

École St. Joseph A. McKay Elementary School



December Newsletter

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication and support during the past months and to wish you all the best as this year ends and a new one begins. Happy Holidays! Thank you to all of our students, parents and guardians and staff who make SJAM such a positive place to be!

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. **For safety reasons, adults who come to SJAM during the day need to check-in at the office upon arrival.** If you want to meet with a teacher, please contact them ahead of time to set up a time that is mutually agreeable. Thank you.

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 sent home with students on December 4.**

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

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to cancel schools and/or busses in the event of severe or inclement weather. Decisions on school closures and/or bus cancellations are posted on the board's website at www.hrce.ca, on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRCE_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS), recorded at 902-464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. Families can also receive notice of school and bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website. The weather in Nova Scotia is unpredictable so it's always a good idea for families to have a back-up plan for child care when school is cancelled. To learn more about the process on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/inclement-weather>.

Reminders:

December 4

Report Cards go Home

December 6

No School for Students
AM: PD, PM: P/T Conferences

December 18 & 19

Winter Concerts

December 21

Last Day of School

January 3

School Re-Opens

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 Hagerty
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 



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

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Regional Executive Director's Monthly Report

Have you ever wondered what public school really looks like in 2018? Are you curious to learn about what teachers do on professional development days? Do you wish you could hear from students about what they need in order to find success in school?

The answers to these questions (and more!) can be found in the HRCE Regional Executive Director's Report:

<http://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/RED/2018/11/index.html>

This report brings life to the powerful work happening in our schools and classrooms. The goal is to demonstrate the positive impact on student achievement through stories and videos featuring student and teacher voice. Great work must be showcased and celebrated – and all HRCE families are invited to celebrate these successes!

The HRCE is always looking for story ideas that matter to families. What are you curious about? If you have a story idea, reach out to connect@hrce.ca.

Winter Concert December 18 & 19

Please save these dates for our winter holiday concerts:

Tuesday, December 18th: Violin- Variety of Christmas tunes, P Tully, P Thornhill, 2 Darwish, 2/3 Lent, 3 Mott, 3/4 Collinson, 5 Deware, 5/6 O'Connor will be performing.

Wednesday, December 19th: Band- Variety of Christmas tunes, 1 Purdy, P/1 Swinamer, 1 Firlotte, 2 Casey, 4 Young, 4/5 Dearman, 6 Mckenzie and the choir will be performing.

The concert is at 6:30, doors open at 6:15. We hope you can join us!

We will be accepting donations of cereal at the door for our breakfast program (Cheerios, Multigrain Cheerios or Shreddies. No Honey Nut Cheerios please.)

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Report cards are an important part of the ongoing communication about your child's progress and they communicate the current level of achievement to parents/guardians and students.

Here is what you can expect on your child's upcoming report card:
Learner Profile:

- The Learner Profile reports on the behaviors, social skills and work habits that are important to being a successful learner and is reported with a developmental scale and a comment from the classroom teacher. Grade

Primary Report Card:

- Integrated English/French Language Arts and Integrated Mathematics will report each term with a comment
- Physical Education and Music will only be reported in Terms 2 and 3 using a comment
- While all subjects are taught, assessed and evaluated, Science, Social Studies, Health, Information and Communication Technology, and Visual Arts are not reported on in the report card template directly. Comments on the report card may include those subjects as applicable and will focus on your child's strengths, an area for improvement and a suggestion on ways to support their learning.

Grades 1 to 3 Report Card:

- Integrated English/French Language Arts and Integrated Mathematics will report each term with a comment and a developmental scale:
- Physical Education and Music will only be reported in Terms 2 and 3 using a comment and the developmental scale
- While all subjects are taught, assessed and evaluated, Science, Social Studies, Health, Information and Communication Technology, and Visual Arts are not reported on in the report card template directly. Comments on the report card may include those subjects as applicable and will focus on your child's strengths, an area for improvement and a suggestion on ways to support their learning.

Grades 4 to 6 Report Card:

- English/French Language Arts and Mathematics will be reported in Term 1 using a comment and the developmental scale
- English/French Language Arts and Mathematics will be reported in Terms 2 and 3 using a comment and letter grade

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Developmental Scale:	Letter Grade Scale:
WD - well developed D - developing as expected ND - needs development INS - insufficient evidence	A - The student demonstrates achievement with thorough understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the expected learning outcomes. B - The student demonstrates achievement with good understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the expected learning outcomes. C - The student demonstrates achievement with basic understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the expected learning outcomes. D - The student demonstrates achievement with limited understanding and application of concepts and skills in relation to the expected learning outcomes. The student has not met expectations.

The above information is detailed in a video from the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development at: <https://youtu.be/bhEoPtt1J64>

Lost & Found

We have a growing number of items in the Lost & Found bin in the breezeway. Please take a moment to have a look, they will be on display during the Winter Concerts. We'd like to empty the bin before school closes on December 21.

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