

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: CHEYANNE GORMAN-TOLLIVER

VICE PRINCIPAL: EMILY JOHNSON

ADMIN ASSISTANT: SANDY HARRISON



Upcoming Dates:

Nov 7: Picture Orders Due

Nov 8: Indigenous Veterans Day

Nov 10: SJAM Remembrance Day Outdoor Assembly
10:30am

Nov 10: SJAM Clothing Order Due

Nov 13: Remembrance Day
(no school)

Nov 13-19: Transgender Awareness Week

Nov 14: SAC 6pm
Home & School 7pm

Nov 17: Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students)

Nov 22: Picture Retake Day & Sibling Picture Day

Nov 23: PD Day AM-no school for students

Nov 23: Parent Teacher Conferences 1-4pm & 5:30-7pm (no school for students)

Nov 24: Schools Plus @ MPCLC 10am-12pm

Nov 28-30: Report Cards go home.

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 November! The end of Term 1 is upon us which means at the end of the month you will receive your child's first report card of the 2023-2024 school year. We will send out more information as the date gets near so stay tuned.

At SJAM we believe that students are more successful when there is ongoing and effective communication between school and home. Not just during report card time, but many times during the year there will be communication with you about your child's progress.

Assessment is an important part of that communication and the teaching and learning process. A great deal of classroom assessment happens ongoing throughout the year and is designed to help the teacher monitor progress and make decisions about next steps for instruction. Regular attendance greatly supports student success and achievement. It is key that parents/guardians and teachers work together to maintain regular communication regarding students' learning, progress, and well-being. Students will be provided with a variety of opportunities and ways to demonstrate their learning. Teachers will provide timely feedback to students during and after learning opportunities.

Student learning will be assessed using conversations with students, observations of learning, and products students create to show their learning. At the end of each reporting

period teachers will review the evidence of learning they have gathered and will use this information to report to Parent/Guardians about the student's progress in relation to the grade level outcomes.

At any time, if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's learning, please begin with your child's teacher—they are in the best position to discuss the matter. If the concern is unresolved, please contact Administration; Cheyanne Tolliver (Principal) or Emily Johnson (Vice-Principal). Our focus will always be working together to resolve the issue with the best interests of the student in mind.

Stay informed by visiting our school website at <https://sje.hrce.ca/>. You will find our newsletters, calendars, information about our school day, bell schedule, powerschool login, staff contacts, and other important information.

Winter is here! Again, we are sending the message home to families to stress the importance of students coming to school dressed 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](#). We also need Parents & Guardians to reinforce the message that if students come with outdoor wear (coat, hat, mitts, etc) they need to wear it outside—end of story. Also, staff are picking up a number of sweaters and coats left behind on the playground, so students need to be reminded from home to take care of their belongings—even if your child is in Primary. If a family needs support with outdoor wear please reach out to the school, we are more than happy to help!

Inclement Weather:

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or

- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- On our website www.hrce.ca
- On X (formerly Twitter) at [Twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- On Instagram at www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.



Visit hrce.ca/weather for everything you need to know about how weather could impact the operation of our school.



For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/weather

Home & 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 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, November 14th, 2023 at 7:00pm. Hope to see you then!

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.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 14th at 6pm via Zoom. If you are interested, please reach out to Ben Stone, SAC Chair, at hrce-sac-sjam@gnspecs.ca or Cheyanne Tolliver, Principal cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca

A Message from Home & School Association:

Attention SJAM families and staff,

The Home & School Association is pleased to offer the SJAM Clothing Sale again this year! The sale is on now and includes t-shirts, hoodies (regular and zip-up), winter toques and ball caps. NEW THIS YEAR - the t-shirts, regular hoodies and ball caps also come in GOLD!



Visit the SJAM Clothing Sale by clicking on this online order form link:

[SJAM Clothing Order Form](#)

Orders will be collected through the online order form and payments via e-transfers. The deadline to place your order and provide payment is FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10th at 11:59 pm.

If a family requires an alternative form of payment or support, please reach out directly to Principal Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver by email cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca or phone (902-493-5180).

If you have any questions about the SJAM Clothing Sale, please email:

sjamhomeandschool@hotmail.com

Happy Shopping!
SJAM Home & School Association

SJAM School Life:

Students have been busy this past month.

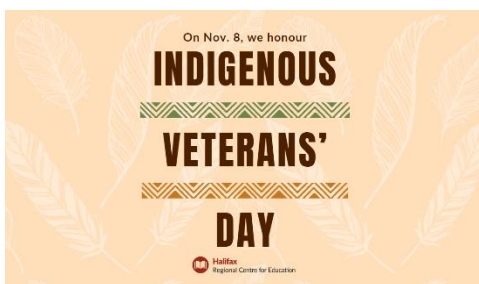
- ❖ Grade 6 students wrote 4 days of Provincial Assessments in Math & Literacy
- ❖ Grades 3-6 students attended the Milk Sports Fair
- ❖ We practiced all of our emergency safety drills: fire, hold & secure, lockdown, and bus evacuation.
- ❖ Held an outdoor assembly to honor Truth & Reconciliation Day
- ❖ Many classes ventured out to explore the community linking activities to outcomes.
- ❖ We had a whole school clean up day to beautify our playground and learn about the importance of taking care of our environment.
- ❖ We raised \$350 for the Terry Fox Foundation.
- ❖ Our African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker (ANSSSW), Trevor Walter, is running a swim and basketball skills program in partnership with DAL
- ❖ Grade Two Ms. Mott is participating in the Roots of Empathy Program
- ❖ Patch visited Grade 3 Darwish & Grade 4/5 North to run an enriching workshop with the focus on inclusion and PRIDE. Lots of great conversations were had as the classes collaborated to create Pride Flag color banners for each SJAM classroom.
- ❖ The Youth Project in partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, will be offering educational workshops to classes at SJAM. Workshops can include:

