

Upcoming Events: June



June 2- Grade 6 Track Meet

June 3-Grade 5 Track Meet

June 4-Grade 4 Track Meet

June 4-Primary Orientation
2:00pm

June 10: HSA

June 11: Green Team Clean
Up

June 13: SJAMboree

June 17: SAC

June 25: Community Tile
Event 5:30-7:30pm HPJr High

June 27: Assessment &
Evaluation Day (no school for
students)

June 19: Grade 6 Closing
Celebration

Other Notable Dates:

- National Indigenous History Month
- Italian Heritage Month
- Filipino Heritage Month
- Portuguese Heritage Month
- June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

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

Phone: 902- 493-5180

Website: <https://sje.hrce.ca/> **Email:** sjam@hrce.ca

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

Follow us on The SJAM Home & School Facebook Page.

Dear SJAM Families:

As we approach the end of another wonderful school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible growth and achievements of our students. June is a time for reflection, celebration, and looking forward to the exciting adventures that summer will bring. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership in making this year a success.

Let's finish strong and enjoy the final days of learning and fun together! We have many exciting activities planned for the last few weeks, and we encourage everyone to participate and make the most of this special time. Thank you for being an essential part of our school community.

We are excitedly awaiting seeing everyone back in our North End Community and new school!

Happy Summer!



HRCE Calendar

Here are a few key dates to note in HRCE's calendar for June:

- **June 27:** No classes for PP-12 for assessment and evaluation
- **June 30:** Last day of school

Upcoming Activities



In June, we celebrate Pride Month and our vibrant, diverse 2SLGBTQIA+ communities which includes members of our staff, families, and students.

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!

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.

This month our school and our GSA/Rainbow Club will organize activities that promote allyship, friendship, and kindness!



Elementary Provincial Track & Field Meet will take place: Grade 6s on June 2nd, Grade 5s on June 3rd, and Grade 4s on June 4th at Beazley Field.

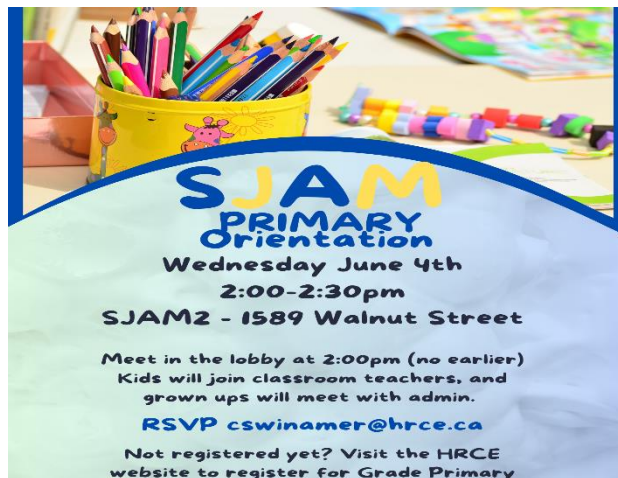
Please reach out to Ms. Lucas if you can help with transportation or if you have any other questions, hayley.lucas@hrce.ca.

Grade 6 Celebration: Please look out for an invitation for Grade 6 Families for our event celebrating our students who are moving on to Jr. High. Join us on June 19th 1:30pm at Aurora North End Community Church, 5666 Sebastian St. Students will be dismissed home after the celebration.

SJAMBoree will be celebrated on Friday June 13th. This is a whole school family event with lots of fun activities, BBQ, hosted in Africville. Please stay tuned for more details via School Messenger. Rain date is Tuesday June 24th.

Our **Community Tile Event** has been rescheduled. Please look out for an invite as the date gets closer. It will take place on Wednesday June 25th 5:30-7:30pm at Highland Park Jr. High.

Primary Orientation (for students entering 2025-2026)



Feel free to share this notice with friends and family who you know will have children entering SJAM for grade Primary in 2025-2026.

Any new Primary student already registered will receive an invite via email.

End of Year

As June 30th approaches, here are some things for families to note:

- There is no school for students on June 27th. This is an Assessment & Evaluation Day for Teachers.
- Report Cards will be sent home electronically on June 30th. Please make sure the school has your updated email address.
- If you don't receive your child's report card on the 30th you can email sjam@hrce.ca and either the Vice Principal or Principal will reach out.
- On June 30th students will start to be dismissed at 10:00am for anyone being picked up. For students taking the bus, they will board anytime between 10-11am. Remember, an adult need to be at the bus stop for any students in grade primary to two.
- Class Supply Lists will be posted on the website <https://sje.hrce.ca/> on Monday June 30th.
- As you know our enrollment is forever changing even into the new school year. Therefore, you will find out who your child's teacher is in August. No date has been set so make sure to check your email periodically over the summer.

June brings in the exciting adventures of field trips! Please check your child's backpack each night for information/permission forms and check your email for updates from classroom teachers.

Be Tick Aware



Sharing on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health

In summer and fall, people spend time at Nova Scotia's many beautiful beaches, parks, and wooded areas. However, we need to be mindful of the presence of ticks and how we can protect ourselves. These small insects are found across Nova Scotia and can cause tick-borne diseases (TBDs), including Lyme disease and anaplasmosis.

