

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: CHEYANNE GORMAN-TOLLIVER

ACTING, VICE PRINCIPAL: KATIE MOTT

ADMIN ASSISTANT: SANDY HARRISON



Upcoming Dates:

March 11-15: March Break

March 18: Assessment & Evaluation Day (no school for students)

March 19-22: SJAM Spirit Week!

March 19: School Advisory Council (SAC) 6pm-7pm
Home & School Meeting (H&S) 7pm-8pm via Zoom

March 27/28: Term 2 Report Cards go home.

March 29: Good Friday (no school)

April 1: Easter Monday (no school)

April 4: PD/Parent Teacher Conferences (no school for students)

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 Families:

Happy March! We are excited to soon welcome Spring. This month, teachers will be focusing on collecting assessment data in math and literacy and finalizing Term 2 report cards. They will be in touch with parents and guardians directly about setting up parent teacher conferences on April 4th. We hope to see you then. We are grateful for your continued support and partnership in your child's education!

March Break!

This year March Break is March 11th-March 15th. Monday the 18th is an Assessment & Evaluation Day so we will welcome students back to school on Tuesday, March 19th.



Due to it being a short week upon our return we thought we'd all participate in some fun school wide activities with our SJAM Spirit Week! Please see the schedule below which highlights our activities. If a student does not have the items suggested on a given day or would rather not

wear the items of a particular day, that is quite okay, and that student will still be able to participate in any activities.

SJAM Spirit Week! (Grades PP-6):
March 19th-22nd

<p>Tuesday: <u>90s Theme Day</u></p> <p>*Show some 'ol skool' style from the best decade!</p> 	<p>Wednesday: <u>Jersey Day</u></p> <p>*Wear your favorite team jersey or t-shirt.</p> 	<p>Thursday: <u>Color Day</u></p> <p>*Dress head to toe in your favorite color.</p> 	<p>Friday: <u>Pjs/Comfy Clothes Day</u></p> <p>*Wear your favorite comfy clothes or pajamas.</p> 
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SJAM Basketball Team:



As of February 20th, our SJAM Basketball Team has a record of 4-0! We are so proud of them! We'd like to give a big shout out to Alex Ross of Family Over Fame for designing our teams new jerseys and for our SAC and Home & School for covering the cost. Want to come out and cheer our team on, see our schedule below. All games take place at 3:45pm. Huge thank you also to our teacher-coaches who are volunteering their

time to coordinate and supervise lunch time practices and after school games; Ms. Lucas, Mme. Swinamer, and Ms. Young, you are AWESOME!

Game Schedule:

- Tuesday, March 5**
 SJAM @ St. Catherine's Elementary
- Thursday, March 7**
 Ian Forsyth Elementary @ SJAM (Studley gym, Dal)
- Wednesday, March 20**
 SJAM @ Westmount Elementary
- Thursday, March 21**
 SJAM @ Joseph Howe Elementary
- Thursday, March 28**
 Harbourview Elementary @ SJAM (Studley gym, Dal)

Nutrition Month:

Did you know? March is Nutrition Month

A Healthy School Community:

- Recognizes that healthy students learn better and achieve more;
- Understands that schools can directly influence students' health and behaviours;
- Encourages healthy lifestyle choices, and promotes students' health and well-being;
- Incorporates health into all aspects of school and learning;
- Links health and education issues and systems; and
- Needs the participation and support of families and the greater community!



Did you know? March is Nutrition Month! This is a great time to explore and learn about food. An important part of this is food literacy, which includes having the knowledge and skills to grow, choose, prepare, and talk about food.

Some ways to engage your family during Nutrition Month:

- Get kids involved in meal planning. Ask them to help choose recipes, write

out grocery lists and explore grocery store flyers.

- Make cooking a family event! Kids can participate in age-appropriate tasks, such as measuring ingredients or setting the table.
- Enjoy meals together when you are able. Mealtimes can be a great time to connect in conversation.
- Start planning for an indoor or outdoor garden. This is a great way to explore where our food comes from.



SJAM, as a whole school, will kick off Nutrition Month by participating in the "GREAT BIG CRUNCH", a nutrition activity offered by Nourish Nova Scotia! It will include learning about healthy eating there will be apples for All! On March 7th all staff and students will bite into an apple at the same time. We will also be registering our school so our crunches will be counted in a provincial total!

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, March 19, 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, March 19, 2024, 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

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:

In February all SJAM students participated in various activities and learning that not only recognized but celebrated the contributions of African Nova Scotian Heritage. Many of our classes also submitted entries into the DBDLI African Nova Scotian History Challenge 2024. This year's entries are beyond amazing including paintings, portraits, and even a board game about African Heritage in Nova Scotia! Stay tuned for more information to see how our students did in the various categories. We also know that even though African Heritage Month has ended, the learning doesn't stop there. Our culturally responsive teaching practices ensure that all students' culture is reflected and embedded in the learning and the school environment all day, every day!

We held a whole school assembly on February 23rd to highlight all our SJAMMERS and recognize the Black Educators we have supporting our school. There was poetry, dance, and students performed the Black National Anthem, Lift Every Voice, with North End's MLA and SJAM parent, Susie Hansen!

Students have been busy with Swim Club, Chess Club, and we are looking forward to the startup of our GSA/Rainbow Club.

In partnership with Armbrae Academy and Big Brothers/Big Sisters, once again we are hosting The Big Bunch program with our Excel students. High School students earning community volunteer hours together with Big Brothers/Big Sisters volunteers visit bi-weekly to deliver fun indoor/outdoor activities.

Thank you for your continued support,

Your SJAM Admin Team