P-3: Reading a Storybook that facilitates discussions on diversity, kindness, respect, and friendship.

4: Presentation and discussion about stereotypes around body, gender, and expression; Introduction of terms and topics related to gender affirming care and allyship.

5-6: A 101 workshop that looks at gender identity, sexual orientation, homophobia, transphobia, and allyship.

Remembrance Day & Indigenous Veterans Day:



On November 8, we honour Indigenous Veterans who have served in missions in times of war and peace. While not often enough acknowledged, the military service of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada has deep roots.

On November 11, we pause and reflect on the sacrifice of our

veterans, past and present. Lest we forget.



On Friday November 10, SJAM Students & Staff will gather for an outdoor assembly (weather permitting) at 10:30 to honor our service people. Families are welcome to join.



Transgender Awareness Week:

Observed annually from November 13-19, Transgender Awareness Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness and acknowledge the positive contributions made daily by members of the transgender community. The week concludes with Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, a day on

which we memorialize victims of transphobic violence.

Be An Ally:

An ally is someone who supports, stands with and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. to listen with an open mind. It people with dignity and **to ensure our school inclusive for all. Please join to your children about how are never too young to be**



actively and consistently advocates for the The best way to be an ally is is our responsibility to treat all kindness. **At SJAM we work community is safe and us in being an ally and talk they can be an ally too! You kind!**



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

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



Hello SJAM families!

For those who haven't yet met me, I am the Community Outreach Worker with SchoolsPlus. It's hard to believe it, but it's getting closer to the Holiday Season! While the Holidays approaching for some is joyous, others can find this to be a stressful time. With consideration of that, here is some great information that Feed Nova Scotia has posted about how to access food and gift supports in HRM:

Salvation Army: Starting Monday, October 23, you can register online at hmcchristmas.ca or in person at 2038 Gottingen Street in Halifax. If you have questions, call 902-422-1598.
Parker Street: Starting Monday, October 2, you can register online at parkerstreet.org or by visiting in person Monday to Friday, between 8:30am and 12pm or between 1pm and 3pm. For more information, call 902-425-2125 and select option 1. There are over 40 other organizations in Halifax Regional Municipality that offer food and/or gift support for Christmas. If there is one you are familiar with, check with them about registering for support. 211 will also have some information about certain organizations offering holiday food and gift support programs. You can contact them to see if there are support options in your area. Starting Wednesday, November 1, requests can be submitted online at feednovascotia.ca/find-food/find-christmas-support. Starting Wednesday, November 8, requests can be submitted over the phone by calling 902-457-2849 and staff will be available 9am until 4pm, Monday to Friday.

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE Most organizations that participate in the Christmas Registry program provide food for holiday meals and gifts for children.

DEADLINES FOR REGISTRATION Individual organizations will have their own registration deadlines, but generally the sooner you register, the better.

HOW WILL I HEAR ABOUT SUPPORT If your support was not confirmed when you registered with an organization, most organizations will be contacting people by early to mid-December. If you haven't heard back about your support by December 13, contact the organization you registered with. Note: If you were a recipient of Income Assistance in the month of September, you will have received a Christmas registration form and information sheet in the mail. The form can be mailed in, but you are welcome to register through any of the other ways above instead.

If you have questions or want some confidential support with applications, access to resources, or any other supports, please feel free to let me know. Brenda McNutt, Community Outreach Worker bmcnutt@hrce.ca 902-233-4395

SchoolsPlus staff will be at the
Mulgrave Park Caring and Learning Centre
Friday, November 24 10am-12pm
Come say “Hi”!

While at the Centre, we will be helping families with:

- Applications to the HRM Recreation Subsidy through <https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/programs-activities> -- qualifying families will get free access to all of HRM Rec’s programs and activities for their whole family for 2024.
- Applications for the Home Heating Rebate. Eligible families can receive \$600 toward the cost of heating their home. To qualify, families must pay for their own heat, and meet 1 of the following criteria:
 - *have a 2022 net income of \$55,000 or less and live alone with no kids or dependents*
 - *have a combined 2022 net household income of \$75,000 or less and live with kids, dependents or other adults*
 - *receive Income Assistance from the Department of Community Services*
 - *receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or the Allowance from Service Canada*

If you plan to stop by for help with these forms, please make sure you have the full name and birthdate for everyone in your home, a photo ID, and for the Home Heating Rebate, please have your Social Insurance Number (SIN number) with you.