

Upcoming Events: March

March 3-6: SJAM Spirit Week!

March 7: Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students)

March 10-14: MARCH BREAK!

March 18: SAC/HSA

March 17-28: SJAM Clothing Order

April 1- Term 2 Report Cards Sent Home

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

Other Notable Dates:

March 5: Ash Wednesday

March 8: International Women's Day

March 9: Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 14: Holi

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 21: World Down Syndrome Day

March 31: International Day of Transgender Visibility

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:

As we welcome the month of March, we can feel the anticipation of spring in the air! This time of year brings new growth, fresh opportunities, and a wonderful energy that we are excited to share with our students and families.

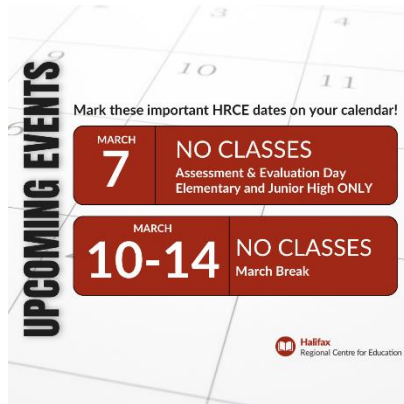
This month, teachers will be focusing on synthesizing assessment data in math and literacy and finalizing Term 2 report cards before March Break. Near the end of March Classroom Teachers will be in touch with parents and guardians directly about setting up Term 2 Progress Reports (aka Parent/Teacher Conferences) on April 3rd. We hope to see you then.

Read on to find important updates, event reminders, and highlights of the amazing work happening across our school. As always, we are grateful for your continued support and involvement—together, we make our school a warm, welcoming place for all.

Once we return from March Break make sure to check your inbox for information on our Spring SJAM Clothing Order. If you didn't get a chance the first time around don't miss out now!






Let's make this March memorable!

March Break



This year March Break is March 10th-March 14th. Friday, March 7th is an Assessment & Evaluation Day so the last day for students will be Thursday March 6th. We will welcome students back to school on Monday March 17th.

SJAM Spirit Week: March 3-6

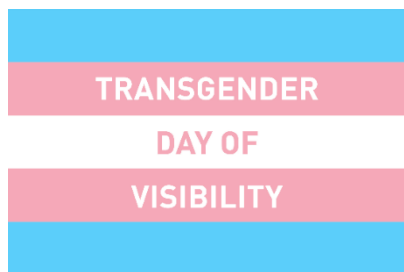
<p>Monday: <u>PJs/Comfy Clothes Day</u></p> <p>*Wear your favorite comfy clothes or pajamas.</p>  <p>Pajama Day</p>	<p>Tuesday: <u>Hats & Socks Day</u></p> <p>*Show off your favorite hat or silly socks or both!</p>  	<p>Wednesday: <u>Color Day</u></p> <p>*Dress head to toe in your favorite color.</p> 	<p>Thursday: <u>Denim Day</u></p> <p>*Wear your Levi's, Canadian Tuxedo, or shade of blue.</p> 
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March is Nutrition Month



Did you know? March is Nutrition Month! This year's theme, Nourish to Flourish, highlights the important role that food has on our physical, mental and emotional health and well-being. Whether it's planting an indoor or outdoor garden, cooking together with family, or enjoying a meal with friends, food provides opportunities for building social connections that can support improved feelings of belonging and overall well-being. This is a great time to explore and learn about food. An important part of this is food literacy, which includes having the knowledge and skills to grow, choose, prepare, and talk about food.

International Transgender Day of Visibility



Each year on March 31, the world observes Transgender Day of Visibility to raise awareness about transgender and gender nonconforming people. It is a day to celebrate the lives and contributions of the accomplishments of transgender people while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve transgender justice.

At SJAM, we celebrate Transgender Day of Visibility by fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where all students feel safe, respected, and valued. We encourage kindness, understanding, and acceptance by educating our students about diversity and the importance of being allies to one another. Through age-appropriate discussions, books, and activities, we affirm that every child deserves to be seen and celebrated for who they are.

School Bus Safety Reminder



More than 33,000 HRCE students take the school bus. Making sure they have a safe and happy trip to and from school is very important to us. Please talk with your child about school bus safety on a regular basis. Students should tell their bus driver and/or school principal if they have any problems.

Here are some important safety tips:

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus. Don't run to or from the bus.

- Stand back when the bus arrives and give everyone space. Get on or off the bus one at a time.
- Always cross the road in front of the bus. Walk to a spot where you can see the driver. When they signal it's safe, walk to the middle of the road. STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN, then cross when it's safe.
- Never crawl under the bus or cross the road from behind it.

School Bus Safety

- Respect and listen to the driver. Their job is to focus on the road, so avoid distracting them.
- Respect others and your space.
- Keep noise levels down.
- Stay seated while the bus is moving.
- Keep your arms, legs, and head inside the bus.
- Do not throw anything inside or outside the bus.
- Keep the aisle clear.

Did you know: It's illegal for drivers to pass a school bus when it has stopped with its red lights flashing. Bus drivers will activate their amber lights 150m before they stop as a warning to motorists.

More information about HRCE student transportation and school bus safety can be found [here](#).

SJAM Basketball Team



SJAM Basketball Team has had an **UNDEFEATED** season! We are so proud of them! Thank you to all our families that have been able to come out and cheer our team on. Also, a huge thank you to our teacher-coaches who volunteer their time to continue to coordinate and supervise lunch time practices and after school games; Ms. Lucas, Mme. Swinamer, and Ms. Young, you are AWESOME! Way to go team!

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, March 18th, 2025 at 6:00pm. If you are interested, please reach out to Ben Stone, SAC Chair, at hrce-sac-sjam@gnsps.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, March 18th, 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

In February all SJAM students participated in various activities and learning that not only recognized but celebrated the contributions of African Nova Scotian Heritage. Many of our classes also submitted entries into the DBDLI African Nova Scotian History Challenge 2025. This year's entries are again beyond amazing! Stay tuned for more information to see how our students did in the various categories. We also know that even though African Heritage Month has ended, the learning doesn't stop there. Our culturally responsive teaching practices ensure that all students' culture is reflected and embedded in the learning and the school environment all day, every day!

We held a whole school assembly on February 27th at the Rebecca Cohn with the theme, "SJAM Celebrates Black Brilliance!" There was poetry, musical selections, and our guest presenter was singer, author, and motivational speaker, Keonte Beals.

Students have been busy with Swim Club, Chess Club, Little Jammers Glee Club, GSA/Rainbow Club, Intramurals, and even a few field trips to Halifax Library and Pier 21.

Remember, reach out any time!
Your SJAM Admin Team