

# ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

**PRINCIPAL: AMY HUNT**

**VICE PRINCIPAL: CHEYANNE GORMAN-TOLLIVER**

**ADMIN ASSISTANT: SANDY HARRISON**



## Upcoming Dates:

**January 17<sup>th</sup>:** School Reopens to Students

**January 18<sup>th</sup>:** Home & School Meeting via Zoom, 6:30

**January 25<sup>th</sup>:** School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting via Zoom, 5:30

**January 27<sup>th</sup>:** Family Literacy Day

### February:

African Heritage Month & Primary Registration Month

## Contacts:

**Phone:** 902- 493-5180

**Safe Arrival:**902-493-6180

**(Let us know if your child will be absent please!)**

**Fax:** 902- 493-5186

**Website:** <https://sje.hrce.ca/>

**Email:** [sjam@hrce.ca](mailto: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:

Welcome back to school. We want to acknowledge that the 2021 holiday season was a very different - and in some circumstances, a very difficult - experience for SJAM school community members. We appreciate staff and family efforts to provide the best virtual learning experience possible this week (January 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>), and we look forward to welcoming students back in-person on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Please see updated health and safety information enclosed in this newsletter which will support a safe return for students and staff. Our staff is ready to care for your children and keep them safe during the school day by following protocols in place, and parents/caregivers are required to follow protocols below as well. *Our shared health = our shared responsibility.*

## Covid-19 in Schools Update:

**If any staff or students have any active symptoms, they need to stay home. This is a core public health measure. If students come to school with any symptoms, parents can expect to be called to pick them up promptly. When unwell, students need to stay home until they feel better and for at least 24 hours (without fever medications).**

**3-ply masks need to be worn by all students properly and consistently on buses and in schools, and there are only essential, fully vaccinated personnel permitted inside the building.** Use the following **UPDATED** [daily checklist](#) below to check for symptoms of Covid-19 every day:



# COVID-19 Daily Checklist

It is important to closely monitor your health and the health of those you care for to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses like the flu.

Vaccination is your best defense against COVID-19 and some other illnesses like the flu.

1

## Do you feel sick?

If yes, stay home or put a mask on right away and go home. Keep doing healthy habits like washing your hands and coughing or sneezing into your elbow. Avoid school, work, child care settings and public spaces. Do not return until you feel better (without fever medications) for at least 24 hours. It's ok if you still have a mild cough or runny nose, unless you are in one of the situations below.

2

## In the past 48 hours, have you had, or are you currently experiencing:



Cough (new or worsening)

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



Fever  
(i.e. chills/sweats)



Sore  
throat



Runny nose/  
nasal congestion



Headache



Shortness of breath

If yes, go home or stay home as noted above. Book a [COVID-19 test online](#).

If you are unable to book a test online, call 811. You are required to self-isolate while awaiting your test result. If you test positive, follow public health instructions.

3

## Have you visited a COVID-19 exposure site?

Check the list of [COVID-19 exposure sites](#) and follow Public Health instructions. You may need to be tested. You may also need to self-isolate.

4

## Have you been outside Nova Scotia in the past 14 days?

If yes, check if you are required to [isolate due to travel](#).

5

## Has Public Health told you that you are a close contact of a COVID-19 case?

If yes, follow Public Health instructions. You may need to be tested. You may also need to self-isolate.

## Health & Safety Protocols – Effective January 2022

At the school, the following measures are in place and monitored by school administration to protect student and staff safety:

- ❖ Staying home if unwell
- ❖ Wearing 3-Ply or Medical Masks
- ❖ Only essential and fully vaccinated personnel permitted in the building
- ❖ Limiting the mixing of classes (“class cohorting”)
- ❖ Frequent hand-sanitizing and handwashing
- ❖ Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces
- ❖ Air purifiers where required and/or windows open
- ❖ More outdoor learning time
- ❖ Call parents/caregivers to pick up child if showing any symptoms or unwell.

