

ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: AMY HUNT

VICE PRINCIPAL: CHEYANNE GORMAN-TOLLIVER

ADMIN ASSISTANT: SANDY HARRISON



Upcoming Dates:

Dec. 7th, 6:30: Home & School Association Meeting (via Zoom)

Dec. 21st: Lost & Found donated to local organization

Dec. 21st: Last day of school before the holidays

Jan. 4th, 2022: Back to School after holidays!

Contacts:

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** @SJAMSchool & the **SJAM Home & School Facebook Page**.

Remember to check your child's backpack & the school website at <https://sje.hrce.ca/> for information.

Dear SJAM Family:

It's hard to believe we are in Term Two already and December is here! We wish you all a wonderful holiday break and look forward to a great year together in 2022!

Please note: we would like to reduce paper waste. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically and not on paper, please notify your child(ren)'s classroom teacher ASAP. We will start limiting paper copies in January.

Please check your email for a link to our virtual lost and found. If you do not receive the email, please ask your child(ren)'s teacher for the link. This helps us send home lost belongings!

We continue to be in close contact with the **HRCE Transportation Team** and they are working with us to improve the bus experience for our students and families. Any questions regarding your experience with buses should be directed to the Transportation Team:

Transportation@hrce.ca or 902.431.4723.

Daily Covid-19 Checklist:

Masks are mandatory both at school and on buses for all (pack extra!). Only essential visitors are permitted into the building. Anyone permitted needs to show proof of vaccination. If students are not feeling well, they should stay home. Use the [daily checklist](#) below to check for symptoms of Covid-19:



COVID-19 Daily Checklist

It is important to closely monitor your health and the health of those you care for. Please consider these questions each day before leaving home and entering public spaces.

If you are feeling unwell, you should **stay home or go home immediately, and follow the instructions below**. Stay informed. For the most recent information, changes and restrictions visit <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>.

1

Are you feeling unwell or do you have new or worsening health symptoms?

If yes, stay home and avoid public spaces, including work, school/child care, and shopping.

2

In the past 48 hours have you had, or are you currently experiencing, any of these symptoms?



Fever (i.e. chills/sweats) **OR** Cough (new or worsening)

OR two or more of the following symptoms (new or worsening);



Sore throat



Runny nose/nasal congestion



Headache



Shortness of breath

If yes, stay home and complete the COVID-19 self-assessment online, <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/>. If you are unable to access the online tool, call 811.

3

In the last 14 days, have you or anyone in your household travelled outside Atlantic Canada?

If yes, and the travel is not essential, everyone in your home is required by law to self-isolate for 14 days. For more information on isolation and essential travel, visit <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/symptoms-and-testing/#self-isolate>.

4

In the last 14 days, have you had close contact (within 2 metres / 6 feet) with someone confirmed to have COVID-19?

If yes, you must stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate if you have been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19. If you haven't spoken with Public Health or been tested, you should complete the online assessment at <https://covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/> or contact 811 to be screened for testing for COVID-19.

5

Are you waiting for results from a COVID-19 test or have you tested positive for COVID-19?

If yes, stay home. You are required by law to self-isolate while awaiting COVID-19 test results or if you have tested positive for COVID-19. Please follow instructions given by Public Health.

Revised November 25, 2020



A Note from the SJAM Home and School Association!

Join us! The **SJAM HSA** meets (via Zoom) on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm 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.

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 Zoom meetings and we can send you the link.



Our next meeting is Tuesday, Dec 7th at 6:30pm.

Hope to see you then!

A Note from the SJAM School Advisory Council!

Our School Advisory Council (SAC) is looking for parents/guardians, staff and community members that reflect the diversity of our community to serve as a member for a two-year term. The SAC is an advisory body that supports school administration. For more information about the role of the SAC, please see: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/SAC>

Our next meeting is in January. If you are interested, please reach out to Emily Falencki, SAC Chair, at EmilyFalencki@gmail.com and/or Amy Hunt, SJAM Principal, at HuntA@hrce.ca

Update on the Rebuild of SJAM School:



Our SJAM school building at 5389 Russell Street is being replaced! The estimated timeline for this process is as follows:

- relocate SJAM students & staff to 1589 Walnut Street in south end for two school years (across from LeMarchant-St.Thomas);
- demolish the current building between November 2021 & February 2022; start construction in Spring 2022
- return to a new school on the existing site (5389 Russell Street) in September 2023.

