



Michaëlle Jean P.S.

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

Principal

Nadia Russiello

Superintendent

Michael Cohen

Vice Principal

Jean Rudman

Trustee

Carol Chan

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, our grade ones have been encouraged to express themselves more and more 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 always 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 on February 9th, 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

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.

Kindergarten Registration to Continues.....

Kindergarten registration is open for the 2017-18 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2017, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school. **Please note: Michaëlle Jean does not have a Kindergarten Program.**

French Immersion Registration

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.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.

If you are interested in registering your child please visit YRDSB's website (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2017, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call their home 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 the designated FI program location to register until February 10, 2017. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.*

Are your children's Immunization records up to date?

If parents/guardians or students receive a letter from York Region Public Health requesting immunization information, here's what to do:

Update York Region Public Health on your child's immunization status in one of the following ways:

Online at <https://eimmunization.york.ca>

- Fax documents to 905-895-6066 or 1-866-258-2026
- Mail immunization information to Immunization Services, Box 147, Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Call York Region Public Health at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73456

York Region District School Board School Climate Survey for Students

Students in Grades 5 to 12 at the York Region District School Board will be invited to participate in a survey between **March 20 and April 28, 2017**. **The survey is voluntary, anonymous and confidential**, and will take place at school.

The YRDSB survey fulfills the Ontario Ministry of Education's requirement for schools to conduct student surveys and is aligned with the YRDSB's Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being. Survey questions will address topics related to Math, Modern Learning, Mental Health and Well-Being, Equity and School Safety.

This survey provides an opportunity to hear directly from students and the results will be used to identify student needs and plan strategies to support student achievement and well-being. If you have questions, please contact the school office.

If you do not wish your child(ren) to participate in the survey, please contact the school by March 10, 2017.

Character Awards Recipients for January 2017

Teacher	Recipient	Teacher	Recipient
Bernard	Linden, Melody	Gray	Yulan, Jayden
Collin	Maggie, Austin	Ryan	Nancy, Andrew
Karchevskaya	Peter, Ella	Barr	Raha, Rhys
Lee	Isabella, Riley	Bessette	Sarah, Azad
Manarin	Cyrus, Liza	Darvish	Dawn, Jonathan
Prabakaran	Kristie, Ethen	Griffiths	Alexander, Imran
Bawab	Jenna, Zeinab	Messeroux	Harrison, Yuna
Brown	Samaiyah, Tristan	Mohamed	James, Jackson
Kamyab	Alena, Amaan	Safar	Isabella, Hanna
Marjanovic	Chloe, Avia	Yum	Ryan, Addison
Tajahmady	Ethan J., Ryan	Mnknjian	Adnis
Yau	Apama, Jasmine	Kim	Curtis, Lillian

Respect will be the focus for February.

Richmond Hill Winter Carnival February 3rd, 4th, and 5th

Enter the Richmond Hill Winter Carnival Colouring Contest



Winners will be announced at the Carnival on Saturday morning and the winning entries will be on display during Carnival as well as on our website. Prizes for the winning entries will be distributed to the students, along with a certificate, during the week of February 6th - 10th, 2017.

Here is the link to the online Colouring Contest PDF (<http://www.wintercarnival.net/docs/RHWCColouringContest2017.pdf>)

Schools for Children of the World

Haiti Fundraiser

Last year, the students and families at MJPS raised \$8,260.37 for our Haiti Fundraiser. The funds were donated to "Schools for Children of the World" who built a school in Honduras. The "Jungle School" - **Escuela Luis Alfonso Guerra** is located in a remote village, Brisas el Congo. The "Jungle School" includes a new classroom with adjacent washrooms and a playground. SCW Canada has also provided furniture and school supplies.

On January 18, 2017, Tania and Don from SCW Canada came to MJPS to share videos and pictures of the new school as well as present the school with a plaque and a thank you card created by the children in Honduras.

We are looking forward to continuing our support of SCW this spring with another fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information!



Message from our Trustee

We are now halfway through the school year. This is a good time to reflect on all that your child has learned and to look at setting goals for the rest of the school year.

Our Board believes that student well-being and achievement go hand-in-hand. 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.”

The Ministry of Education has recently identified four priorities for well-being: positive mental health, safe and accepting schools, healthy schools, and equity and inclusive education. As a Board of Trustees, we will continue to further work in all of these areas to support student well-being in line with these priorities.

