



MICHAËLLE JEAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

320 Shirley Drive, Richmond Hill, L4S 2P1

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E-mail: michaelle.jean.ps@yrdsb.ca

Website: www.michaellejean.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca



Nadia Russiello
Jean Rudman

Principal
Vice-Principal

Michael Cohen
Carol Chan

Superintendent
Trustee

A Message from the Administrative Team

It's hard to believe that the year is now half over! Over the past five months we have come together to support the academic, social and emotional growth of the children in our community. Exciting learning is happening in every classroom. Students have developed strong relationships with their teachers and with each other and parents have supported all of us as we get to know our community. Our staff is committed to the development of the French language and as such, in January, even our grade ones have been encouraged to express themselves in French. We are very proud of our French environment at MJPS! As parents, you can support our work in this area by engaging your child in conversations about what they are learning in class and how they are showing what they know and understand.



February is an extremely busy month at Michaëlle Jean PS with report cards, Carnaval, different clubs, floor hockey, contests and more. Our Carnaval is filled with activities organized by the School Council and supported by numerous volunteers. Students are excited about this week which was detailed in the Carnaval letter sent home earlier. Please remember that students will be going skating either on February 10th or February 16th, so this will require parent volunteers to help both on and off the ice. We wait in anticipation of this wonderful French cultural tradition which we will bring alive here at MJPS!

Report cards will be going home this month. Please take the time to carefully review comments that relate to strengths, areas of need and next steps. Talk about the goals that your child is setting for him/herself at home and in the classroom. Now is a good time to review the work that students are doing at home - reading regularly, completing homework and reviewing information learned in class to prepare for the next day.

A very important reminder— please help your child be successful in school by being on time and ready to participate in the learning. If your child is eligible for bussing, we strongly encourage him/her to take the bus to school in the morning. Supervision begins at 7:45 am to 8:00 am and we encourage you to drop off your child during this time. The advantages to dropping your child off before 8:00 am are: less traffic congestion in front of the school, your child will have a chance to socialize with friends in the morning before going to class, play and expend some energy so they are alert and more ready to focus once they are in class, continue learning independence and most importantly be on time for class so that they do not miss valuable instructional time. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

We appreciate everything you do at home to support your child's learning at school!

N. Russiello

Principal

J. Rudman

Vice-Principal

February	Events
1	PA Day
2	Scientist in the School (Mme German)
3	Scientist in the School (Mme Bessette)
4	Karate Kids for grade 1
4	National Sweater Day
5	Pizza Lunch
8	◊ Lunar New Year
9-12	Carnaval
10	Ash Wednesday
10	School Council Meeting (7 pm)
11	Karate Kids for grade 1s
12	Vasant Panchami
12	Pizza Lunch
14	Valentine's Day
15	Family Day
16-19	Bruce Carmody Presentation
16	Scientist in the School (Mme Messeroux/M. Mohamed)
17	Scientist in the School (Mme Safar/Mme Griffiths)
18	Term One Report Cards go home Karate Kids for grade 1
19	Pizza Lunch Gregg LeRock Concert for grade 1's
22-26	Book Fair
22	Sub Lunch
22	Swim to Survive for grade 3's
24	Scientist in the School (Mme Darvish)
25	Karate Kids for grade 1
26- March 1	Intercalary Days
26	Pizza Lunch
29	Sub Lunch Swim to Survive for grade 3's

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 between February 9th and 12th. 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.

Below is a reminder of all the events taking place during Carnaval:

Tuesday

Outdoor Activity Day. Dress warmly!

Wednesday

Skating (Grades 1 & 3)

Thursday

Carnaval Bingo & Performance

Friday Craft Day

Wear Red, White and/or Pink!

Tuesday, February 16

Skating (Grade 2)



Congratulations Fiona!

This artist from Mme Yau's class designed the winning image for this year's Carnaval button. Each student will receive a button as a memento for MJPS's 2015/16 Carnaval!

Safety Is Our First Priority

In the event of busses being cancelled.....

To ensure the safety of students, **school bus service may be cancelled** due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

- A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- When bus service is cancelled all school tests and/or examinations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- Student trips involving the use of school buses will also be cancelled.
- **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be affecting all municipalities in York Region.** Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM

1540 AM 1580 AM 88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM

94.9 FM 95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM

101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CTV Toronto CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YRDSB and YCDSB on twitter.

Additional Elementary and Secondary P.A. Days

As a result of provincial labour negotiations, a **P.A. Day** has been added for all York Region District School Board elementary schools on **Friday, May 6, 2016** and secondary schools on **Friday, June 3, 2016**. You can see the full updated school year calendars on YRDSB's [website](#).

