



# MICHAËLLE JEAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Superintendent: Michael Cohen  
 Trustee: Carol Chan



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

## Administrators' Message



It has been a busy and productive fall and we are getting close to the holidays. It was nice to see many of you at the Parent-Teacher interviews and at our Remembrance Day Ceremony. Thank you for your poppy donations.

December is a time of celebration and giving. We have begun our holiday drive to help others in need. In our front foyer, you will see our train in which you can place non-perishable food items and toiletries which will be donated to the Richmond Hill Food Bank. Also, back by popular demand, our staff will be creating wonderful Gingerbread Houses to raffle off. Raffle tickets will be sold during the day to students. All proceeds will go to support the Yellow Brick House Foundation. More information is in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to our Holiday Concert on the evening of December 4th at 6:30 p.m. for the following classes: Mme Collin, Mme Messeroux, Mme Karchevskaya, Mme Hill, Mme Mandlsohn, Mme Yau, Mme A. Lee, and Mme Samuel. Please remember that each family can bring a maximum of two spectators as we will be at maximum capacity in the gym. We will be having two more concerts in the new year so that all classes will have an opportunity to showcase their talents. We are very fortunate at Michaëlle Jean P. S. to have many staff members who use their personal time to enrich the educational experiences of our students through a variety of co-curricular activities such as our concerts. (cont'd on page 2)

## Special Points Of Interest

Admin message

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FI Registration

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Spirit Days are here

Une célébration d'hiver

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Please visit our website for updated information on the following items:

QSP

Calendar of Events

Council newsletter

## IMPORTANT REMINDER!

We return to School on  
 Monday, January 5, 2015



## Breaking News!

### Félicitations à Michaëlle Jean

Michaëlle Jean named new head of la Francophonie!

Former governor general Michaëlle Jean is the new head of la Francophonie, an organization of 57 member states from the French-speaking world.

## **Admin Message Con't**

At our last School Council meeting, we shared information about our School Improvement Plan (SIP), School Climate Survey Data (strengths and next steps) and budget expenditures. We thank all of our families for their support of our school council fundraising drive. We have been able to purchase many resources and pay for programs to support us in achieving our SIP goals. Please remember that even if you are not a member of School Council, you are welcome to our meetings. Please take the time to read our School Council newsletter for additional information.

For safe arrival purposes, please let the office know if your child will be going on any extended holidays. Teachers are not responsible for preparing work for students who are away on extended holidays as much of the activities are hands-on and oral.

On behalf of the staff at Michaëlle Jean P. S., we wish all of our families a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Whatever you celebrate at this time of year, we hope it is fun and special for you and your family and we thank you for all of your support this term.

### **French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations**

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Michaëlle Jean P.S. on **January 15, 2015 at 7 p.m.** FI registration will begin **January 16, 2015.**

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 their 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 16 and February 13, 2015. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

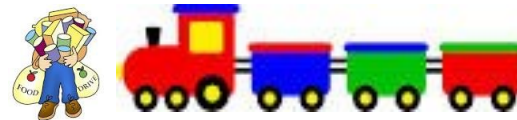
YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In 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.

## School Events

### Giving to those in need

We would like to thank everyone thus far for their generous donation for those in need. We have many opportunities for helping our various organizations to support both global and local causes. Below are the initiatives our school is involved with:

#### Richmond Hill Food Bank



Our non perishable food and toiletry drive has begun and will continue until Thursday, December 11th, 2014. All items donated will be delivered to the Richmond Hill Food Bank on Friday, December 12th, 2014. Our Food Drive Train is stationed outside our main office and each car consists of a specially decorated box from each classroom. We encourage our parents, community members and our students to participate in this worthwhile cause and hop on board the MJPS Train.

#### Yellow Brick House



Staff have been busy making beautiful gingerbread houses to support the Yellow Brick House. A women shelter in York Region. We will be selling raffle tickets during the day starting December 1st (1 ticket for \$2 and 3 tickets for \$5). We have many Gingerbread houses to raffle off and all proceeds go to support Yellow Brick House. The draw for the Gingerbread houses will take place on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Spirit Days are back at MJPS

Pyjama Day - December 5/ 2014

Wacky Hair Day—December 12/2014

Sports Jersey Day - December 19/ 2014



## School Events Con't

### "Une célébration d'hiver"

Our Winter Concert is quickly approaching and the students and staff are hard at work in preparation for an entertaining evening! The concert will take place on Thursday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m.



The following classes will be performing in this Concert: Mme Collin, Mme Messeroux, Mme Karchevskaya, Mme Hill, Mme Mandlsohn, Mme Yau, Mme A. Lee, and Mme Samuel. Students are asked to be at the school by **6:15 p.m.** Remember due to space limitations and fire regulations, families were given only 2 tickets each. **Please do not forget your tickets that evening.** We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Carnaval is coming once again to MJPS!**

**Mark your calendars: Feb 9 to 13th, 2015**

This is a fun filled week of activities, contests and entertainment. School Council in conjunction with the school will be paying for ALL events such as skating, crafts, and presentations.



We are in need of many parent volunteers the week of February 9 to February 13. The more parent volunteers we have, the better and the more fun students will have. A flyer will be sent home with more information on how you can volunteer.

