

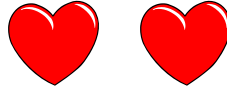


# MICHAËLLE JEAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Superintendent: Karen Friedman  
Trustee: Carol Chan



Principal: Clelia Della-Rovere  
Vice-Principal: Jennifer Anderson

## Message from Mme Della-Rovere and Mme Anderson

The month of February will be another busy month with Carnival activities, Haiti Fundraiser Dance-a-thon and Black History month. As well, first term report cards will be going home on February 13<sup>th</sup> and we ask that you to please take a moment to review it with your child.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parent volunteers who have signed up to help with the many activities happening here at MJPS during the month of February. Without your support, it would be difficult to organize school wide events such as skating. Our Parent Council has been instrumental in organizing Carnival which is an amazing cultural tradition which lasts for a full week. We are also happy to offer all snacks, presentations and activities free for all of our students.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Haiti Fundraiser is still underway. Representatives from Schools for the Children of the World (SCW) visited our school to update us on the schools we have helped to build in Haiti. It was wonderful to watch a recent video of students and staff from Haiti thanking our students for our ongoing efforts to help build schools. Please take a moment to review the Haiti PowerPoint presentation which has been e-mailed to you as well as posted on our website. We are still collecting donations this week. We have regular prize draws and 3 Toys R Us gift cards to raffle off. We appreciate any donations that you can make. Donations of \$20.00 or more will receive a tax receipt.



Finally, we would like to wish you all a happy Family Day on February, 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

## Table of Contents

- Principal and Vice Principal's message
- New Mission, Vision and Values
- Message from our Trustee
- Parent Engagement Workshop
- Spoons and Forks
- Solutions to Traffic Congestion
- iCAN take the bus to School
- Important Bus Cancellation Information
- FI Registration Continues
- Carnival
- Report Cards
- Valentine's Day
- Are You Moving
- Litterless Lunches and Snacks
- Punctuality
- BAPS Suzuki Info

Please help us to  
continue to be  
Eco Certified!



## Board Launches New Mission, Vision, Values and Slogan

*Mission: To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.*

The York Region District School Board is celebrating the launch of its new Mission, Vision and Values statements and slogan - *Inspire Learning!*

The Board last reviewed these statements in the late 1990s. Since that time, education in York Region has been influenced by a number of significant changes, including changes in technology, in our communities and in our learning environments.

Community members, parents/guardians, staff members and students had the opportunity to provide input and share ideas about the ideal future of public education in York Region. Thank you to everyone who participated in the process.

For more information, visit the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

## Message from our Trustee

This is an exciting time for our Board. We recently launched our new Mission, Vision and Values, and the Board's first slogan - *Inspire Learning!*

Our new mission statement - *to advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community* - will help to guide our work and move us forward in the months and years ahead.

Thank you to everyone who shared their input. We look forward to bringing these statements to life in our school communities.

We are now halfway through the school year, a good time to celebrate all that your children have achieved and to set goals for the rest of the year. I encourage you to speak with your child not only about what they are learning, but also how they are learning. There are so many exciting and innovative things happening in our schools.



## Parent Engagement Workshop with Gillian Barker

Mark Your Calendars!!!

Thursday, February 27, 2014

6:45 pm—Gym



## Spoons and Forks

Parents, please remember to pack a spoon or a fork in your child's lunch. We can't always guarantee that we will have any extras in our office.



# School Information

## Solutions to Traffic Congestion

We recognize that our school has had a lot of traffic and parking challenges this winter.

Here are a few solutions we hope you can try in order to ensure all our students, staff and community members are here safely on a daily basis:

1. Take the bus to school whenever possible.
2. Plan to arrive well before 8:00am, as our staff begins duty at 7:45am. On days where the wind-chill is considerable, we bring students indoors until the bells go at 8:00am. Taking an extra 5-10 minutes in the morning can prevent cars from having to let children out in unsafe areas of the street, specifically the middle lane or the bus loop.
3. Carpool whenever possible.
4. Consider alternate parking near the school (ie. Romance Crescent and/or the parking lot of the Richmond Hill Park next to the school) and walk students to the school.

