



### Upcoming Events: June



**June 1-** Grade 6 Track Meet

**June 2-**Grade 5 Track Meet

**June 3-**Grade 4 Track Meet

**June 9-**Primary Orientation  
3:30-4:00pm

**June 9:** SAC 6-7pm @SJAM

**June 16:** HSA 6:30-8pm

**June 18:** Grade 6 Closing  
Celebration

**June 19:** SJAMboree

**June 29:** Assessment &  
Evaluation Day (no school for  
students)

**June 30: Last Day of School**

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

National Indigenous History  
Month

**June 21** is National Indigenous  
Peoples Day

Italian Heritage Month  
Filipino Heritage Month  
Portuguese Heritage Month

## 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

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### 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 always a time for reflection, celebration, and looking ahead to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. This year is especially meaningful for our school community as we are ending the year back in our community in our beautiful new building. We are thrilled that September 2026 will mark the beginning of a full school year back in our space.

The end of the school year also brings some bittersweet news with the announcement of retirement for two long serving SJAM Staff Members.

Firstly, we'd like to recognize and celebrate a truly extraordinary teacher who after **30 years of dedicated service at SJAM** (37 with HRCE), will be retiring this June.

For three decades, **Paulette O'Connor (Ms. O'Connor)** has been an integral part of our school community, leaving a lasting impact on generations of learners and families. It is not uncommon to hear stories of her teaching **generations of children**—a testament to the deep and meaningful connections she has built over the years!

She is especially known for her unforgettable **Grade 6 field trips**, experiences that have created lasting memories for students year after year. Her commitment to enriching student

life extends even further through her instrumental role in ensuring SJAM students could participate in the **Santa Flight program**, bringing joy and opportunity to so many.

Her dedication to education and cultural learning has been recognized beyond our school as well. Earlier this year, she received an award from the **Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute** for being the **longest-contributing educator to the African Nova Scotian History Challenge**, having guided her students’ participation for all **20 years** of the program. This is a remarkable achievement and a reflection of her passion for equity, representation, and meaningful learning.

The hallways of SJAM—and especially the Grade 6 classroom—will truly never be the same. Her energy, care, and commitment have shaped our school in lasting ways.



On behalf of our entire school community, we extend our deepest gratitude for her tireless contributions and unwavering dedication. We wish her all the very best as she begins this exciting new chapter.

*Ms. O'Connor* 💙 💛

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We also take time to honour another very special member of our school community. It is with both gratitude and mixed emotions that we also announce the retirement of **Ms. Beverly DeWolfe (Ms. Dewolfe)**, a dedicated EPA (Education Program Assistant) who has given so many years of compassionate service to our students.

Ms. DeWolfe has been a steadfast support to students with complex needs, providing care that goes far beyond her role. Her calm, steady presence has been a source of comfort for countless students, helping them feel safe, understood, and ready to learn. She has a remarkable ability to create an environment where students feel valued and supported, especially during moments of challenge or frustration.

Known for her deep commitment to student well-being, Ms. DeWolfe has always been a strong advocate for her students. She ensures their voices are heard, and that they know someone is always there to listen. Whether supporting academic growth or helping students navigate social situations, she approaches each interaction with patience, fairness, and genuine care.

One of the many things that makes Ms. DeWolfe so special is the effort she puts into truly knowing her students—their interests, passions, and strengths. She often uses this knowledge to creatively engage them in learning, frequently going above and beyond—even at her own personal expense—to make sure each child feels connected and motivated.

We will also certainly miss seeing her outside in her orange vest, supervising and supporting students during outdoor play. She has often been a trusted and fair sounding board, helping students work through differences and build positive relationships.



Ms. DeWolfe's absence will be truly felt throughout our school. Her kindness, dedication, and unwavering support have made SJAM a better place for students and staff alike.

On behalf of our entire school community, we thank Ms. DeWolfe for her extraordinary contributions and the care she has shown to every child she has worked with. We wish her all the best in this next chapter—it is so well deserved.

*Ms. DeWolfe* ❤️ 🧡

**If you would like to share a message, memory, or well wishes for Ms. O'Connor and/or Ms. DeWolfe we warmly invite you to send them through the school's email address [sjam@hrce.ca](mailto:sjam@hrce.ca) so we can ensure they receive the recognition they so greatly deserve.**

Thank you for everything—you both will always be a part of the SJAM family. ❤️ 🧡

## Bell Changes for 2026-2027

### **Morning Entry – Soft Start**

- Doors will open at **8:30am.** for a soft start.
- All students are welcome to enter the building at this time.
- There will be **no outside line-up**, helping to reduce congestion and ease morning traffic.
- Buses drop off will be in the range of 8:30-8:50am.

