



MICHAËLLE JEAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

320 Shirley Drive, Richmond Hill, L4S 2P1

Telephone: (905) 770-6507

E-mail: michaillejeanps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

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



Superintendent: Michael Cohen
Trustee: Carol Chan



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

Administrators' Message



The month of February will be another busy month with Carnival activities, Winit Assembly and Black History month. As well, first term report cards will be going home on February 18th and we ask that you take a moment to review it with your child to acknowledge their growth, successes and next steps for improvement.

As a staff, we continue to focus on professional learning around the comprehensive math program. Staff continue to be engaged in research based learning and activities so that they can support students' skills development in the area of problem solving and thinking. We thank our School Council for purchasing many resources to support the teaching and learning in the math classroom.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parent volunteers who have signed up to help with the many activities happening here at MJPS during the month of February. Without your support, it would be difficult to organize school wide events such as skating. Our School Council has been instrumental in organizing Carnival which is an amazing cultural tradition which lasts for a full week. We are also happy to offer all snacks, presentations and activities free for all of our students.

Lastly, I am very sad to share that this will be my last year as Principal here at MJPS. I have been appointed Principal of the new French Immersion school, Roméo Dallaire PS, which is scheduled to open September 2015. I have been blessed to be part of a vibrant school community for five years and look forward to the many events scheduled from now until June 2015.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a happy Family Day on February 16th, 2015.

Special Points Of Interest

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School Information and Events

Report Cards

First term report card will be sent home on February 18. There are no formal interviews scheduled at this time. Please take the time to review your child's progress and share their strengths with them as well as set goals for improvement. We value partnerships with our families and encourage parents to contact their child's teacher(s) if you have any questions. Many thanks to our excellent teachers and support staff, whose care and dedication to their students make MJPS such a wonderful place for learning.



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 the week of February 9th. 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. If you can donate any amount of time, please complete this on the letter or contact the office and we will be sure to pass your name along to our Carnaval organizers. Below is a reminder of all the events taking place, the majority of which are subsidized by our School Council.

- Monday - "Carnaval" kickoff performance with entertainer Helen Nicole Richard
- Tuesday - Bonhomme visits our students in their classes, Carnaval Cahiers
- Wednesday - Skating (CSA approved helmets required)
- Thursday - Craft and Pyjama day
- Friday - Outdoor activity day and hot chocolate - Dress Warmly!



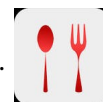
Valentine's Day

As this special day approaches, many children are preparing Valentine cards for their friends. We would like to remind parents not to send sweets or food of any other type to school. ***We are a nut-safe school and we do not allow sharing of food of any kind.*** We have many children with severe allergies and we cannot put them at risk.



Spoons and Forks

Parents, please remember to pack a spoon or a fork in your child's lunch. We can't always guarantee that we will have any extras in our office.



Are you Moving?

If you are planning to move and your child will not be returning to M.J.P.S. in September 2015, please let the school know as soon as possible as this will assist us greatly with staffing, determining numbers and class placement.



School Information and Events Con't

Solutions to Traffic Congestion

We recognize that our school has had a lot of traffic and parking challenges this winter.

Here are a few solutions we hope you can try in order to ensure all our students, staff and community members are here safely on a daily basis:

1. Take the bus to school whenever possible.
2. Plan to arrive well before 8:00am, as our staff begins duty at 7:45am. On days where the wind-chill is considerable, we bring students indoors until the bells go at 8:00am. Taking an extra 5-10 minutes in the morning can prevent cars from having to let children out in unsafe areas of the street, specifically the middle lane or the bus loop.
3. Carpool whenever possible.
4. Consider alternate parking near the school (ie. Romance Crescent and/or the parking lot of the Richmond Hill Park next to the school) and walk students to the school.

We really hope you can help us out with student safety at Michaëlle Jean PS. If you have any suggestions, please contact the school office at 905-770-6507

iCAN take the bus to school.

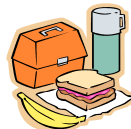
For those who are eligible, busing can be a great opportunity for children to meet friends, be active walking to and from the bus stop and gain a sense of independence. Busing also:

- Reduces gridlock. Parents can avoid the stress of being stuck in traffic, parking issues or getting a ticket.
- Reduces the risk of pedestrian injury. In 50 percent of the cases of children who are struck by a car near a school, the drivers are parents driving their children to school.
- Reduces the number of cars polluting the air. Declining air quality has been linked with a rise in the number of cases of children with asthma.

