



## Upcoming Events: January

**Jan 2:** Professional Practice Day  
(no school for students)

**Jan 3:** First Day back for  
students

**Jan 9/10:** SJAM Basketball try  
outs for grades 4-6

**Jan 13-17:** SJAM Spirit Week

**Jan 13:** SJAM Volleyball  
Intramurals start: grades 5/6  
Mondays @lunch, grades 3/4  
Tuesdays @lunch

**Jan 14:** SAC 6-7pm/HAS 7-8pm

### Other Notable Dates:

**January 4:** National Ribbon Skirt  
Day

**January 15:** Martin Luther King  
Jr. Birthday

**January 20:** Martin Luther King  
Jr. Day

**January 27:** International  
Holocaust Remembrance Day

**January 27:** Family Literacy  
Day

**January 29:** Lunar New Year

## ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

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

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

### Dear SJAM Families:

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025! We hope you had a joyful and restful winter break, and that you're feeling refreshed and ready for the second half of the school year. As we begin this new year, we are excited to continue working together to support your child's growth and learning.

January is not only a time for new beginnings, but also a great opportunity to reset and refocus. It's a perfect moment for us to review some important rules and expectations that help make SJAM a safe, inclusive, and fun place for every student to learn and grow. By reinforcing these guidelines, we ensure that our school remains a community where all students feel respected, supported, and inspired to reach their fullest potential. Please see attached in the email some importation reminders you can discuss with your child: bus expectations for safe transportation, school expectations, and the NS School Code of Conduct.

Our dedicated staff is committed to providing a nurturing and engaging environment for every child, and we look forward to building on the strong foundation we've

established. Together, let's continue fostering an atmosphere where kindness, responsibility, and teamwork shine.

We are grateful for your continued partnership in making SJAM a wonderful place for our students to thrive. Please be sure to stay informed about upcoming events, school activities, and opportunities to get involved as we work together to make this a successful and enriching year for all.

Thank you for your support, and here's to a fantastic start to 2025!

## Inclement Weather



### Important weather reminders

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Non-bused students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, if you have opted-in. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: 978338
- On our website
- On X (formerly Twitter)
- On Instagram

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit [www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations](http://www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations).

## International Holocaust Remembrance Day



International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed on January 27, serves as a crucial reminder of the Holocaust.

Through survivor stories, students learn empathy, compassion, and the importance of standing against antisemitism and prejudice. By observing this day, we ensure future generations uphold human rights and dignity, fostering a culture of respect and inclusion.

## Lunar New Year



Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year or Spring Festival, will be celebrated on January 29.

It marks the beginning of the Year of the Snake, an animal sign that symbolizes wisdom, intuition, and renewal. It's a time for families to come together, honour their ancestors, and welcome the new year with hopes of prosperity and happiness.

## Family Literacy Day



Did you know? January 27 is Family Literacy Day! This special day is meant to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

This year's theme is "Learn to be Green, Together!" Make a pledge as a family to learn ways to be greener. Use less electricity, commute together, and reuse items. Being green together is a fun way to learn as a family while being kind to the environment.

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Martin Luther King Day, often abbreviated as MLK Day, honors the civil rights leader and activist, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third

Monday of January each year, close to Dr. King's birthday on January 15th. The day serves as a time for reflection, community service, and the celebration of Dr. King's contributions to the civil rights movement.

Monday January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 is a day to remember and celebrate the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; an opportunity to reflect on the ongoing struggle for civil rights, equality, and justice.

Some ways families can celebrate:

- **Engage in Community Service:** Participate in volunteer activities or service projects that benefit your community, aligning with Dr. King's commitment to social justice.
- **Educational Activities:** Learn more about the civil rights movement and Dr. King's work through books, documentaries. Are there members of your community, in Nova Scotia, or Canada who exemplify Dr. King's message? Take some time to learn about them as well!
- **Reflect on Social Justice:** Take time to reflect on the progress made in the fight for civil rights and consider how you can contribute to a more just society.
- **Spread Awareness:** Share Dr. King's messages of equality, love, and nonviolence on social media to inspire others.

## SJAM Sports



**Basketball:** Team Tryouts will be held starting January 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> for students in grades 4-6. Weekly practices will be Thursdays at lunch.

If your child is interested remind them to see Ms. Lucas, Mme. Swinamer, or Ms. Young for more information.

Once the team is chosen more detailed

information will be sent out to families.

**Intramural Volleyball:** For grades 3-6 will begin on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Grades 5 & 6 will play on Mondays at lunch and grades 3 & 4 will play Tuesdays at lunch. Students can see Ms. Lucas or Mr. Simmons for more information.

## SJAM Spirit Week!



From January 13-17<sup>th</sup>, the whole school will participate in activities for Spirit Week. This fun week will bring us together as a whole school, to support our well-being goal and continue to enrich our school culture. Here is the schedule:

**Monday January 13:** SJAM Colors Day-Dress in blue and yellow!

**Tuesday January 14:** Beach Day- Wear sunglasses, hat, beach shirts, etc. (no swimsuits)!

**Wednesday January 15:** Backwards Day-Wear your shirt or hat backwards (no hoodies on backwards covering face for safety)!

**Thursday January 16:** Favorite Color Day-Wear your favorite color from head-to-toe

**Friday January 17:** PJ Day- Wear your Pajamas or comfy clothes

## 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, January 14<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 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, January 14<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](#)

Students have been busy this past month.

- ❖ We had our first successful fundraisers organized by Home & School Association: SJAM Clothing Swag, the Woozles Sale, and Cookie Dough & Hot Chocolate Bombs just in time for the holidays!
- ❖ Our SJAM Choir sang at the Annual Hydrostone Tree Lighting.
- ❖ Students in grade Primary-2/3 wowed the crowd for our Winter Concert. Stay tuned for details on our Spring Concert featuring Grades 3-6, Violin, and Band!

Remember, reach out any time!

Your SJAM Admin Team