There are many resources on the Board website to help support student well-being, including tips for talking about mental health, managing stress, packing healthy lunches and addressing incidents of bullying.

Creating a healthy, safe and welcoming learning environment is key to helping our students reach their full potential. All of us have an important role to play in creating an environment that enables our students to thrive.



CARNAVAL BUTTON DESIGN FOR 2017

Congratulations to Dafni F. in Mme Griffith's Grade 3 class who's Carnival button design was selected to be our 2017 MJPS Carnival button.

Thank you to all students who submitted a design—we have a lot of talented artists at MJPS!



SAFE ARRIVAL IS COMING TO MJPS

FEBRUARY 6TH, 2017

Michaëlle Jean will be introducing a new more efficient absence reporting system called **Safe Arrival**. This system will allow parents/guardians to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently. **Safe Arrival** will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance making it easier for you to report your child's absence and easier for staff to respond to unaccounted student absences.

In addition, we will also be introducing an automated notification system already used by our High Schools to contact parents who have not reported their child absent. The automated notification system will contact parents at multiple contact numbers until one of the designated contacts is reached. If our system is unable to reach a designated contact after 20 minutes, office staff will follow up. If we are unable to reach you by phone, we will continue to follow the YRDSB safe arrival protocol and contact York Regional Police.

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

Please refer to the detailed letter that was sent home. As well, please use the fridge magnet, containing the toll free number that you can keep in a convenient location for quick reference when reporting your child's absence or late arrival.



Michaëlle Jean P.S.
Safe Arrival

To report your child's absence/late, please call
1-855-203-2994 ←
or go online to
yorkrdsb.schoolconnects.com
Before 8:00 a.m



**Please call this
number starting
February 6th**

A confirmation number must be assigned once the absence is reported.

Please do not hang up before the confirmation number is assigned.

Michaëlle Jean P.S. is happy to announce that it is continuing its partnership with *Ontario EcoSchools* to promote environmental awareness within the school community. Thanks to the outstanding work of our students, we achieved a **gold** certification for MJPS last year!



Our goals for this year include improving waste reduction and recycling, as well as encouraging greater energy conservation through various initiatives, such as *Lights Out Lunch*, *Earth Hour*, and others!

We thank you for your participation and support in greening our school!

MJPS Eco Club

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 2017.

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.



HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

BAHA'I FAITH

Feb. 26 – Mar. 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.

CHRISTIANITY

February 27: **First day of Lent**, (Eastern Calendar), which is the great fast, is the last six weeks of a ten week period before Easter. This day is also known as Clean Monda. Some Eastern Churches may start Lent a week before on April 20.

HINDUISM

February 1: **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.

February 25: **Mahashivaratri** (or Shivaratri, "Great Shiva Night") is a special night of prayer. Devotees sing the praises of Shiva, one of the major Hindu deities.

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Vasant Panchami Bricks 4Kidz(grade 3)	2 Karate Kids (grade 1)	3 PA Day (No School)	4
5	6 Camaval Bonhomme Parade and outdoor activities	7 Camaval Music performance and Bingo	8 Camaval Heritage School-house (gr. 3)	9 Camaval Skating Karate Kids (grade 1)	10 Camaval Craft Day, door decorating contest Pizza Lunch	11
12	13 Swim to Survive (gr. 3) School Council Meeting (7 pm)	14 Valentine's Day Red, White & Pink Day Hands up For Health (gr. 1) Heritage Schoolhouse	15 Heritage School-house (gr. 3) Bricks4Kidz (gr. 3)	16 Heritage School-house (gr. 3) Karate Kids (gr. 1) Reports go Home	17	18
19	20 Family Day	21 Heritage Schoolhouse (gr 3)	22 Bricks 4Kidz(gr. 3) Heritage School-house (gr. 3)	23 Karate Kids (gr. 1) Heritage School-house (gr. 3)	24 Pizza Lunch Jersey Spirit Day	25 Mahashivaratri
26 Intercalary days	27 First Day of Lent (Eastern) Swim to Survive (gr. 3) Junglesport	28 Junglesport				



Student Transportation Services of York Region
320 Bloomington Road West
Aurora, Ontario L4G 0M1
905-713-2535
FAX: 905-713-2533
Web site: www.schoolbuscity.com

School Bus Cancellation Notice

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.

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.
- **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.
- 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.
- 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	105.9	107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CTV Toronto CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at School Bus City and by calling 1-877-330-3001. or by following @YRDSB and @YCDSB on twitter.

