

# ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

**PRINCIPAL: CHEYANNE GORMAN-TOLLIVER**

**VICE PRINCIPAL: EMILY JOHNSON**

**ADMIN ASSISTANT: SANDY HARRISON**



## Upcoming Dates:

**Sept 7: First Day for Students**

**Sept 19-SAC 6pm**

**Sept 19-H& S 7pm**

**Sept 28- 6:00-7:30 SJAM Curriculum Night**

**October 2: Recognition of Truth & Reconciliation Day (No Classes)**

## Contacts:

**Phone:** 902- 493-5180

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

PowerSchool Portal:

<https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/>

School Messenger App

**Fax:** 902- 493-5186

**Website:** <https://sje.hrce.ca/>

**Email:** [sjam@hrce.ca](mailto:sjam@hrce.ca)

Follow us on **Twitter**

@SJAMSchool & the **SJAM**

**Home & School Facebook**

**Page.** Remember to check

the school website at

<https://sje.hrce.ca/> for

updated information.

## Dear SJAM Family:

We are excited to welcome families and students back to SJAM for the 2023-2024 School Year! The school-based team has worked hard to ensure that our classrooms and school community have been set up to be a safe and inclusive learning space for everyone.

Our school takes pride in being a caring and supportive place for our students and their families. The academic achievement and well-being of your child (s) is our foremost thought. As partners, working together for the success of your child, we are more than happy to answer any questions which may arise. The first point of contact is always the classroom teacher. If for some reason your conversation with the teacher has not resolved the situation, a parent may contact the school vice principal, and thereafter the school principal. Working through a concern may take time and so we want to remind everyone that it is never acceptable to post negative comments about our school or any staff member on any social media and it is equally unacceptable to post private conversations between a family member and school staff. Remember we are partners with the same goal: the academic achievement and well being of your child (s).

Please be reminded that at this time of year bus pick up and drop off times will be a bit slower with the return of so many students to school and the extra traffic as a result. Check your child's bus stop information at <https://hrce.mybusplanner.ca/> We encourage you to

contact Transportation directly with any questions or concerns: [Transportation@hrce.ca](mailto:Transportation@hrce.ca) or **902.431.4723**

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.

## **SJAM Home and School Association!**

Join us! We meet **(Via Zoom)** 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.

All you need to do is email us at [sjamhomeandschool@hotmail.com](mailto:sjamhomeandschool@hotmail.com) and let us know that you would like to receive the invites to our monthly Zoom meetings and we can send you the link.



Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 19, 2023 on Zoom. We will be hosting our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 7:00pm, followed directly by our first regular monthly meeting of the 2023-2024 school year. All our welcome, but only voting members will be able to participate in the AGM, after which all others will be unmuted for the regular meeting. 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, Regional Centre for Education, and the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial 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.

For more on the role of the SAC visit HRCE website <https://www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/school-administration/school-advisory-councils>



**Our next meeting is Tuesday September 19th at 6pm via Zoom.** If you are interested, please reach out to Ben Stone, 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)

## 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.

## 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 triggers 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 now 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). 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 playground behind the school, 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 Policy



Students are **not** permitted to have cell phones at school. If you need to reach them or they need to call home, the office is always available 902-493-5180. If students should come to school with cell phones or other technology from home, classroom teachers will have a safe spot to keep until the end of the day. If students refuse to turn in their phone it will be kept in the office until the end

of the day and a call home will be made.

## 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.

The **School Steering Team (SST)**, comprised of HRCE staff, provincial staff, SJAM school staff, architects, SAC members and parents/guardians are discussing the design of the new building and will communicate this to the community as the process continues. For more information please click here:

[www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/operations-services/capital-projects/replacement-school-sjam](http://www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/operations-services/capital-projects/replacement-school-sjam)

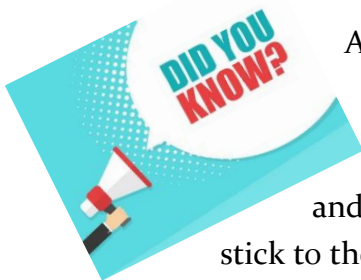
## RECESS & LUNCH

- 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 23/24 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.*

## HRCE Policy on Head Lice at School:



A school-wide notice will be sent home to all parents/guardians when school staff suspect a case of head lice. *What Are Head Lice?*

Head lice are tiny insects and parasites that live on the human body and are most often attached to clean hair. Their eggs, also called nits, stick to the hair shaft, very close to the scalp. Head lice are spread most easily through direct head-to-head contact or through personal items used on the head or in the hair (e.g., hats, combs, brushes, ponytail holders).

Head lice are a common condition that can affect anyone. If your child has head lice, they can come back to school once treated. Nova Scotia Public Health recommends two head lice treatments (visit the link at the end of these guidelines for more information) to completely break the head lice cycle. The second treatment should be used 7 to 10 days after the first or as directed by the product. The first treatment kills live head lice. Some lice may hatch after it

but they are adolescent nits and cannot lay eggs. Combing your child(ren)'s hair and removing nits is a daily requirement. The second treatment kills the adolescent nits and breaks the head lice cycle.

**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:

[www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf](http://www.novascotia.ca/dhw/publications/public-health-education/07135-head-lice-pamphlet-en.pdf)