

# East St. Margaret's Elementary

## monthly newsletter

October 2025

### Principal's Message

It's been a fantastic start to the school year! September brought great energy, a warm welcome from our families, and it's been exciting to see that spirit grow. Students are now settling into routines, diving into learning, and building strong connections in their classrooms. As a school, we're focused on creating a safe, supportive environment where everyone feels welcome and valued. We continue to reinforce school-wide routines and expectations that support a positive and safe environment for all. These routines help students feel secure, build confidence, and allow them to fully focus on their learning. **Thank you for being such active partners in this journey.** Your support makes all the difference—and we're excited to continue growing together in the months ahead!

### Demographic Update Reminder

The Demographic Update electronic form replaces paper forms sent home each school year to gather new information, update existing information, and to process yearly required consents and agreements. Even if there are no anticipated changes, please review the information and submit the form for all students in your family.

**It's critical that we have the most accurate information each year so that we can contact you quickly in the event of an emergency, send you important information, and to understand your student's health requirements.**

If you have not updated your student's records in the PowerSchool Parent Portal, please do so by **October 6, 2025**. The form will close and will no longer be available after this date.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us complete this important process.

### Dates to Remember

**OCTOBER 2**

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

**OCTOBER 3**

TERRY FOX RUN

*Don't forget your  
Toonies for Terry!*

BUS EVACUATION DRILL

**OCTOBER 13**

THANKSGIVING DAY

NO CLASSES

**OCTOBER 21**

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

**OCTOBER 23**

ESM HALLOWEEN DANCE

6 PM - ESM GYM

**OCTOBER 24**

NSTU CONFERENCE DAY

NO CLASSES

**OCTOBER 31**

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

### Employment Opportunities

**Lunch Monitor:** We are seeking individuals to fill two 1+ hour DAILY lunch monitor positions. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact the ESM Office.

**Lead Cafeteria Worker:** We are seeking a full-time Lead Cafeteria Worker to provide support for the NS School Lunch Program. For more information or to apply, please visit the [HRCE Jobs Board](#).

## Grades 1-2 Universal Screening

In September, classroom teachers spend time getting to know their students and who they are as learners. Nova Scotia's public schools will be using *Universal Screening in Reading* for Grade 1 and 2 students. This is one of the many ways teachers will assess learning.

**What is *Universal Screening in Reading*?** It's a short (1-5 minute) activity that helps us see how your child is developing key reading skills. Think of it as a quick check-in on their reading journey, like looking at a map to see where they are and what might help them move forward.

**Why do we do it?** The screening helps teachers understand children's strengths and where they may need extra support. This allows us to plan instruction, so students get what they need to succeed in reading.

**Important to know:** This is *not* a test. There's no "pass" or "fail." It's a way for teachers to ensure students are supported in their learning.

## Home & School Association General Meeting - October 8

The first meeting of the ESM Home & School Association for the 2025-2026 school year is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 8 at 6 PM** and will be virtual for the convenience of ESM families.

If you're interested in getting involved in Home & School activities, please join us for this very important first meeting of the year. In addition to planning for future activities, we will be ratifying the Home & School Bylaws, which were drafted by the Executive Committee in the spring. To review the Home & School Bylaws ahead of the meeting, please click [here](#).

Virtual Meeting: [JOIN HERE](#)

## ESM Annual Terry Fox Run/Walk

**FINISH  
IT.**

**October 3, 2025**

## School Photo Day - October 2



In preparation for viewing your student's photo proofs online, please pre-register for ESM's photo gallery by following these steps:

- Visit [ESM Photo Gallery](#).
- Log in or Create Account
- Click the **Submit** button

When your student's images have been uploaded to the photo gallery, you will receive an email letting you know your images are ready to view.

## Head Lice in Schools: Guidelines for Families

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), in partnership with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, has committed to following the recommendations of health care professionals and supporting school communities in the treatment and prevention of head lice.

The department's focus on the treatment and prevention of head lice is an effort to support student attendance and full participation at school. In accordance with these principles and healthcare standards, students with head lice should be treated at home and continue to attend school as usual. The confidentiality, privacy, dignity, and best interests of students and their families will be respected at all times.

"No-nit" or "no head lice" policies that keep children away from school are not effective. Head lice are common among students: they do not spread disease and cases of head lice are often misdiagnosed.

Additional information on how to prevent, find, and treat head lice is available from Nova Scotia Public Health [here](#).

The full Head Lice Guidelines for Families memo can be found on the ESM website [here](#).