Ticks like moist and humid environments and can be found in or near woods, shrubs, leaf litter, long grass, urban parks and gardens. They can be very small, which makes them hard to spot and their bites don't hurt, which makes it

difficult to know when you've been bitten.

Visit NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety and learn:

- How to protect yourself - especially in grassy, wooded, or shrub-covered areas
- What to do if you find a tick on yourself/your child
- The signs and symptoms of tick-borne illnesses

Schools Plus Summer Support:



Did you know? SchoolsPlus operates 12 months of the year! SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available to every school in Nova Scotia. Families and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus by contacting the SchoolsPlus facilitator for our school Sharon Steeves, ssteeves@hrce.ca Learn more [here](#).



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

Tips to support reading and writing at home

As parents and caregivers, you play one of the most important roles in helping your child become a strong, confident reader and writer. What you do at home can make a big difference in your child's success in school and beyond. When reading and writing become part of family routines — like bedtime stories, writing notes to each other, or making shopping lists together — children see them as enjoyable and meaningful activities.

Here are some ideas and tips:

1. Create a dedicated writing space:

Set up a quiet, well-lit area where your child can focus. Stock your writing center with essentials like paper, pencils, crayons, and even fun extras like family photos and old magazines to spark creativity.

2. Read often:

Reading is one of the best ways to become a better writer. When children read a variety of books, they naturally absorb vocabulary, grammar, and different writing styles. Encourage daily reading to build their language skills and inspire their own writing.

3. Encourage reflective journaling:

A journal is a great outlet for expressing thoughts and feelings. Prompt your child to write about everyday events at home and school. Suggest using sensory details — what they saw, heard, or felt. This helps develop descriptive writing. Provide real-life experiences that they can later write about. Remember, only read their journal if invited — and always respond with encouragement and thoughtful feedback.

4. Offer real-world writing opportunities:

Help your child see writing as a practical skill. Let them write thank-you notes, grocery lists, birthday invitations or letters to family. Consider finding a pen pal to make writing feel more authentic and fun.

5. Be a writing role model:

Let your child see you writing too! Whether it's a grocery list, an email or a note to a friend, show how writing fits into everyday life. Talk about the purpose of different types of writing and their audiences. Try having a "family writing night" where everyone writes and shares together.

6. Start a vocabulary notebook:

Introduce a few new words each week and encourage your child to use them in writing and conversation. Turn it into a game for using words creatively.

2025-26 Bus Information

Information about student transportation for the 2025-26 school year will be available to view online through the BusPlanner Parent Portal later in July.

- Families eligible for transportation will receive an email to access the Parent Portal to view their child's bus information once it is available.
- Once you receive the email, you must follow the instructions to activate your new Parent Portal account and create a password. Using previous Parent Portal login information will not work.
- If you can't find the email, please contact transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723 for assistance.

Over the summer, the HRCE Student Transportation team will also reach out to new HRCE families and those families who may require special needs transportation for their children with more information about busing.

Reminder: The Student Transportation team is available to assist you and answer questions about busing all summer at transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723. When contacting the team, please ensure you have your child's name, grade, school name and student ID number ready. Your child's student ID number can be found in PowerSchool or on the top of your child's report card.



SJAM School Advisory Council (SAC)

An 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.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 17, 2025 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

Home & School Association (HSA)



Join us! We meet 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, June 10, 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 in April. If you missed it, you can read more here: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/operations-services/capital-projects>. Our next update will be this month.

[Life @ SJAM2](#)

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Spring Fair! Big thanks also to all our volunteers, those that signed up for stations, donated items, and set and cleaned up. Again, a huge shout out to the dedicated members of our Home & School Association. Their planning and organizing makes our Spring Fair one of our most successful school/family activities and all the funds raised goes back into resources for students!

Our French Immersion teachers were once again successful in receiving a French Cultural Grant and organized immersion activities for students in school and outside with field trips to Wonderneath Art Society and the Chezzetcook Acadian Museum. Classes went to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, the Discovery Centre, Museum of Natural History, Halifax Central Library, and some close proximity adventures to neighborhood parks. Mme. North's grade 4/5 students took first place in the category they entered for the DBDLI African Nova Scotian History Challenge 2025, and they participated and presented at the Hackmatack Awards.

We had a lovely Spring Concert at the Spatz Theatre and debuted an original SJAM song, "We Are SJAM People", and once again we celebrated Black Excellence Week May 12-16th. There was some incredible learning and connections made with the Black excellence in our community and in our school.

We had the Neptune Theatre in presenting the play, Emilio's A Million Chameleons and then our annual DAL/SJAM Day where Dalhousie University faculty and students volunteered their time with science experiments, physical activities, and of course a visit from the DAL Tiger.

Stayed tuned for a busy June with end of year field trips, SJAMboree, Grade 6 Closing Celebration, Pride Month activities, and our Community Tile Day. More information will follow as we get closer to the dates of the events. Watch your email!

Have a safe and wonderful summer see you next school year! ----- Your SJAM Admin Team 