

St. Margaret's Bay Elementary

24 Ridgewood Dr., Head of St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, NS B3Z 2H4,
www.smb.hrce.ca (902) 826-3300

Dear Families,

Welcome to new and returning families of St. Margaret's Bay Elementary (SMBE). As we enjoy the last days of summer I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself to the community and provide you with some helpful information as you prepare for the first day of school. My name is Kelly Joy (Principal) and I along with Lynn Reichheld (Vice Principal) and Ms. Roberta Inglis (Admin Assistant) are your admin team. I know that you will join me in welcoming Mrs. R to our school this year from Basinview Elementary and I know that she is looking forward to getting to know our families.

The school is a welcoming building full of dedicated staff who care deeply about the success of your children. I know I speak for all staff in offering you a warm welcome to the 2023-2024 school year, we look forward to being a partner in your child's journey.

As we return to school this year, our focus will be on student learning and well-being we will enhance collaboration to improve our sense of community and relationship building. We will continue to provide a safe and equitable learning environment that strengthens all students' social and emotional development.

Mr. MacNeil (Woody), Mr. Randy Agdeppa, and Ms. (Connie) Schmidt have cleaned our school and the floors are sparkling. School staff have been working on making their classrooms ready to welcome students back and the school is buzzing with professional development and preparations.

A lot has happened in the last week regarding class lists. We have had to restructure our school to be withing cap guidelines. This was a thoroughly thought-out process with input from all levels of staff. Therefore, we will not be able to entertain any requests for class placement or changes. Class lists will be posted on the website today and are correct in powerschool. Lists will be posted on the website now.

We are counting down the days, only 2 more sleeps until we get to see you! We are all eager to get the new school year started! We will be sending home regular communication via email so please check your email regularly.

In this notice you will find additional information about our return to school on September 7th. **Please go to our school website - www.smb.hrce.ca to check for updates.** Keep checking your email for more information!

Kelly Joy, Principal and Lynn Reichheld, Vice Principal



Important Dates

September 6

Professional
Development Day

September 7

First day of school!



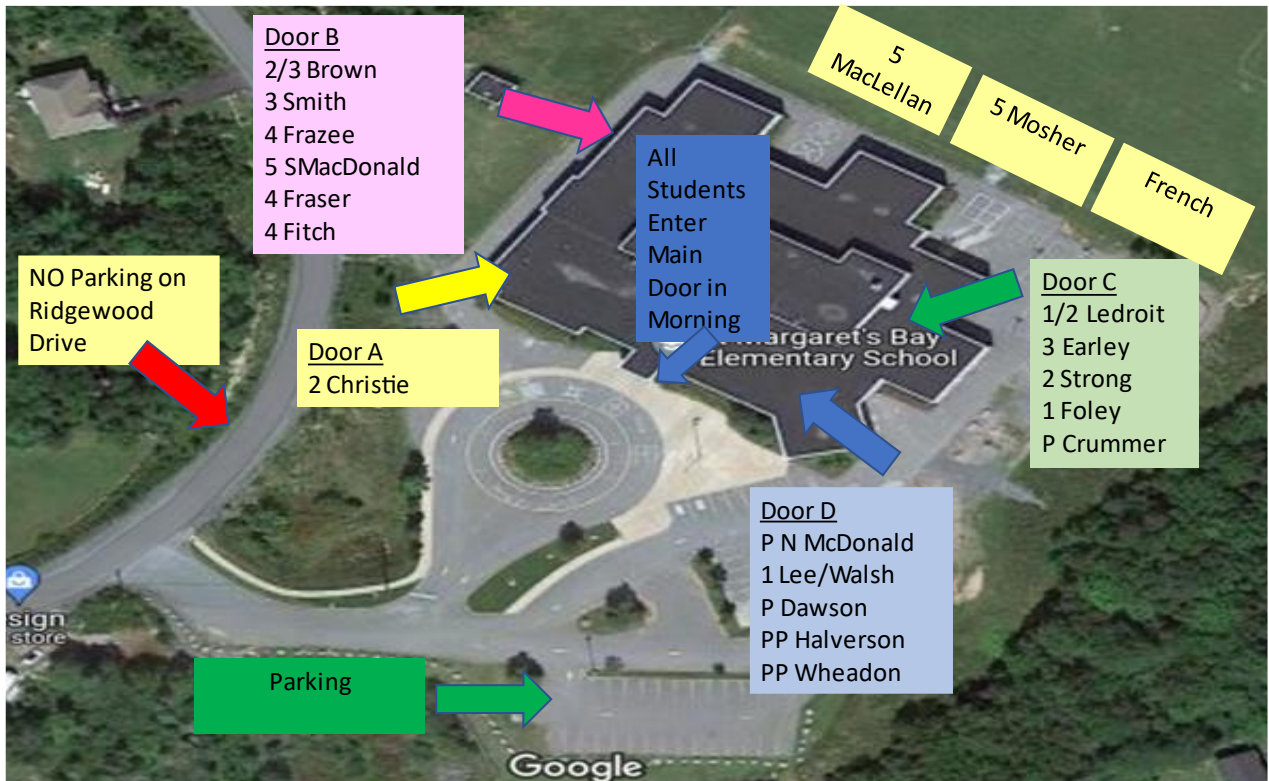
Frequently Asked Questions

Who will be my child's teacher this year?

