

St. Stephen's School – "Week at a Glance"

Tuesday, September 8th– Friday, September 11th, 2026

Parent/Guardian Weekly Memo #1 2026-2027

At St. Stephen Catholic School, we are committed to nurturing the spiritual, intellectual, and moral growth of every child. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and guided by the values of the Catholic faith, we strive to create a supportive and inclusive community where students are inspired to achieve excellence, develop strong character, and serve others with compassion and integrity. Through faith-filled education, we prepare our students to become lifelong learners, responsible citizens, and faithful disciples of Christ.

Dear Parents and Guardians of St. Stephen's Catholic Elementary School,

I hope this message finds you well and that you are all enjoying the final days of summer! As we prepare to welcome our students back on **Tuesday, September 8th**, I want to share some important information to help ensure a smooth and successful start to the school year.

Our dedicated staff have been working hard over the past few weeks to prepare classrooms and learning spaces, and we're excited to greet your children and begin another year of growth, learning, and community.

Key Information for the Start of School:

- **First Day Procedures**

On Tuesday morning, teachers will meet students in the schoolyard and escort them to their classrooms. This helps ease the transition and ensures a safe and welcoming start.

- ☐ **Morning Drop-Off Guidelines**

If you're driving your child to school.

- ☐ The **front of the school is reserved for buses only**—no student drop-offs permitted there.

Staff will be present to assist and guide families, especially those new to our school community. We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

- **Meet the Teacher Night – September 23rd (4:00 pm-5:30 pm).**

Please join us for our annual **Meet the Teacher Night**. This is a great opportunity to visit your child's classroom and connect with their teacher.

Note: This evening is not intended for academic discussions, as we are still in the early stages of the school year.

- Please feel free to contact me at any time. My door is always open. The staff and I are here for your children, and together we can make their elementary years successful.

Mr. Docherty

905-772-3863

sdochertybhncdsb.ca

Monday, September 7th, 2026	PA Day	• Labour Day
Tuesday, September 8th, 2026	Day 1	• First Day of School • Snack Day
Wednesday, September 9th, 2026	Day 2	•
Thursday, September 10th, 2026	Day 3	• Snack Day
Friday, September 11th, 2026	Day 4	• Name that Song, Attendance Award and Random Acts of Kindness Draw (2:30 pm) • Pizza Day (Starting in October)

****Upcoming Important Dates/Events:**

September 23rd - First Mass @ 9:05 am (all are welcome to attend)
September 23rd - Meet the Teacher @ 4:00 pm-5:30pm
September 25th - Monthly Assembly @ 11:15 am (all are welcome to attend)
October 6th - PA Day
October 7th - Staff meeting @ 3:15 pm-4:15 pm
October 7th - Parent Council Meeting @ 4:15 pm-5:15 pm
October 12th - Statutory Holiday
October 14th - Picture Day
November 17th - Retake Picture Day

****FYI****

- **Medical Updates**

- ☐ Children with medical conditions need to return their form from June so we can update their records. If you need a form, don't hesitate to contact the office.

- **School Cash Online**

- Permission forms and pizza days for October will be posted. **Please use Cash Online only.**

- **Mobile Devices Policy**

In accordance with the Ministry of Education's guidelines, all personal devices must be **kept out of sight** during the school day.

- ☐ Devices may be stored in backpacks or with the teacher.
- ☐ Any communication during the day should go through the school office.
- ☐ Repeated misuse of devices will result in progressive consequences, including parent pick-up. *Teachers may allow device use for specific classroom activities, but students are not required to bring devices, as the school provides adequate technology.*

- **Attendance Initiative**

- ☐ As we begin a new school year, we are excited to share one of our key goals for student success: improving attendance across all grades. This year, we are continuing to strive for a **90% average attendance rate** for our students. **As of last year, we were #1 in the board for most improved school. Congratulations to you for helping St. Stephen's achieve this goal.**
- ☐ We will be giving awards to the class with the best attendance at the end of each month.

