

École St. Joseph A. McKay Elementary School



November Newsletter

As we begin another month it's hard to believe that our first term of school is quickly coming to an end. There have been a lot of exciting things happening in our classrooms and in our school. Please take a moment to find out what is happening this month. We hope you'll be able to join us for some of them!

Safe-Arrival

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason please call our Safe-Arrival line at 902-493-6180. If your child arrives after the attendance has been taken, they must check in at the office so we can avoid unnecessary calls.

Life-Threatening Allergies

We have several students who have life-threatening allergies to peanuts and eggs. We ask that parents avoid sending things containing nuts and nut products. We are also a scent smart school and encourage visitors to avoid wearing strong scents when at school.

Remembrance Day

On Friday, November 9th we will be holding our annual Remembrance Day Assembly at 10:45. Families are welcome to join us. Any family member who is a war veteran or who is a member of the Canadian Armed Forces and is able to attend our ceremony is very welcome. Children are invited to wear their uniforms from Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Air Cadets, etc. **There will be no school on Monday, November 12.**

Parent/Teacher Conferences

As a school we believe it is important to communicate frequently with you about your children's progress in school. One of the ways we keep parents informed is to conduct Parent/Guardian and Teacher conferences. These will be held on Thursday, December 6 from 1:00-7:00. **There is no school for students on December 6.** We hope to meet with all parents and guardians at this time. Please keep any eye out for a letter from classroom teachers to set up an appointment time. Report cards will be going home on December 4.

Student Contact Info

There may be times during the school day when we need to get in touch with you. It is really important that we have your most up-to-date contact information on file. If any of your numbers have changed recently, please contact the office at 902-493-5180 or send a note to your child's teacher.

Reminders:

November 7

SAC @5:30
Home & School @6:30

November 9

Remembrance Day Assembly at 10:45

November 12

No School – Remembrance Day

November 21

Assessment & Evaluation Day –
No School for Students

December 18 & 19 -

Winter Concerts

Did you Know?

SJAM has an account at Tanner's Recycling 6393 Bayne St, Halifax. You can drop your recyclables off at any time and credit them to the Home & School Account

Principal –
Natalie Hagerly
Acting Vice Principal –
Stephanie Kenny
Administrative Assistant –
Barb Dewar

5389 Russell St.
Halifax, NS B3K 1W8

Phone – 902- 493-5180
Safe Arrival – 902-493-6180
Fax – 902- 493-5186

Website <https://sje.hrce.ca/>
Email – sjam@hrce.ca

Follow us on Twitter 
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Remember to check the website at <https://sje.hrce.ca/> for this newsletter and the most up-to-date information

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Capoeira for Kids is coming to SJAM!

Capoeira Group Dende Halifax, which includes two of our SJAM parents, is offering a series of FREE Capoeira for Kids classes at SJAM for grades Primary – Grade 2!

Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian martial art that includes elements of music, dance, and history into a vibrant and unique art form. You can expect a lot of movement, noise, physical play, and fun in a kids' capoeira class.

Classes will begin November 19 and run every Monday at lunch until December 17.

To register please email: kidscapoeirahfx@gmail.com
For more information call 902-448-6497

Yoga Club at SJAM School

We are pleased to once again offer a Yoga Club at SJAM School. Interested students in grades primary - six will participate on Tuesday at lunch time from 12:00 -12:55. To accommodate all the interested students there will be 3 six week sessions, the first one beginning on November 6. Please note that participation is limited to a maximum of 25 students per group and participants will be chosen on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Yoga Instructors Julie Coleman and Leanne Whiting from Grow a Lotus Yoga will facilitate the sessions with SJAM teachers Ms. McKenzie and Ms. Deware. Yoga mats are provided.

Please complete and detach the form below by **November 5** if your child is interested in participating. If you are interested in participating with your child, you are welcome!

I, _____, give my child, _____ in grade _____, permission to participate in the SJAM Yoga Club. I understand that my child requires a bagged lunch that does not require heating, and water, and that my child needs to dress comfortably. I also understand that participation is limited to 25 students.

I am interested in participating as a parent in the SJAM Yoga Club: YES or NO



Remember to check the website at <https://sje.hrce.ca/> for this newsletter and the most up-to-date information

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Guidelines for School and/or Bus Cancellation Due to Inclement Weather

Guidelines for Partial or Complete School Closure

Student safety is the first priority of the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) when making school cancellation decisions. Our schools will be kept open except under extreme circumstances to provide the option of attendance for all, but the decision to attend school during inclement weather conditions is the responsibility of each family.

HRCE staff begins to gather information from various sources beginning at 4:30 am. Staff consults with Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) staff on road conditions, local weather services, and Stock Transportation. By 5:30 am, staff makes a recommendation to the Superintendent (or designate) based on the information gathered. The Regional Executive Director makes the final decision based on this information. If it is safe to have students and staff on the roads and sidewalks, then schools will be open. If not, all or some schools may be closed depending on the weather and road conditions in different areas of the board. If schools are closed for the day teachers assigned to effected schools will work from home.

For full day closures of all or some schools, the decision will be announced as close to 6:00 am as possible. Announcements will be:

- Posted on the HRCE's website (www.hrce.ca);
- Posted on the HRSB's Twitter account (HRCE_Official);
- Recorded on the HRCE's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
- Shared with subscribers to the board's email and text notification system; and
- Communicated to local media outlets.

Guidelines for Early School Closure

If conditions deteriorate throughout the day, the Regional Executive Director may close schools early when weather or road conditions are considered to be a threat to the safety of students and staff.

In the event of early school closure due to deteriorating weather conditions, the Director of School Administration (or designate) will send an e-mail to all principals as close to 11:00 AM as possible regarding information about an early school closure.

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If forecasted inclement weather is imminent later in the day, at 6 a.m. an announcement could be made to inform parents of an early school closure and/or to inform parents that a decision will be deferred until no later than 11:00 a.m. following further examination of developing conditions.

Communication of an early school closure due to deteriorating weather conditions will be:

- Posted on the HRCE's website (www.hrce.ca);
- Posted on the HRCE's Twitter account (HRCE_Official);
- Recorded on the HRCE's School Cancellation Information Line 464-INFO (4636);
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In the event of an early school closure, school busses will be dispatched to schools two hours earlier than their normal regularly scheduled pick-up for the afternoon dismissal.

If the announcement is made at either 6 AM or 11:00 AM, walking students will be dismissed at the start of their regular lunch time.

Guidelines for Delayed Opening of Schools

On school days when conditions exist that it is not safe to open schools at the regularly scheduled time but it is predicted that conditions will improve a 2 hour delayed opening may be considered. Delayed openings would be considered when a severe weather event has concluded but snow clearing or other operations require additional time. Delayed opening may also be considered when the physical plant is experiencing an issue (power, water) and additional time is required to prepare the facility for opening.

In the event of a delayed opening the following will apply:

- School opening will be delayed 2 hours
- School bus pick up times will be delayed 2 hours
- Excel child care will be delayed opening by 2 hours
- Each school will alter morning schedules to best address their timetables.
- Lunch times will not change.
- Afternoon class schedules will not change.
- Dismissal time will not change.

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