

# ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

**PRINCIPAL: CHEYANNE GORMAN-TOLLIVER**

**ACTING, VICE PRINCIPAL: KATIE MOTT**

**ADMIN ASSISTANT: SANDY HARRISON**



## Upcoming Dates:

**January 2:** School Reopens to Students

**January 16:** School Advisory Council (SAC) 6pm-7pm

Home & School Meeting (H&S) 7pm-8pm via Zoom

**January 27:** Family Literacy Day

**February:** African Heritage Month & Primary Registration Month

### **Violin Classes**

#### **Monday:**

Grade 5 11:50-12:30 pm

Grade 4: 12:30-1:10pm

#### **Wednesday:**

Gr. 4 11:50-12:30pm

Grade 5: 12:30pm-1:10pm

#### **Band:**

**Monday:** 10:40-11:40am

**Tuesday:** 1:10-2:10pm

## Contacts:

**Phone:** 902- 493-5180

**Website:** <https://sje.hrce.ca/> **Email:** [sjam@hrce.ca](mailto:sjam@hrce.ca)

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

Follow us on **Twitter** @SJAMSchool & the **SJAM Home & School Facebook Page**.

## Dear SJAM Family

Happy New Year! Welcome back to school! Thank you for your support this week as we all re-adjust into our routines.

As we return, we are pleased to welcome Katie Mott (Ms. Mott) as Acting Vice Principal, while Mme. Johnson is preparing to welcome a new addition to her family. We also have a new Core French teacher, Beverley Fielding (Mme. Fielding). Please join me in thanking once again Patricia Woodbury for stepping into the Administrators role and wishing Grace Cameron all the best as she takes leave.

As a point of reflection in this new year, let us be reminded that the school and home partnership is vital in achieving the success and well-being of students. If you have questions or concerns let us come together with respect and the knowledge that we all are working towards the same goal.

## Inclement Weather

If you haven't already it is important that the school is aware of your plans in the event of an early closure for those that do not get the bus. Please email those directions to the classroom teacher as soon as possible, we are in the season.

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school busses 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 busses 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:**

- Bussed 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](http://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/](https://www.instagram.com/hrce_ns/)

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

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit [www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations](http://www.hrce.ca/families/cancellations).

### [Check out the new HRCE.ca!](#)

Last winter, we asked staff, families, and SACs for feedback on our website. We used that input to build a new family-focused site that prominently features the information our communities need most.

You'll notice:

Fewer pages – we deleted outdated information.



- A clean, modern look and feel – it's an easy-to-navigate, user-friendly experience.
- Significantly improved accessibility – this is better for our community members who use screen readers and translation services.

From January 22 to January 26, the whole school will participate in activities for Spirit Week. This fun week will bring us together as a whole school, including Pre-Primary students to support our well-being goal and continue to enrich our school culture. Here is the schedule:



**Monday January 22: SJAM Colors Day-Dress in yellow and blue**

**Tuesday January 23: Summer Fun- Wear sunglasses and hat**

**Wednesday January 24: Hero Day-Dress as your hero; real or imaginary**

**Thursday January 25: PJ Day- Wear your favorite pajamas or comfy clothes**

**Friday January 26: Book Day- Dress as your favorite character and/or bring your favorite book to school**

## [SJAM Basketball Team](#)



Team Tryouts will be held starting next week for students in grades 4-6.

Tryouts will be Wednesday January 10 and Thursday January 11th, during lunchtime at Studley Gym.

If your child is interested remind them to see Ms. Lucas or Mme. Swinamer for more information.

Once the team is chosen more detailed information will be sent out to families.

## Family Literacy Day



Family Literacy Day takes place each year on January 27 to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

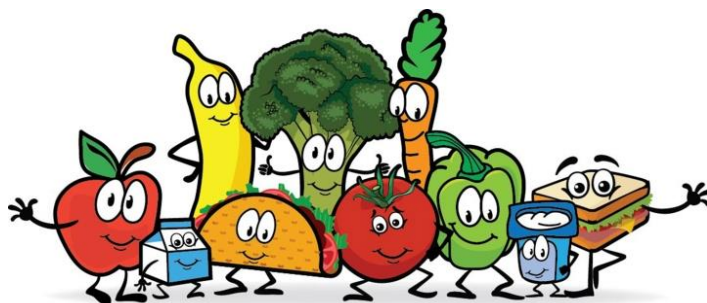
This year's theme, in honour of Family Literacy Day's 25th anniversary, is let's have a party! Make food, sing songs, and play games. The possibilities for learning are endless.

For more information visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/learning/elementary/reading-your-child>

Activities will take place at SJAM throughout classrooms so stay tuned for more details from your child's classroom teacher.

## Breakfast Program

The North End Community Health Centre and the Upwards Mobility Kitchens East are continuing their partnership in providing students at SJAM with breakfast 3x per week (Mondays, Tuesday, & Thursdays). The January menu includes: Vanilla Berry Yogurt Parfait with Maple Cinnamon Granola, Breakfast Hash, Berry Smoothie, Spinach & Feta Wrap, and Turkey/Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich with options provided for allergies and food restrictions so all who want to participate, can. For more information or questions please reach out to our Schools Plus Outreach Worker, Brenda McNutt at [bmcnutt@hrce.ca](mailto:bmcnutt@hrce.ca).



## 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](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 next meeting is Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, 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 and the Regional Centre for Education (HRCE), 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, January 16, 2024, 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)

### **\*\* SJAM SAC is Recruiting! \*\***

Our SAC needs new members! We are currently recruiting for a Parent/Guardian Member and Community Members. We are working to seek membership that reflects the diversity of our community.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- African Nova Scotians
- Indigenous peoples
- other racially visible persons
- persons with disabilities

We are currently recruiting a Parent/Guardian Member who has a child in the English Program and two Community Members that consist of persons who are not school staff or have children that attend the school. For more information on the SAC click on this link

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/SAC> and <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/sachandbook.pdf> for specific information on membership.

### [Update on Rebuild of SJAM School](#)



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: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/operations-services/capital-projects>

### [Life @ SJAM2](#)

Through funds made available by the SJAM Home & School Association many classes went on field trips including, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Victoria Park (Truro), Millbrook Cultural & Heritage Centre, and St. Catherine's Elementary Pottery Lab to name a few. SJAM was also fortunate enough to be selected to participate in Santa Flight with Jazz Airlines. Twenty students took flight over Halifax on quest to find and have lunch with Santa!

Mr. Walter, our African Nova Scotian Student Support Worker organized and supervised two lunchtime programs for students: Basketball Skills and Swim Program in partnership with Dalhousie University.

We had our first successful fundraisers organized by Home & School Association: SJAM Clothing Swag, the Wozzles Sale which SJAM have received books for specific classrooms and the whole school, and Hot Chocolate Bombs just in time for the holidays!

Our SJAM Choir sang at the Annual Hydrostone Tree Lighting, and we also had our first concert since 2019 held at St. Mark's Church for grades P-2. We look forward to our Spring Concert featuring Grades 3-6 & 2/3 Williams.

Thanks for your continued support,

Your SJAM Admin Team



## Parenting Journey Information Afternoon

Come Join Jade and Shannon at the Caring and Learning Center on January 16<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 230pm to find out more about the parenting journey program.

We will talk about what we can help your family with:

Parenting skills

Community resources

Involved with child protection

Co parenting

**\*Snacks provided and information kits will be given out\***