- Teachers will be reaching out by email by end of day Wednesday to introduce themselves to families and children and provide any relevant information about the first day of school. This is one of the most important communications as they are asking you to confirm end of day dismissal arrangements. Please reply to your child's teacher/teachers.

Arrivals and dismissal?

- All students will arrive at school no earlier than 8:05am (when teacher supervision begins). They will be met at the bus loop area as they arrive to start the school day at 8:05. School staff will assist your child in to the main doors and we will ensure that your child will find their classroom. Teachers will be waiting to greet your child inside as we start our first day together :)
- There is no supervised outside play before the school day begins. Teachers will supervise students in their classrooms.
- It will be very important that we all do our part to limit congestion/crowds from gathering at the start and end of the day we do not have parking for families to get out of their cars.
- When students arrive the first day of school grades P-5 either walking independently from the sidewalk or by bus they will immediately be directed to the main doors.
THIS YEAR ALL STUDENTS WILL ENTER THE MAIN DOOR upon arrival.
- Dismissal- Where possible walkers will be dismissed from the door closest to their classroom see map below.
Door A- 2 Christie,
Door B- 2/3 Brown, 3 Smith, 4 Frazee, 5 S. MacDonald, 4 Fraser, 4 Fitch
Door C- 1/2 Ledroit , 3 Earley, 2 Strong, 1 Foley, Primary Crummer
Door D- Primary/One N. McDonald, 1 Lee/Walsh, Primary Dawson, Pre Primary Halverson, Pre Primary Wheadon
Portable 1 (white in colour) 5 MacLellan
Middle Portable- 5 Mosher
End to the right portable- FRENCH
- Pre Primary parents will review the instructions provided in the email and students will be unbuckled from the bus and escorted into the building by the ECE teachers.



What happens if my child takes the bus?

Children who take the bus will be met at the bus and directed to the main doors at the front of the school even if they are in a portable.

At the end of day students will be directed to the bus by their teachers.

Can I come to school to meet the bus?

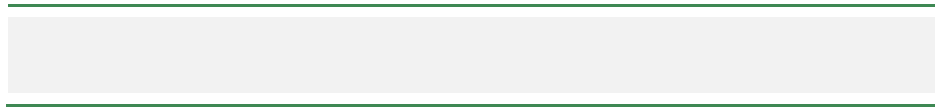
We would ask that you do not come to school to meet the bus as your child will be safely escorted into the school by several adults. If there are parents at the bus it could create a crowd and we would like to minimize crowds for safety. Unfortunately this is no longer a place to take pictures. Please take your back to school pictures at home.

What happens if students are late?

If students arrive late to school they will buzz the main door and be escorted by an adult to their class.

What will after school dismissal look like?

- All students will be dismissed from their designated exit doors and accompanied by their teacher. If you are waiting for your child at the end of the day, please do not crowd the doors. It is important that all parents/guardians are present for dismissal time when the bell rings as there is no supervision of students after the bell. On occasion if you are late to the door your child will be sitting at the office waiting.



How do I monitor the health of my child?

- Our shared health is our share responsibility. We need families to monitor the health of their child daily each day before they come to school and keep them home if they have cold or flu like symptoms such as fever, cough etc.
- If your child is displaying symptoms, please keep your child at home when they are ill- even if their symptoms are mild, and contact 811. We do not want students coming to school when they are sick. By monitoring daily, you are doing your part to protect our shared health.

What happens if my child displays symptoms at school?

- Any student who becomes sick at school will have a separate location in the school where they will be supervised, while they wait to be picked up.
- If a child feels unwell or begins to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, a parent or guardian will be contacted for pick up. **It is very important to ensure that your contact information and other emergency contacts for your child are kept up to date with the school during the school year.**

Will my child need to wear a mask?

- We know – and Public Health reinforces – that the following practices are effective in this current phase of living with COVID-19: getting vaccinated; staying home if feeling unwell; frequently sanitizing hands; and supporting those who choose to wear masks.
- If anyone has symptoms of COVID-19 they should complete the [COVID-19 Self-assessment](#) to find out if they need a COVID-19 test and stay home when feeling unwell.

My child will be taking the bus. What do I need to know before the first day?

- Please log onto MyBusPlanner (link found on HRCE website) to confirm pick up and drop off times and locations.
- It is important to note that on the first few days your bus may be running behind as drivers learn new routes. Please be patient in this process.
- While riding school buses, students should remain seated at all times and follow the safety rules of the bus

How will recess work?

- We will still have 3 recesses to promote student safety on the playground. Students can mix freely with other classes. Primary classes have a designated zone for their safety and supervision.

Should my child bring a water bottle to school?

- Yes! Please send **a full water bottle** with your child each day. They will be bringing them home at the end of the day.

Does my child need to bring lunch?

- If your child is staying for lunch, they must bring one with them each morning. We cannot have visitors dropping into the school daily to bring lunch for their child. Students will be bringing home any unfinished lunch items in their lunch bags, please make sure to check them daily.

Is the cafeteria open for orders?

- The cafeteria should be open and begin serving lunch this year on the first day of school, Wednesday, Sept 7th. Check the [TinyFeast website](#) is now open and taking orders.

How will lunch work?

- Lunch will still run from 11:55 - 12:55. Some classes will eat lunch in their classrooms and some will eat in the cafeteria with a rotating schedule. Grade Primary will eat in their classrooms. In addition students will have free time (outside if weather permits).

I have additional questions. Where can I get answers?

- Check the school website 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 and twitter - @StMargBay.** We cannot guarantee the accuracy of information found on any other platforms.