



St. Stephen Middle School

Hello SSMS Families,

In this newsletter, please find suggestions for at-home learning options this week. We know that each family is facing unique challenges and please know that we are here to support your decisions on your child's learning every step of the way. Health and wellness remain the key priorities. Please let your child know that we miss them very much!

You will see that there are sections for each of the subject areas. As you are aware, the NB Department of Education and Early Childhood Development recommends that middle level students spent an average of two hours/day on home learning with the addition of 30 minutes of reading and 30 minutes of physical activity. For the 10 hours a week, we would suggest that the majority of the time be spent on Math and Literacy, and the remaining time on the other subjects. Of course, this is a guideline, and it may vary week to week, depending on your family situation and your child's interests. If you have any questions on the balance of your child's subjects, please connect with your child's teacher. We will be recommending activities that are cross-curricular in nature and thus would touch upon various subject outcomes.

By now, you will have received communication from your child's teacher. Microsoft Teams will be the online tool for teachers and students to connect. Phone calls are also an option. In terms of teacher-family communication various tools are being used (Remind App. and email, for instance), and please connect with your child's teacher with any questions.

We recognize that students may be spending more time online. There are helpful internet safety resources below.

As always, please reach out with any questions or suggestions. All activities are optional; determine what will work best for your family. There is no pressure to complete any of the work. We are here for you, to support your child's learning during this time.

We hope that everyone is well and healthy.

Take care,

Bronwyn Tanner on behalf of the SSMS Team (bronwyn.tanner@nbed.nb.ca)

Internet Safety Resources



CANADA'S CENTRE
FOR DIGITAL AND
MEDIA LITERACY

<https://mediasmarts.ca/parents>

[Common Sense Education - Connecting Families](#)

[Parenting Teens and Tweens in the Digital World](#)

<https://kidshelpphone.ca/>



Art Challenge

Each week, Mr. McGinn will be sharing an Art Challenge. To get us started, please forward a picture of any artwork that you have made over the past three weeks to Jeff.McGinn@nbed.nb.ca. Submitted artwork will be placed on our website (there will be a slideshow on the main page) and could be in the Bobcat Express and on our Twitter feed. We look forward to seeing your creations!

Health & Wellness



Where flowers bloom,
so does hope.
Lady Bird Johnson

During this time of COVID -19, we have seen acts of kindness spreading worldwide. People are coming together to show encouragement and support. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) was developed to enhance such a practice. It allows us to explore and express emotions, build relationships, and support each other during daily tasks and challenges.

Activity for the Week: Begin to build a calendar for the month to track one idea each day showing how you are working to help others. Examples may include doing daily chores, taking care of pets, sending a motivational text to a friend, sharing a joke to cheer someone up, cleaning up the garden...be creative. Take care of yourself, too!

St. Stephen Education Centre Counselling Services: 506-343-5263 (weekdays, 8:15 – 4:30)

Child & Youth Team: 506-466-7389 (weekdays, 8:30 – 4:00)

Math

IXL Online activities: Our Math team has selected the IXL online math program as the key online learning format for families. Many students have already been using IXL at SSMS. Your child's teacher will be in touch (via email, Teams or their regular form of communication) with more information on how to log in and how it will be used. Each student will have his or her own account that the teacher will be able to access. The teacher will be assigning work ('skills'), tailored to the level and needs of each student. We recommend that students spend about 20 minutes per session. Please link to <https://ca.ixl.com/#curriculum>.



Offline activities: The University of Waterloo has excellent questions of the day and problems of the week for students and families to explore. Each day, new questions/challenges are posted for grades 3-12. Challenges include: How Great is Your Number?, Mystery Codes, Floor Plans and more. Students read about the question and then do their own problem solving using a pencil and paper and any other 'tools' that are around the house. Definitely worth a browse! Please link to <https://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/resources/cemc-at-home.php>. We will share new offline activities each week.

