

Bobcat Express



St. Stephen Middle School

Week of February 14, 2022

Dear SSMS Families,

As per the government announcement this week, the province is expected to return to level 1 on Feb. 18. Updates to school protocols will be shared in next week's newsletter. The N.B. Healthy and Safe Schools Winter Plan [k-8-winter-plan.pdf \(gnb.ca\)](#) outlines the expectations for all schools to follow. A big thank you to all students and staff for their continued focus on following all health rules. It has not always been easy, and the return to level 1 is positive news.

On Monday students will begin their third rotation of X-class. Thank you to the X-team for providing this enriching program to our students. The rotation is as follows: Music (Ms. Ward) - Technology (Mr. Good) - Art (Mr. McGinn) - Personal Wellness (Mr. Heelis and Mr. Yost).

Schools throughout Canada will be celebrating Pink Shirt Day on February 23. We have a limited number of SSMS pink t-shirts, designed by Mr. McGinn, to sell. The cost is \$5, and t-shirts can be purchased at the office.


SSMS continues to welcome used clothing for our Bobcat Boutique, open each Tuesday evening from 4:30 - 7:00. Items may be dropped off at the school, or please call the school to arrange a pick-up.

Our next PSSC meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15 from 6:30 - 7:30. All are welcome! Please connect with the office to receive an email invitation to this virtual meeting. Thank you to Ms. Christina Tarn for being our PSSC Chair. Please contact Christina Tarn (Chair) with any questions at 469-0439 or cmtarn@gmail.com.

Best wishes for a nice week ahead. Please connect with us at any time.

Stay safe and well,

Bronwyn Tanner, SSMS Principal

Monday February 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEW! X-class rotation (Music - Technology - Art - Personal Wellness - Music) Basketball practice: B Boys, 5:00 - 6:30; Games - Harvey @ SSMS vs. A Boys at 4:30 and U14 girls at 6:00
Tuesday February 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSMS Celebration Assembly, via Team (2:20 - 2:35) Basketball practice: U14 Girls, 3:30 - 5:00; Game - U13 Girls @ Fundy at 5:30 Bobcat Boutique: 4:00 - 7:00 PSSC (6:30 - 7:30, via Teams)
Wednesday February 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band: Block 1: Senior and Block 3: Junior, Theatre Basketball practices: B Boys, 3:30 - 5:00; A Boys, 5:00 - 6:30
Thursday February 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSMS Community Basketball practice: U13 Girls, 3:30 - 5:00; Game - U14 Girls @ Fundy at 7:00
Friday February 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bobcat Gear Friday! Let's share our Bobcat Pride! Basketball game: A Boys @ Fundy, 5:30
Sat. Feb. 19 & Sun. Feb. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U13 girls have games in Fredericton on Saturday and in Lancaster on Sunday. Go, Bobcats!

Our basketball teams are back in action! Thank you to our coaches: Ms. Gillmor, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. McGinn.



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

This week, students and their teachers have once again resumed the practice of engaging in community circles. Community circles have not been utilized since December due to remote learning. There was a noticeable mix of excitement and relief as we are now able to pivot back to this familiar practice.

Community circles are designed to build and foster an inclusive school culture. The benefits of this practice cannot be understated. An article from the Ripple Kindness Project expands on the benefits of utilizing this practice "Circles help to acknowledge and celebrate, explore, and share ideas, offer encouragement, or address problems. They provide regular opportunities to develop empathy, practice respect for others, encourage mindful listening, and share appreciations and feelings of acceptance or loneliness." Improving communication skills and teaching empathy have been linked to a reduction in bullying and peer conflict within schools and within the community at large.

As we resume this journey, we look forward to many more weeks of enhanced communication and strengthened relationships within our building!



Our Bobcat Café Team in action! Bob, Allyanna, Isabelle and Sabrina.



All about Science!

Grade 6 students in Mme. McGinn's classes explore a cubic meter and Mr. Abbandonato's grade 7 students dig deep into a Styrofoam ball to create a model that represents the inner layers of the earth.



SSMS PROWL Students of the Week!

Congratulations to Nate L., Abby C-K and Geneva S.!



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 pour développer des citoyens responsables et productifs.