Litterless Lunches and Snacks

Our EcoSchool journey continues this year which entails using better recycling strategies and waste management practices along with focusing on energy conservation. Please send litter-less snacks and lunches to school with your child. We encourage you to put snacks in reusable containers. That way the containers come home for reuse. We also ask that you pack re-usable water bottles so that we can reduce the amount of plastic we recycle. We are all responsible for the environment. Please help your children become aware of how they can help protect it.

We can help our environment by participating in eco-friendly practices both at home and at school.



Winit Assembly

On February 27th, we will have our first term Winit Assembly to acknowledge special contributions of **all** of our students in leadership, volunteer work, team work, or special contributions. This is a student focussed assembly for staff and students to celebrate student successes.



Board Information

French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

French Immersion Registration is still ongoing at MJPS. We will be accepting FI registrations until February 13, 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 2015, 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. 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

Message from our Trustee Carol Chan



The arrival of February is an exciting and busy time in our schools. It marks the mid-point of the school year, the end of secondary exams and the arrival of mid-year report cards. February also brings us longer daylight hours, the beginning of the end to winter and of course, the excitement of the approaching spring break!

It is my hope that at this point, parents have seen signs of academic growth and development in their children. I encourage all parents to carefully review their child's report card and reflect on the learning that has taken place since September. Now is a good time to celebrate your child's accomplishments and set goals for the rest of the school year.

February may be the shortest of the 12 months, but it is a busy time. There is still lots of learning, and opportunities for growth, ahead. With that in mind, I wish you all an enjoyable and successful second term.

Host a student visiting from abroad

Can you offer ...

- a caring and secure environment
- an English speaking home
- a private room
- three meals (and snacks) daily
- a home within reasonable distance to a YRDSB school

Families are compensated \$900/month to cover the cost of hosting (effective July 1, 2013).

A Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC) is required for every member of the household over age 18.

School year and summer placements are available.



homestay@yrdsb.edu.on.ca | 905 884 2046 ext 254
www.yrdsb-international.ca



School Procedures

COLD WEATHER REMINDERS

We are now in the middle of winter and the cold weather is a reality in our part of Ontario. We are sharing with you the following common message provided to all schools in York Region: Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses (hats, scarf, gloves, mittens, boots, etc.) It is advisable for children to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet. Being physically active during winter is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle. The school administration keeps a close eye on weather conditions, including wind chill. When conditions necessitate, students will remain inside for recess. When conditions allow, reduced outdoor recesses may take place. **If a student is well enough to attend school, then he/she will be expected to go outside for recess.** We would ask that parents be sensitive to the demands placed on our office staff and not call the school to inquire about indoor recess, but rather that parents send their children dressed for outdoor winter play.



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 basis



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.

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 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.

Parent/Guardian Information Corner

At MJPS, we learn about bullying and the effects of bullying on an ongoing basis through our classroom lessons, special guests at school, parent engagement evenings, announcements and assemblies. Students are always encouraged to report bullying incidents to school staff so that they can be properly investigated. If parents have concerns or questions, they are also encouraged to contact their child's teacher or the office. As a school, we follow up in a variety of ways to ensure that the bullying stops. Moderate to severe consequences may occur depending on the severity of the incidents. All of our students have the right to a safe and caring learning environment and there are many actions we can take collectively to ensure this happens. Below is some additional information you may find useful to talk about with your child.

The following information about bullying is taken from: www.bullying.org "Where You Are NOT Alone!"

What is Bullying?

Bullying is a conscious, willful, deliberate, hostile and repeated behaviour by one or more people, which is intended to harm others. Bullying takes many forms, and can include many different behaviours, such as:

- physical violence and attacks
- verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs
- threats and intimidation
- extortion or stealing of money and possessions
- exclusion from the peer group

Bullying Myths and Facts:

Myth: *"Bullying is just, stage, a normal part of life. I went through it my kids will too."*

Fact: Bullying is not "normal" or socially acceptable behaviour. We give bullies power by our acceptance of this behaviour.

Myth: *"If I tell someone, it will just make it worse."*

Fact: Research shows that bullying will stop when adults in authority and peers get involved.

Myth: *"Just stand up for yourself and hit them back"*

Fact: While there are some times when people can be forced to defend themselves, hitting back usually makes the bullying worse and increases the risk for serious physical harm.

Myth: *"Bullying is a school problem, the teachers should handle it"*

Fact: Bullying is a broader social problem that often happens outside of schools, on the street, at shopping centers, the local pool, summer camp and in the adult workplace."

Myth: *"People are born bullies"*

Fact: Bullying is a learned behaviour and behaviours can be changed.