English Language Arts

Raz-Kids Online activities: Our Language Arts team has selected the Raz Kids website as a key online site for families. <https://www.raz-kids.com/> houses **Reading A-Z**, a popular reading program with selections for every reading level. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions about this free online resource.

Offline activities: Writing activities ~ Please explore the many options; perhaps choose 6 selections this week:

Take a walk around your yard and/ or neighborhood and make note of FIVE signs of spring. When you come back home write a journal about it!	Watch one of your favorite YouTube videos and critique it either by writing about it or by doing your own video! Make sure to have pros and cons, as well as constructive advice for the You-Tuber!	Ask your mom or dad if you can help make one of your favorite meals. Check to make sure you have all the supplies you need, write a list of what you need to get, and then use the recipe to make a treat for your family!
Invent a dialogue between you and your pet. What would your pet be saying right now? How would you respond? Write it out as a script, and create funny film of it if you like!	Interview your mom/ dad or an older family member about what their life was like when they were your age. Create a list of at least five questions and write down their answers, or record them!	Watch the Ted Talks video "the Art of Being Bored" by Kelly Cleeve www.youtube.com and respond, perhaps also by talking about your experience right now. Are you feeling bored? What is good about being bored? What is challenging?
Research an animal you have always been curious about. Use a video from the internet or YouTube, a book, a website, or a show from TV for your research.	What is the FIRST thing you are looking forward to doing when we are able to go out again and things are open? Describe in detail.	Create a music video for your favorite song.

French Language Arts

Online activities:

duolingo All SSMS students are familiar with this website. Students have their own password and the activities are tailored to their level. Please feel free to get in touch with teachers to get username and password.

Boukili - A free program that reads books to students in French. <https://boukili.ca/en>. A dashboard keeps track of student's progress; geared for students in grades 6 and 7 late immersion.

Je lis, je lis, littérature! Adapted for early and late immersion (Grades 6-8) <https://jelis-free.rkpublishing.com/student>

Offline activities: Writing activities ~ For students in late FI, you may want to choose 4 of the blue questions, in early FI, you may want to choose some of the green, too!

Qu'est-ce que tu as fait cette semaine ?	Que fais-tu comme activité(s) pour t'occuper ?	Quelle est la chose que tu adores quand tu es à la maison ?
Qu'est-ce qui te manques le plus à l'école ?	Quelle est la chose que tu aimerais apprendre ? Pourquoi ?	Si tu étais un animal, que serais-tu ? pourquoi
Quel est l'objet que tu aimerais inventer ? pourquoi ?	Quelle était la dernière raison pour laquelle tu as vraiment rigolé ?	Tu viens de découvrir une nouvelle planète. Décris-la.



Science

Check out the STEM activity from Brilliant Labs attached to this email!



Music Challenge

Ms. Ward suggests that you make a 'Positivity Playlist'. Make a playlist including all your favourite songs that will put you in a happy mood.

Physical Education

Mr. Furlotte, Ms. Peters and the PE Team have put together some daily themes to keep Bobcats active:

Movement Monday! Jog or run outside for 20-30 minutes.

Tic Tok Tuesday! Create a tic tok dance, and, if you like, video and post it on the Teams site.

Walk Wednesday! Go for a 1-hour walk with a family member.

Circuit Thursday! Try for 4 sets of the following: 10 of squat sits, push-ups, sit-ups, lunges and jumping jacks.

Free-Play Friday! Stay active outdoors by going for a walk, riding your bike, shooting hoops etc. for an hour or more!

A **Social Studies** focus will be in next week's newsletter.

[SSMS Website](#)



@SSMS_Bobcats

Principal: Bronwyn Tanner (bronwyn.tanner@nbed.nb.ca)

Vice Principal: Avis Scott (avis.scott@nbed.nb.ca)

Photo Gallery

Below are some photos from last week. The Bobcats (and future Bobcats) made the best of the April snow! In addition, there are photos of students working at home. We would love to share any of your Bobcat photos. Please send pictures to bronwyn.tanner@nbed.nb.ca