These additional P.A. Days are mandated by the Ministry of Education. On these dates, teachers will be taking part in professional development on provincial education priorities identified by the Ministry of Education.

10th Annual York Region Character Community Awards

Recognize an individual, school, group and/or business across York Region for demonstrating exemplary character attributes. Awards take place on April 27, 2016 at the Richmond Hill Performing Arts Centre. Go to www.charactercommunity.com for more information. Nominations accepted before February 8th, 2016th.

The ECO Club



Michaëlle Jean P.S. is happy to announce that it is, once again, partnering with *Ontario EcoSchools* to promote environmental awareness within the school community. Our goals for the school year include improving waste reduction and recycling, as well as promoting two major initiatives: a marker recycling program through *Crayola ColourCycle*, as well as collecting milk bags to create sustainable bed mats.

We encourage students and their families to bring in their used markers (any brand name is accepted), as well as used milk bags, throughout the coming months. Students and/or parents can place their donations into the marked collection boxes near the foyer (across from the glass display case).

We thank you for your participation and support in greening MJPS and our local community!

A Message from our Trustee, Carol Chan

Although winter still feels far from over some days, we are now halfway through the school year. With report cards coming home, this is a good time to review progress and celebrate what your children have learned both inside and outside of the classroom. This is also a good time to set goals for the months ahead.

One of our goals set out in the Board of Trustees' [Multi-Year Plan](#) is to "continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning." Developing this supportive culture includes engaging parents/ guardians and other members of the school community in public education and working together to create safe and supportive school environments that enable students to thrive.

As parents/ guardians, there are many ways you can get engaged in your child's education and support their learning, including talking with them about school, communicating with teachers, attending school events or school council meetings, and volunteering in the school. However you get involved, know that you are making a difference.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you all the best an enjoyable and successful second term.

Are you moving before next September?

If so, please let us know as soon as possible.

We are currently projecting our student enrolment for September 2016.

These numbers help us hire sufficient staff and support personnel. It is important that we know as soon as possible whether you may be leaving the Michaëlle Jean community before September.

Thanks for your assistance in preparing for the next school year.

Please call our office with any information: 905-770-6507.



French Immersion Registration at MJPS

French Immersion registration started January 15, 2016. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in September 2016, and 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 where your child attends Senior Kindergarten. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Michaëlle Jean Public School to register between January 15 and February 12, 2016. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

Family Vacations – Extended Absences

If you are taking your child(ren) on a vacation of 15 or more days, there is a form available from the office that must be completed. You may also wish to send a letter to your child's teacher or directly to the office indicating your child's name(s), the date(s) of the absence and the reason for the absence.

We all enjoy family vacations: relaxing down-time opportunities to spend quality time with family and friends. Many children especially enjoy vacations if they miss school while they are away. Parents often ask: "Is it okay for us to take our child out of school for a week? We are going on vacation." The Education Act (the laws which govern education in Ontario) states that *"...every child....shall attend an elementary or secondary school on every school day from the first school day in September....until the last school day in June."* There are some approved reasons for student absences such as illness, cancelled busses, religious holidays but vacations during school time are not government approved. While family vacations can provide a myriad of wonderful alternative learning experiences, a day of missed school is a day of missed studies.

Often parents ask to be provided with work that will be missed. Generally speaking, this usually proves to be unsatisfactory. The work package created by the teacher is often incomplete when the child returns and may inadequately mirror the activities the class engaged in during the vacation period. Teachers' plans change in response to student progress so predicting the nature of future lessons is difficult. What takes place in the classroom can rarely be replicated with a paper and pencil task. Please understand that teachers are not responsible for re-teaching or assessing students on learning missed during family vacations.

Thank you for your understanding.

Updating your Contact Information

Throughout the year contact information often changes. Cell phone numbers, work numbers and emergency contacts often change.

Please be sure to update us at the school.

Should an emergency arise and we are unable to contact you due to outdated information it could prove to be very stressful for everyone involved.

As soon as this information changes, please contact the school so that we can update our records.





Celebrating Our Diversity

February's Holidays and Observances

Baha'i Faith

February 26th – March 1: *Intercalary Days* 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.

Buddhism

♦ **February 8th:** *Lunar New Year* the day after the new moon, marks the beginning of the new lunar year. It is the year of the Monkey. Irrespective of their religion or country, all Chinese, Vietnamese and many Koreans celebrate the cultural aspect of this day. This is the beginning of year 4714 in the Chinese calendar. It is a time for renewal and personal relationships, and pledges of prosperity.

