



# WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR AT MICHAËLLE JEAN P.S.

August 2018

We are looking forward to a new school year at Michaëlle Jean P.S.! As we begin this new year, we would like to welcome all of our new students, especially those in grade 1, who will be joining our learning community here at MJPS. We would also like to welcome back our returning students and families. We anticipate this to be a great year! As the new school administrator, I also look forward to meeting and getting to know the students and the community. Please feel free to drop by the office to say hello, as I look forward to getting to know as many families as possible. You are also welcome to join us through School Council or other school related events that will allow us to build the important relationships that we feel only enhance your children's school experience.

It has certainly been a busy summer at MJPS. Our ramp to the stage and the changes to the library are almost complete. We have been assured that the final touches will be placed in the next few weeks and we will have full access to our learning commons once again. We look forward to the transformations happening at MJPS.

Sincerely,

Nora Mazloumian

Principal

**Please see some important information below regarding our first day of school.**

### [First Day Procedures/Class Distribution:](#)

On the morning of Tuesday, September 4th, students in grades 2-3 will be directed to the back of the school, where they will assemble by grade in designated areas. As has been past practice, in the interest of safety and privacy, class lists will NOT be posted outside. Teachers will accompany students into the school once their classrooms are organized.

We will have many teachers, wearing orange or yellow safety vests, who will be available to help with this process.

Grade 1 students will assemble in the gym to be organized into their classes.

Families are asked **not** to follow students to their classrooms.

If the weather does not permit us to organize students outside, all grades will be organized inside. There will be signs on the exterior doors that will outline what area, inside the school, students should go to by grade.

### Transportation Information

For information relating to your child's bus route, pick-up and drop off times, we request that ALL parents check the school transportation website at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) this weekend. This will ensure that you are aware of any changes in routes that may have occurred over the summer. Please ensure your child(ren) know their P.M. bus route number, as this will help our bus departure go smoothly on the first day.

We strongly encourage students who are eligible for busing to get in the habit of travelling to and from school by bus to reduce car congestion on the streets around the school.

The following is a list of responsibilities for parents:

- Parents should understand the need to make alternate arrangements for their child/children if the school bus is late.
- Parents and/or students should arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the regularly scheduled pick-up and drop-off times. During the first week of school it is recommended parents and/or students arrive at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to the regularly scheduled pick-up and drop-off times.
- Parents should know their child/children's route number.
- Parents should know their child/children's bus stop location.
- Parents should know the school and bus company phone number in the event of an emergency.
- Parents are reminded to refer to the Late Bus Report on the Student Transportation Services website at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) prior to leaving for the bus stop in the mornings and afternoons.

If parents have any questions regarding these items, please feel free to contact the office.

### Pick-up and Drop Off

Only buses are allowed in the bus loop and driveway/parking lot between 7:45 a.m. and 8:05 a.m. and between 2:00 p.m. and 2:40 p.m. For parents who drive their children to school, you may park temporarily on the street, and walk your child onto school property. Please note that school buses have priority access to our school.

We need your assistance to make arrival and departure time SAFE for all of our students.

### Before School

Before school, supervision by school staff on the school yard pavement begins at 7:45 a.m.

## After School

### School Communication

You may go to our school website for general information about our school. Here you will find our monthly newsletters, which summarize upcoming school events, important school routines, and information about student learning and school improvement, as well as information regarding our School Council fundraising events.

**Website:** <http://www.michaellejean.ps.yrdsb.ca>

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

We plan on sending “non-commercial” messages and reminders about upcoming school events via our parent email distribution list. Please ensure that we have your current email address on file so that you receive all communications from the school. You will have an opportunity to verify/provide your current email on the student verification forms that will be sent home during the first week of school. We will be using electronic communication for most of the office information that needs to get to families.

**We require your consent to receive any electronic messages which contain advertising or promotions regarding school fundraisers, lunch programs, field trips, purchasing of yearbooks or student photos, athletic events with an entry fee or similar events and offers. If you wish to also receive commercial electronic messages, please subscribe online on our school website homepage. You may unsubscribe from commercial electronic messages at any time online.**



Parents/Guardians: Enter your e-mail address to **subscribe** to electronic communications of a commercial nature.

You may also choose to **unsubscribe** at anytime.

### Possible Reorganization

In order to meet Ministry of Education primary class size cap requirements, classes will remain tentative until the end of September, at which time a possible reorganization may occur. Over the summer, many families move into or out of our community. As a result, we are monitoring class sizes to ensure compliance with Ministry regulations. On September 24, after examining our class sizes, the Board will decide if a reorganization of classes is necessary. This is common in all schools across the Board and province.

As in all difficult situations, our children will take the lead by the example that we set for them. This could be an opportunity to demonstrate optimism by looking at this change in a positive light. We will keep you informed of any changes that may affect your child. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

## Safety – Allergies/Medical Conditions

Families need to advise teachers and the school office if there are any medical conditions that we need to be aware of, including allergies, so we can make the appropriate plans to ensure student safety.

## Protecting Student/Family Privacy

Activities throughout the school year may require the use of student names, age, grade, etc. These would be used when displaying student work, during student performances or when recognizing student achievements, at the school and/or board level. We recognize that these practices may be contrary to the wishes of some parents, therefore, **if you wish to exclude your child, please inform Mme Mazlounian immediately, in writing, so that alternate arrangements can be made.**





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](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)

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## **Important Transportation Notice for Schools affected by Rose Branch Bridge Rehabilitation**

As you know, Rose Branch is closed for approximately 5-6 weeks for bridge work; more specifically buses will not be able to travel on Rose Branch from Elgin Mills to Woodriver.

Therefore 2 stops, Rose Branch & Pandora Court and Rose Branch & Cougar will not be able to be serviced during this period. Students will be redirected to other stops (mostly already in existence).

Please refer to STS website, [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) for updated stop assignments and their associated bus routes and service times.

Once the work is completed and through access on Rose Branch is available for travel the regular stops will be reinstated. STS will communicate the resumption of services when the date is firm. The estimated completion date is October 12, 2018.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this additional service revision and best wishes for a safe and successful school year.