

St. Margaret's Bay Elementary School



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Head of St. Margaret's Bay, N.S. B3Z 2H4
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Principal: Kelly Joy

Vice Principal: Lynn Wyatt-Reichheld

Dear Families,

What a wonderful first full week back!

We are so excited to have our students back in the building and have loved getting to know them, settling into routines, rekindling friendships, and making new ones along the way.

As we settle into the year, we will also be spending time reviewing our **School Matrix** with students. This will help us establish clear routines and shared expectations that support a safe, respectful, and effective learning environment for everyone. (More information to follow in the coming weeks!)

At St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, we treat others kindly, make good choices, and stand up for what's right. We keep trying even when things are tough, and we always tell the truth. Together we learn, grow, and make our school a great place for everyone. Our goal is to create an environment where every student feels safe, supported, included, and ready to learn.

As we move into the year, we encourage families to stay connected with your child's classroom teacher and keep the lines of communication open. We are off to a fantastic start and are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning, growing, and making memories together!

Kelly Joy and Lynn Reichheld
Principal Vice-Principal
Your Admin Team

Important dates to remember in September

September 14-18th- Practice the Lockdown Drill

Wednesday, Sept. 23- Curriculum Night and Popsicles on the Playground

Friday, Sept. 25: Professional Development Day – No classes PP-12

Monday, Sept 28- Terry Fox Walk (weather permitting)

Tuesday, Sept. 29: Observe Orange Shirt Day

Wednesday, Sept. 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No classes PP-12

Thursday, October 1- Picture Day

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Keep reading for some more updates and reminders...

PowerSchool and the Returning Student Registration Form

The **Returning Student Registration Form** was released to families on September 9th and will be open until the morning of October 5th. We ask that all families get this completed as it provides the school with all the important information that we need with regards to your child(ren).

Using BusPlanner

Everything you need to know about student transportation, including eligibility, stop times and stop locations can be found on BusPlanner. Once you register and subscribe, you can choose to receive email and/or text message notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations.

Trouble with Transportation, you can contact them at 902-431-4723 or email transportation@hrce.ca

Curriculum Night and Popsicles on the Playground- Primary-Grade 5 Students

We look forward to welcoming you and your child(ren) on **Wednesday, September 23, from 6:15–7:15 p.m.**

Our goal for the evening is to have two short drop-in sessions at **6:15 and 6:35 p.m.**, giving families an opportunity to meet the classroom teacher(s) and pick up classroom handouts that will include information about the curriculum, classroom routines, and expectations for the year.

By **6:50 (ish) until 7:15pm.**, we will invite everyone to make their way to the playground to enjoy a popsicle, connect with other families, and spend some time socializing with our teaching staff.

We understand completely if you are unable to join us that evening, please reach out to the classroom teacher and the documents can be emailed or sent home in hard copy.

Acadience Assessments

In September, classroom teachers are spending time getting to know their students and who they are as learners.

Schools will be using *Universal Screening in Reading* for Grade 1 and 2 students. *This is one of the many ways teachers assess learning.*

What is Universal Screening in Reading?

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It's a short (1–5 minute) activity that helps us see how your child is developing key reading skills. Think of it as a quick check-in on their reading journey, like looking at a map to see where they are and what might help them move forward.

Why do we do it?

The screening helps teachers understand children's strengths and where they may need extra support. This allows us to plan instruction, so students get what they need to succeed in reading.

Important to know:

This is *not* a test. There's no "pass" or "fail." It's a way for teachers to ensure students are supported in their learning.

Terry Fox Walk/Run

This year will be the 46th Terry Fox Run. Terry showed us what effort, courage, determination, and hope can achieve. He may have started with a dream and one step, but today, millions continue his journey, step by step, stride by stride, and coast to coast. The goal to achieve Terry's vision of a world without cancer is an audacious one yet the path is clear: we must finish the marathon against cancer and with the support of all Canadians, like us, we hope to do so.

SMBE plans to keep Terry's dream alive and will host our school wide Terry Fox Walk/Run on Monday, September 25th. Please feel free to send a donation. Our goal is to raise \$1600 but all donations (big or small) are welcome. If families wish to donate cash and/or coins, it can be sent to the school starting on Monday, Sept 21st. Should family and friends wish to support the school and donate online, they can go to the fundraising link which is <https://schools.terryfox.ca/StMargaretsBayElementary>

Kiss and Go

Our **Kiss & Go** is available each morning to help make student drop-off safe and efficient. Families using the Kiss & Go are asked to pull up to the curb and have their child exit the vehicle once you have reached the designated curb/drop-off area. Highlighted by yellow paint. Students can then make their way safely to the front doors.

If you feel that you need to walk your child to the front doors, we ask that you please park in a free open, designated parking spot, as our Pre-Primary families do, and safely walk with your child through the parking lot.

If the Kiss & Go spaces are full, please remain in your vehicle with your child until you can pull up to the curb. **We ask that families not stop and have children exit in the main area of the parking lot.** This area is quite wide, and other vehicles may be moving around or attempting to pass parked cars, creating a significant safety risk for students and families.

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We appreciate everyone's cooperation in following these routines. Keeping drop-off safe for all our students is our shared priority, and your support makes a big difference!

Student Pickup Reminder

For families picking up students during the school day, the **bus loop is available for pickup between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** Before 9:00 a.m. and after 1:00 p.m., buses using the loop take priority.

The **Kiss & Go curb is also available for pickup until 2:00 p.m.** After 2:00 p.m., this area is needed for one large bus and our two small accessible buses to safely park and load students.

We understand that there may be the occasional need for an early dismissal. However, we kindly ask families to keep early pickups to a minimum whenever possible, as leaving school early can impact not only your child's learning, but also the learning of their classmates. We appreciate your support in helping us protect valuable instructional time for all students.

Safety while Playing

When weather permits, we will be outside playing at recess and lunch. We know Crocs are a favourite for many of our students (and we understand why!), but they aren't the safest choice for active outdoor play.

When students are running, playing soccer, or participating in other active games, Crocs can make it easier to slip, trip, or roll an ankle—especially when the grass is wet.

For this reason, students wearing Crocs may be asked to sit out of activities or remain off the field during active play. We encourage families to send students to school in **secure, closed-toe footwear that will stay safely on their feet** when they are playing and running outdoors.

We also want to get outside as much as possible and ask parents to send appropriate outdoor wear. We do go out in light rain/drizzle and ask that students be dressed appropriately with rain jackets, pants and rubber boots. As fresh air and activity is an important part of student well-being we ask that you check the weather each morning and dress your students appropriately.

Thank you for helping us keep our students safe while they play, run, and have fun outside!

Lost and Found

The lost and found is located just inside the cafeteria and after one full week, it is already starting to get full. Please remember to label your child(ren)'s belongings as that can help make it easier for items to get returned.

Lunch Monitor

We're Looking for Lunch Monitors!

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Do you enjoy spending time with children and being part of a school community? We are looking for **Lunch Monitors** to be a part of our school community!

This is a **paid position** and is a great opportunity for someone who enjoys working with children, supporting positive play, and helping create a safe and enjoyable lunchtime for our students.

Flexible commitment: It is from 12:00-1:00pm daily and you can work **one or more days per week**, depending on your availability.

If you're interested in learning more or would like to apply, please contact the office or email Ms. Roberta at Ringlis@hrce.ca for more information. We'd love to hear from you!

Check the school website <http://www.smb.hrce.ca>

If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the main office.

SMBE does not have any affiliation or contribution to information on any community social media platforms/groups other than our school website - www.smb.hrce.ca. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of information found on any other platform.