It is mandatory that students follow the following guidelines properly and consistently while on the bus and at school. *If students demonstrate they are having difficulty with these guidelines, we will set up a meeting with the family to problem-solve.*

- ❖ Staying home if unwell
- ❖ Wearing 3-Ply or Medical Masks on buses & in school
- ❖ Frequent hand-sanitizing and handwashing
- ❖ Staying within class/assigned cohort
- ❖ Dressing warmly for classrooms with open windows & for increased outdoor time during school hours!
- ❖ Parents/caregivers keep students home if showing any active symptoms and stay home until better (at least 24 hours).





## **A Note from the SJAM Home and School Association (HSA)!**

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](mailto: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.

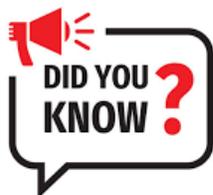


Our next meeting is January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

## **A Note from the SJAM School Advisory Council (SAC)!**

**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 January 25 at 5:30. If you are interested, please reach out to Ben Stone, SAC Chair, at **[Ben@Zuppatheatre.com](mailto:Ben@Zuppatheatre.com)** and/or Amy Hunt, SJAM Principal, at **[HuntA@hrce.ca](mailto:HuntA@hrce.ca)**



***Please remember that SJAM is a nut-free and scent-free environment! Food or products with nuts are not permitted at school and will be carefully discarded if found on site to protect student health and safety. Thank you!***

## 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 Renaming Committee** will get underway in late January. If you are interested in participating as a committee member, please email Amy at [HuntA@Hrce.ca](mailto:HuntA@Hrce.ca). 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](http://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.



# Guidelines for school and/or bus cancellations due to inclement weather

Nova Scotia winter weather can change quickly and can be challenging to predict. This document outlines the steps we take when deciding whether to cancel school and/or bussing.

## A 6:00 am announcement could be:

All schools are closed for the day

OR

Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day

OR

All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day

OR

All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours

If weather deteriorates, or is forecast to worsen throughout the morning

## An 11:00 am announcement could be:

Bussed students will be picked up 2 hours earlier than their regular dismissal time

AND

Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour

**Remember:**  
*Parents/guardians always have the right to keep their child home from school if they believe that the travelling conditions are unsuitable.*

### How does Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) decide on school and/or bus cancellations?

By 4:30 am, HRCE staff begin to gather information from:

- A contracted weather service that provides radar and satellite imagery, real-time road conditions and weather warnings;
- A meteorologist who provides forecast details, level and type of precipitation and impact on road conditions;
- HRCE’s three transportation service providers, who provide updates on road conditions in their area;
- Municipal and provincial transportation staff; and
- Other local weather services, including Environment Canada and the Weather Network.

By 5:30 am, HRCE staff make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director (or designate), who then makes the final decision.

This decision is communicated by 6:00 am.



**Halifax**  
 Regional Centre for Education

Where can cancellation information be found?

Website: [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)

Twitter: @HRCE\_NS

Phone: 902-464-INFO (4636)

Local media outlets

Subscribe to email/text notifications at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)

# 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).**



**Zachary Garcia**  
Zachary.garcia@hrce.ca  
902-464-2000 x4361

**Missy Searl**  
lsearl@hrce.ca  
902-464-2000 x4362



## PARENT NAVIGATORS

Do you have questions about supports available for your child? Are you wondering where to turn? HRCE's Parent Navigators (PN) can guide you!



Do you have registration inquiries?

Do you just need to talk to someone?



Do you have questions around policy?

Do you have no access to technology to submit electronic forms?



Are you searching for resources and supports

Are you looking for answers, information and someone to lend an ear?

**There is no referral process! Just pick up the phone or send us and email.**

Missy and Zach are available to help you find the support that you or your child may need to achieve success, inside and outside of school.

They will chat with you over the phone, via email or a ZOOM meeting.

They will help guide and connect you with the most appropriate services and resources. They will be your co-pilots.