

Bobcat Express



St. Stephen Middle School

Week of November 23, 2020

Dear SSMS Families,

On Friday, November 20, all families received communication from our Superintendent, Ms. Zoë Watson, detailing the changes in the directives for schools now that we have entered the Orange Zone. Safety, health, and wellness are paramount, and all our school decisions are based on the guidelines and protocols outlined by Public Health and the Anglophone South School District.

There are changes to mask use. Here is the information taken from the document shared last Friday:

Orange Zone: Mask use

- **Students in Grades K-12 are required to wear a mask on a school bus**, even when sitting alone or with a member of the same household.
- **Students in Grades K-8 are required to wear a mask at all times at school, except** when students are sitting at a desk working silently, eating, or engaged in sports activities during physical education class. This includes when the students are outside.

We recognize that the current uncertainty and change to the Orange Zone can create anxiety for many. As a school team we are focused on your child's wellbeing. Please reach out if there is anything you feel will help us to help your child. To connect with the Child and Youth Team for mental health support for your child or family member, please call 466-7380.

We will continue to take our guidance from Public Health and communicate on a regular basis.

Stay safe and well,

Bronwyn Tanner, SSMS Principal



<http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/Pages/Welcome.aspx> All updates and communication from **ASD-S** can be found here.



SSMS Website: <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/2337/Pages/default.aspx>

Upcoming Dates

December 1: Report Cards issued

December 3: Virtual Parent Teacher meetings via Microsoft Teams (evening) (Information on how to make an appointment with your child's teacher will be shared this week.)

December 4: No classes for students, Virtual Parent Teacher interviews (a.m.) and School Improvement Planning (p.m.)



The **SSMS Yearbook**, created by Mme. McGinn and Ms. Ward, can be purchased at SSMS or online at:

www.jostensyearbooks.com. The cost is \$25 until December 18 and then \$30 in January. A favourite keepsake!

PROWL Students!

Our **school code of conduct** emphasizes students being **Prepared, Responsible**, taking **Ownership**, focusing on **Wellness**, and taking **Leadership**. Congratulations to recent winners of the weekly PROWL ticket draw, Olivia M., and Jenna P.



Counsellor's Corner

(By Mr. Yost)

At St. Stephen Middle School we are putting an extra emphasis on social emotional learning. Students and staff are working to **promote and teach kindness** through everyday conversations and through teachable moments. **Acts of kindness can be contagious.** Witnessing an act of kindness is proven to boost a person's mood and make them more likely to engage in an act of kindness themselves. According to research from Emory University, when you are kind to another person, your brain's pleasure and reward centers light up, as if you were the recipient of the good deed—not the giver. This phenomenon is called the "helper's high." If you are ever feeling down, consider being kind to others as a way to make a difference not only for you, but for someone else too.



Bobcat Gallery



Grade 8 students enjoy drumming activities in Ms. Ward's music class and scientists from Ms. Gillmor's classes.



Grade 6-3 students engaged in a science activity with Mr. Gomez. Grade 8 PE students have circle time.

SSMS Mission

Opening Doors to Opportunities
Challenge. Encourage. Achieve

Ouvrir les portes aux possibilités.
Défier. Encourager. Attendre

SSMS Vision

SSMS commits to providing diverse learning opportunities to foster productive citizens.

SSMS s'engage à offrir diverses expériences d'apprentissage pur développer des citoyens responsables et productifs.