

École St. Joseph's A. McKay Elementary School



February Newsletter

We welcome you to February! It's our shortest month, but there's a lot going on. Please take a look at what's coming up at SJAM .

Student Registration for 208-2019

As indicated in Halifax Regional School Board media communications, the month of February is our registration timeframe. This is the time of year we identify students who will be starting school for the first time in September 2018. This is an important process, in that the enrolment figures we pass on to Central Office in March will determine the number of teachers assigned to St. Joseph's A. McKay Elementary School, the level of support services we will receive and our class configuration for 2018-2019.

Primary Registration

Registration of students who will be eligible to start school in September 2018 will occur from February 1- 28, 2018. Parents/guardians who have children eligible to start school are asked to drop by the school to complete a student registration form and pick up some important information. The last date to do this is February 28, 2018.

Parents and guardians are reminded that in order to be eligible to register your child for school and start school in September 2018, your son/daughter must be five (5) years of age on or before December 31, 2018.

In addition, parents/guardians must present the following information at the time of registration:

1. The child's birth certificate;
2. Proof of place of residence (e.g., electric or telephone bill indication address);
3. Provincial Health Card number and expiry date

Students cannot be registered without providing this information.

Reminders:

**FEBRUARY IS
New Primary
REGISTRATION
MONTH**

February 1

African Heritage Month begins

February 7

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

February 19 – No School

Mona Louise Parsons Day

February 20

New Primary French
Immersion Parent Meeting
@6:30

February 23 – Family BINGO

Doors open at 6pm, BINGO
starts at 6:30!

Did you Know?

SJAM has an account at
Tanner's Recycling. 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 – sjam.ednet.ns.ca
Email – sjam@hrsb.ca



Remember to check the website at sjam.ednet.ns.ca for this
newsletter and the most up-to-date information

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Students who require additional support

It is critical that during the registration process we identify students who have special needs and will require additional support. The support services our school is allocated is based on the information we pass along to Central Office in March. If you have a child who requires additional support, please let us know when you register or contact us in advance (902-493-5180) so we can set up a time to meet with you to review the specific physical and/or learning needs of your child.

Primary Parent Information Sessions

There will be a general information session for all parents/guardians of new **French Immersion** Primary students. This evening session will provide an overview of the French Immersion program. The date for this evening session (parents/guardians only) will be **February 20, 2018 at 6:30**.

There will be a general information session for **all** parents/guardians of new Primary students during primary orientation. Once students are settled in the primary rooms, parents will meet in the library. This afternoon session will provide an overview of the Primary program and information pertaining to the school. Parents/guardians will have an opportunity to meet school administration, Primary teachers, and specialist teachers. This afternoon session will be scheduled at a later date in the spring.

African Heritage Month

February is African Heritage Month and SJAM will be engaged in a variety of classroom-based and whole-school learning activities related to African Heritage. Please watch for upcoming events.

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.

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Lockdown Drill

The safety and security of our students and staff are a top priority for St. Joseph's A. McKay and the Halifax Regional School Board. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

One of the procedures our school employs is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building or the classroom. Students are isolated within the school when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate.

Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school spends time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger.

It is our intention to practice a lockdown drill next week, on Thursday, February, 15, 2018. Please take the time to speak with your child about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning.

Please contact 902-493-5180 if you have any questions about lockdown drills.

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 ask that you remind students about the importance of not sharing their snacks. We are also a scent smart school and encourage visitors to avoid wearing strong scents when at school.

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