

Upcoming Events: October

**October 1-31st-Mi'kmaw
Heritage Month**

11th: Professional Day for
Teachers-**No School for
Students**

14th-Thanksgiving Day-**No
School**

15th- SJAM Green Team Clean
Up

15th-SAC 6-7pm/HSA 7-8pm

18th-Lunch Program Ordering
Opens

25th-NSTU Provincial
Conference Day-**No School for
Students**

28th-Lunch Program Starts

28th- Picture Day

29th- Picture Day

Other Notable Dates:

1st-Treaty Day

4th-Honoring Day for MMIWG

5th-World Teachers Day

2nd-Rosh Hashanah

11th-Yom Kippur

31st-Diwali

31st-Halloween

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

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

Dear SJAM Families:

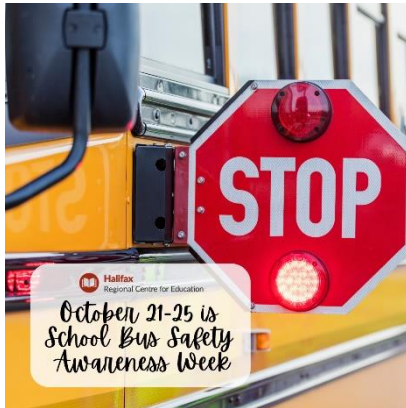
Welcome to October! We are well into settling into our routines and learning. Please continue to have those conversations with your child about what their job is at school: listening, learning, and having fun!

Fall season is upon us; dress your child in layers or pack extra clothes. Outdoor activity is an important part of student well-being and fresh air activates our brains! Also, continue to remind them to be responsible for their belongings.

This is also the time that students are prone to sickness. We ask that all children who are ill to please stay at home. We know this may cause difficulties for families, but it does help protect our school as a whole. Equally, if a student comes to their teacher and identifies as being/feeling unwell, they will need to go home. If you know your child has previously had an occasion of not truly being ill but reported that they were, please remind them of the impacts on your family and their learning for saying they were ill. Let's do our best to keep our school healthy!

The month of October also brings the new Nova Scotia Universal Lunch Program. Please review important information in this month's Newsletter. Ordering opens the week of October 18th with first delivery slated for October 28th.

Bus Safety Week:



October 21-25, 2024, is School Bus Safety Week in Nova Scotia!

Did you know that more than 30,000 HRCE students ride the school bus every day?

School Bus Safety Week is a great time to remind students, families and schools of a few daily safety tips that everyone can follow to ensure all students get to school safely.

Bus Stop Safety

- Be on time for the bus and please don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

School Bus Safety

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.

You can find out more information about School Bus Safety Week, including more safety tips, [here](#).

****A note about SJAM Buses**** We are receiving many Bus Incident Forms from a few buses. Incidents such as students **not remaining in their seats while the bus is moving, throwing things out of the windows, and inappropriate language directed at the bus drivers and bus monitors**. We are asking all parents/guardians to **have a serious conversation** with your child about safety on the bus. If students continue these actions a plan for alternate transportation will have to be created.

What is Schools Plus?



SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services.



Phone: 902-464-2041
Email: schoolsplus@hrce.ca
Twitter: @HRCESchoolsPlus

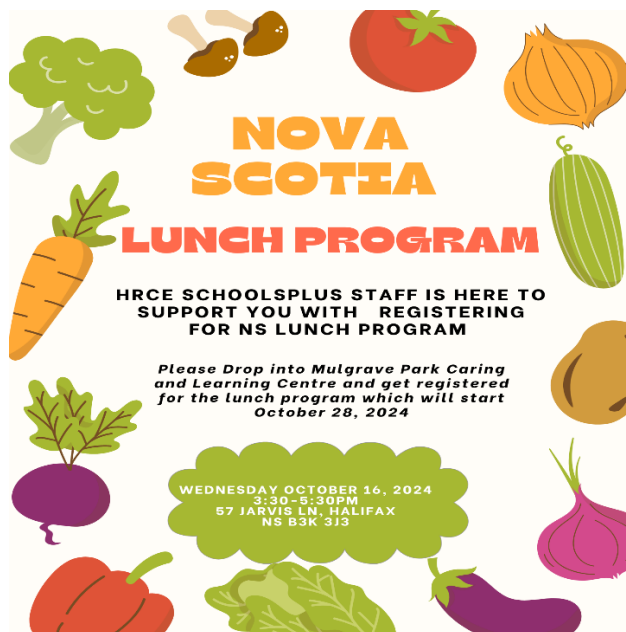
SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help families navigate complicated situations when they are involved with many different services. This helps ensure everyone is communicating clearly and working on shared goals. SchoolsPlus can also help connect families to community resources and offers mental health support in schools. Contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator for your school to make a referral. You can find additional information [here](#).

Nova Scotia Universal School Lunch Program:



The Nova Scotia School Lunch Program is a provincial lunch program that offers public school students across Nova Scotia nutritious lunch every school day. Ordering will open on Friday mornings and close on Wednesday at noon.

Ordering for SJAM will begin on Friday October 18th, with delivery slated to begin Monday October 28th. The window for ordering will always be the week prior to delivery. Please visit <https://nslunch.ca/> for more information.





SJAM School Advisory Council (SAC): WE ARE RECRUITING!

Our SJAM SAC is looking for more members. Currently we have open spots for the following:

- 1 Parent Member – (of student in English Program)**
- 1 Staff Member**
- 1 Community member**

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.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 6:00pm. If you are interested, please reach out to Ben Stone, SAC Chair, at hrce-sac-sjam@gnspecs.ca or Cheyanne Tolliver, Principal cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca

SJAM SWAG!



Coming Soon!

October is your chance to order school clothing from the SJAM Home and School Association. We are pleased to be able to offer SJAM t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, hoodies (regular and zip-up), winter toques and ball caps.

Keep an eye on your email for the official order form link, coming soon! **All orders must be submitted by Monday October 28th.** Orders will be collected through an online order form and e-transfers.

If a family requires an alternative form of payment or support, please reach out directly to Principal Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver by email (CGorman-Tolliver@hrce.ca) or phone (902-493-5180).

If you have any questions about the SJAM Gear Clothing Order, please email: sjamhomeandschool@hotmail.com.

All the best,
SJAM Home & School Association

Life @ SJAM2:

What an active start up to school! Students have visited the Africville Art Installation at MicMac Mall, participated in a whole school Terry Fox Run and a virtual assembly in recognition of Orange Shirt Day & Truth & Reconciliation. Running Club for grades 3-6 is underway and our SJAM Green Team organized our first school cleanup day of the year. As a whole school we have also completed the first set of our Emergency Drills (Fire, Lockdown, and Hold & Secure) and students did an excellent job at knowing and following the procedures.

See you next month!
Your SJAM Admin Team