Christianity

February 10th: *Ash Wednesday* (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

February 12th: *Vasant Panchami* is particularly celebrated in Northern India. This festival marks the advent of spring. Also known as Shri Panchami, it is a celebration commonly associated with Shri or Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth). It is also commonly linked with the Goddess of Learning, Saraswati.



Lunar New Year Display in the Front Foyer

Michaëlle Jean Public School is accepting online payments through School Cash ONLINE!

School Cash Online provides the following benefits:

- A convenient fee payment option that saves time
- Reduces paper
- No more need to send cash or cheques to school
- A quick way to register. It takes less than 5 minutes to register.

Parents that opt to participate will receive notification via email of student fees owed (both required and optional), and can make secure online payments by credit card or Interac and receive a receipt.

To view a presentation about the program, go to <http://www.kevsoftware.com/movies/ParentRegEnglish/>.

Follow the easy steps on the next page to register and get started!

Step 1: Register

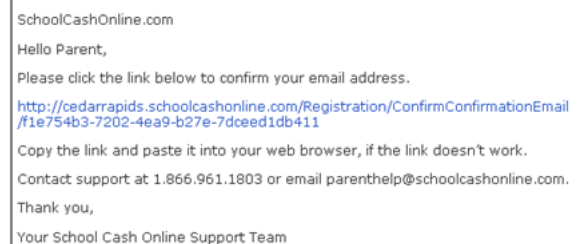
- Click on the School Cash Online button on our school's website at <http://redstone.ps.yrdsb.ca/> and select the **"Get Started Today"** button.
- Complete each of the three Registration Steps

***For Security Reasons your password, requires 8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.**



Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be automatically forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account. The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.

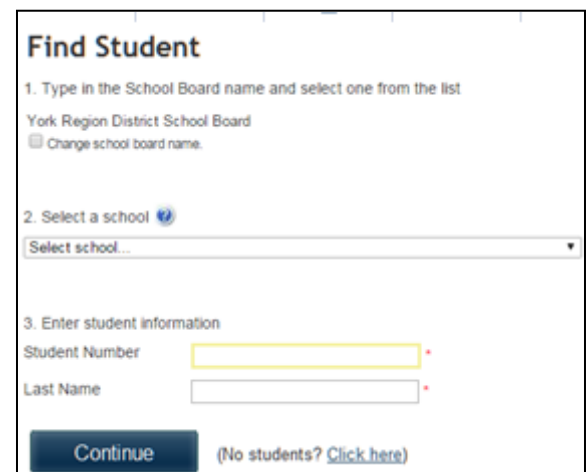


Step 3: Find Student

NOTE: A STUDENT NUMBER IS REQUIRED

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Enter the School Board Name
- Enter the School Name
- Enter Your Child's Student # and Last Name
- Select **Continue**
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select **Continue**
- Your child has been added to your account



Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select **"Add Another Student"** option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select **"View Items For Students"** option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

NEED HELP?

If you require assistance, select the *GET HELP* option in the top right hand corner of the screen or contact School Cash Online – Parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803 or parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com.

My healthy lunch challenge

How to pack a healthy lunch



1. Get what you need and make it **fun!**



Be litterless

Use compartment containers that have a snap top and are leak-proof



Be food safe

Keep hot food hot - use a thermos

Keep cold food cold - use ice packs



2. Get them **involved!**

Let your kids help plan, prepare and pack their own lunch. They will be more excited to eat their lunch if they help pack it. Get them to help chop, sort food into containers and make sandwiches or wraps



3. Plan it out and make it **complete!**

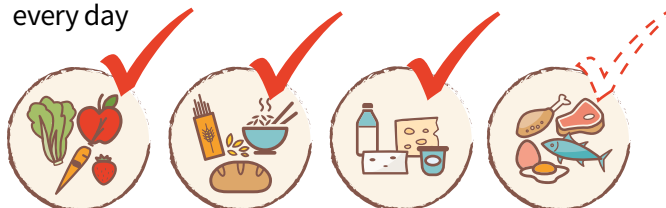
Mix it up!

Pack fruit and vegetables every day. Choose different foods to keep lunches interesting. Skip the sugary drinks; go for water, milk, or soy beverage



Use Canada's Food Guide

Include **three** or **four** food groups in your kid's lunch every day



Community and Health Services

Public Health



Create healthy lunches and snacks!

Mix and match the food group ideas below. Include three or four food groups for lunches and one or two food groups for snacks.



