



Upcoming Events: December

Dec 3: Report Cards sent home via email

Dec 5: Professional Practice Day (am)/Progress Conferences (pm)-**No School for Students**

Dec 6: SJAM performs at the Annual Hydrostone Tree Lighting 6:30-7:30pm

Dec 12: Winter Concert for grades P-2 (including grade 2/3) Highland Park Jr. High 5:45-7:30pm.

Dec 19: Lost & Found donated to local organization.

Dec 20: Last day of school before the Winter Break!

Jan 3: First day back for students.

Other Notable Dates:

December 3: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

December 10: International Human Rights Day

December 25: Christmas Day

December 25: First day of Hanukkah

December 26: Kwanzaa

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

Principal: Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver/**Vice Principal:** Katie Mott/
Admin. Assistant: Sandy Harrison

Phone: 902- 493-5180

Website: <https://sje.hrce.ca/> **Email:** sjam@hrce.ca

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

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Dear SJAM Families:

As we enter the final month of the year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful accomplishments of our students and staff so far this school year. December is a time of celebration, gratitude, and giving, and we are excited for what the next part of the year holds for our students.

Whether it's the joy of holiday traditions, the spirit of kindness, or the enthusiasm of our year-end projects, December is a time for our school community to come together and celebrate the growth and progress we've made as a team.

We are looking forward to welcoming families for Progress Conferences on Thursday December 5th. By now you would have heard from your child's classroom teacher to set up an appointment. If you haven't done so already, please reach out to schedule, communication between home and school is imperative to ensuring your child has a successful educational experience.

The last day of school before Winter Break is December 20th and we will welcome students back on January 3rd, 2025. We'd like to wish you and your family a joyful and

peaceful holiday season, and we look forward to all that the rest of this year holds for us. Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

International Day for Persons with Disabilities



The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is observed annually on December 3rd. The theme for this year is **"Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future."** This theme recognizes the important role that persons with disabilities play in creating a more inclusive and sustainable world for all. It also emphasizes the importance of the participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

At SJAM we pride ourselves on ensuring that we provide an inclusive school community where all can thrive!

International Human Rights Day



Did you know that Canada played a central role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Human Rights Day is celebrated every year on December 10 — the day on which the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

The Declaration states that each person is entitled to fundamental rights, including the right to equality, and the right to life, liberty and security of the person. It also recognizes the right to freedom of religion and speech and the right to participate in the cultural life of the community.

Lost & Found

We have a growing collection of items in our Lost & Found and many coats that are needed in this cold weather. We are encouraging families when they visit on Progress Conference Day that you look over the items and take anything that belongs to your child. What is not claimed by December 19th, will be gathered up and donated to an outside organization. We'd also

recommend that you write your child's name on all their belongings, clothing, shoes, lunch boxes, and water bottles.

An SJAM Winter Concert!



On Thursday December 12, 2024, we will be having a Winter Concert featuring students in **Grade P-2 including grades 2/3**. The concert time is from 6:00-7:00pm. In the Spring we will host another concert featuring grades 3/4-6! Stay tuned for those details. Band and Violin will also perform in the Spring.

Once again, we need your support in ensuring the event is a success.

Please note the following:

*Student arrival time is 5:45pm using the side entrance of Highland Park Jr. High.

*There is no dress code, any props will be provided by school.

*No outside food or drink is allowed except for water bottles. We want to be respectful of the generous offer of our host school.

*We encourage families to stay for the whole show and not leave after their child's performance.

All of the students are working so hard to showcase their talents for you! Can't wait to see you all there!

Life @ SJAM2:

Students have been busy this past month.

- ❖ Held an outdoor Assembly entitled SJAM Remembers honoring our past and present service people. Students read poetry, sang songs, and each class laid a wreath.
- ❖ Students continued to work on being safe on the bus. Bus 1318 entertained Ms. T for two weeks as their bus monitor while Ms. J travelled on other buses to review bus safety procedures. It was an adventure but hopefully with continued family support all students will consistently follow the rules for bus safety!
- ❖ Grade 5/6s ventured to the Millbrook Cultural Centre & Victoria Park in Truro and St. Stephen's Pottery Lab.

- ❖ Thirty students were chosen to participate in Santa Flight! A huge thank you to Ms. O'Connor for all the planning, organizing, and supervising so SJAM students can continue to have this wonderful experience.
- ❖ Mr. Walter our ANSSSW (African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker) started a swimming program with a group of students of African Ancestry.
- ❖ Classes of students ventured to the movie theatre to see The Wild Robot.

Happy Holidays!

To all who celebrate, we wish you a joyful holiday season! Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Blessed Kwanzaa, and a wonderful New Year!



See you in 2025!

Your SJAM Admin Team