. A permission slip has already been sent home. If you have not yet returned it to your child's teacher, please do so as soon as possible.

Parents and guardians of Grade 6 students who will be attending Gorsebrook in September are invited to a virtual information session during the evening of May 9th from 6:00-7:00 pm. You can access the meeting by clicking on the Zoom link provided here.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85635285025?pwd=QTVvQVU5ZlJlMYklUa3owUU5oVThodz09>

Families of new Primary students who will be attending Saint Mary's in September are invited to check out some information on our school website. Please use the link below, click on 'Our School', then 'For Parents' and finally 'New Primary Info'. More information will follow about an orientation day/time for those students.

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

Reminders

- Please send students with a water bottle each day.
- Do not send nut or peanut products to school (this includes Nutella).
- No dogs on school property between 8 am-3 pm.
- Do not drive onto the school property between 8 am and 3 pm. Park and stop only in appropriate spots on the street.
- Respect "No Parking" and "No Stopping" signs when dropping off and picking up your students.
- Check students' heads periodically for lice.



Track and Field

Some of our Grade 4, 5 and 6 students will be participating in Track and Field meets on **Tuesday, June 4th (Gr. 6) and Wednesday, June 5th (Gr. 4 & 5) at Beazley Field in Dartmouth. June 6th and 7th have been set aside as rain dates.**

Each age group (4/5 and 6) competes separately. Girls and boys compete separately as well. Within each age group, we are allowed to take 3 participants in long jump, 800 m and 1500 m. We can take 4 participants in 100 m, 8 in 4x100 m relay and 4 in the ball throw. Students are allowed to participate in a maximum of 2 events plus the relay. Participation is mostly based on performance but the size of our school makes it easier for our students to make one of the teams. Please see the next page for the Track and Field schedule for the next few weeks.

Mr. McDougall is busy preparing interested students and will communicate with families when the participant lists have been finalized. There will be no cost to attending the event, however **students and their families will be responsible for transportation to and from Beazley Field each day.** School staff will be on hand at the event but parents/guardians are welcome to stay and watch.

Permission slips for participants will be sent home prior to the event. If you are interested in being a chaperone and helping out with student supervision, please contact Mrs. Longard by sending her an email at KLongard@hrce.ca. If you have a question about the attached schedule or any of the events, please contact Mr. McDougall at JMcDougall@hrce.ca.



	Tuesday	Thursday
May	7 800m Tryout (recess) Run Club - 1105-1125	9 1500m Tryout (recess) Run Club - 1105-1125
May	14 800m/1500m Tryout rain date (recess) Run Club - 1105-1125	16 Run Club - 1105-1125
May	21 100m/Relay Teams Practice (recess)	23 100m/Relay Teams Practice (recess)
June	Tuesday, June 4- Grade 6 Meet, (9AM-3PM) Wednesday, June 5- Grade 4/5 Meet (9AM-3PM) Thursday, June 6- Rain Date Friday, June 7- Rain Date	

-Long Jump, 100m dash and Ball Throw tryouts are being completed during regular class times.

-All students who tryout for 800m MUST also tryout for 1500m.

-All students who are Top 8 in 100m MUST come to all practices for 100m/Relay.

May 15 is Black Excellence Day

Celebrating Black Excellence Day on May 15, 2024, within Halifax Regional Centre for Education is important for several reasons:

1. Representation and Recognition
2. Empowerment and Inspiration
3. Education and Awareness
4. Equity and Inclusion
5. Community Engagement



Overall, celebrating Black Excellence Day is important for fostering a culture of inclusivity, empowerment, and appreciation for the diverse talents and contributions of Black individuals. At Saint Mary's, we are committed to continuing to learn about and celebrate this rich part of our school's culture. For more information and activities to help mark the day, [click here](#).

Homework Hub: Finish the year off strong!

Did you know your student has access to Homework Hub? Finish the year off strong with the help of experienced tutors!

GNSPES Access: Easy access to online resources and tutoring through your GNSPES account (gnspes.ca) by clicking on the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon.


24/7 Access: Anytime access to video tutorials, practice questions and vocabulary review.

Bilingual tutors available for students in:

Grade 4-6 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Grade 7-12 on school nights 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.


[Watch this video](#) to learn more about Homework Hub!




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Tutors available for students in:
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Find the Homework Hub at gnspes.ca or call 1-888-444-6607

 **Halifax**
Regional Centre for Education

 **NOVA SCOTIA**
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

2024-25 EXCEL registration

The EXCEL program is a recreation-based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, offering before and after school care for elementary-aged children.

At each school site, the dedicated and qualified staffing teams plan weekly games and activities that suit the needs and interests of the registered students. These individual plans are framed around EXCEL's overall philosophy which is focused on physical activity and positive social interaction in a safe and fun environment.

At Saint Mary's, EXCEL offers an after-school program. Registration for returning students begins on May 2nd at 8:00 am and registration for new EXCEL participants will begin on May 16th at 8:00 am. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.



Volunteering and Field Trips

Classes are beginning to prepare for school trips as we head into the end of the school year. If you would like to volunteer as a chaperone, it is a requirement of HRCE to have a recent Child Abuse Registry Check and Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector on file within 3 months of date of issue. We can provide you with a letter that gives a discount on the Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector fee so please contact the office if you are interested. If any associated fees are a concern for you, please reach out to us.

The Child Abuse Registry application form is free and can be completed on-line.

For your easy reference to access the required forms, please visit our school website (<https://smr.hrce.ca/>) and click on the volunteer icon. You can contact Ms. Gurram in the office for more information.

Class Placements

We will soon begin the process of configuring classrooms for next year, while acknowledging there may be changes due to the fluctuation of enrollment numbers. The process of creating the classes is a well-thought-out process with many staff members involved who work with that grade level. This includes but is not limited to classroom teachers, specialist teachers (Phys. Ed., Music and French) and support staff (Learning Center, Resource, Reading Recovery and EAL).

Our goal is to create balanced classes with consideration to academic achievement, gender, friendships and supports required. We ask that you please trust our professional judgment that we will make the best decisions for your child's placement based on their needs, learning profile and friendships. If there is anything that you feel we need to know regarding class placements, please inform your child's teacher. We cannot accept requests for specific teachers. Thank you for your continued support and understanding in this matter.