

# 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. Families should say good-bye to their children in the lobby. Thank you.

### SJAM Winter Concert

Our winter concert will be held on December 10 with a storm date of December 11. We are changing the look of our concert this year! In addition to some seasonal songs, we will be highlighting some of the amazing things that are happening every day at SJAM. **There will be one afternoon concert that includes all classes from P-6 from 1:30-2:30 and an evening concert that also includes all classes from P-6 from 6:30-7:30.** Please note that there is one show that includes all grades, repeated during each time frame.

To balance the seating capacity of the gym, we are encouraging everyone that is able to please come during the afternoon show. We ask that grandparents, siblings, or other family members attend during this time. To help us with our concert preparation, please RSVP on the form sent home the last week of November to indicate which show you plan to attend and how many people.

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

### Reminders:

#### December 2

Report Cards go Home

#### December 3

Winter Coats Arrive!

#### December 4

Home & School 6:30

#### December 10

Winter Concerts 1:30 & 6:30  
Storm Date **December 11**

#### December 20

Last Day of School

#### January 6

School Reopens

### 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  
Vice Principal – Amy Hunt  
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](mailto:sjam@hrce.ca)

Follow us on Twitter   
[@SJAMSchool](https://twitter.com/SJAMSchool)



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

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## December Newsletter

### Lost & Found

We have a growing number of items in the Lost & Found. Please take a moment. They will be on display during the Winter Concerts. We would like all items claimed before school closes on December 20.

### School/Bus Cancellations and Delayed Openings due to Inclement Weather

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to cancel schools and/or buses, or delay the opening of school, in the event of severe or inclement weather. When these situations occur, the information is posted on the HRCE's website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca), on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRCE\\_NS](https://www.twitter.com/HRCE_NS), recorded at 902-464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. Families can also subscribe to receive notice of cancellations and delayed openings by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website.

If weather conditions warrant, the HRCE could implement a delayed opening. 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 such as a power outage or loss of water and additional time is required to prepare the school to open. If this was to occur, school and Pre-Primary would be delayed by two hours. In our school, this means school would start at 11:00. Pre-Primary would start at 11:00. If Stock Transportation is operating, the expectation will be that students are picked up two hours later than their regularly assigned time pending any weather-related delays. Our lunch and dismissal times will remain at their regularly scheduled times. The EXCEL program will be cancelled for the morning only.

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>.

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