

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: CHEYANNE GORMAN-TOLLIVER

VICE PRINCIPAL: EMILY JOHNSON

ADMIN ASSISTANT: SANDY HARRISON



Upcoming Dates:

Oct. 2: Truth & Reconciliation Day (no classes)

Oct. 4 & 5: Grade 6 Provincial Assessments (Reading & Writing)

Oct. 9-Thanksgiving Day (no classes)

Oct. 11 & 12-Grade 6 Provincial Assessments (Math)

Oct. 17: SAC 6pm via online
Home & School 7pm via online

Oct. 20: Bus Evacuation Drill

Oct. 24&25: Picture Day

Oct. 27: Provincial Conference Day (no classes)

Oct. 31: Halloween

Contacts:

Phone: 902- 493-5180

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

Email: sjam@hrce.ca

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

Follow us on **Twitter**

@SJAMSchool & the **SJAM**

Home & School Facebook Page.

Dear SJAM Family:

Welcome to October! Students are settling into daily school routines, allowing teaching and learning to thrive. At SJAM, we continue to place a primary importance on relationships, routines and well-being to promote student success! A reminder to send your child to school with a labelled, reusable water bottle. We do not have cups or bottles to give out at school but we do have water filling stations. Fall season is upon us; please remember to dress for being outside! 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. HRCE does not have an official policy on weather but guidelines can be found here [Weather Guidelines for School](#). Also continue to remind them to be responsible for their belongings, our Lost & Found is filling up.

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!



Ensuring the safe dismissal of over 350 students at the end of the day is our priority. We ask that you keep the following reminders top of mind for your child's dismissal plans.

- ❖ at 3:10pm dismissal students that are being picked up will be supervised in the playground
- ❖ if you are picking up your child (s) before 3:10 dismissal, call the school by 2:30pm. There is no guarantee the office can take messages towards the end of the day.
- ❖ if your child (s) dismissal plans change, email the classroom teacher first!

A Note from the SJAM Home and School Association & our School Advisory Committee (SAC)!

H&S:

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 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 next meeting is Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 7:00pm. Hope to see you then!

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.

Our next meeting is Tuesday October 17th at 6pm via Zoom. If you are interested, please reach out to Ben Stone, SAC Chair, at hrce-sac-sjam@gnspe.ca or Cheyanne Tolliver, Principal cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca

COMING SOON!

SJAM Home & School Association is pleased to offer SJAM Clothing sales again this year! This year's sale will include: Classic Royal Blue, youth and adult T-Shirts, Hoodies, Zip-Up Hoodies, Ball Caps, and Toques! **NEW THIS YEAR! Gold**, youth and adult T-shirts, Hoodies and **Yellow** Ball Caps. The sale will launch soon! Watch for an email from sjam@hrce.ca with more

order details and a link to the online order form. Orders will be collected through an online order form and e-transfers. The order deadline will be sometime before the end of October. If a family requires an alternative form of payment or support please reach out directly to Principal Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver by email cgorman-tolliver@gnspes.ca or phone (902-493-5180) If you have any questions about SJAM Clothing Sales, please email: sjamhomeandschool@hotmail.com.

Keep an eye on your inbox!

African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker Program



The African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker operates to promote a school climate that is culturally safe, supportive, and respectful. At SJAM, our ANSSSW, Mr. Trevor Walter, supports our students of African Ancestry in the areas of: Home/School Liaison, Cultural Enrichment, Classroom Support, and Student Advocacy. Mr. Walter works onsite at SJAM from Wednesday-Friday every week. For more information or to contact Mr.

Walter please call 902-493-5180 or by email twalter@hrce.ca

Emergency Management Plans



All HRCE schools have Emergency Management Plans, which are reviewed, updated and practiced every year. These plans have three responses to an emergency situation: *Shelter in Place*, *Evacuation*, and *Relocation*.

- *Shelter in Place* involves either a *Hold and Secure* (where no one enters or exits the building, but those inside may be able to move around) or a *Lockdown* (where no one enters or exits the building and all students and staff are concealed in a secure location, away from doors and windows).
- *Evacuation* involves all students and staff exiting the building but remaining on the property.
- *Relocation* involves all students and staff moving from the school property to another nearby site.
- It is also important to note that HRCE can respond to an emergency evacuation using our large network of school buses. There are more than 400 school buses on the road every day.

School Bus Safety Week



October 16-23, 2023 is School Bus Safety Week in Nova Scotia! Did you know that HRCE has more than 30,000 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. SJAM students will be practicing their bus evacuation drill on October 20th.

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

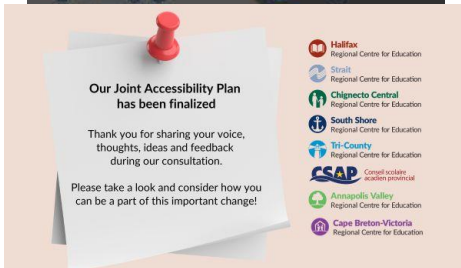
- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- 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.

You can find out more information about School Bus Safety Week, including more safety tips, [here](#).



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



Joint Accessibility Plan

HRCE, along with Nova Scotia’s six other regional centres for education and Conseil scolaire provincial have been developing a multi-year plan to ensure accessibility in public education. This is part of a bigger goal for an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Last February, Nova Scotian families and staff across the province were invited to review the draft plan and submit feedback. We sincerely appreciate everyone who contributed and shared their voice. Your thoughts, ideas and feedback during the consultation were invaluable. HRCE is excited to let you know that with your input, the Joint Accessibility Plan has been finalized. [Click here](#) to see the plan. Next, HRCE will start to develop an implementation plan for our region. You can expect more updates as we continue the important work of creating accessible public education in Nova Scotia.