

Important Dates

Monday, Dec. 3: Library Grade Re-opening!

Tuesday, Dec. 4: Sustainability Study – District Education Council Public Meeting @ 7:00 (Lou MacNarin School).

Wednesday, Dec. 5: Home & School Association Meeting @ 6:30 (Salem Multi-purpose room)

Friday, Dec. 7: Book Fair 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 10: Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 3 Holiday Feast (no other lunch orders will be available).

Tuesday, Dec. 11: Grade 2 and Grade 4 Holiday Feast (no other lunch orders will be available).

Thursday, Dec. 13 & Friday, Dec. 14: Home & School Holiday Gift Store in the multi-purpose room.

Friday, Dec. 14: Last day for cafeteria before the holiday break.

Monday, Dec. 17: Holiday breakfast provided by Salem’s breakfast program

Tuesday, Dec. 18: Salem’s Holiday Concert Open House @ 9:00 and 12:00.

Thursday, Dec. 20: Kindergarten students carolling at the Drew @ 11:00

Thursday, Dec. 20: Carolling Club carolling downtown @ 12:00 in front of RBC and the Post Office

Friday, Dec. 21: Carolling in the gym @ 10:45! Everyone is welcome!!!

Friday, Dec. 21: Last Day of School before the holiday break!

Monday, Jan. 7: No school for students. Professional Learning for Teachers.

Tuesday, Jan. 8: First day for students!

Did You Know?

Mrs. Riddle has been updating the Salem Elementary School website. Check it out to find information about our school, upcoming events, newsletters, cafeteria menu, and more!

<https://secure1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-E/schools/salem/Pages/default.aspx>

From the Principal's Desk

First term has come and gone at Salem Elementary. Salem students have had a busy fall which has included the following activities and events:

Breakfast Club start-up, safety drills, Terry Fox Walk, Trailblazers, LINKS, Mad Science, Playful Penguins, and Helpful Hippos start-up, Carolling Club start-up, Learning Adventures for grades 3 and 4, Grade 4 Swimming program, Home and School Association and PSSC meetings, Outdoor Education Day, Remembrance Day Ceremony, Mount Allison Pow-Wow, 2019 Kindergarten Registration, Kindergarten Kick Off, and Picture Day and Retake Day... to name a few.

In between all of the events, teachers have been busy teaching and students have been busy learning. Salem is a great place to learn and grow. We are proud to be a part of education in this community.

While we have seen our share of difficulties with our building this fall, many positive changes have been made. We are learning that space and walls do not dampen the heart of educators and students at Salem. We see proof that the forward thinking of the staff at Salem is evolving our vision for each student in an engaging, hands on learning environment. We are proud Salem staff and students.

We look forward to a very exciting Holiday Concert event (see details in this newsletter). We always welcome helping hands so if you would like to be involved, please come and see us.

Enjoy these last weeks before the break. May you cherish the holidays with family and friends.

Ada Phinney

Holiday Feast

We are pleased to announce that Salem is able to provide the Holiday Feast to every child free of charge this year. The feast will consist of a serving of turkey, potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, gravy, and a small dessert. A heartfelt thank you to our cafeteria staff, Cheryl, who will be tasked with preparing such a large meal. Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 3 students will have their feast on Monday, December 10. Grade 2 and Grade 4 students will have their feast on Tuesday, December 11.

Library Grand Re-opening!

We are thrilled that our library will be re-opening on Monday, December 3rd for students. Our librarian, Mrs. Celly, has worked tirelessly to prepare the space for our students. She has done an absolutely fabulous job transforming it into a warm and inviting reading space for our students. We will also be holding a **Scholastic Book Fair** on Friday, December 7th, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Come check it out while you’re shopping during Moonlight Madness!

Classroom News

Kindergarten: The Kindergarten students have been talking about their families and we have been learning that not all families are the same. We have started talking about different traditions that are celebrated by students in our classes.

Grade 1 – 2 Eng.: We have been working on the features of fiction and fairy tales. We have been focusing on all the different versions of the three little pigs. We are incorporating reading, writing, math and art into our unit.

Grade 1 FI: Grade 1 FI students learned how to be a good friend. Students enjoyed listening to stories in the book of Remembrance and creating classroom wreaths for Remembrance Day. Throughout learning activities and discussions, students also learned strategies to recognize and regulate their emotions.

Grade 2 FI: Grade 2 FI students have started reading with their Grade 4 buddies! Students have also been discussing emotions and self-regulation strategies. We are working on a writing piece titled, "How I manage my emotions."

Grade 3 – 4 Eng.: The Grade 3 and 4 students have been working on finishing their personal narratives and adding more details. We have begun a procedural writing unit where we will be working on "How-to" writing pieces.

Grade 3 FI: In math, students have been working on adding 2 and 3-digit numbers using the expanded form method. They have also created bar graphs on data collected. Students are working on building reading comprehension by doing a retell of the story in French.

Grade 4 FI: Students in the Grade 4 Immersion classes have been discussing the exploration of people, places and ideas as we examine stories of explorers of land, ocean, space and ideas over time. In Math, multiplication has begun in a few classrooms and for others it will be the focus this month.

Gentle Reminders

In the morning, the front driveway is closed to all traffic with the exception of buses and staff parking. Please use the Kiss and Drop to drop your children off in the morning.

At the end of the day, please **DO NOT** pass the buses when they have their red lights activated and stop sign extended. If you are picking your child up near the end of the day, it is best to pick them up a few minutes earlier or park on Queens Road to avoid being caught behind the buses as they load. Thank you for attention to this very important safety concern.

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please let us know by using the SchoolMessenger app on your smart phone. You can also report an absence by calling the school at 364-4072 and following the voice prompts. You may also report the absence using the following website:

<http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-E/Pages/ParentInfoSafeArrival.aspx>.

Salem Holiday Concert Open House

We welcome parents, families, and community members to this year's Holiday Concert Open House! You won't want to miss this beautiful event combining a concert in the gym with time for an art walk around the school as well as a bake sale and a holiday treat! We welcome special guests, Tantramar Regional High School and Fort Folly, as they accompany our students in their musical presentation. Please join us for a celebration of song, art, holidays, and traditions on Tuesday, December 18th at either 9:00 a.m. or 12 noon. Hope to see you there!

Have you heard??

Have you heard of flexible-seating in the classroom? One of the Grade 4 French Immersion classrooms has been decked out with a wide variety of new seating and are testing the waters to see what students think. Wiggle Stools and cushions, stability balls, rolling stools, rockers, you name it. Students love it, and that's exactly what flexible-seating is about. Happier kids = healthier kids = better engagement = better results! The students are excited to choose their seats every morning and they appreciate the opportunity to move, rock and wiggle when working. An overall sense of calm, productivity and focus has been noted. We are thrilled to have been chosen to pilot this initiative.

Food Drive

Salem will be holding the annual food drive and all proceeds will go to our local food bank in Sackville. Items can be sent in with students or you may drop items off and they will be placed under our Kindness Tree. The food bank will pick up these items during the second last week of school. All students are free to colour a mandala heart, put a message of love or kindness on it and hang it on our tree.

Holiday Breakfast

On Monday, December 17th, the Breakfast Program will be hosting a Holiday Breakfast for all Salem's students. Breakfast will be cereal, eggs, milk, fruit, and toast. This breakfast is be generously sponsored by CBDC, Forest Liaison, and Nicole Burke.