Regular attendance is critical for academic success. Here are three important reasons why:

1. **Consistent Learning:** Students who attend school regularly are more likely to keep up with lessons, assignments, and classroom discussions.
2. **Stronger Connections:** Being present helps students build relationships with peers and staff, creating a sense of belonging and support.
3. **Positive Habits:** Good attendance fosters responsibility and routines that benefit students both in school and beyond.

We believe that our parent community is a vital partner in this effort. Together, we will work hard to continue to make St. Stephen's a place where students feel welcomed, engaged, and excited to learn every day.

- **Board Spiritual Theme for 2026-2027**

To honour and celebrate the ongoing Jubilee Year, the theme is an extension of our Pilgrims of Hope theme, “***Catholic Education: Becoming Artisans of PEACE***,” rooted in the Scripture, “***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.***” (Matthew 5:9).

We are truly looking forward to a fantastic year ahead at St. Stephen’s. Our staff are enthusiastic, caring, and committed to supporting every student’s success. I look forward to seeing our students on Tuesday and connecting with families at our Meet the Teacher Night. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

FDK- Mrs. Meyers and Mrs. Lynch

Grade 1/2- Mrs. Peterson

Grade 2/3- Mr. Mancini

Grade 4/5- Mrs. Bath

Grade 5/6- Mr. Rivas-Gonzalez

Grade 6/7- Mr. Bortolotto

Grade 7/8- Mrs. Foster

FSL- Ms. Litchy

SERT- Mrs. Hiff

CYW- Ms. Jenny

EA- Mrs. McEvoy

EA- Ms. Pearson

Librarian- Ms. Bayr

Custodian- Mr. Lewis

PREP- Ms. Lootsman

STEM- Mr. Senia

Lunch Supervisor- Mrs. McEwan

Bell Times

- **School Start: 8:50am (Students will be supervised starting at 8:30am outside)**
- **First Nutrition Break: 10:30am-11:10am**
- **Second Nutrition Break: 12:50pm-1:30pm**
- **School Dismissal: 3:10pm**



BHNCDSB



"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
(Matthew 5:9)

2026-27 Elementary School Year Calendar

SEPTEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	P	2	P	3
					BH	4
H	7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	1	2	3	4	5	6
21	B	22	23	24	25	26
5	1	2	3	4	5	6
28	29	30				
5	1	2				

OCTOBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
				3	4	5
5	P	6	7	8	9	10
5			1	2	3	4
H	12	13	14	15	16	17
		4	5	1	2	3
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
3	4	5	1	2	3	4
26	B	27	28	29	30	31
3	4	5	1	2	3	4

NOVEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3	4	5	1	2	3	4
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3	4	5	1	2	3	4
16	IN	17	18	19	P	20
3	4	5	1	2	3	4
23	B	24	25	26	27	28
2	3	4	5	1	2	3
30						
2						

DECEMBER						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	3	4	5	1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2	3	4	5	1	2	3
14	B	15	16	17	18	19
2	3	4	5	1	2	3
BH	21	BH	22	BH	23	BH
BH	28	BH	29	BH	30	BH

JANUARY						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				H	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	3	4	5	1	2	3
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2	3	4	5	1	2	3
18	19	20	21	P	22	23
2	3	4	5	1	2	3
25	B	26	27	28	29	30
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FEBRUARY						
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22	B	23	24	25	26	27
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MARCH						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
5	1	2	3	4	5	6
BH	15	BH	16	BH	17	BH
22	B	23	24	25	H	26
5	1	2	3	4	5	6
H	29	30	31			

APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
3	4	5	1	2	3	4
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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26	B	27	28	29	30	31
3	4	5	1	2	3	4

MAY						
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3	4	5	1	2	3	4
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
3	4	5	1	2	3	4
H	24	B	25	26	27	28
		3	4	5	1	2
31						
2						

JUNE						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	3	4	5	1	2	3
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21	B	22	23	24	25	26
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28	29	P	30			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- H** Statutory Holiday
- P** PA Day
- BH** Board Designated Holiday
- IN** Inaugural Meeting of the Board 6:30 p.m.
- B** Committee of the Whole | 4:30 p.m.
Board Meeting | 6:30 p.m.
- Catholic Education Week
- First Day of School
- Final Day of School for Students