

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: CHEYANNE GORMAN-TOLLIVER

VICE PRINCIPAL: EMILY JOHNSON

ADMIN ASSISTANT: SANDY HARRISON



Upcoming Dates:

Dec. 1: Hydrostone Tree Lighting featuring SJAM Choir

Dec. 6: Grades P-2 Winter Concert 6-7pm

Dec. 4: Professional Learning Day (no school for students)

Dec. 12: SAC Meeting via Zoom 6-7pm

Home & School Association Meeting (via Zoom) 7-8pm.

Dec.19: Lost & Found donated to local organization

Dec.20th: Last day of school before the break!

Jan. 2, 2024: Back to School after break!

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

Can you believe December is here and we are in Term Two already! Thank you to all families who visited for Parent/Teacher Conferences either in person at school, at the Mulgrave Caring & Learning Ctr., or by telephone. We cannot do what we do without your involvement!

We wish you all a wonderful holiday break and look forward to a great year together in 2024!

A Message from our Vice Principal

Dear SJAM Families,

It's been a busy couple of months but I'm deeply grateful to be back at SJAM and a part of this special community of staff, students and families. I'm taking a few weeks off before my family welcomes our third child in early January. I'm looking forward to staying connected to the school as a parent and returning as Vice-Principal in January 2025! I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

All my best,
Emily



Administration Update

Please join us in sending well wishes to Mme. Johnson and her family! From December 5-20th we have another returning staff member to fill in the role of VP, Patrica Woodbury. We are also happy to announce that from January 2, 2024 to January 1, 2025, our current Grade 2 teacher, Katie Mott, will be filling in the role of Acting Vice Principal. Katie (Ms. Mott) has been a teacher at SJAM for the past nine years and has been an instrumental part of ensuring students feel safe, included, and successful at school. The replacement for Katie in the classroom will hopefully be announced before we break for the holiday. Please know that we are doing everything possible to ensure a smooth transition and Katie will still be onsite every day.

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, December 12th, 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, December 12th 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

An SJAM Winter Concert!



We are bringing back the SJAM School Concert! This year we will be having a Winter Concert featuring students in Grade P-2 and then in the Spring we will host another concert featuring grades 3-6! Stay tuned for those details. Please note that Ms. Williams grade 2/3 class will perform in the Spring Concert.

While we are so thrilled to welcome back these events, we are going to need your

support in ensuring the event is a success. Please note the following:

- Student arrival time is 5:15pm using the main entrance of St. Mark's Anglican Church.
- There is no dress code, any props will be provided by school.
- No outside food or drink is allowed except for water bottles. We want to be respectful of the generous offer of our host venue.
- There will be reserved seats at the front for classes to sit with their teacher.
- We encourage families to stay for the whole show and not leave after their child's performance. All of the students are working so hard to showcase their talents for you!

Can't wait to see you all there!

School Messenger App

Did you know?

You can report your child's absence through the SchoolMessenger app!

- Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices
- Sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address) that the school has on record for you
- Click on Attendance
- Follow the prompts

Halifax Regional Centre for Education | SCHOOLMESSENGER®

Did you know you can report your child's absence through the SchoolMessenger app? SchoolMessenger's SafeArrival is an absence-management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence. Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices. Sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address) that the school has on record for you.

- Click on Attendance
- Follow the prompts.

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

Life @ SJAM2

We held our whole school outdoor assembly to honor our veterans for Remembrance Day. Classes sang songs, recited poems, and our choir also performed. Each class also laid a wreath in memoriam.

We had guest presenters engaging with students in Robotics (Brilliant Labs) and Jump Rope. Classes participated in field trips to the Nova Scotia Art Gallery, Halifax Waterfront, HRCE's Pottery Lab, Millbrook Cultural Centre, Victoria Park, and SJAM was the only school chosen for 20 students to take part in Santa Flight through Jazz Airlines.

Our Home & School Association was also busy with fundraising events including: SJAM Clothing, Woozles Book Sales, and Hot Chocolate Bombs. All funds raised goes towards supporting classroom teachers to continue creating and delivering inclusive experiences for our students! We thank everyone for their support!

Happy Holidays!

To all who celebrate, we wish you a joyful holiday season! Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Blessed Kwanzaa, and a wonderful New Year!

