



# December Newsletter

2016

## Important Dates

- Dec 1  
Early Dismissal 11:45
- Dec 1  
Parent—Teacher
- Dec 16  
Early Dismissal 11:45
- Dec 21  
Monthly Assembly 9:00  
Blue and White Day
- Dec 22  
Last Day before Xmas
- Jan 3  
First Day of School
- Jan 12  
Early Dismissal 11:45
- Jan 31  
Lions Dinner

Dear St. Mary's Families,

It is hard to believe that 2016 is already nearing the end. We had a very busy fall at St. Mary's Elementary. I know that students, staff and families are looking forward to what the New Year will bring.

I anticipate that many of you are concerned about the recent announcements regarding NSTU members (teachers). At this time we too at the school are not sure of the full implications of the job action. Please keep connected to the AVRSB website for updates and we as a school family will do our best to keep families informed. If you have any concerns or feel that your child is feeling anxious, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. I will assure you that the ***safety and security*** of your child will always remain my top priority. I hope that this is settled quickly and we can embrace 2017 with all the excitement that a new year brings.

The St. Mary's parents and staff have worked so hard this fall and have given of themselves in so many ways. I am thankful for the skills and talents they share with our students and school every day.

From all of us at St. Mary's Elementary School, we wish you a very happy and safe holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Mike Pinard  
Principal



**FROM AVRSB:** The Nova Scotia Teachers Union announced that it intends to begin a work-to-rule strike action on Monday, December 5th at all schools in Nova Scotia.

The NSTU has described the work-to-rule in this way: Teachers will continue to carry out their instructional duties in classrooms, but will not support any extracurricular activities like concerts, coaching teams or supervising clubs; field trips will not go ahead. The NSTU has indicated that teachers will arrive 20 minutes before school and leave 20 minutes after, as stipulated in the Teachers Provincial Agreement.

More details about the impact of a work-to-rule job action on AVRSB schools and students will be available in the coming days. Please continue to monitor [www.avrsb.ca](http://www.avrsb.ca) and @avrsb on Twitter for further updates.

## Inclement Weather Reminder:

As winter approaches, so does the possibility of school cancellations.

Please check your local radio stations and the AVRSB website for updates.



## Looking for a Gift Idea:

Consider giving a school t-shirt or hoody. There are limited stock available so get your request in early. Youth T-shirts are \$8.00 and a Hoodie is \$20.00.



**Parent Portal:** Join the Parent Portal. This gives you access to real-time attendance information, student schedules, email links to teachers, and many other items. You can set up your contact preferences for Alert notifications . Stop by the school office to learn more.

**Visitors:** To ensure the safety of everyone in our building, we ask that all parents and other visitors to our school check in at the office.

**Your Child's Anxiety:  
When to Worry, When to Relax**

Kids of all ages experience fears and worry, everyone, including children, has bouts of anxiety once in a while. But when constant fears and anxieties disrupt your child's day-to-day life, that's a cause for concern.

You are invited to attend a brief discussion about anxiety.

**DATE:** Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** 1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** St. Mary's Elementary School

**FACILITATOR:** Lisa Beck-Evoy, Clinical Social Worker, SchoolsPlus Program

Space is limited so please let the School Office know if you are interested in participating by calling 902-847-4400.



**Book Fair:** Thank you to all who participated in our Annual Book Fair.



**Allergy Alert:** When sending in snacks please keep in mind that we are a Nut Aware school and please do not send any nut products to school. We do have members of our school family that have nut allergies.



**New Primaries:** At SMES we are starting to collect names of our primaries that will be attending school in September 2017. If you have someone at home or know of someone in the neighbourhood that will be turning 5 before December 31, 2017, please send a note to the school or give our school office a call at 902-847-4400.



**MedicAlert:** The **Canadian MedicAlert Foundation** is a charitable organization which is the leading provider of emergency medical information services linked to customized medical bracelets and necklaces. We are pleased to be able to offer MedicAlert memberships to students (from age 4 to their 14th birthday) through the No Child Without program in select schools. The financial support of the Government of Canada and Lions Clubs allows students to receive the MedicAlert membership for FREE. Please visit the No Child Without website for further information.

**Student of the Month Awards:** Congratulations are extended to our November award winners.

Class	Citizenship	Personal Goal/Academic	Personal Goal/Academic
Thomson	Peyton Patterson	Brayden Strumm	Riley Legge-Reid
MacIntosh/Mainwaring	JoJo Parent	Brynn Silver	Sierra Clarke
Cameron	Stella Tupper	Eli Franey	Colin Hutchinson
McMaster	Gracelyn Rainforth	Charleigh Ritchie	Caelin Tupp
Gidney	Lily Burton	Colin Drew	Hayden Buchanan
Rombaut	Regan Hebb	Will Place	Kade Veinot
Hayden-Buchanan	Harrison Tupper	Samantha Squire	Dylan Leonard
Casey	Eva Hebb	Abbi LeBlanc	Malazia King
Upton		Shane Carey, Finn Franey-Hamilton and	Evelyn Cook