

Bobcat Express



St. Stephen Middle School

Week of February 22, 2022

Dear SSMS Families,

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Family Day long weekend!

New Brunswick returned to Level 1 of the Winter Plan on Feb. 18. 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) outlines the updated expectations. There are several important updates that are summarized in the letter sent by Ms. Zoë Watson, ASD-S Superintendent, to all families on February 18: [Level 1 Family Letter - February 18 2022.pdf \(nbed.nb.ca\)](https://www.nbed.nb.ca/level-1-family-letter-february-18-2022.pdf)

Grade 6 Teacher, Ms. Andrea Dennis, is spearheading a SSMS drama production tentatively slated to run during the last week of May. Information sessions will be held on Monday during the lunch breaks and grade level auditions will be held during ASAP for the rest of this week. Thank you to Ms. Dennis for organizing this production - very exciting for SSMS!


SSMS will join schools across Canada by celebrating Pink Shirt Day on Wednesday, February 23. Mr. Yost shares more information in his weekly message. SSMS will have a Kindness PROWL blitz on this date, shining a spotlight on kindness within our school community. 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 seek used clothing for our Bobcat Boutique, open each Tuesday evening from 4:30 - 6:30. Items may be dropped off at the school, or please call the school to arrange a pick-up.

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

Stay safe and well,

Bronwyn Tanner, SSMS Principal

Tuesday February 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drama: Information sessions on the SSMS Drama production led by Ms. Dennis will be held in the theatre during both lunch breaks. The play is called 'Hoodie' by Lindsay Price. The morning announcements will have full details.• Basketball practice: U13 Girls, 3:30 - 5:00; Home games - U14 Girls vs Fundy at 5:30 and Boys A vs. Fundy at 7:00• Bobcat Boutique: 4:00 - 7:00
Wednesday February 23 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pink Shirt Day & SSMS PROWL Kindness blitz!• Band: Block 1: Junior and Block 3: Senior, Theatre• ASAP: Grade 7 play auditions• Basketball practices: B Boys, 3:30 - 5:00; A Boys, 5:00 - 6:30
Thursday February 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SSMS Community Circles• ASAP: Grade 8 play auditions• Basketball practices: U13 Girls, 3:30 - 5:00 and U14 Girls, 5:00 - 6:30
Friday February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bobcat Gear Friday! Let's share our Bobcat Pride!• ASAP: Grade 6 play auditions• Basketball practice: Boys A 3:30 - 5:00
Sat. Feb. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basketball games: Boys A @ Port City Saint John, 3:00 & 4:30

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

Pink shirt day will be taking place on Wednesday February 23rd. This is an international day where people from all communities and backgrounds come together to take a stand against bullying. The original Pink Shirt day originated in 2007 and it took place in Nova Scotia. This event was inspired by a pair of grade 12 students who purchased and distributed a large quantity of pink shirts when they realized that a younger student was bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school.

Wearing a pink shirt and taking a stand against bullying is not just an outward commitment to not bully others. Wearing the pink shirt signifies that those who wear a pink shirt are actively taking a "stand against bullying". This requires both action and commitment. Based on research by stopbullying.gov, "bystanders, or those who see bullying, can make a huge difference when they intervene on behalf of someone being bullied." When bystanders act, they become "upstanders". Upstanders are those who draw attention to those who victimize others through responding directly in the moment and/or by reporting on behalf of the victim. Upstanders can stop bullying!

This week I encourage you to do more than just wear a pink shirt, make the commitment to act by being or becoming an upstander too!

SSMS January Students of the Month!

Last week we held a virtual assembly to celebrate our **Students of the Month**. Congratulations to (from top left): Lyla G. (6-1), Kylie D. (6-2), Abbygail C. (6-4), Brayden S. (6-5), Mariam I. (7-3), Victoria P. (7-6), Brenna G. and Thomas R. (8-1), Isabelle T. (8-5) and Emily C., Hudson D., and Montanta G.(8-6). Photos to be shared next week include Keenan C. and Ava J. (6-3), Hallie B. (7-1), Lauren R. (7-2), Hayden G. (7-5), Aya K. (8-2), Larry M. and Nathan G. (8-4), Indy H.C. and Ally S. (8-5) Also pictured are PROWL students of the Week: Justin F.-S. and Kali B. **Great work, Bobcats!**



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.