



ST. STEPHEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

<http://sses.nbed.nb.ca>

December
2020

Tis' the Season—From the Administration ...

The Christmas season is upon us again and we have been very busy. We began getting into the Christmas spirit early as we prepared for the **Santa's Helpers** program. This is an important community project and our students and staff make a tremendous contribution. Many thanks to our Music Teacher, Jessica Dougherty, for her hard work for the Santa's Helpers Program from SSES. We have wrapped up Term One for 2020-2021. Teachers were busy assessing and evaluating and writing report cards over the past several weeks. Our hats go off to the teachers who manage all these tasks so well; to our students who make every effort to do their best work each and every day;

and to parents as they provide the support that is so valuable to the initiatives we take on as a school community.

Now, we look forward to meeting with parents/guardians for Parent-Teacher Conferences on December 03 and 04. These meetings will be held online and teachers are excited to get the chance to talk with you about your child's strengths, needs, and next steps. If you have any problems registering for a P-T Conference, please call the school office and we'll assist you.

We are sad to inform you that with the COVID Orange Phase guidelines, and the inability to sing at school right now, we are not able to present a Christmas Concert to our families. Mrs. Dougherty had started practicing with the classes, but unfortunately it had to stop to follow safety guidelines.

In the absence of Concert preparations, we are planning some school-wide theme-focused days and festive activities. Teachers will also be finding ways to incorporate seasonal activities within their curriculum. Staff spent time decorating our hallways and entrances so that when children arrived at school on Dec. 01, they were greeted with a festive looking school that offered them some positive excitement. We heard many "ahhhs" as they entered and walked through the building to get their classrooms!

Have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful Holiday Season!

Mrs. C. Winchester, Principal
Mrs. C. Parsons, Vice Principal

Important Dates:

- Dec. 03; P-T Conferences at 7-9pm
- Dec. 04; No School for Students
- Dec. 04; P-T Conferences at 8:30-11:30am
- Dec. 14—18; Christmas Themes Week
- Dec. 18; last school day before Christmas;
- **January 04, 2021** School reopens for Students



Our Gift Card Campaign was a huge success!!! Thanks for your tremendous support of the SSES Gift Card Campaign!

Our students sold \$82, 000.00 worth of gift cards to the following businesses:

St. Stephen Atlantic Superstore
St. Stephen Canadian Tire
St. Stephen Guardian Pharmacy
St. Stephen Jean Coutu

These businesses have donated 10% of these sales back to our school. This will greatly help us fund projects and improvements at St. Stephen Elementary School which enhance the learning and experiences of our students. We are so grateful for their support!

Registering for your Virtual P-T Conference

Please note, that after you have registered for Parent-Teacher Interviews, you will receive a confirmation email. In this email you will see a purple box that reads "Join Your Appointment". All you need to do is click on that box when it is time for your interview, and it will connect you to the interview. The homeroom teacher will provide you access into the interview. All you need is internet and a device and you'll have access to the meeting.. We look forward to meeting with each of you.

Christmas Themes Week at SSES

We have planned for some Christmas theme days at SSES during the last week of school in December. Have fun with this!



Monday, December 14th;

Holiday Hat or Hair Design Day



Tuesday, December 15th;

Red and Green Day



Wednesday, December 16th;

Christmas Shirt/Sweater Day



Thursday, December 17th;

Fancy Dress-Up Day



Friday, December 18th;

PJ Day



A Message From Your SSES Community Schools Coordinator, Catriona...

Thank you to everyone who shopped at our virtual and in-school Scholastic Book Fair!

We sold over \$8000 of books & accessories which brings over \$3000 of rewards to our school, including a great selection of new books for our library.

Happy reading!

Also... many thanks for the clothing donations for our clothing closet! Our closet is now well-stocked and we're able to help children when they need specific articles of clothing for a variety of reasons.

Your support is amazing!!

A Message From Your SSES Home and School Committee...

The SSES Home and School Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in our Facebook Auction Fundraiser!

Thanks to the generous donations we received from local businesses and individuals, we were able to raise over \$7000 total which will be used toward outdoor improvements at SSES in the new year.

We would like to wish all of our SSES families a safe and happy holiday season!

~~~~~

Also...SSES Home and School Committee has provided 4 new picnic tables with painted tabletop games for some Play Zones at SSES! We are now creating new bags of playground toys; one for each classroom to have when going to their assigned Play Zone on the playground. This will give children more options when outside at recess.

We are looking for donations of any of the following items in gently used condition to add to the Play Zone bags:

- **Basketballs**
- **Footballs**
- **Soccerballs**
- **Tennis balls**
- **Matchbox cars**
- **Small trucks for a sand pile or snow**

Donations of these items can be dropped off at the school office.

**Thanks so much for your continued support!!**