



# Michaëlle Jean P.S.

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Principal: Nadia Russiello

Superintendent: Michael Cohen

Vice Principal: Linda Taglieri

Trustee: Carol Chan

## Administrators' Message

April is upon us already and along with the nicer weather brings the desire to be outside, breathe in the fresh air and soak up the sunshine. There are many ways that families can keep the school learning happening at home and outside. Going for a nature walk can reinforce science concepts (looking for examples of natural communities, talking about how animals adapt to the environment, etc.). Math is all around us as well – distances, time, budgeting at the grocery store and patterns in nature.

Being outside and observing nature is also a great way to relax and renew your spirit. Even a few minutes outside can be a great way for children (and adults) to rejuvenate, de-stress and reconnect. Take time in the evenings or on the weekends to spend some time outside.

Earth Day occurs on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and with it comes the reminder that our responsibility to the environment is a big one! Involving children in planting, cleaning out the weeds, or some spring household cleaning can help children learn the importance of taking care of their belongings – including the Earth. At school, we will have different activities for students, including a playground clean-up and the Earth Rangers presentation (see p. 2 for more info).

We all need to remember that our actions, no matter how small, can have a lasting effect on each other and the environment.

*Mme Russiello et Mme Taglieri*



**March 30** – Good Friday – No School  
**April 2** – Easter Monday – No School  
**April 2** – World Autism Day  
**April 4, 5, 11, 12** – Scientists in the School–Gr. 3  
**April 18** – La Belle et la Bête – presentation  
**April 20** – Twin Day  
**April 20-24** – French Book Fair  
**April 25** – Earth Rangers presentation  
**April 27** – Character Assembly @ 8:30am  
**April 30 – May 4** – Pause to Play Challenge

**Please check the school website  
for more events.**

## Save the Date – Friday, May 4 Volunteer Appreciation Tea

### Pizza Fridays

If you ordered pizza through School Cash Online, please mark the following dates in your calendars:

**April 6, 13, 20, 27**  
**May 4, 11, 18, 25**      **June 1, 8, 15, 22**



### Pita Mondays

If you ordered pitas through School Cash Online, please mark the following dates in your calendars:

**April 16, 30**  
**May 14, 28**      **June 11, 25**

## Safe Arrival

### If your child is going to be absent:

Call 1-855-203-2994 or go online  
[yorkrdsb.schoolconnects.com](http://yorkrdsb.schoolconnects.com) before 8:00 a.m.

By reporting your child absent in advance using the **Safe Arrival** toll free number or website, you will NOT receive a call.

A confirmation number must be assigned once the absence is reported. Please do not hang up before the confirmation number is assigned.

Please contact the school office if you have questions.

## Our Vision

At Michaëlle Jean P.S., we begin to lay the foundation to prepare our students to become lifelong learners as they learn to effectively communicate in French. We promote an environment of cooperation, and encourage problem solving, independence and risk-taking.

We demonstrate respect for each other through our thoughts, actions and words.

We are responsible for our learning and our behaviour and strive to be positive in our outlook and our interaction with others. It is through our individual and collective efforts that we achieve a vibrant learning community.

## Character Award Recipients for March

### Grade 1:

Mme Collin – Aren, Anwesha  
Mme Karchevskaya – Andrew, Eleanor  
Mme Lee – Liora, Nivesh  
Mme Manarin – Liana, Henrik  
Mme Mknjian – Daniel, Manal  
Mme Prabakaran – Arteen, Tareq  
Mme Yum – Bonnie, Chloe

### Grade 3 :

Mme Barr – Jayden, Oliver  
Mme Bessette – Corbin  
Mme Darvish – Benjamin, Parmin  
Mme Griffiths – Lukas, Natalie

### Grade 2:

Mme Bourrie – Pavle, Joseph  
Mme Brown – Isabel, Brandon  
Mme Gray – Ella, Ernest  
Mme Kim – Jasmine, William  
Mme Marjanovic – Jackson, Jayden  
Mme Tadrissi – Lila, Isaac  
Mme Tajahmady – Aliyana, Julia  
Mme Yau – Ella, Austin

Mme Messeroux – Zoe, Nikita  
M. Mohamed – Naomi, Emaan  
Mme Ryan – Angel I., Siyona  
Mme Safar – Sasha, Evan

# L'Intégrité

## Integrity



Doing what is right  
even when it is  
difficult.

