

Upcoming Dates: September

5th: First Day for Students

12th: Stand Up Against Bullying Day!

13th- Terry Fox Run/Walk/Roll

17th- 6-7pm SAC, 7-8pm Home & School

26th- Curriculum Night 6-7:30pm

27th- Orange Shirt Day

30th: Recognition of Truth & Reconciliation Day (No Classes)

October 1st: Treaty Day

Stay in Touch:

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.**

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

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

Dear SJAM Families:

Welcome to September, and a warm welcome back to all our students and families! As we kick off a new school year, we're excited to share with you the latest news, upcoming events, and important updates from SJAM!

This month is packed with activities designed to engage and inspire our students. From classroom introductions to exciting activities, there's much to look forward to. Our dedicated team of teachers and staff have been working hard to create a nurturing and enriching environment where every child can thrive.

Here's a quick glimpse of what's happening this September:

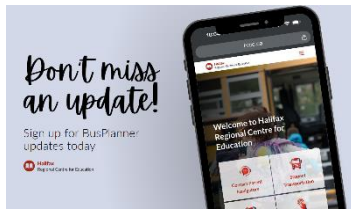
- ❖ **Terry Fox Run/Walk/Roll**
- ❖ **Stand Up Against Bullying!**
- ❖ **SAC & Home & School Association Meetings**
- ❖ **Curriculum Night**
- ❖ **Orange Shirt Day**
- ❖ **Recognition of Truth & Reconciliation**

Important Reminders: Please remember to review our school policies and procedures, including Transportation, Provincial Code of Conduct, Cell Phone Directive, Bus Expectations, and school schedule.

Job Opportunities: We are in need of lunch monitors. Please reach out to our Vice Principal, Katie Mott at kmott@hrce.ca if you are interested!

As we embark on this new school year, we want to thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can make

this year a fantastic and successful one for all our students. Here's to a wonderful September and a fantastic school year ahead!



Bussing: Using BusPlanner

Everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations can be found on BusPlanner. Once you register and subscribe, you may also receive email notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations.

To sign up, go to BusPlanner at hrce.mybusplanner.ca and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to create an account.

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.

Student Absences:

Communication is key to everything we do and so make sure you have provided your current email, phone & address to your child's classroom teacher to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on PowerSchool (a private database managed by the NS Department of Education).

We need this information for three key reasons:

- 1) Teachers use email and apps to communicate with families, and administration sends messages to email addresses on file for parents/guardians.
- 2) Your address on PowerSchool determines your bus route, and you receive regular updates and changes from the HRCE Transportation Team to the email address on file.
- 3) School administration sends out important information via email and phone.

Home & School Association:

Join us! We meet **(Via Microsoft TEAMS)** 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, September 17th, 2024, at 7:00pm. Hope to see you then!



SJAM School Advisory Council (SAC):

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, September 17th, 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



Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 12

On the second Thursday of September, we recognize Stand Up Against Bullying Day. This day, happening on September 12 this year, is an opportunity for us to start the school year off right – by celebrating inclusivity, kindness and friendship.

All schools in HRCE are focused on ensuring all students have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and thrive.

Please join us and wear pink if you're able on September 12 to

take a stand against bullying.



Join us in observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year on September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours the children who didn't return from residential schools, as well as survivors, their families, and communities.

Orange Shirt Day, led by Indigenous communities, aims to raise awareness about the inter-generational impacts of residential schools and allows us all to show our support for the Every Child Matters movement.

As there are no classes on Monday, September 30, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on Friday, September 27.

Morning Arrival:

Outdoor morning supervision starts at 8:50 am on our playground. Students will not be able to wait in the office or in classrooms if they arrive before 8:50am. For more information on our bell schedule please visit our website <https://sje.hrce.ca/>

Safe Arrival:

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring all students arrive to school safely each day. Each morning our Administrative Assistant receives an absentee report and calls any student who is marked 'absent' or

'absent without notification'. This also cues the automatic call system to alert you that your child is not in school. There are many students in our school so to avoid receiving the automatic calls and also support the efficient work of the office, please make sure to report all absences. Parents/guardians of students who attend our school have the option to report their child's absence in advance using a toll-free number, the PowerSchool Parent Portal or an app! If your child will be absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

1) Toll-Free Number

Call 1-833-582-6940 to report an absence using an automated system.

2) PowerSchool Parent Portal

Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> and access the SchoolMessenger website to report an absence.

3) SchoolMessenger App

Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address).

