

# February 2020

## The Info @ Michaëlle Jean P.S.



Website: <http://www.michaëllejean.ps.yrdsb.ca>

Email: [michaëlle.jean.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:michaëlle.jean.ps@yrdsb.ca)

**Principal: Nora Mazlounian**

**Michaëlle Jean P.S.**

320 Shirley Dr.

Richmond Hill, Ontario L4S2P1

Phone: 905-770-6507

Fax: 905-770-9336

**Superintendent: Michael Cohen**

905-884-4477

**Admin. Support: Nasreen Dhirani**

Karen Cizmar

**Trustee: Cindy Liang**

### Upcoming Dates

- Feb. 7 Cozy Sweater Day
- Feb 14 Red White and Pink Day
- Feb. 17 Family Day
- Feb. 18-21 Carnaval Week
- Feb.18 Red and White Day for Carnaval
- Feb.19 Tuque Day
- Feb.20 Mitten Day
- Feb.21 Ceinture Fléchée/Scarf Day
- Feb. 27 Black History Month Presentation
- Mar16-20 March Break



### Message from your Administrator

I can't believe it is already February and we will soon begin Term 2. Thank you to the many families who made donations to our 360o Campaign to support the needs of our local youth. We appreciate how our school community comes together to help those in times of need.

As the cold days are among us, we ask that you please ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the weather. We spend 20 minutes outside at morning recess and another 40 minutes after lunch. We would like all students to benefit from the opportunity to play together outside without feeling cold or getting wet. If possible, please send a change of clothes with your child, in case the need arises for a refresh in clothing.

For February, our School Council has prepared and sponsored a week full of activities for Carnaval, reproducing activities from French culture and the Quebec Carnaval. This will be held the week of February 18-21 and includes outdoor activities, a special art activity, a dance-a-thon and more. All of these events would not be possible without the careful planning and dedication of our teachers, School Council, office staff and parent volunteers. We are looking forward to participating in all the fun activities!

Safety is our top priority! Do you drive your child to school in the morning and/or drive to the school to pick your child up at the end of the school day? If so, please ensure that you always obey the posted traffic signs on the streets surrounding our school and that you only park where parking on the street is allowed. Also, please ensure that you do not block the driveways of the houses surrounding the school at any point in time.

Thank you to everyone!



## IS YOUR CHILD GOING TO BE ABSENT? Please call the office!!

It is the policy of the York Region School Board to report on the safe arrival of our students. If you know that your child will be absent, please send a note with your child, and/or call the school at (905) 770-6507 and press 1 to leave a message.

If we do not know why your child is absent, we will under policy #665 do the following:

1. Call the home and business numbers provided
2. Call the emergency numbers provided
3. If the above are unsuccessful, **we will call the York Region Police to report you child as missing.**

We are regularly admitting 15– 20 students each day who arrive late to school. Out of respect for the learning for all, please ensure your child arrives on time to avoid disruptions to the class at the beginning of the day.

Your support in following the procedure above is important and greatly appreciated in ensuring the safe arrival of our students.

Thank you.

## School Assistants Needed for

### Lunch Supervision!

**We are always looking...**

We are always looking for individuals who are willing to work as SCHOOL ASSISTANTS, supervising the students indoors while they eat lunch and then outdoors while students are on the school yard. We require helpers who are available from 11:40am-12:40pm at Michaëlle Jean P.S. If you are interested, please call Mme Dhirani as soon as possible. Please note that these are paid positions and that you do not have to commit to working every day. If you can provide some time, even one hour a week, we would be pleased to have you join our team.

Thank you!

## February Eco Theme



## Paper Towel Reduction

### One Or Two Will Do

The Eco Initiative for February is *Paper Towel Reduction*. '**Just one or two will do**' for drying hands after washing. Our office staff are preparing Paper Towel Reduction labels for our dispensers and Eco Reps will be affixing them accordingly. Thank you to everyone for all their hard work!