## Le caractère compte ... Character Matters!

This month, we focus on responsibility, "La Responsabilité". I will be accountable for my actions, be reliable and keep my commitments.

### At home:

- Give your child chores and tasks to do at home, but remember, when you ask a child to make his/her bed, it may still be lopsided. Ask your child to do family tasks – setting and clearing the table, for example. Don't criticize. Recognize a job well done.
- Children also need to learn to take care of their belongings. Putting away toys or cleaning up his/her art project helps them to understand that they are responsible for themselves.
- When your child makes a mistake or a bad choice, remind them that we all make mistakes and it is important to be honest about the mistake and do something to make things better.

Adapted from: "9 Tips for Teaching Kids Responsibility" <https://www.care.com/c/stories/5219/9-tips-for-teaching-kids-responsibility/>

## Eco Corner

**Plastic bottle caps** – Please send in your washed plastic bottle caps (from plastic soda bottles, water bottles, juice containers, milk cartons, etc.). We are planning an exciting art project for the school and need your help to start our collection.

**Earth Day** – At MJPS, we will be celebrating Earth Day with the following activities:

April 17 – Litter-less lunch

April 18 – Wear Green, Blue or other 'Earth' colours

April 19 - Playground Clean-Up (gloves will be provided)

April 25 – Earth Rangers Presentation



## Earth Rangers @ MJPS

We will be hosting the Earth Rangers at MJPS on April 25. We are asking that all children **bring a \$1 donation** to help the foundation continue their work and protect animals.

Earth Rangers is the kids' conservation organization that focuses on the importance of protecting animals and empowers students to take action. Each year, different threatened Canadian species are highlighted throughout the presentation. Children learn about their natural history, the current threats these animals face in the wild and real-world conservation projects taking place to protect them.

Children can become "Earth Rangers" by visiting [www.earthrangers.com](http://www.earthrangers.com). This free membership program provides children with an engaging online experience and tangible activities that make an impact on real-life conservation projects and environmental initiatives.

## Health Connections **Triple P - Positive Parenting Programs**

Triple P is a parenting program, that provides you with a toolbox of ideas. You choose the strategies you need. You choose the way you want to use them.

Triple P helps you:

- Raise happy, confident kids;
- Manage misbehaviour so everyone in the family enjoys life more;
- Set rules and routines that everyone respects and follows;
- Encourage behaviour you like;
- Take care of yourself as a parent;
- Feel confident you're doing the right thing.



Because all families are different, Triple P has a range of ways to get your positive parenting program. Choose anything from single visit consultations to public seminars; group courses to private sessions. You can even do Triple P Online, at home or wherever you like!

For more information and programs in your area, visit <http://www.triplep-parenting.ca/ont-en/about-triple-p/positive-parenting-program>

### **2018-19 CLASS PLACEMENTS**

In the upcoming months, our teaching staff will begin organizing classes for September 2018. A great deal of time, consideration and staff collaboration goes into placing students in balanced and positive learning environments. Classes at each grade level are formed using a variety of important criteria such as:

- Class size consistent with Board and Ministry guidelines;
- Gender balance in each class;
- A range of performance levels within each class, taking into account the skills, knowledge, attitudes and work habits of individual students;
- Promoting positive social relationships while minimizing unproductive associations.

Please note that combined grade classes may be part of our organization for the upcoming school year.

The staff at Michaëlle Jean has a very strong understanding of our students and is extremely caring and professional about the class placement process. As parents and guardians, if you do feel there are considerations about your child's learning style or peer associations that are important to be taken into consideration, **please send your information to the Principal, Nadia Russiello by May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Please note that requests for specific teachers will not be accepted. If you do include the name of a specific teacher, your request will be returned to you. As always, we appreciate your understanding as we work together for the benefit of all our students.

### Summer Institute

Looking for summer learning and fun activities for students entering Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8? Summer Institute offers academic, recreational and athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum.

The program runs for six weeks during July and August. It is offered at 11 school sites around York Region.

For more information on dates, programs and locations, please visit the Summer Institute page on [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). Registration began on March 7. Families can now register online, as well as in person or by mail.



# La salle de classe en plein air



We are continuing our fundraising efforts to help with the creation of our Outdoor Classroom (la salle de classe en plein air).