Vegetables and Fruit

- sliced strawberries
- sliced pepper strips
- cucumber slices
- raw baby carrots
- mango cubes
- cherry tomatoes
- banana
- sliced melon
- leftover cooked vegetables
- apple slices



Grain Products

- hot or cold cereal
- whole grain bread like rye or pumpernickel
- whole grain tortilla
- whole grain crackers
- 2 mini oatmeal muffins
- whole grain pita
- leftover pasta
- leftover brown rice
- barley in a soup or salad
- quinoa or couscous



Milk and Alternatives

- skim or 1% milk
- plain or flavoured yogurt
- cheese cubes
- cottage cheese
- fortified soy beverage
- sliced cheese (Havarti, Swiss)
- shredded mozzarella cheese
- kefir
- skim or 1% milk
- cheese string



Meat and Alternatives

- leftover roasted chicken
- tuna, salmon, egg or chicken salad
- hummus
- bean salad
- mini veggie omelet
- black bean and corn salsa
- meatballs (lean ground meat)
- cooked tofu
- sunflower or pumpkin seeds
- hard-boiled egg

Here's how to put it together:

Sample Lunch Ideas

- Roast turkey wrapped in a whole wheat tortilla, cherry tomatoes, applesauce and skim or 1% milk
- Hummus with whole grain pita, carrot sticks, grapes and yogurt
- Leftover chicken soup (with carrots, chicken and noodles), cheese cubes and a peeled orange
- Pita pizza with an apple and skim or 1% milk

Sample Snack Ideas

- Cheese cubes along with a fruit or vegetable
- Hummus or black bean dip with carrot sticks or cherry tomatoes
- Nut-free trail mix (mix of dried fruit and pumpkin seeds along with whole grain cereal)
- Yogurt and a banana or whole grain cereal
- Mini muffin (carrot, oatmeal, banana or bran) and sliced pears or milk
- Apple slices sprinkled with cinnamon and dry whole grain cereal



1-800-361-5653

TTY: 1-866-252-9933

York Region Health Connection

Community and Health Services

Public Health

www.york.ca



UNDERSTANDING LEARNING DISABILITIES AND ATTENTION DISORDERS

Date: Tues. Feb. 9, 2016

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Location:

**Milliken Mills
High School**
7522 Kennedy Road
Markham, ON L3R 9S5

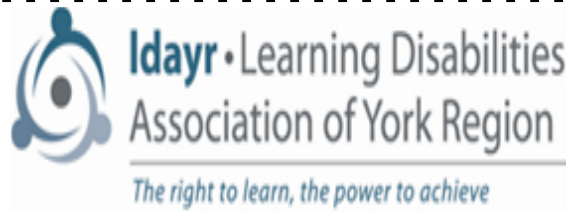
Presentation will be
in English
with **translation services**
in Mandarin & Cantonese.

Child minding services will
be offered by request.

For more information
and to **register**,
please contact:

YRDSB
(Mandarin/Cantonese)
Cathy Ng
905-884-2046 ext. 267
Cathy.Ng@yrdsb.ca

LDAYR (English)
905-884-7933 ext. 23
info@ldayr.org



Presented by
Learning Disabilities Association of York Region
in collaboration with
Inclusive School and Community Services
York Region District School Board



Workshop Information:

The workshop will help parents and students better understand Learning Disabilities.

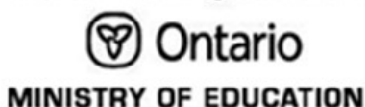
- ◇ What are Learning Disabilities/ADHD?
- ◇ Advocating for children/youth
- ◇ How to teach self-advocacy skills
- ◇ Problem solving model
- ◇ Building resiliency and well-being skills
- ◇ Mental Health awareness and stress management strategies
- ◇ Programming to support children, youth and families

Presentation Speakers:

Renee Flannery (LDAYR) is a Resource Facilitator with the LDAYR. Renee has provided support and guidance to parents for over years.

Stephanie Gatti (LDAYR) is a Program Coordinator and Resource Facilitator at the LDAYR.

Parents Reaching Out Grants



UNDERSTANDING LEARNING DISABILITIES AND ATTENTION DISORDERS

Date: Wed. Feb. 10, 2016

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Location:

Coppard Glen
Public School
131 Coppard Ave,
Markham, ON
L3S 2T5

Presentation will be
in English
with translation services
in Urdu.

**Child minding services will
be offered by request.**

For more information
and to **register**,
please contact:

YRDSB (Urdu)
Ayesha Syed
905-884-2046 ext. 271
Ayesha.Syed@yrdsb.ca

LDAYR (English)
905-884-7933 ext. 23
info@ldayr.org



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Stephanie Gatti (LDAYR) is a Program Coordinator and Resource Facilitator at the LDAYR.

Parents Reaching Out Grants



Ontario

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



United Way
Toronto & York Region