

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: CHEYANNE GORMAN-TOLLIVER

ACTING, VICE PRINCIPAL: KATIE MOTT

ADMIN ASSISTANT: SANDY HARRISON



Upcoming Dates:

February 1: African Heritage Month begins.

February 1-29: Registration for 2024-2025 (online)

February 7: Global School Play Day

February 10: Lunar New Year

February 13: School Advisory Council (SAC) 6pm-7pm
Home & School Meeting (H&S) 7pm-8pm via Zoom

February 13: Lockdown Drill

February 14: Friendship Day

February 19: Heritage Day (NO SCHOOL)

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

Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940

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

Dear SJAM Family

A new month is upon us already and what a busy month it is! From recognizing and celebrating the contributions of African Nova Scotians, to new beginnings with Primary Registration, and continued fun learning with Global Play Day, the afterschool conversations will be exciting! Read on for more details...

Mme. Johnson and her family welcomed a beautiful baby boy into the world in January and we are well on our way to welcoming two more additions to our SJAM family. Mme. Darwish has started her leave and we have welcomed Ms. Jarod Ann and Mme. Goss who will take over March 2nd. This week we will also be sending our well wishes to Ms. Thornhill who will be taking maternity leave as well. A replacement for her will be announced very soon. Please be assured that everything is being done to make all transitions as comfortable as possible for students.

Registration Month:

If your child already attends SJAM and will continue next year, there is no need to complete a new registration form. This includes current Pre-Primary students that live in the catchment area for SJAM. If your child is not returning in September 2024, please contact Ms. Harrison at 902-493-5180.



February is Registration Month!

If your child was born between January 1 and December 31, 2020, they are eligible to begin school in September 2024!

Visit HRCE.ca to register!



Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

February is Registration Month

Do you have a child who will be starting pre-primary or primary this fall? It's time to register! <https://www.hrce.ca/students/elementary>
<https://www.hrce.ca/students/elementary/welcome-primary>

<https://www.hrce.ca/students/elementary/provincial-pre-primary-program>

Registration for the 2024-25 school year begins on February 1. To ensure we have the right staff and supports in place for September, it's important that we gather enrolment numbers now.

Tip: Before you begin, make sure you have the following documents in electronic form (image, PDF or Word document):

- Proof of identity/age with one of the following: birth certificate, passport, immigration papers, or legal adoption papers) if you are new to the HRCE;
- Proof of home address (a recently dated official government or utility document with your current address that includes your name and date, such as water bill, power bill, internet bill, home fuel bill, a tax receipt, property assessment or a mortgage contract); and
- Nova Scotia Health Card or Canadian Province Health Card or, for non-citizens while in Canada, proof of Medical Insurance Information.

**For more information specific to SJAM, please visit our website: <https://sje.hrce.ca/>

Curious about Early French Immersion at **SJAM**?



Find out the answer to these questions and many more by visiting the SJAM website (<https://sje.hrce.ca/>) and scrolling down to “French

Immersion Program at SJAM”, as well as [this brochure](#) created by HRCE French Immersion Teachers.

Still have questions? Join us for a Q&A via Google Meet on Monday, February 5th from 4-4:30pm.

Link for meeting: meet.google.com/kbc-ermx-mjq

[Celebrate African Heritage Month 2024](#)



February is recognized as African Heritage Month and while this rich history is embedded in our SJAM school culture and learning all year, this month we showcase the rich diversity, culture, and heritage of our African Nova Scotian Communities. The 2024 African Heritage Month theme is **Our Smiles, Our Joy, Our Resilience as African Nova Scotians**. This month is a time to celebrate and recognize the history and culture of people of African descent.

The theme aligns with the final year of the United Nations’ International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness and recognize their full and equal participation in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia has more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back more than 400 years. African Heritage Month provides an opportunity to celebrate and promote the culture, achievements and contributions of people of African descent in Nova Scotia – past and present.

Do you have a story to tell? Are you a member of an historical Black community and willing to share your story? Do you have knowledge of African Heritage Culture? We’d love for you to share with us. Please reach out to our principal Cheyanne Tolliver cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca to discuss ways you can be involved in enriching our student learning.