How can you reduce paper towel use at home? In the kitchen, think of alternative ways to dry your hands or wipe up spills instead of using paper towels.

## PLEASE REPORT TO THE OFFICE

The Board has a Visitor's Policy that requires ALL visitors to report to the office upon entering a school. Parents must also report to the office before meeting or picking up their children in order to sign them out. We request that parents not go directly to the classroom. Please meet your child/ren in the front foyer or at the main office.

**Visitors  
Welcome!!**

## Black History/African Heritage Month



Celebration of Black History/African Heritage Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950's. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History month in Ontario in 1993, and it was in 1995 that the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Commons in Ottawa. These declarations set the stage for acknowledgement of the contributions of peoples of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600's. They also increased our awareness that people of African Heritage are an integral part of Canadian history. During the month of

February we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its various forms, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History/African Heritage month. By contemplating on persons of African heritage, famous and not so famous, who have been of significant influence through their ideas, words and actions, we appreciate the place of African history in the history of the world.

### Grade 3 Students transferring to Beverley Acres P.S. in September 2020

Our Grade 3 French Immersion students will be transferred by our school secretary to Beverley Acres PS for September 2020. There is no need to register your child at Beverley Acres PS as this is an automatic process. Please note that, as part of the transition process, our grade 3 FI students will be going on a field trip to Beverley Acres PS in the Spring.

More details to follow.

## UPCOMING SPIRIT DAYS

Feb 14 Red White and Pink Day

Feb.18 Red and White Day for Carnaval

Feb.19 Tuque Day

Feb. 20 Mitten Day

Feb. 21- Ceinture Fléchée/Scarf Day



## Message from our Trustee

As we enter another month of winter, this is a good time to be thinking about our health, well-being and the importance of self-care. We know that, like all of us, our students can focus better when they feel better. Our schools play an important role in health and mental health promotion and education, and fostering well-being and mental health is one of our [priorities as a school board](#).

There is a lot of work taking place in our schools and board to create [healthy schools](#) and promote [mental health](#) and well-being, including:

- Providing training and resources for educators on strategies to support mentally healthy classrooms for all students, including holding a mental health conference.
- Hiring identity specific mental health workers and developing partnerships with [community partners](#) to serve the diverse needs of our students.
- Developing a [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#) to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions.
- Educating students about the risks of [substance use and misuse](#), including [vaping](#) and [cannabis](#).
- Providing strategies and supports for students in [preparing for exams](#) and [managing stress](#).

This commitment is also reflected in Board policy like the [Healthy Schools and Workplaces](#) policy and procedures. Setting policy, which governs the operation of the Board, is one of the [roles of trustees](#), and we greatly value the input provided by students, staff members, family and community members. I encourage you to look at the [policies under review](#) and share your feedback.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2020. At the Board meeting in December, trustees unanimously approved the addition of [new permanent Indigenous Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee positions](#). We are committed to Indigenous Education in

our Board and it is important that these voices are represented at the table. We hope to fill the positions as soon as possible and will share more information as it becomes available.

A [message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees](#) is also available on the Board website at [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca).

# Celebrating our Diversity

## February's Holidays and Observances

BAHA'I FAITH	CHRISTIANITY
<b>Feb. 26-29- Intercalary Days</b> are four days (five in a leap year) that do not belong to any month. They are days of celebration, gift-giving, hospitality and charitable works.	<b>Feb. 26- Ash Wednesday</b> (Western Calendar) is the beginning of Lent, the forty day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer, repentance and self-denial that precedes Easter. It is a reminder of the days Jesus spent alone in the wilderness.
HINDUISM	WICCA
<b>Feb. 21 - Mahashivaratri (Shivaratri)</b> ( "Great Shiva Night") is a special night of prayer. Devotees sing the praises of Shiva, one of the major Hindu deities.	<b>Feb. 1- Imbolc</b> also called Brigid's Day, is a Gaelic traditional festival marking the beginning of spring. It is held on 1 February, or about halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox