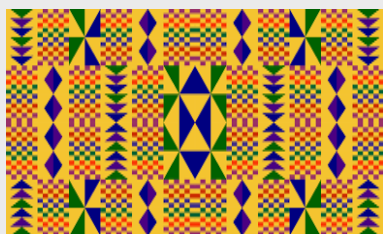


Upcoming Events: February

February is African Heritage Month!



February 3-28: 2025-2026 Registration (online)

Feb 4: SJAM Pizza Fundraiser

Feb. 5: Global School Day of Play

Feb 10: Lockdown Drill

Feb 11: SAC/HAS

Feb 14: Friendship Day

Feb 17: Heritage Day (no school)

Feb 27: SJAM Whole School Assembly (Students & Staff Only)

Other Notable Dates:

Feb 28: Ramadan Begins

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

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

Dear SJAM Families:

Happy February! As we step into the second month of the year, we are excited for all the learning, growth, and fun that's ahead. February is a month full of opportunities from recognizing and celebrating the contributions of African Nova Scotians, to new beginnings with Primary Registration, and continued fun learning with Global Play Day. The afterschool conversations will be exciting! We will continue to encourage our students and staff to celebrate kindness, creativity, and the wonderful diversity within our school community and we hope you will too!

As we begin our work on collecting numbers for next year if your child already attends SJAM and will continue next year, there is no need to complete a new registration form. This includes current Pre-Primary students that live in the catchment area for SJAM. However, if your child is **not** returning in September 2025, please contact Ms. Harrison at 902-493-5180. For all other registration information please read on.

Celebrate African Heritage Month 2025



February is recognized as African Heritage Month and while this rich history is embedded in our SJAM school culture and learning all year, this month we showcase the rich diversity, culture, and heritage of our African Nova Scotians. This year's theme, Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance, highlights the achievements and resilience of African Nova Scotians, who have shaped the province's history for more than 400 years.

In schools, recognizing African Heritage Month is crucial for promoting cultural awareness and inclusion. It fosters understanding of the diverse cultural landscape of Nova Scotia, empowering African Nova Scotian students by reflecting their history and heritage in their classrooms. Highlighting their achievements serves as a source of inspiration. African Heritage Month 2025 is an opportunity to educate, inspire, and celebrate the richness of African heritage in Nova Scotia every day.

Do you have a story to tell? Are you a member of an historical Black community and willing to share your story? Do you have knowledge of African Heritage Culture? We'd love for you to share with us. Please reach out to our principal Cheyanne Tolliver cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca to discuss ways you can be involved in enriching our student learning.

Looking for ways to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month as a family?

- Attend events happening throughout the month at your local [Halifax Public Library](#).
- While you're at the library, [borrow books](#) that will inspire the whole family to learn more about African heritage.
- Visit local heritage sites, such as the [Black Cultural Centre](#), [the Africville Museum](#), and the [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#).
- The African Heritage Month 2025: Virtual Provincial Proclamation Launch and Poster Unveiling Ceremony can be viewed <https://news.novascotia.ca/en/2025/01/22/celebrating-african-heritage-month-2025>
- For more information about African Heritage Month visit <http://www.ahm.bccnswb.com/wp/home>.
<https://ansa.novascotia.ca/african-heritage-month>

Registration Month



Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2025-26 school year begins on February 3. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

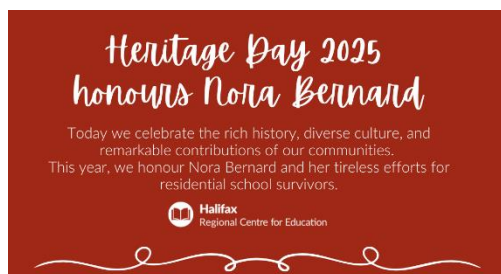
Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE;
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract).

Visit the [HRCE website](https://hrce.ca) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

Heritage Day Honors Nora Bernard



Heritage Day 2025 honours the late Nora Madeline Bernard. From Millbrook First Nation, she was a Mi'kmaq activist who fought for her community and First Nations people across Canada.

Ms. Bernard played a key role in getting justice, recognition, and compensation for survivors of the Canadian Indian Residential School system. As a survivor of the system herself, she founded and became president of the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School Association in 1987. She then started a class-action lawsuit for the survivors, which inspired others across the country to do the same, leading to the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history.

Global School Play Day



On Wednesday, February 5th, 2025, SJAM classes will in some form be participating in Global School Play Day. This day of complete play gives your child the chance to interact with his/her peers in an unstructured (but fully supervised) environment to help foster communication, creativity and problem-solving skills. Essentially, it gives kids the chance to be kids and just play! Dr. Peter Gray gave a TEDX Talk (16mins) called The Decline of Play, where the benefits of unstructured play are outlined. Click here to find out more info <https://www.globalschoolplayday.com/>

SJAM Basketball Team



Congratulations to all students who made the SJAM Basketball Team!

Big shout out to everyone who came and tried out, we wish we could have taken everyone!

Thank you also to teachers Ms. Young, Ms. Lucas, and Mme. Swinamer for organizing and taking the time to make this experience happen for our students.

All practices and home games are at Dalhousie so students will walk over with their teacher coaches after school and families are responsible for picking up their child after games. Practices will take place during lunch at Studley Gym. Students are asked to come prepared with their basketball gear.

Practices for Players Schedule:

Every Thursday @ Lunch

Game Schedule: All games begin at 3:30-3:45pm

February 4, 2025

vs. St. Catherines's @ SJAM (Studley Gym, Dal)

February 6, 2025

vs. St. Stephen's @ St. Stephen's Elementary

February 12

vs. Westmount @ Westmount Elementary

February 13

vs. St. Catherine's @ St. Catherine's Elementary

February 19

vs. Oxford @ Oxford School

Come show your support!!

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, February 11th, 2025 at 6:00pm. If you are interested, please reach out to Ben Stone, SAC Chair, at hrce-sac-sjam@gnspes.ca or Cheyanne Tolliver, Principal 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 volunteers? Do you like to create electronic posters? Do you have 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, February 11th, 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

January was all about resetting back into routines and the job of learning. However, a few activities took place:

- *Basketball & Volleyball Intramurals began and continue to go well for grades 3-6.
- *The SJAM Choir is regularly meeting.
- *Classes continued with short excursions within the community and visited the Nova Scotia Art Gallery

Remember, reach out any time!

Your SJAM Admin Team

