

EAST ST. MARGARET'S ELEMENTARY

monthly newsletter

April 2025

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Spring at an elementary school is a wonderful time. The melting ice and warmer days are a welcome change. But mud and wet comes along for the ride these days.

Please ensure that you put an extra change of clothes in your student's backpack in case they have a little too much fun outside.

As we move into Term 3, we are looking forward to seeing our school families on Thursday for our Parent-Teacher Conferences. If you had any difficulties signing up, please reach out to the school office.

-Mr O'Brien

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 3 - NO SCHOOL

Parent/Teacher Conferences

APRIL 10

Home & School Virtual Meeting

6 PM - [JOIN HERE](#)

APRIL 18 - NO SCHOOL

Good Friday

APRIL 21 - NO SCHOOL

Easter Monday

APRIL 22

Earth Day

APRIL 30 - NO SCHOOL

Professional Development Day

CONTACT US

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April 2 is

World Autism
Awareness Day

 Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

GRADE 5/6 POPCORN SALES

Ms. MacEachern's Grade 5/6 Class is selling popcorn to raise money for a class trip. Popcorn will be sold for \$1/bag. If your student(s) would like to buy popcorn, please make sure they have money for their orders on the following dates:

- March 31 & April 1
- April 14 & 15
- April 28 & 29



SchoolMessenger APP UPDATE

SchoolMessenger has a new look, and a new app! If you're using the old version of the app, now is the time to update your version by downloading the new app: SM Home.

If you're not using SchoolMessenger, now is a great time to start! The SM Home app is a great tool for reporting student attendance. Download the app to your smart device, create an account, and find your student. When your student is absent from school, report the absence from the app and avoid the SafeArrival call. The app is also a great resource for accessing messages sent from ESM.

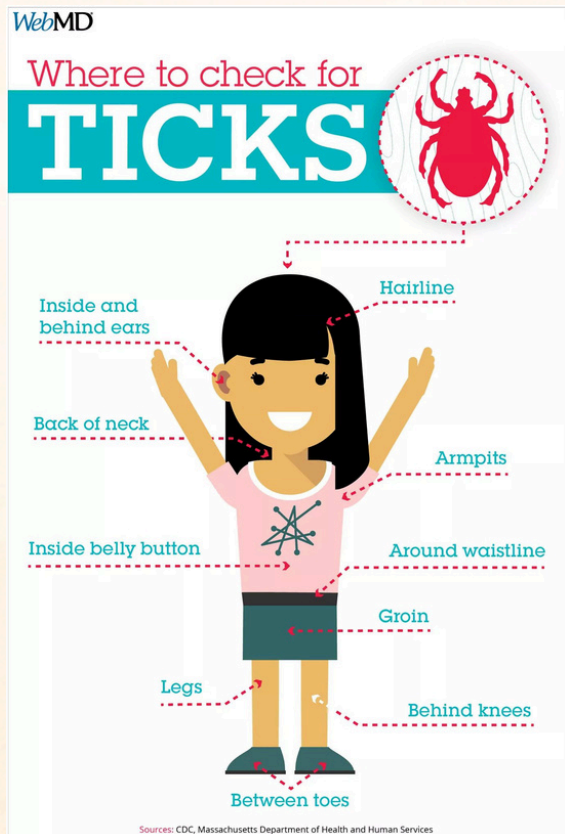


Search "SM Home" and look for this icon on your favourite app store, and download the new SM Home app TODAY!

TICK SEASON

Spring sunshine and warmer weather bring beautiful blooms and dreams of summer days... and ticks! Keep your students safe with the following tips:

- Wear long pants & sleeves, and shoes that cover your feet.
- Pull your socks up over your pant legs.
- Wear light coloured clothes so ticks can be seen easily.
- Use insect repellents that contain DEET or Icaridin.
- Do a "full body" tick check after being outside.



MEASLES PREVENTION IN NOVA SCOTIA

We are sharing the following on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health:

Measles cases are rising in Canada. Measles is a virus that spreads easily and can cause serious complications. **The best way to prevent measles is vaccination.** Nova Scotia offers free vaccines to eligible people. These can be given by primary care providers, pharmacists and Public Health.

Families are encouraged to check their vaccine records and get the measles vaccine if missing doses. Check your vaccine records at vaxrecords.nshealth.ca.

Who should get vaccinated?

- Anyone born in or after 1970 should get two doses of vaccine, typically given at 12 and 18 months. If missed, children and adults can catch up for free.
- Adults born before 1970 are generally considered immune but can get a single dose if travelling.
- Infants 6-12 months old can get a single dose if travelling but still require two doses after their first birthday to complete the series.

Find out more about measles vaccination: www.nshealth.ca/measles.

SUPPORTING STUDENT LITERACY AT HOME

Did you know? Teachers use the [Six Pillars of Effective Reading Instruction](#) to support students' learning.

Reading is best learned when children receive clear and structured support in key skills: listening, recognizing sounds in words, learning letter sounds, building vocabulary, reading smoothly, and understanding what they read. These skills work together, and strengthening one helps improve the others.

Good reading instruction includes learning how letters and words work and practicing reading in books. The goal is for children to understand what they read, enjoy reading, and learn new things from books.

The links below may help you support your students with reading at home:

- [Ideas for Parents to Help Children to Practice Their Reading and Writing Skills](#)
- [10 Things You Can Do to Raise a Reader](#)

PURPLE TAG PROGRAM REMINDER

Just a friendly reminder that children in Pre-Primary to Grade 2 who use school transportation must have a purple tag on the left side of their backpack. This is to ensure they are not left alone at a bus stop. If your child doesn't have a purple tag or needs a new one, please reach out to the main office.

To learn more about the Purple Tag Program, watch [this short video](#) or visit [HRCE's website](#) and click on *Purple Tag Program*.