### **Karate Kids at MJPS**

We are excited to announce that the **Karate Kids** program will be coming back to Michaëlle Jean this January 2015! This 40 minute class will run during the lunch recess break on Thursday's and combines fun fitness activity, character education lessons and non-contact basic martial arts movements. The class is designed to build self confidence, self discipline and fitness levels in a non competitive environment. Offered this term to grades 2 and 3, this 18 week program will run every **Thursday from January 22nd until May 28th**. Enrolment flyers containing full details will be distributed to the students on January 13th. This is a popular program that is currently running in over 95 schools across Ontario. You are invited to visit their website for more detailed information at [www.karatekids.ca](http://www.karatekids.ca) or call 416 482-8198.



## School Events Con't

### **MJPS Remembers**

MJPS honoured our Veterans on November 11. Many students read poems and a story to commemorate this day. Our special guest, Sgt K Lossev from the Air Cadets came to speak to our students about peace and the sacrifices of war.



### **Halloween at MJPS**



### **Alyson Schafer visits MJPS**

Alyson Schafer, renowned author, psychotherapist and parenting experts, visits MJPS to offer a seminar on raising children responsibly. We thank our School Council for sponsoring this event for our families.



### **Grade ones learn about health**



Our Grade 1 students participated in a highly informative visit from Mackenzie Health professionals. Grade 1 students learned about correct hand washing procedures, learned about X-Rays and how many bones we have in our bodies, listened to their heart using a stethoscope and tried on casts for arms, legs and fingers. This program is aimed at making students comfortable with different aspects of health care. We thank our School Council for funding this workshop for all of our grade 1 students

## School Events Con't

### Gingerbread house making by our awesome staff



### Choo Choo!!! Our MJPS Train is looking great!!



## Important Reminders

### Food items for Holiday Celebrations

Please remember that due to severe food allergies and in keeping up with our healthy schools objective and goal, we ask parents not to send any food items for students to share with their classmates during holiday celebrations.



### Healthy Snacks

Please ensure that your child packs a healthy snack on Pizza Lunch and Sub Lunch Days.

Don't forget to also pack spoons or forks with your child's lunch as we may not have any extra utensils to give out to students.



## School Policies and Procedures

### Weather Watch

All students are expected to go out for every recess unless the administration decides after consulting the Richmond Hill Weather Network that weather conditions are so poor that it would be detrimental for them to be outdoors. Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 40 minutes after lunch. We always monitor the weather and, in extreme conditions e.g. wind chill; we keep the students indoors or shorten the recess breaks.



Please make sure that your children are dressed properly for our invigorating Canadian winter days. It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found, please **be sure to label all articles of clothing**. Boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants for the children will help make recess an enjoyable time.



We often receive requests from parents asking us to keep their children indoors during recess times because they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or facilities to supervise students who are sick or still recovering from an illness. Students with heavy colds, etc., which are serious enough to prevent them from participating in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of illness to others.



### Winter Weather at Michaëlle Jean P.S.

We advise our students that there are many ways to enjoy playing in the snow, to have fun and still be safe. Children can enjoy the snow by playing in it, making snow angels, and making snow creatures and snow forts.



Throwing and kicking snow can result in serious injury to others and that is the reason it is not permitted at school. We ask that you reinforce with your children how to play safely in the snow. Please be advised there will be consequences if your child throws or kicks snow.

### 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. Please remember any scheduled school lunches (pizza, Sub) will also be cancelled on snow days.

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 Policies and Procedures Con't

### Parking at MJPS

The bus loop in front of the school is a Fire Route and no cars can be left there at any time. You may park on the west side of Shirley Drive and take the paved walkway to the front door and walk your child to the fenced area at the north side of the school. The entrance to the school parking lot is closed to all vehicles except for staff from **7:45 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. and from 2:20 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.** to allow for the busses to safely enter and exit the school. Please do not block the driveways as this prevents school staff from entering the school on time.

We ask all parents to support us in ensuring the safe arrival and departure of all our students. Also, please remember that **students are not permitted to meet parents either at the front of the school or inside the school at the end of the day.** Students are to wait behind the fence facing the parking lot where there is teacher supervision until a parent/guardian has arrived to pick them up.

### Safe Arrival

To report your child's absence please call 905-770-6507 and select...

#### **Attendance Mailbox Option 1**

**All absences must be reported on a daily**



### Lost and Found Items



Our lost and found bin is overflowing with coats, mitts, hats, lunch bags etc. If your child has lost anything recently, please visit the school to look through the bin. Any unclaimed items will be donated to charity by December 19, 2014, Thank you.

### PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students who bring valuable personal property to school do so at their own risk. The school has no storage facilities for valuable items and we cannot take care of these items for students. This includes toys that are precious to our students. The School Board or school will not assume any responsibility for lost or stolen items. We ask that all valuable items be left at home.



### Pick up and Drop Off

Please remember that only buses are allowed in the bus loop between 7:45 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. and between 2:00 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. This is imperative for your children's safety! Also please remember that students may only enter the school from the school yard; only this entry area is supervised. The pathway on the south side of the building is out of bounds. Also, if you plan to pick up your child early from school, you must call ahead and arrive at the school before 2:00 p.m. *Requests after this time will be difficult to honour as it disrupts our dismissal procedure and our office staff may not be able to retrieve your message in time.*



### Late Arrivals

Arriving late impacts on instructional time, disrupts the classroom routine and impacts on school achievement. We track late arrivals and the Attendance Councilor may be contacted if this is a reoccurring pattern. Please ensure that your child arrives to school on time.

