

## Upcoming Dates: October

### October 1-31-Mi'kmaq History Month

**1st:** Treaty Day

**6th& 7th:** Grade 6 Provincial  
Assessments (AM)

**9th& 10th-**Grade 6  
Provincial Assessments (AM)

**13th-**Thanksgiving-No School

**14th-** 6-7pm SAC, 7-8pm  
Home & School

**15th-** Family Night Q&A

**20th-24th-**School Bus Safety  
Week

**24th-** Provincial Teacher  
Conference Day-No School

**31st-**Halloween Costume  
Parade (pm)

### Other Notable Dates

October-Canadian Library Month

October 1&2-Yom Kippur

October 5-World Teachers' Day

October 20th-Diwali Begins

October 31-Halloween

## 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](mailto:sjam@hrce.ca)

**Safe Arrival:** 1-833-582-6940

**FOLLOW US ON THE SJAM HOME & SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE.**

### Dear SJAM Families:

Welcome to October! Thank you for your understanding during our reconfiguration. Administration, Classroom Teachers, and Specialists put a lot of thought and care into the new arrangements and students have transitioned seamlessly.

We continue to settle 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 in a safe way.

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. Our Lost & Found area is getting piled up and the students will need these clothes. If you haven't already, please consider labelling the tags of your child's clothing, especially jackets and coats!

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!

### Introducing: We Are SJAM!

Our school-wide behavior matrix: **We Are SJAM**, which emphasizes being:

- Safe
- Just Think
- Act Kindly
- Mind Ready

Is ready to launch! It will be available for families during our Family Night on October 15, 2025. Read on for more details.

### SJAM Family Night:

**You're Invited: Family Night at School!**

Come hang out with us for a relaxed evening where the Principal (Ms. T) and Vice Principal (Ms. Mott) will chat with families about what school looks like in 2025. It's a great chance to hear about what's new, what's changing, and how we're supporting students.

No formal presentations—just good conversation, helpful info, and time to ask any general questions you might have. We'd love to see you there!



**Date:** Wednesday October 15, 2025

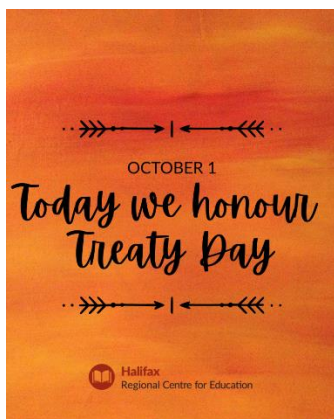


**Time:** 5:00pm-7:00pm



**Location:** North Branch Library, 2285 Gottingen St.

Snacks, smiles, and school talk—what more could you ask for? Can't make this one, no problem, we are planning more throughout the year!



## October 1 is Treaty Day:

Celebrating and recognizing Treaty Day is an important way we can strengthen understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures and histories. It highlights the significance of treaties as living agreements that shape relationships between Indigenous peoples and the government. By educating students about Treaty Day, we promote awareness of Indigenous rights and contributions and encourage reconciliation. This celebration helps build a more inclusive and respectful society, where students learn the importance of honouring commitments and working together for a

better future.

## October is Mi'kmaq History Month:

October is Mi'kmaq History Month, a time to celebrate and recognize the rich culture, history, and contributions of the Mi'kmaq people. In our schools, we can honour this month by incorporating Mi'kmaq stories, traditions and teachings into our curriculum. Activities such as guest speakers, art projects and cultural events can help students appreciate and understand the significance of Mi'kmaq heritage. Please join us in offering our respect, awareness and appreciation for the Mi'kmaq community and their enduring legacy. Learn more [here](#).

## School Bus Safety Week:



### October 20-24 is School Bus Safety Week

Student safety is a shared responsibility! During School Bus Safety Week, everyone can work together to ensure the safety of students on and around the school bus.

*Did you know that HRCE has more than 33,000 students who 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.

**Remember: In Nova Scotia, it's illegal to pass a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.**

You can find out more information about riding the school bus in HRCE [here](#).

### October is Canadian Library Month:



October is Canadian Library Month, a time to celebrate our wonderful libraries and the Library Support Specialists who support our students. The third Friday of the month is Canadian Library Workers Day and the fourth Monday is Canadian School Library Day. Please join us in thanking our school library workers for all they do every day in creating safe and welcoming spaces, encouraging a love of reading and helping students succeed in school and beyond. Learn more [here](#).

At SJAM, our LSS, Mr. Andrew welcomes students into our library space Tuesday and Thursdays each week.

### Upcoming Student Activities:

#### Cross Country Race

Students in grades 3-6 who have signed up for Cross Country will be coming home with permission forms Wednesday October 1, 2025. The race is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Please check the form for more information.

#### Dodgeball Intramurals

Intramurals for grades 3-6 will start mid October. If your child is interested encourage them to talk with Ms. Lucas or Reese.

## 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, October 14, 2025, 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, October 14th, 2025, at 6:00pm.** If you are interested, please reach out to Jamsie Coolican, SAC Chair, at [hrce-sac-sjam@gnspecs.ca](mailto:hrce-sac-sjam@gnspecs.ca) or Cheyanne Tolliver, Principal [cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca](mailto:cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca)



## Drop Off & Pick Up:

If you have visited our school, you know parking is very limited. Therefore, we ask that you respect that staff are arriving to start their workday and some to supervise your children so please **do not park in the parking lot between 8:00am-9:30am.**

If you are picking up your child at dismissal, meet them on the school playground, not in the front where students are being picked up by buses. Remember to call the office if you are picking up your child (s) at the end of the day. Dismissal time is busy, and we can't always get the message to teachers late afternoon so please make sure you call the office before 2:30pm. The best option is to reach out to the classroom teacher, the earlier the better.

Lastly, we ask that you are mindful of not parking in the bus lane at the start or the end of the school day.