### **Start of Instruction**

- The instructional day will begin at **8:50am.**

### **Recess**

- Primary–Grade 2: **10:20–10:35am.**
- Grades 3–6: **10:35–10:50am.**

### **Lunch**

- Lunch will run from **11:50am.–12:50pm.**
- Students will have 30 minutes eating and outdoor periods in staggered shifts:
  - **Primary–Grade 2:** Eating 11:50am–12:20pm, Outdoor 12:20pm–12:50pm
  - **Grades 3–6:** Outdoor 11:50am–12:20pm, Eating 12:20pm–12:50pm

### **Dismissal**

- School will be dismissed at **2:50 pm.**
- Bus pickup will be in the range of **2:50-3:10pm.**

## HRCE Calendar

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

- **June 29:** 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 include 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!



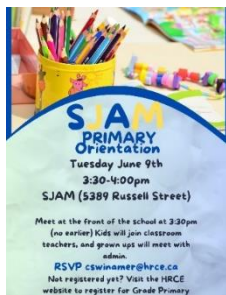
**Elementary Provincial Track & Field Meet** will take place: Grade 6s on June 1, Grade 5s on June 2, and Grade 4s on June 3 at Beazley Field.

Please reach out to Ms. Lucas if you can help with transportation or if you have any other questions, [hayley.lucas@hrce.ca](mailto: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 18<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm at in our gymnasium. Students will be dismissed home after the celebration.

**SJAMBoree** will be celebrated on Friday June 19<sup>th</sup>. 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. There will be no rain date.

## Primary Orientation (for students entering 2026-2027)



Feel free to share this notice with friends and family who you know will have children entering SJAM for grade Primary in 2026-2027.

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

Please meet at the front entrance for 3:30pm, children will go with teachers, parents with Administration.

RSVP to [cswinamer@hrce.ca](mailto:cswinamer@hrce.ca)

## End of Year

As June 30<sup>th</sup> approaches, here are some things for families to note:

- There is no school for students on June 29<sup>th</sup>. This is an Assessment & Evaluation Day for Teachers.
- Report Cards will be sent home electronically on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure the school has your updated email address.
- If you don't receive your child's report card on the 30<sup>th</sup> you can email [sjam@hrce.ca](mailto:sjam@hrce.ca) and either the Vice Principal or Principal will reach out.
- On June 30<sup>th</sup> students will start to be dismissed at 11:10am. For students taking the bus, they will board anytime between 11am-12m.
- Class Supply Lists will be posted on the website <https://sje.hrce.ca/> on or before June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 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***

After a long and snow-filled winter, we're finally headed toward summer – a season when many people spend time at Nova Scotia's beautiful beaches, parks, and wooded areas. However, we need to be mindful of the presence of ticks and how we can protect ourselves. Nova Scotia is home to several kinds of ticks, but only blacklegged tick bites can cause illnesses like Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and Powassan virus. Tick-borne diseases can lead to serious illness, especially if they are not noticed and treated quickly.

It's important that we all know what to do about ticks, so if you've asked yourself any of these questions lately:

- What does a tick look like?
- What do I do if I find a tick on me or my child?
- What symptoms should I be aware of?
- How can I prevent ticks?

Visit [NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety](https://NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety) to learn more.

## 2026-2027 Bus Information



Information about student transportation for the 2026-27 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](mailto: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](mailto: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)

### Curious about the SJAM School Advisory Council?



- The SAC is a group of parent, staff, and community volunteer members who meet once a month to support and advise the school team on the academic achievement and well-being of students who attend SJAM.
- Did you know that anyone can attend an SAC meeting? Come check it out on **Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm at SJAM.**
- We will be looking for new members to join in September, so now is a great time to scope it out!

If you have any questions reach out to either the Principal, Cheyanne

Gorman-Tolliver (Ms. T) at [cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca](mailto:cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca) or SAC chair Jamesie Coolican at [hrce-sac-sjam@gnsps.ca](mailto:hrce-sac-sjam@gnsps.ca)

## Home & School Association (HSA)



Join us! We meet in person and online (via 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.

**The next meeting for HSA will be in person (at SJAM) on Tuesday June 16, 2026, 6:30-8pm.**

If you'd like to become a member or just pop in and see what's it all about before becoming 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 committee chair, Erin Galliot, at [sjamhomeandschool@hotmail.com](mailto:sjamhomeandschool@hotmail.com)

## [Life @ SJAM](#)

We had a wonderful Spring Concert and debuted another original SJAM song, "Farewell To That Old Building", and held a tremendous Black Excellence Assembly, featuring Spoken Word, Drumming, Singing and an outstanding performance by SJAM's Black Excellence Dance Crew!

We had one of the best Spring Fairs we've had in a long time this past weekend! Many, many thanks to our Home & School Association for leading this important fundraiser for our school. Many, many thanks also to our staff and family volunteers who we could not do this without! Your support is appreciated beyond words. A huge shout out to our Teacher Representative on HSA, **Claire Swinamer!** The level of commitment and the hours upon hours she put in behind the scenes, we could not imagine this event without her energy, organization, and 'friendly nudge' to get those volunteer spots filled! THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! See you all next year!

Finally, stay tuned for a busy June with end of year field trips, SJAMBoree, Grade 6 Closing Celebration, and our Pride Month activities. 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**