We really hope you can help us out with student safety at Michaëlle Jean PS. If you have any suggestions, please contact the school office at 905-770-6507

## iCAN take the bus to school.

For those who are eligible, busing can be a great opportunity for children to meet friends, be active walking to and from the bus stop and gain a sense of independence. Busing also:

- Reduces school gridlock. Parents can avoid the stress of being stuck in traffic, having parking issues or getting a ticket.
- Reduces the risk of pedestrian injury. In 50 percent of the cases of children who are struck by a car near a school, the drivers are parents driving their children to school.
- Reduces the number of cars polluting the air. Declining air quality has been linked with a rise in the number of cases of children with asthma.
- Is very safe. Buses are designed to protect children with high cushioned seats to absorb impact from any sudden stops or collisions.

## IMPORTANT BUS CANCELLATION INFORMATION

School bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Since bussing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m. or earlier, all cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to ensure the safety of our students. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with school bus companies servicing York Region.

Please access local media outlets after 6:00 a.m. to receive cancellation information.. **A bus cancellation message will also be available at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) and by calling 1-877-330-3001.**

**If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will need to be picked up at the end of the day.**

# School Information

## French Immersion Registrations Continues

French Immersion Registration is still ongoing at MJPS. We will be accepting FI registrations until February 14, 2013

In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students currently attending a YRDSB school and entering Grade 1 in September 2014, who are wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the current school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Michaëlle Jean P.S. to register between January 17 and February 14, 2014. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

## CARNAVAL

We are very grateful to the many parent volunteers who put forth a great deal of time in organizing "Carnaval" for all of our students which will take place the week of February 10th. This is a wonderful tradition which takes place in Quebec and we try to bring to life here for students as they partake in the fun and games all week long. A letter went home detailing the events and asking for volunteers. Please return this to the school if you have not already done so. If you can donate any amount of time, please complete this on the letter or contact the office and we will be sure to pass your name along to our Carnival organizers. Below is a reminder of all the events taking place, the majority of which are subsidized by our Parent Council.

**Monday - "Carnaval" kickoff assembly with our very own "Bonhomme Carnaval"**

**Tuesday - Masque de Carnaval craft and "Mariposa in the schools" performance**

**Wednesday - Skating (CSA approved helmets required) (Feb 12 and 19)**

**Thursday - Haiti Danceathon - students will receive a nut free cookie and a juice**

**Friday - Outdoor activity day- Dress Warmly!**



# School Procedures

## Report Cards

First term report card will be send home on February 13. There are no formal interviews scheduled at this time. Please take the time to review your child's progress and share their strengths with them as well as set goals for improvement. We value partnerships with our families and encourage parents to contact their child's teacher(s) if you have any questions. Many thanks to our excellent teachers and support staff, whose care and dedication to their students make MJPS such a wonderful place for learning.



## Valentine's Day

As this special day approaches, many children are preparing Valentine cards for their friends. We would like to remind parents not to send sweets or food of any other type at school. ***We are a nut-safe school and we do not allow sharing of food of any kind.*** We have many children with severe allergies and we cannot put them at risk.



## Are you Moving?

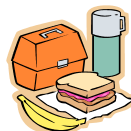
If you are planning to move and your child will not be returning to M.J.P.S. in September 2014, please let the school know as soon as possible as this will assist us greatly with staffing, determining numbers and class placement.



## Litterless Lunches and Snacks

Our EcoSchool journey continues this year which entails using better recycling strategies and waste management practices along with focusing on energy conservation. Please send litter-less snacks and lunches to school with your child. We encourage you to put snacks in reusable containers. That way the containers come home for reuse. We also ask that you pack re-usable water bottles so that we can reduce the amount of plastic we recycle. We are all responsible for the environment. Please help your children become aware of how they can help protect it.

**We can help our environment by participating in eco-friendly practices both at home and at school.**



## BAPS Suzuki piano and violin

There are spots available for piano and violin, times are listed below. If interested please contact Ruth Plumb at [rplumb0531@rogers.com](mailto:rplumb0531@rogers.com).

Piano  
Mondays - [10:30](#), [11:00](#), [12:30](#), [1:00](#)  
Tuesdays - [10:40](#), [11:10](#)  
Wednesdays - [1:50](#)

Violin  
Fridays - [9:30](#), [10:00](#), [10:30](#)

## Punctuality

At MJPS we wish to reinforce the value of punctuality. Currently we are experiencing an ongoing issue with **many** students arriving **late** after the instructional day has begun. Parents and guardians are encouraged to support the best learning conditions for their children by ensuring that students are present and in class when learning begins! Please remember that supervision is available at 7:45 am each day.