## *What is an Outdoor Classroom?*

An Outdoor Classroom is an area in the school yard that has seating for a class or two to engage in learning outside. The photo included here is an example of an outdoor classroom and gives you an idea of what you might expect once our classroom is created. Students can engage in lessons, planting, inquiry-based learning, art, drama, mathematics, etc. in this area. “It can be a learning center, a project-based station, and an area for reflection and observation” (Winters et al., 2010, p. 248G). An outdoor classroom includes natural materials found in the environment such as soil, mulch, trees, shrubs, stones, etc. along with man-made materials such as planters, bird houses, easels for painting, etc.

## *Why should we have an Outdoor Classroom?*

An Outdoor Classroom provides children with a different way of learning that is not possible in the classroom. It also provides children the opportunity to connect with nature, build social relationships, explore, problem-solve and be creative. Research has also shown that “green plants and vistas reduce stress among ... children. Locations with greater number of plants, greener views, and access to natural play areas show more significant results.” (Wells and Evans, 2003). An Outdoor Classroom is not a replacement for the learning that occurs in the classroom but rather an extension of that learning and an opportunity to apply concepts in a different environment.

## *Where will the Outdoor Classroom at MJPS be located?*

We have a fenced-in triangle at the back of our property. A gate has been installed and we are waiting to clear the area and bring in the materials needed to create the classroom.

## *What is the work that needs to be done and how much will it cost?*

The scope of the work includes: clearing the area, excavating and filling with limestone screening, placing seating stones, excavating for a new pathway to the area so it is wheelchair accessible, planting of some trees, putting down mulch, building three cedar planter boxes for a garden and filling with top soil. We have been given a quote of \$19,200 plus HST by a board-approved contractor to complete this work;

## *How can I support the creation of the Outdoor Classroom?*

So far, the School Council has been able to contribute \$5,000 as a result of your support of their fundraising efforts (pizza lunches, pita lunch and donation drive).

Your support of the school fundraising efforts (milk program, t-shirt sales, water bottle sales) has raised another \$5,800 towards this important project. We are halfway there!

Over the next few months, watch for a few more fundraising events that will help raise funds towards our Outdoor Classroom. Your continued support is always appreciated!



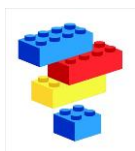
## **Haiti Fundraiser**

As many of you know, we have been supporting the work of Schools for Children of the World (SCW) to build schools in Honduras over the past few years.

This year, SCW is working on finding a project in Haiti that we can support. For this reason, we are not having a Haiti Fundraiser this year but look forward to supporting a future project in Haiti next school year.

## **ARE YOU MOVING??**

If you will be moving by September 2018, please let us know as soon as possible. We are currently projecting our student enrolment for September 2018. These numbers help us hire sufficient staff and support personnel. It is important that we know as soon as possible if your child will not be attending Michaëlle Jean in September. This does not apply to our Grade 3 students, unless they will not be attending Beverly Acres P.S. Thanks for your assistance in preparing for the next school year. Please call our office with any information: 905-770-6507.



### **Richmond Hill Library Programs**

The Richmond Hill Public Library offers a wide range of after-school and summer programs to keep students reading and learning. From Book Clubs and Chess to Stop-motion animation and Lego, there is something for everyone.

Visit <http://www.rhpl.richmondhill.on.ca/Programs/ProgramList.cfm?categoryID=1> for more information.



### **EQAO for 2017-18**

At Michaëlle Jean, our Grade 3 students will be writing the Mathematics portion of the EQAO assessment later this year. Please do not book appointments or vacations during the period of May 22-June 4, 2018. More information for families will be provided as we approach these dates. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Learning with Njacko Backo**

From March 21-23, we welcomed Njacko Backo to MJPS. Classes participated in French workshops where they learned about and played different drums and instruments. Students also learned about the culture, traditions, music and dances of Cameroon. Njacko recounted stories from his ancestors where students learned important lessons of honesty and integrity. We would like to thank School Council as these presentations were paid for through their fundraising efforts as part of our Carnaval festivities.



### **Contribute to Strategic Planning at YRDSB - Upcoming Town Halls**

York Region District School Board is revisioning its Multi-Year Plan (MYP) and Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being. The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting the strategic direction of public education in York Region public schools. The MYP incorporates the direction established by the Trustees with feedback received from all stakeholders, and will inform decision making at the Board in the years to come. Town halls will be taking place across the region and feedback collected from families and community members will inform the creation of a new MYP. Your voice is important and your input and feedback will help York Region District School Board support student achievement and well-being. There will also be other opportunities, including a survey available in April, to share your thoughts if you are unable to attend a town hall.

