

EAST ST. MARGARET'S ELEMENTARY

monthly newsletter

April 2026

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

As we welcome April, let's take a moment to reflect on the wonderful growth we've seen in our students—both academically and socially. It has been inspiring to watch their confidence, curiosity, and resilience continue to develop each day. We look forward to seeing students and families for Student-led Conferences on Thursday this week.

Learning is a lifelong journey, and every student moves along that path in their own unique way. Just like flowers in spring, each child blooms in their own time—and we are proud to support and celebrate every step of that growth!

Thank you for being our partners in nurturing a school community where learning, kindness, and development flourish.

Yours in learning,

Wendi Tekamp, Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 2 - NO SCHOOL

Student-Led Progress Conferences

APRIL 3 - NO SCHOOL

Good Friday

APRIL 6 - NO SCHOOL

Easter Monday

APRIL 8

Home & School Virtual Meeting

6 PM - [JOIN HERE](#)

APRIL 22

Earth Day

APRIL 29 - NO SCHOOL

Professional Development Day

Home & School Virtual Meeting

6 PM - [JOIN HERE](#)

APRIL 2 IS WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Autism Awareness Day is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many strengths and experiences of autistic children and youth in our school communities. For families, it's a moment to reflect on the importance of feeling seen, heard, and supported — not just today, but every day.

At ESM, awareness is only the beginning. True inclusion comes from acceptance, understanding, and a commitment to meeting each student where they are. When educators, students, and families work together to build empathy and reduce barriers, we create environments where every child can thrive.



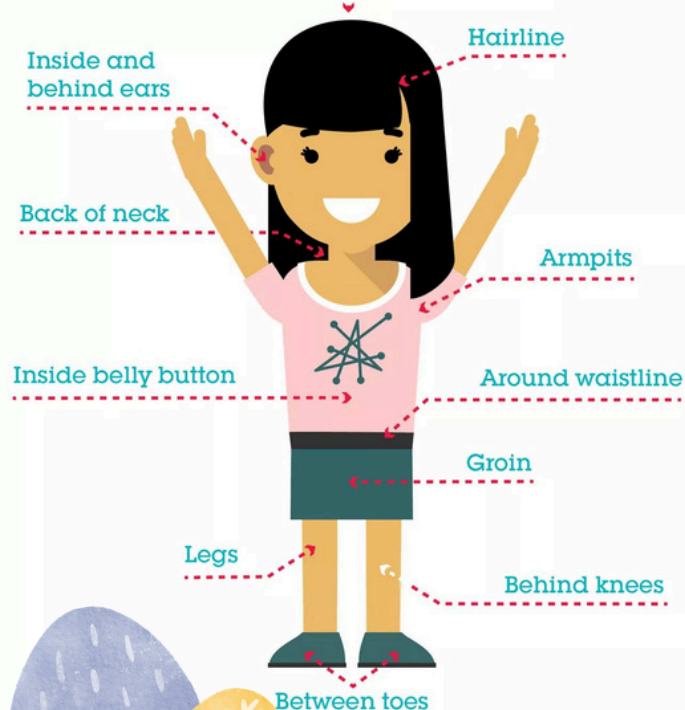
TICK SEASON

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.

WebMD

Where to check for TICKS



Ontario Department of Health and Human Services

HOME & SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

What a successful school year we've had with Home & School events and fundraisers! Through events like our Halloween and Valentine's Dances, and with our Grand in Hand and Christmas Bake Sale fundraisers, we've raised nearly \$4000 for ESM projects & initiatives, and we're not done. Our Spring Fling Committee is hard at work planning our most popular event of the year - our Annual Spring Fling, which will be held at the end of May. We hope you'll join us for a fun afternoon of community and fellowship!

What's next? This month, we will begin planning for next school year, and we invite the school community to join us in deciding what events and fundraisers we will sponsor as well as what projects and initiatives we'd like to support with Home & School funds.

How to Get Involved

There are many ways to get involved with ESM's Home & School Association.

