



## Upcoming Events: February

### February is African Heritage Month!



**February 1-28:** 2026-2027  
School Registration (Online)

**Feb 4:** Global School Play Day

**Feb 10:** HSA 7-8pm (In Person)

**Feb 14:** Friendship Day

**Feb 16:** Heritage Day (No  
School)

**Feb 17:** SAC 6-7pm (online)

**Feb 11:** Lockdown Drill

**Feb 25:** African Heritage Month  
School Assembly (Students &  
Staff Only)

#### **Other Notable Dates:**

**Feb 2:** Groundhog Day

**Feb 17:** Lunar New Year

**Feb 17:** Random Acts of  
Kindness Day

**Feb 17:** Ramadan Begins

**Feb 18:** Ash Wednesday

## 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:

#### Happy February!

As we step into the second month of 2026, we are excited for all the learning, growth, and fun that lie ahead.

February is always full of opportunities—from recognizing and celebrating the contributions of African Nova Scotians during African Heritage Month, to new beginnings with Primary Registration, and continued joyful learning with Global Play Day. We know the after-school conversations will be full of excitement!

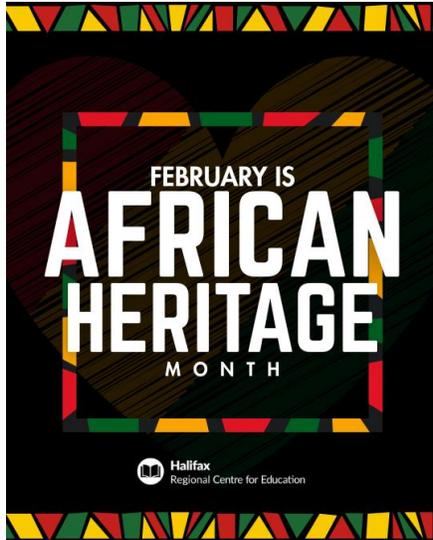
#### Important Registration Information:

As we begin collecting enrolment numbers for the 2026–2027 school year, please remember that if your child already attends SJAM and will be returning next year, you do **not** need to complete a new registration form. This includes current Pre-Primary students who live within the SJAM catchment area. However, if your child will **not** be returning in September 2026, please contact Ms. Harrison at 902-493-5180.

**We are urgently asking families who have moved to notify the school and submit an updated change of address.** As we prepare for the transition to our new

building, it is essential that we have accurate and up-to-date address information. This ensures we can plan effectively for student capacity within the SJAM catchment area and allocate resources appropriately. Families who live outside the SJAM catchment may submit an Out-of-Area Request beginning April 1, 2026. For all other registration details, please read on.

## Celebrate African Heritage Month 2026



February is recognized as African Heritage Month and while this rich history is embedded in our SJAM school culture and learning all year, this month we showcase the rich diversity, culture, and heritage of African Nova Scotians. The 2026 theme for African Heritage Month is: “Strength in Unity – Moving Forward with Purpose, Prosperity, Power and Progress.”

The theme reflects the strength that grows when communities come together with shared purpose. It honours the progress made through solidarity and the power of unity to create lasting change.

This year’s theme also highlights the importance of intergenerational connection. Elders, as knowledge keepers and leaders, carry the stories that help us understand where we come from. Youth bring new energy and vision to carry that legacy forward. Together, they show us that unity is not only our history. It’s our way forward.

In schools, African Heritage Month provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore African Nova Scotian histories and experiences, deepen their understanding of our shared past, and reflect on the values of respect, inclusion, and belonging. Through classroom learning, discussions, and activities connected to this year’s theme, students are encouraged to appreciate diversity, build empathy, and recognize the strength that comes from unity. These experiences help foster welcoming school communities and inspire students to contribute positively to a more inclusive and equitable future for all. African Heritage Month 2026 is an opportunity to educate, inspire, and celebrate the richness of African heritage in Nova Scotia every day.

**Are you a member of a historical Black community and willing to share your story? Are you an Elder/Knowledge keeper with wisdom to share? We’d love for you to visit with us. Please reach out to our principal Cheyanne Tolliver [cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca](mailto:cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca) to discuss ways you can be involved in enriching our student learning.**

Looking for ways to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month as a family?

- Attend events happening throughout the month at your local [Halifax Public Library](#).
- While you're at the library, [borrow books](#) that will inspire the whole family to learn more about African heritage.
- Visit local heritage sites, such as the [Black Cultural Centre](#), [the Africville Museum](#), and the [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#).
- The African Heritage Month 2026: Virtual Provincial Proclamation Launch and Poster Unveiling Ceremony can be viewed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaoVhFSShq>
- For more information about African Heritage Month visit
  - <https://discoverhalifaxns.com/things-to-do/where-to-celebrate-african-heritage-month-2026/>
  - <http://www.ahm.bccnsweb.com/wp/home>.
  - <https://ansa.novascotia.ca/african-heritage-month>

## Registration Month



Do you have or know a child who will be starting Pre Primary or Primary this fall? It's time to register!

Registration for the 2026-27 school year begins on Monday, February 2. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

**Tip:** Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers if you are new to the HRCE
- Proof of home address with one of the following: a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment, a mortgage contract or a residential lease agreement

Visit the [HRCE website](#) for more information and to enrol your child today through PowerSchool Enrollment!

