



St. Stephen Middle School

Week of February 7, 2022

Dear SSMS Families,

This week is **School Staff Appreciation Week** at schools across New Brunswick. A special thank you to our entire Bobcat Team, for their above and beyond work each and every day to provide safe, welcoming, and engaging school experiences for all our students. The pandemic has certainly brought challenges and thank you to the SSMS team for continuing to find creative ways to create positive learning environments. Their dedication and devotion to SSMS and our students is evident every day and is very much appreciated!

This week marks the last week of the current X-class rotation and welcome to Mr. Good who will lead the technology classes. Our X-class team has temporarily relocated to the second floor while the restoration continues. Next week the students will begin their third X-class rotation and will begin classes with Mr. Good (Technology), Mr. Heelis and Mr. Yost (Personal Wellness), Mr. McGinn (Art) and Ms. Ward (Music).

Every February, organizations around the world join together on Safer Internet Day/Week, focused on making the online world a safer place for young people. The Canadian Centre for Child Protection [Resources & Research - protectchildren.ca](https://www.protectchildren.ca) urges parents to regularly check in with their children and teens about what they are doing, seeing, and experiencing online. The ASD-S website has a several resources for families, please link to [ASD-S | Internet Safety Information for Parents \(nbed.nb.ca\)](https://www.asd-s.ca/Internet-Safety-Information-for-Parents).

Basketball practices resume this week. Our coaches (Ms. Gillmor, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. McGinn) are excited to restart, and our players will surely be as well. SSMS will be following the protocols as detailed in the updated provincial document: [Recreation and Sport \(gnb.ca\)](https://www.gnb.ca/Recreation-and-Sport). More good news, Ms. Ward will be starting band again this week, for grades 7 and 8 students. For our grade 6 band students, there will be an announcement early in the week. Thank you to all of these teachers for offering these extracurricular opportunities.

The N.B. Healthy and Safe Schools Winter Plan [k-8-winter-plan.pdf \(gnb.ca\)](https://www.gnb.ca/k-8-winter-plan.pdf) was updated on Jan. 28. Thank you to all Bobcats for their compliance with wearing a mask at all times, including outdoors. We know that this can be difficult and thank them for following the Public Health rules which help to keep us all safe. The exception is when a student is seated eating or drinking, or when a teacher has a class bubble outside, separated from other groups. During our common outdoor breaks, it is not operationally possible to have 15 separate areas for each of our 15 class bubbles, so students must wear a mask.

Please reach out at any time!

Bronwyn Tanner, SSMS Principal

Monday February 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy Staff Appreciation Week! Staff Shout Out: EA/SIW/Library Team & ESST Team! • Last week for current X-class rotation • Basketball practices: A Boys, 3:30 - 5:00; B Boys, 5:00 - 6:30
Tuesday February 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Shout Out: Custodial and Maintenance Team & Grade 6 Team! • Basketball practices: U14 Girls, 3:30 - 5:00; U13 Girls, 5:00 - 6:30 • Bobcat Boutique: 4:30 - 7:00
Wednesday February 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Shout Out: Grade 7 Team & X-Team & IT Team! • Band: Block 1: Grade 7 and Block 3: Grade 8, Theatre • Basketball practices: B Boys, 3:30 - 5:00; A Boys, 5:00 - 6:30
Thursday February 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Shout Out: Susan MacDonald & PE Team & Grade 8 Team! • SSMS Community Circles • Basketball practices: U13 Girls, 3:30 - 5:00; U14 Girls, 5:00 - 6:30
Friday February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Shout Out: Bus Drivers! • Bobcat Gear Friday! Let us share our Bobcat Pride!

Public Health will no longer be able to inform schools of new cases, conduct contact tracing, or provide notification letters for close contacts. As a result, there is a change to how positive COVID-19 cases are communicated to our school communities. Families will no longer receive notification of school cases directly through School Messenger, social media, emails, or otherwise. Instead, families are able to check the ASD-S COVID-19 Dashboard, above, for daily updates.



Mr. Yost's Counselor's Corner

As we enter our third year of coping with the covid-19 pandemic, it is understandable that many of us are feeling exhausted and wondering if we are at the verge of our breaking point. Early in the pandemic, many of us used acts of kindness as a way to cope with such a stressful situation. Throughout the world people put up posters to support essential workers, some played cheerful music on their balconies for all to hear, others organized vehicle parades and so on... The acts of kindness that lifted us so early in the pandemic are still just as relevant today; and they are needed now more than ever! Acts of kindness make the world a happier place. They create happiness for the recipient, those who witness, and even for the person who commits the kind act.

When socially distanced or in a period of isolation we still have opportunities to be kind and to feel the benefits of a kind committing act. Here are some ideas:

- Use social media for good, post positivity and share content that exemplifies kindness.
- Call or text those who may be struggling and let them know that you care about them
- Offer gratitude to those around you wherever you are
- Send somebody a treat

The possibilities are endless!

What can you do to make our school community a happier and kinder place?

BOBCAT BOUTIQUE

Looking for some 'new to you' clothing for your middle schooler?

Families are welcome to visit our Bobcat Boutique on Tuesday evenings from 4:30-7pm

Enter through the auditorium doors. Masks are required.



SSMS Yearbook - Cost is \$30. Books can be purchased through the office at SSMS or online at:

www.jostensyearbooks.com

Thanks, Ms. Ward and Mme. McGinn for creating this special memento!

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.**

Bronwyn Tanner, Principal Melissa Brown, Vice Principal