



Upcoming Events: November

Nov. 4th: Picture Day
Grades 2/3-6

8th: SJAM Remembers
Assembly 11am

11th- Remembrance Day-
No School

19th-SAC 6-7pm/HSA 7-
8pm via online

22nd-Assessment &
Evaluation Day -No school
for students

Other Notable Dates:

8th-Indigenous Veterans
Day

13th-19th-Transgender
Awareness Week

20th-Transgender Day of
Remembrance

22nd-Term 1 Ends

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

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

Dear SJAM Families:

Welcome to November! The end of Term 1 is upon us which means at the end of the month you will receive your child's first report card of the 2024-2025 school year. We also look forward to meeting families during Parent/Teacher Conferences in early December. We will send out more information as the date gets near so stay tuned.

As we progress through this first term, we want to take a moment to emphasize the critical role that regular attendance plays in your child's learning and development.

Consistent attendance is essential for students to fully engage with their lessons, participate in classroom activities, and build important social skills. Each day of school is filled with valuable learning experiences that contribute to your child's academic success.

Additionally, many of our support interventions—designed to assist students who may need extra help—are most effective when students are present regularly. Extended absences can lead to gaps in learning, and unfortunately, they may even make students ineligible for certain support programs.

We encourage you to prioritize school attendance and ensure your child is here each day, ready to learn. If your child is facing challenges that affect their ability to attend school, please reach out to us. We are here to support you and your family in any way we can.

Thank you for your commitment to your child's education!

Inclement Weather



Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses 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:**

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking 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 the HRCE 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 hrce.ca/weather.

Indigenous Veterans Day & Remembrance Day



Indigenous Veterans Day, observed on November 8, acknowledges the unique contributions and sacrifices made by Indigenous soldiers. This day highlights the bravery and commitment of Indigenous veterans, who have served with distinction despite facing historical and ongoing challenges.

Every year on November 11, we observe Remembrance Day to commemorate the sacrifices of the armed forces during World War I, World War II, and other conflicts. This solemn day is marked by ceremonies, moments of silence, and the wearing of poppies in honour of those who have served and fallen.

Together, these days remind us of the courage and resilience of all who have served.

On Friday November 8th, SJAM Students & Staff will gather for an outdoor assembly (weather permitting) at 11:00am to honor our service people. Families are welcome to join.

Transgender Awareness Week



Transgender Awareness Week, observed in the second week of November, focuses on raising awareness about the issues facing transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. The week highlights the challenges transgender people face, such as discrimination and lack of healthcare access, and promotes acceptance and inclusivity by encouraging supportive policies and practices.

The week helps to foster solidarity within the transgender community and with allies, providing emotional support and strengthening the transgender movement. It culminates in the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, a day to honour those lost to anti-transgender violence, emphasizing the need for continued protection and support.

Be An Ally



An ally is someone who actively and consistently supports, stands with and advocates for the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. The best way to be an ally is to listen with an open mind. It is our responsibility to treat all people with dignity and kindness.

At SJAM we work to ensure our school community is safe and inclusive for all. Please join us in being an ally and talk to your children about how they can be an ally too! You are never too young to be kind!



SchoolsPlus staff, Brenda McNutt, **will be at Mulgrave Park Caring & Learning Center on November 20th from 3:30 to 5:30.** Parents / Guardians please drop in if you would like help filling out the Affordable Access Program forms. This program helps pay for the swim lessons and

all the other awesome programs offered at HRM rec centers.

2024 Christmas Support

Important changes to the Christmas Registry:

In previous years Feed Nova Scotia has offered ways for people to register for Christmas support and connected them with organizations that provide support. Feed Nova Scotia is no longer involved in co-ordinating Christmas support in HRM and should not be contacted directly with requests for food or gift support this holiday season. Feed Nova Scotia is focused on providing year-round support across the province through affiliated organizations.

Local food banks, community organizations, and others co-ordinate to provide support to households in HRM for the Christmas season. Most organizations that provide Christmas supports provide food for holiday meals and gifts for children. Individual organizations can provide you with more information about what kinds of support they offer when you register. Individual organizations will have their own registration deadlines, but the sooner you register, the better!

Register with an organization

- Salvation Army:

Starting October 21, 2024: you can register online at hrmchristmas.ca. Please note that all applications for this year must be submitted online. If you have any questions, please call 902-422-1598.

- Parker Street:

Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank's Christmas 2024 programs are as follows: Christmas Family/Gift Sponsorship Program: Applications open September 30 and close November 15. Christmas Hamper (Food) Program: Applications open on October 6 and close November 22. If you have questions, please contact 902-377-4763 or email info@parkerstreet.org

- 211 Nova Scotia:

211 Nova Scotia may be able to assist you in connecting with other organizations offering support in your area. Call 2-1-1 for 24/7 assistance. Interpretation services are available in over 240 languages. 211 is a free and confidential service available to anyone in Nova Scotia.

Life @ SJAM2:

Students have been busy this past month.

- ❖ Grade 6 students wrote 4 days of Provincial Assessments in Math & Literacy.
- ❖ Grades 3-6 students attended the Milk Sports Fair.
- ❖ All students practiced the bus evacuation drill.
- ❖ Many classes ventured out to explore the community linking activities to outcomes.
- ❖ We had our second whole school clean up day to beautify our playground and learn about the importance of taking care of our environment led by our SJAM Green Team.
- ❖ Held an outdoor Assembly to honor and showcase learning for Mi'kmaw Heritage Month. Classes sang songs, presented artwork based on Indigenous life, and taught the audience how to count in Mi'kmaq.
- ❖ Classes also had field trips to: Museum of Natural History and Skate Canada.

See you next month!
Your SJAM Admin Team