### **Save the Date!**

<b>TOWN HALL DATES AND TIMES</b>	<b>LOCATIONS</b>
Monday, April 16, 2018 7 - 9 p.m.	Keswick High School 100 Biscayne Blvd., Keswick
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 6 - 9 p.m.	Markville Secondary School 1000 Carlton Rd., Markham
Sunday, April 22, 2018 2 - 4 p.m.	Sir William Mulock Secondary School 705 Columbus Way, Newmarket
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Maple High School 50 Springside Rd., Maple
Saturday, April 28, 2018 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Bayview Secondary School 10077 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill

# Celebrating Our Diversity

## April's Holidays and Observances

Baha'i Faith	Buddhism
<p><b>April 21 – Ridvan.</b> Baha'u'llah, the founder of the Baha'i Faith, declared his mission as the most recent messenger of God. Baha'is observe the first, ninth and twelfth days of this period. The actual event occurred in a garden, called Ridvan (Paradise) in Baghdad, Iraq in 1863 C.E. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.</p>	<p><b>April 13/14 – Saka</b> (New Year's Day). This is New Year's Day according to the Saka calendar. This day is both a religious and cultural celebration.</p>
Christianity	Hinduism
<p><b>April 1 – Easter Sunday</b> celebrates the resurrection of Christ. It is the most important festival in the Christian year (Western Calendar).</p> <p><b>April 1 – Palm Sunday</b> The Sunday before Easter (Eastern Calendar).</p> <p><b>April 6 – Holy Friday</b> (Eastern) commemorates the passion of Jesus Christ, i.e., his submission to death by crucifixion. The Eastern churches focus on his burial.</p> <p><b>April 8 – Easter Sunday</b> in the Orthodox churches. The church calendar begins with Pascha (Eastern Calendar).</p>	<p><b>April 13 – Chaitra/Chithirai New Year</b> The first day of the Solar New Year is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest. This day is also celebrated as the Tamil New Year, Varusha Pirappu, Vishu, Ugadi, Rongali Bihu and Naba Barsha.</p>
Islam	Sikhism
<p><b>April 13 – Miraj-un-Nabi</b> commemorates Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) famous night journey (al-Isra) from Mecca to Jerusalem and his subsequent ascension (al-Miraj) to paradise.</p>	<p><b>April 13 – Vaisakhi</b> This day celebrates the founding of the Khalsa order (Sikh religion) in 1699 C.E. by Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Many Sikhs choose to be baptized into the Khalsa Panth (Brotherhood of the Pure) on this day. Also on this day, male Khalsa Sikhs are named Singh (lion), female Khalsa Sikhs are named Kaur (princess). It is the most important holy day of the year for Sikhs.</p>



In Partnership with FSYR & YRDSB

# ***COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR*** **TRAINING PROGRAM**

**When:** **Start Date: Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Ends on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018 (10 sessions)  
**Time:** Doors open at 9am, start time **9:15am to 12:30pm**

**Where:** **FSYR - 10610 Bayview Ave, Unit 18**  
Closest intersection is Elgin Mills and Bayview Ave.

**Why:** **Increase your skills/opportunities by  
volunteering in/at:**

- Community organizations
- Your child's school
- Collaborate with Settlement Workers to help Newcomer families in York Region transition to Canadian living.

**Cost: FREE** (Make friends! Have fun! Light refreshments will be available!)

**Join us and be part of positive change in your community!**

**Registration is on a first come first serve basis**

To register please call **Leena** at **416-818-7075** Weekdays 9am – 5pm or Email [l\\_nayyar@hotmail.com](mailto:l_nayyar@hotmail.com)



# Asian

HERITAGE MONTH  
COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Embrace diversity.  
Experience culture.  
Celebrate heritage.

## EXPERIENCE ASIAN CULTURE

Cultural performances and  
artistic & musical showcases

## DISCOVER ASIA'S DIVERSITY

## CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY

## SAVOUR THE TASTES OF ASIA



**Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 4:00-6:00 PM**

Location: Langstaff Community Centre, Gym A  
155 Red Maple Road, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4P9

**EVERYONE IS  
WELCOME**

Event Chair

**Carol Chan**  
School Trustee

Event Partners



**VISION  
YOUTH**