School Council Newsletter



<http://www.michaëllejean.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/>

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“The Michaëlle Jean Public School Council is a partnership of parents, staff, community and students. Its goal is to actively promote a positive learning environment in French, which will enhance the quality of the students’ education and corroborates the goals as set out in the School Improvement Plan”.

Upcoming Events

MJPS Carnaval

Week of February 6th

School Council Meeting

February 13, 2017
@ 7:00 p.m.



Message from School Council Chair

Marisa O. Mahabir-Byers and Silvia Moreno-Ip, Co-Chairs.

Hello and welcome back!

We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday surrounded by family and friends!



As we jump start into another New Year, our School Council has many activities planned for the remainder of the year.

In February, Michaelle Jean will be celebrating Carnaval! This annual event will be taking place the week of February 6th to February 10th. The children will be participating in daily activities celebrating French heritage and traditions. As a result of your generous donations so far, School Council will be able to continue to subsidize the majority of the costs for these activities. Thank you for your ongoing contributions so that programs like this can continue to be enjoyed by all students throughout the school year.

Activities like Carnaval this month, and Fun Fair coming this May, succeed with the support of parent volunteers. We appreciate your help and valuable contribution of time. To get involved and participate in activities at school with your child, please contact Li Gao at li.gao@tdsb.on.ca. All parents/caregivers are welcome to attend.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for School Council, please contact me directly at marisa.mahabir@yahoo.ca.

Student Success and Lunch Time Programs

We are pleased to announce the Town of Richmond Hill, Healthy Lunch Programs have started. All programs are well attended, and we are encouraged by those on our waitlists. First offering of the Winter programs will go to those waitlisted families in December. The Town of Richmond Hill will be personally calling each family on the waitlists.

In light of the rocky start to Fall's session, we will be giving our MJPS families more time to look over the flyer for Winter. Look for the Winter Flyer in mid-January.

Pizza Lunches and School Climate

Our fundraiser pizza lunches are off to another successful start. Lunch programs to start later January / early February. Look for brochure coming home in January and if you want to order pizza for February to June, you will need to go online to School Cash Online and process your order. This will be available starting in January.

THANK YOU to all of our parent volunteers; without you, this fundraising initiative would not be possible. If you'd like to volunteer; please get your police check first. We like seeing new faces!!

2016/2017 Parent Council Members

Chairs

Marisa M. & Silvia M.

Treasurer

Sally W.

Secretary

Andrea P.

Communications

Ali P.

Student Success Committee Chairs

Tracey C. & Vivian C.

Parental, Family & Community Involvement Committee Chairs

Priscilla J. & Stella Z.

School Climate Committee Chair

Lixia Y.

Teachers Representative

Beatriz B.

Volunteer Coordinator

Li Gao.

Members-at-Large

Merav S.

Randi M.

Daniel Y.

Li G.

Bernadee K.

Fiona L.

Yvonne Z.

Sava Mohammad R.

Tony G.

Tara S.

Kaan R.

Zenobia S.

Administration

Mme Russiello

Mme Rudman



Donation Drive: *Small Contribution Means A LOT to our Students.*

This year, our fundraising donation drive has been running smoothly on-line!
Donation Website: www.schoolcashionline.com

Up to date, a total of \$ 9279.6 (as of Nov 30, 2016) has been raised through our on-line Donation Drive and Pizza lunches. A big **Thank You** to those parents who have already donated. Total expense is -\$14280.63, which have been used towards council support student activity and general items such as Lice check, agenda, field trips, science & technology and performances. Currently, our expense is more than our revenue; we were able to support our expense by using reserve fund from previous year, however we will greatly appreciate your continuous support and contribution along the way.

You can contribute any time throughout the year, but the earlier the better. Once you are signed into your www.schoolcashionline.com account, click on **"Make A Donation"** button (Circled Red in image below) to donate! Every dollar counts! Please take a moment and make your donation today! We need your support to fund upcoming school annual event – Carnival & Funfair



Upcoming Events

Our Annual MJPS Carnival will be taking place the week of February 6th. We are looking forward to a week of fun and excitement! Volunteers will be needed so please look for more information to come home soon!

School Council Meeting Dates

Please mark your calendars, come, and join us for the upcoming School Council Meetings. We welcome and encourage all parents to attend. It is a great way to know what is happening at the school, meet other parents and get involved.

- February 13, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.
- March 13, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.
- April 5, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.
- June 12, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