- **Attend a virtual meeting.** With the exception of December and March, virtual meetings are held monthly for your convenience. Links to our meetings are shared in the "Dates to Remember" section of the newsletter, our ESM Google Calendar on our website, and through reminder emails.
- **Volunteer for an event.** Each event comes with several opportunities to volunteer - join the planning subcommittee; accept donations at the door; sell 50/50 tickets; sell concessions; decorate; clean-up; help supervise the event; and more! Everyone is welcome.
- **Join the Executive Committee.** Elections for two-year terms are upcoming in June. Please consider nominating yourself or a friend for a position on the Executive.

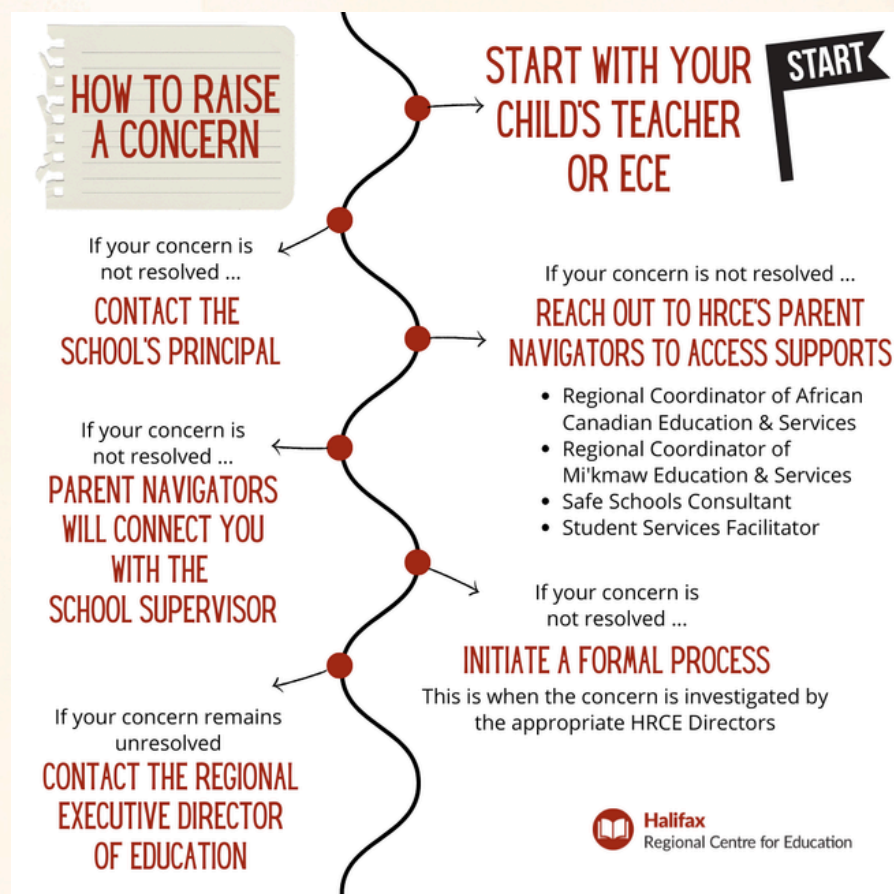
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN?

We want families to feel comfortable reaching out when they have questions or concerns about their student's education or well-being. In most cases, concerns can be resolved quickly by connecting directly with school staff.

If you do have a concern, here are the steps to follow:

- **Start by speaking with your student's teacher or ECE.** They are often best positioned to address questions about your student's learning or classroom experience.
- **If the concern isn't resolved, contact the school principal** to continue the conversation and work toward a solution.
- **If you need additional support, HRCE's Family Navigators are here to help.** They can provide guidance and connect families with helpful resources and supports. They can be reached at connect@hrce.ca.
- **If the concern still isn't resolved,** a formal review can be requested, and the matter will be looked into by the appropriate HRCE Director.
- **The final step** is for the concern to be reviewed by the Regional Executive Director.

You can learn more about the process [here](#) or by reviewing the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).



CARPOOL CONVERSTATIONS

Looking for an easy way to talk with your student about their digital world?

Carpool Conversations from Common Sense Media offers short, engaging prompts and mini podcasts designed to spark family discussions about technology, media use, and online behaviour. The questions might lead to deeper discussions - or not! Either way, the goal is to nurture empathy, lead with curiosity, and have ongoing conversations that acknowledge we're all in this together. Many episodes are only a couple of minutes long. Explore the conversation starters [here](#).