Looking for ways to recognize and celebrate African Heritage Month as a family?

- Attend events happening throughout the month at your local [Halifax Public Library](#).
- While you’re at the library, [borrow books](#) that will inspire the whole family to learn more about African heritage.
- Visit local heritage sites, such as the [Black Cultural Centre](#), [the Africville Museum](#), and the [Black Loyalist Heritage Centre](#).
- The African Heritage Month 2024: Virtual Provincial Proclamation Launch and Poster Unveiling Ceremony can be viewed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/nsgov>
- For more information about African Heritage Month visit <http://www.ahm.bccnsw.com/wp/home>.
<https://ansa.novascotia.ca/african-heritage-month>

Heritage Day:



Observing Nova Scotia Heritage Day on the third Monday of February is an annual occasion to reflect on our province's rich history. It's a chance to recognize the remarkable people, places, and events that have shaped our unique heritage. Please take time to learn about William Hall, the 2024 honoree, [here](#).

Global School Play Day:

On Wednesday, February 7th, 2024 SJAM classes will in some form be participating in Global School Play Day. This day of complete play gives your child the chance to interact with his/her peers in an unstructured (but fully supervised) environment to help foster communication, creativity and problem-solving skills. Essentially, it gives kids the chance to be kids and just play! Dr. Peter Gray gave a TEDX Talk (16mins) called The Decline of Play, where the benefits of unstructured play are outlined. Click here to find out more info <https://www.globalschoolplayday.com/>

SJAM Basketball Team



Congratulations to all students who made the SJAM Basketball Team!

Big shout out to everyone who came and tried out, we wish we could have taken everyone!

Thank you also to teachers Ms. Young, Ms. Lucas, and Mme. Swinamer for organizing and taking the time to make this experience happen for our students.

All practices and games are at Dalhousie so students will walk over with their teacher coaches after school and families are responsible for picking up their child after games. Practices will take place during lunch at Studley Gym. Students are asked to come prepared with their basketball gear.

Practices for Players Schedule:

February 1@ lunch
 February 8@ lunch
 February 15@ lunch
 February 22@ lunch

February 29 @ lunch

Come out and cheer us on! All games are at 3:45pm. Families are responsible for transporting their child from the game.

Game Schedule:

Tuesday, January 30

Burton Ettinger @ SJAM (Studley gym, Dal)

Tuesday, February 6

Joe Howe @ SJAM (Studley gym, Dal)

Tuesday, February 13

Westmount @ SJAM (Studley gym, Dal)

Tuesday, February 20

St. Catherines @ SJAM (Studley gym, Dal)

Tuesday, February 27

St Stephens @ SJAM (Studley gym, Dal)

Home & School Association

Join us! We meet (**Via Microsoft TEAMS**) 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.



Not able to come to a meeting but would like to know when we need volunteers? Do you like to create electronic posters? Do you have fundraising ideas? We have many ways in which you can be a part of the school community with us, and you are not required to attend all meetings.



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 Teams meetings or what talents you have to lend and we can include

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 13th, 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, February 13th, 2024, at 6pm via Zoom. If you are interested, please reach out to Ben Stone, SAC Chair, at hrce-sac-sjam@gnsps.ca or Cheyanne Tolliver, Principal 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>

The SST will have its next meeting in February 2024. Stay tuned for more details.

Life @ SJAM2

In January SJAM students and staff celebrated a fun week of activities for Spirit Week! Along with daily themes students and staff also took place in activities such as face painting, school

wide trivia, whole school outdoor dance party, whole school hot chocolate break, and Stop! Drop! & Read! With Ms. T on the big screen (in English & French). We all had a wonderful time and have some great pictures to add to our presentations for our upcoming whole school assemblies!

Thank you also to everyone who supported our SJAM Dominoes Pizza Fundraiser! It was a huge success and we loved seeing all the pictures of our friends picking up pizza. At last count there were 119 orders with \$5 from each order going back to SJAM. Stay tuned for final counts, thank you also to the Home & School Association for organizing.

Thanks for your continued support,

Your SJAM Admin Team

