



### Upcoming Events: April

**April 1-** Term 2 Report Cards Sent Home

**April 3:** Term 2 Progress Conferences (no school for student)

**April 4:** SJAM Community Social Fundraiser 7pm

**April 15:** SAC 6-7pm/HSA 7-8pm

**April 18:** Good Friday (no school)

**April 20:** Easter Monday (no school)

**April 22:** Earth Day (SJAM Clean Up)

#### Other Notable Dates:

**April 1:** April Fools' Day

**April 2:** World Autism Day

**April 12:** Passover

**April 13:** Palm Sunday

**April 10:** National Siblings Day

**April 20-26:** Education Week

**April 23:** Administrative Professional's Day

**April 27-May 3:** National Volunteer Week

## ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

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**Admin. Assistant:** Sandy Harrison

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Follow us on X @SJAMSchool & The SJAM Home & School Facebook Page.

### Dear SJAM Families:

Spring is in full bloom, and so are our students' achievements and activities! We have entered the final term of the school year—Term 3! This month, we have exciting events and important updates to share with you. There's so much to look forward to. Let's celebrate the joy of learning and the vibrant spirit of our school community together!

Parent/Teacher Conferences for Term 2 are coming up on April 3rd. The hours are 1-4pm and 5-7pm, however, there are some teachers who have made schedule adjustments within those times. There will also be teachers who are meeting at the Mulgrave Caring & Learning Centre. Whether you connect in person, over the phone, video conference, or email it is so important you that you get the full view of your child as a learner at SJAM. Make sure you reach out not only to the classroom teacher but also, Ms. Lucas (Phys. Ed teacher), Mr. Traill (Music Teacher), Mme. B (Gr.4-6 Core French), and any other educators that are facilitating your child's education. If April 3rd doesn't work for you, please reach out to the classroom teacher to schedule an alternate time.

Happy reading! 🌸 📖

## World Autism Day



Recognizing and celebrating World Autism Awareness Day in our schools fosters inclusion, understanding, and support for those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). On April 2 and every day, we strive to raise autism awareness among peers and educators, celebrate accomplishments and promote acceptance for those with ASD. Join us in creating a positive community where all students can thrive and learn about each other's diverse experiences.

## SJAM Fundraiser:

Our Home & School Association provides financial support for our classrooms, field trips, sports equipment, and our whole celebration, SJAMBoree!

The next big fundraiser is the ***SJAM Community Social and Silent Auction***. It is an adult only (19+) event that will occur on Friday, April 4th at 7pm at the CFB Halifax Curling Club (around the intersection of Bayers Rd, Young St and Windsor St - address for maps is 6441 Hawk Terrace). The silent auction part of the evening will occur from 7-9, with the bidding ending at 8:45. After that, we are hoping to continue the fun and socializing into the evening in the event space! Tickets this year will be \$25 for the event. At the event we can take cash or e-transfer to ([sjamfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:sjamfundraising@gmail.com)). We will not be selling tickets in advance this year however it is strongly encouraged for quick entry if you are paying by e-transfer to pay before arriving at the event; however, we will still accept e-transfer and cash at the door.

If you'd like to Volunteer to help please visit the link to sign up via google docs.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zNwUrI644JEFcrwBv47mdUKfcgP4\\_W4NL1CYtInYGNs/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zNwUrI644JEFcrwBv47mdUKfcgP4_W4NL1CYtInYGNs/edit?usp=sharing)

## Measles Prevention in Nova Scotia:

***We are sharing the following on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health:***

Measles cases are rising in Canada. Measles is a virus that spreads easily and can cause serious complications. The best way to prevent measles is vaccination. Nova Scotia offers free vaccines to eligible people. These can be given by primary care providers, pharmacists and Public Health. Parents are encouraged to check their family's vaccine records and get the measles vaccine if missing doses. Check your vaccine records at [vaxrecordns.nshealth.ca](http://vaxrecordns.nshealth.ca).

**Who should get vaccinated?**

- Anyone born in or after 1970 should get two doses of vaccine, typically given at 12 and 18 months. If missed, children and adults can catch up for free.
- Adults born before 1970 are generally considered immune but can get a single dose if travelling.
- Infants 6-12 months old can get a single dose if travelling but still require two doses after their first birthday to complete the series.

Find out more about measles vaccination: [www.nshealth.ca/measles](http://www.nshealth.ca/measles).

## Provincial Lunch Program

Last month was Nutrition Month, and what better way to celebrate healthy eating than to shine a spotlight on the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program!

[Click here](#) to see how students at one HRCE school are using the program to dish out some serious leadership skills. It's a feast of learning and fun!

## Supporting Literacy at Home

Did you know? Teachers use the [Six Pillars of Effective Reading Instruction \(Français\)](#) to support students' learning.

Reading is best learned when children get clear and structured support in key skills: listening, recognizing sounds in words, learning letter sounds, building vocabulary, reading smoothly and understanding what they read. These skills work together and when you strengthen one, it helps improve the others.

Good reading instruction includes learning how letters and words work and practicing reading in books. The goal is for children to understand what they read, enjoy reading and learn new things from books.

The links below may help you support your children with reading at home:

- [Ideas for parents to help children to practice their reading and writing skills](#)
- [10 Ideas to Raise A Reader](#)

## Purple Tag Program Reminder

Just a friendly reminder that children in Pre-Primary to Grade 2 who use school transportation must have a purple tag on the left side of their backpack. This is to ensure they are not left alone

at a bus stop. If your child doesn't have a purple tag or needs a new one, please reach out to the main office. Children who use special needs transportation do not require a purple tag.

To learn more about the Purple Tag Program, watch [this short video](#) or visit HRCE's website [here](#) and click on *Purple Tag Program*.



### **SJAM School Advisory Council (SAC)**

New year, new opportunity to add your voice! School Advisory Councils (SACs) play an important role in supporting student success at the school community level. An SAC is an advisory body to the school principal and the Regional Centre for Education (HRCE), on a range of issues related to the school and the school system. Membership can vary, but generally consists of the school principal, parents, teachers, and other community members. We meet

monthly via Zoom.

**Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00pm.** If you are interested, please reach out to Ben Stone, SAC Chair, at [hrce-sac-sjam@gnspecs.ca](mailto:hrce-sac-sjam@gnspecs.ca) or Cheyanne Tolliver, Principal [cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca](mailto:cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca)

### **Home & School Association**



Join us! We meet **(Via Microsoft TEAMS)** monthly to cook up future fundraising and community building activities for SJAM. All parents/guardians of current students are invited to join the team, which also includes SJAM staff.

Not able to come to a meeting but would like to know when we need fundraising ideas? We have many ways in which you can be a part of the school community with us, and you are not required to attend all meetings.

**Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 7:00pm.** Hope to see you then!

### **Update on the Rebuild of SJAM School**



A quarterly update on the rebuild was sent out prior to Winter Break. If you missed it, you can read more here: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/operations-services/capital-projects>

### **Life @ SJAM2**

March seemed like a blip on the calendar! We had a week of school before March Break, however during the month classes went on trips to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia and the St. Catherine's Pottery Lab.

Looking forward to exciting and fun events coming up for students and staff at SJAM: Earth Day Clean Up, DAL/SJAM Day, the Grade 3-6 Spring Concert in May, and our SJAMBoree in June!

Remember, reach out any time!

Your SJAM Admin Team