The **School Steering Team (SST)** comprised of appointed HRCE staff, provincial staff, SJAM school staff, architects, SAC members and parents/guardians, meets as required to discuss the design of the new building and will communicate this to the community as the process continues. For updates and meeting minutes, please see the following link:

www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/operations-services/capital-projects/replacement-school-sjam

RECESS & LUNCH AT SJAM₂:

- Students should bring a refillable water bottle each day. We have filling stations throughout the school and a water cooler in the portable.
- We do not have microwaves. Students need lunches that do not require heating. Using a thermos is a great way to send a hot lunch.
- If your child requires utensils to eat the lunch they are bringing, you need to send utensils. Recess should be a quick snack while children play for 15 mins.
- Students eat lunch with their classroom teacher for 20 minutes, and have 40 minutes of activity time on the playground with lunch monitors. In the case of inclement weather, students will spend the activity time in classrooms.
- On Fridays, we offer a free hot lunch to all interested families, sponsored by Admiral Insurance (as long as funds allow). To participate, fill out the form at the end of each month and send it back to school by the due date.





Holiday Support for SJAM Families (a message from our SchoolsPlus Outreach Worker, Brenda McNutt):

Hello SJAM Families! With the Holidays fast approaching, I wanted to send out this information for support. These services exist to make the holidays a little less stressful so you can focus on what matters most...your family! If you need any help whatsoever with any of this, please do not hesitate to reach out to me @ bmcnutt@hrce.ca | (902) 233-4395.

Feed Nova Scotia Holiday Support

- You can register by calling the Christmas Registry at 902-457-2849 starting October 7, 2021 Or online here: <https://www.feednovascotia.ca/find-food/find-christmas-support>
- If you were a recipient of Income Assistance in the month of September, you will also receive a Christmas registration form and information sheet in the mail.

Deadlines: Nov 15th, IA recipients: Nov 10th

Parker Street Holiday Hamper

This program supplies a decorated Hamper (box) filled with all the ingredients to prepare a delicious healthy Christmas turkey dinner. In addition to the Hamper, each family is given toys to put under the tree. **Deadline: November 30th.**

<https://parkerstreet.org/christmas-application/>

The Salvation Army Christmas Assistance 2021 Halifax Regional Municipality

The Salvation Army Maritime Division provides Christmas assistance, such as toys and food support, for children and families in need. If you are located in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) and wish to apply for Christmas assistance, please download the online application form using this link.

<https://salvationarmy.ca/maritime/files/2021/10/Christmas-2021-assistance-application-fillable-pdf.pdf>

- *Please only complete this application if you are located in the HRM.

Applications can be emailed to: HRM.Christmas@salvationarmy.ca

Registration Opens: October 25 Registration Deadline: December 6

Call: 902-477-5393 from Monday to Friday between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.

NS Home Heating Assistance Rebate

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program helps low-income Nova Scotians with the cost of home heating. Rebates range from \$100 to \$200. **You can apply until 31 March 2022.** You can receive up to \$200 if you qualify for the Heating Assistance Rebate

Program. <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-heating-assistance-rebate-heating-assistance-rebate-program>

For more information, contact: Heating Assistance Rebate Program @ 902-424-5200 or Toll-free @ 1-800-670-4357

Veith House

They provide Christmas support to families. Registration is November 1st – please call 902-453-4320 <https://www.veithhouse.com/christmas-support>

School Aged - Incredible Years

Free 10 Week Parenting Program



Incredible Years is a 10 - week program for parents/caregivers of school-aged children up to 12 years of age which focuses on:

- Promoting positive behaviors
- Reducing behavior problems.
- Improving your child's social and emotional skills.

Starts: Monday January 17, 2022

12:00 noon until 2:00 pm (light refreshments provided)

Where: North End Parent Resource Centre

5475 Uniacke Street, Halifax, NS

Advance registration is required. Space is limited.

Please Call 902-492-0133 to register.

*Free Child Care, light refreshments, and Transportation (bus tickets provided).

This program is being offered by The North End Parent Resource Centre and SchoolsPlus (Brenda McNutt & Laura Hutt).