For more information about reporting your child's absence and a list of frequently asked questions, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/safearrival>

Parking at SJAM2:

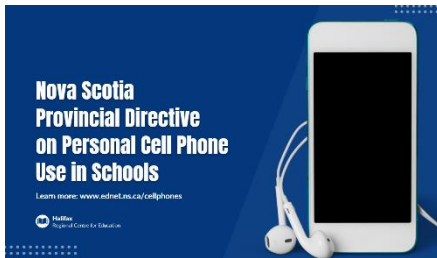


If you are dropping off or picking up your child at school, avoid our bus lane please (see the "no parking" and "bus lane" signs) from 8-10am and then again from 2-4pm. You also need to avoid parking in the LeMarchant St-Thomas (LMST) school bus lanes and parking. You can park on Walnut Street (with the exception of our SJAM bus lane) or on stretches of LeMarchant or Watt Streets that are not in the LMST bus lane/drop-off/pick-up spaces. Also, during the hours of 8am-4pm our school parking lot is for staff only. The parking lot is routinely monitored for parking pass and those who don't have one will be ticketed and/or towed.



Pick Up: If you are picking up your child at dismissal, get in the routine of meeting them on the school playground, not in the front where students are being picked up by buses. Also, if you need to call the office to let your child (s) know they are being picked up early please do so before 2:30pm. Dismissal time is busy, and we can't always get the message to teachers late afternoon. The best option is to reach out to the classroom teacher, the earlier the better.

Cell Phone Directive:



In a prior email information was given on the new Cell Phone Directive. This is a directive from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. For more information click the link

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/pandireleaseprovincialdirectiveoncellphoneuseinschoolsen.pdf>
The cell phone directive procedures for SJAM can be viewed in the attachment in the general email attached to this newsletter.

Allergy Alerts:

PLEASE



**NO PEANUTS
OR
NUT PRODUCTS**

Please keep in mind we have members of our school community with severe, and in some cases, life-threatening allergies to nuts/peanuts and tree nuts. Be mindful when packing snacks & lunch.

Update on the Rebuild of SJAM School:



Our SJAM school building at 5389 Russell Street is being replaced! Updates on the construction will be sent out periodically. For more information, please click here:

www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/operations-services/capital-projects/replacement-school-sjam

RECESS & LUNCH:

- Students should bring a refillable water bottle each day. We have filling stations throughout the school.
- We do not use microwaves. Students need lunches that do not require heating. Using a thermos is a great way to send a hot lunch.
- If your child requires utensils to eat the lunch they are bringing, you need to send utensils. Recess should be a quick snack & drink.
- Students eat lunch with their classroom teacher for 20 minutes, and have 40 minutes of activity time on the playground with lunch monitors. In the case of inclement weather, students will spend the activity time in classrooms.

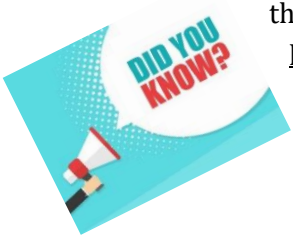




We will be practicing our first set of safety drills of the 24/25 school year over the next two weeks including a fire drill, hold & secure, and lockdown. These drills prepare students in case emergencies should arise while at school and ensure our school is safe for teaching and learning. Any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher. Please see more information attached to the email with this newsletter.

HRCE Policy on Head Lice at School:

Notices regarding individuals found to have lice are not distributed any more. As a collective there are things you can do to prevent the spread. For more information, please visit <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/headliceinschoolsguidelinesforparentsandguardiansen.pdf>



Please note, the following guidelines are helpful in preventing the spread of head lice:

- Notify your principal and your child(ren)'s classroom teacher if your child(ren) has or have head lice and keep the school informed about head lice issues as they arise.
- Check your child(ren)'s head(s) and hair regularly, including: once a week as part of your routine, after every sleepover, any time they have had contact with someone with lice
- Keep long hair tied back or braided
- Teach your child(ren) not to share personal items that have touched their head, such as brushes, combs, barrettes, headbands, hair elastics, towels, hats, helmet, toques, scarves, pencils or crayons
- Teach your child(ren) to put their hats and scarves in their coat sleeves or backpacks when they take them off.

Principals may assist families in accessing the specific supports that they require, such as means of obtaining head lice treatments. The confidentiality, privacy, dignity, and best interests of students and their families will be respected at all times. Additional information on how to prevent, find, and treat head lice is available at: <https://www.nshealth.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pamphlets/07135.pdf>