Don't have a child to register? Maybe you know someone who does! Please help us spread the word and pass this information on to friends, neighbours or relatives who will be looking to register for the fall.

## [Heritage Day Honors Joseph Willie Comeau](#)

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is celebrated on Monday, February 16, and provides an opportunity for students and families to learn more about the people, stories, and events that have shaped our province. Each year, Heritage Day honours a notable Nova Scotian, and in 2026 we recognize Joseph William Comeau, an important Acadian poet, writer, and cultural leader.

Joseph William Comeau is remembered for his contributions to Acadian literature and for helping to preserve and promote Acadian language, identity, and culture in Nova Scotia. His work reflected the everyday lives, resilience, and traditions of Acadian communities, and his legacy continues to influence Acadian culture today.

Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to explore Nova Scotia's diverse history and to better understand how individuals from different backgrounds have contributed to our shared story. Learning about Joseph William Comeau helps students appreciate the richness of Acadian heritage and the importance of preserving culture, language, and community.

## [Global School Play Day](#)



On Wednesday, February 4th, 2026, SJAM classes will in some form be participating in Global School Play Day. This day of complete play gives your child the chance to interact with his/her peers in an unstructured (but fully supervised) environment to help foster communication, creativity and problem-solving skills. Essentially, it gives kids the chance to be kids and just play! Dr. Peter Gray gave a TEDX Talk (16mins) called The Decline of Play, where the benefits of unstructured play are outlined. Click here to find out more info <https://www.globalschoolplayday.com/>

## [SJAM Basketball Team](#)



Congratulations to all students who made the SJAM Basketball Team! Big shout out to everyone who came and tried out, we wish we could have taken everyone!

Thank you also to Ms. Young, Ms. Lucas, Mme. Swinamer, Mme. Thakkar, and Mr. Walter who volunteer their time to organize and make this

experience happen for our students.

All practices and home games are at Studley Gym so students will walk over with their teacher coaches after school and families are responsible for picking up their child after games. Practices will take place during lunch at Studley Gym. Students are asked to come prepared with their basketball gear.

### **Practices for Players Schedule:**

Every Thursday @ Lunch

### **Game Schedule: All games begin at 3:30-3:45pm**

### **First Scheduled Games:**

**January 30<sup>th</sup>** vs Oxford at Oxford Jr. High

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>** vs Joe Howe at Joe Howe Elementary

**February 5<sup>th</sup>** vs St Stephens at St Stephens Elementary

**February 10<sup>th</sup>** vs Westmount at Studley Gym (Dal)

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** vs St. Catherine's at St. Catherine's Elementary

Come show your support!!

## [SJAM School Advisory Council \(SAC\)/Home & School Association \(HSA\)](#)

Both our School Advisory Council and Home & School Association are completely organized by wonderful staff, family, and community volunteers who continually give of their time and expertise each month to improve and maintain a safe, fun, and inclusive learning environment for all SJAM students.



**The next meeting for HSA will be the evening of February 10<sup>th</sup> - 7-8pm, in person @ Chainyard Urban Cidery & Taproom.**

**SAC meeting will be online February 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm**

In the meantime, if you'd like to become a member please reach out to either the Principal, Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver (Ms. T) at [cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca](mailto:cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca) or our council and committee chairs, Jamesie Coolican (SAC) at [hrce-sac-sjam@gnspe.ca](mailto:hrce-sac-sjam@gnspe.ca) and Erin Galliot (Home & School Association) at [sjamhomeandschool@hotmail.com](mailto:sjamhomeandschool@hotmail.com)

## **Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish**



**UPCOMING FREE EVENT!**  
**Thriving Offline:**  
 How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish

When: Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm ADT  
 Where: St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, NS  
 (Virtual Zoom option available)  
 Register: [UnpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca](https://unpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca)  
 Connect with other parents in our supportive community!

Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish, a free community event hosted by Unplugged Canada at St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, is available both in person and virtually.

Designed for caregivers and educators, this session will explore how early smartphone and social media use impacts children's development and the latest research, practical strategies, safer alternatives, and age-appropriate boundaries to support healthy childhoods.

### **Join us! Thriving Offline: How Delaying Smartphones Can Help Kids Flourish**

- Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
- St. Margaret's Bay Elementary - 24 Ridgewood Dr, Head of St Margaret's Bay, NS
- Please register for in-person or virtual [here](https://unpluggedNSThrivingOffline.eventbrite.ca).

## **Two Truths & AI-Common Sense Education**

Two Truths & AI is a free, interactive activity from Common Sense Education that helps students learn how to tell the difference between real and AI-generated content. Through guided examples, students practice asking good questions and thinking critically about what they see online. This resource can also be a helpful way for parents and caregivers to build their own understanding of AI and media literacy alongside their children. Learn more [here](#).

## **Life @ SJAM2**

January was all about resetting back into routines and the job of learning. However, a few activities took place:

\*Dodgeball Intramurals were held during lunch for grades 3-6.

\*Little Jammers Glee Club started for grades 1-5.

\*Dalhousie University Students have been volunteering supporting classrooms during Literacy, we are so appreciative of our Dal Tiger Readers!

\*GSA/Rainbow Club, Pokemon Club, Bracelet Club continue to be offered.

That's it for this month, remember, reach out anytime!

Your SJAM Admin Team

