

# March 2019

## The Info @ Michaëlle Jean P.S.



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**Michaëlle Jean P.S.**

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**Richmond Hill, Ontario L4S2P1**

**Trustee: Cindy Liang**

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### Upcoming Dates

March 4	School Council 7 p.m.
March 6	Grade 2 Great Lakes presentation from the Toronto Zoo
March 7	Pajama Day
March 8	Character Assembly
March 11-15	March Break
March 19	Swan Lake (Bourrie & Bawab)
March 20	Swan Lake (Kamyab & Yau)
March 21	Swan Lake (Kim & Marjanovic)
March 22	Swan Lake (Grade 2 Karchevskaya & Tajahmady)
April 1-5	French Book Fair
April 4	Spring Concert

### Message from your Administrator

Michaëlle Jean has been a busy school over the past month! Our entire school participated in our annual Carnival. What a wonderful sight it was to see over 400 students and staff members participating in a variety of activities in our school! Students were thrilled to see Bonhomme Carnival himself, who was able to make a stop at our school and visit all the classes. Unfortunately, due to the unreliable weather this winter and multiple bus cancellations, School Council has decided to replace the outdoor winter activities with a spring Play Day. Many thanks to the endless hours that our School Council put in, behind the scenes, to make this event happen. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to our amazing School Council for subsidizing other activities as well such as Scientists in the School and Jungle Sport for all our students. Students enjoyed climbing, swinging, low ropes and even a zip line. Great fun was had by all!

March also promises to be filled with exciting activities. Our grade 2 students will be going on a field trip to Swan Lake for some outdoor learning. They will also have the chance to learn about the fish in the Great lakes. The program is offered by the Toronto Zoo and encourages students, educators and families to "Keep our Great Lakes Great" while learning about local aquatic species at risk.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe, enjoyable March Break. Before we know it, spring will be here once again!

**March  
Break**



## 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 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

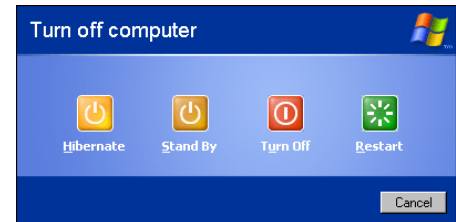
### Lunch Supervision!

**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 Gaston 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!

## March Eco Theme



Maximize overall energy consumption by powering off all computers and monitors at the end of the day.



### 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 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!!**



### **Naw Ruz (New Year)**

Usually occurs on March 21st. This is the first day of the Zoroastrian and Persian year. Naw Ruz is also observed/celebrated by many other faith and cultural groups around the world.

### **Late? Please arrive at school 5 minutes earlier.**



We continue to have large numbers of late students in the front hall every morning. If each of these late students would leave 5 to 10 minutes earlier this would reduce our lates by nearly 90 % each morning. A child is late to school if they are not in their classrooms by 8 a.m. Students who are still in the halls at 8:05 a.m. are late to school! Therefore, we are asking that parents help us make sure our students arrive at school by 7:50 am. If students are at school before the bell rings they will then be able to line up quickly at the rear of the school and come inside with their peers so that they are ready to start the instructional day when the bell rings at 8:00 am. This avoids late students who can be disruptive to other classes, their class and themselves. The school day officially starts at 8:00 a.m. So, we are looking for your support in getting your child(ren) out the door 5 to 10 minutes earlier and making sure we set them up for a successful day. If your child(ren) are late for school, please instruct them to go to the office for a Late Slip. Thank you!

### *Message From Our Trustee*

I hope everyone has had a great start to the second half of the school year. Over the past few months, I have had an opportunity to connect with families, students, staff members and with our broader community. I have seen a lot of exciting opportunities for students to explore their interests, celebrate their identities, and develop skills and knowledge that will benefit them in the future.

Many students are participating in [skills competitions](#) or other events where they problem-solve, innovate, collaborate and further develop their technical skills. Students compete in robotics, construction, hairdressing, transportation, 3D animation and much more. These events are among the many options available to help students explore different careers and [pathways](#), and gain valuable experience. We are grateful for the support of community partners in helping to provide these great learning opportunities to our students.

I also want to express my appreciation to our broader school community. One of the priorities in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) is to build collaborative relationships. The relationships that our schools have with families is so important. There are many different ways you can be involved - talking to your child's teacher, asking your child about homework, or volunteering on a field trip or the school council. Your contributions make a difference to your child's success and to the success of our schools.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable March Break.

Cindy Liang

Trustee

# Celebrating our Diversity

## March Holidays and Observances

BAHA'I FAITH	BUDDHISM
<p><b>March 2 - 20 The 19-Day Fast</b> is observed every year from March 2 until March 20. During this time those who are physically able, abstain from food and drink from sunrise until sunset each day.</p> <p><b>March 21 -Naw Ruz (Baha'i New Year).</b> Baha'is celebrate New Year on the first day of spring. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day. This date is also celebrated as a cultural event or faith day by many faith groups throughout the world .</p>	<p><b>March 20 - Spring Ohigon</b> is a special time to listen to the teaching of the Buddha and to meditate on the perfection of enlightenment. This day is of particular importance for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists.</p>
CHRISTIANITY	HINDUISM
<p><b>March 6 - Ash Wednesday (Western Calendar)</b> 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.</p> <p><b>March 11- First day of Lent (Eastern Calendar),</b> which is the great fast, is the last six weeks of a ten week period before Easter. This day is also known as Clean Monday. Some Eastern Churches may start Lent a week before on March 4.</p>	<p><b>March 4- Mahashivaratri (or Shivaratri, "Great Shiva Night")</b> is a special night of prayer. Devotees sing the praises of Shiva, one of the major Hindu deities.</p> <p><b>March 21-Holi</b> is a colourful spring festival observed widely in Hindu communities around the world. The myths, customs and rituals associated with Holi vary considerably from place to place.</p>
JUDAISM	SIKHISM
<p><b>March 21- Purim</b> celebrates the victory over an oppressive ruler by Queen Esther and her Uncle Mordecai.</p>	<p><b>March 14 - Sikh New Year's Day</b> is the first day of the new Nanakshahi solar calendar. This is year 550 of the new era.</p>
ZOROASTRIANISM	ZOROASTRIANISM
<p><b>March 17-Ghambar Hamaspathmaedem</b> celebrates the creation of human beings.</p> <p><b>March 21-Naw Ruz (New Year's Day)</b> in Fasli calendars. This is the first day of the Zoroastrian and Persian year. It is a time of religious observance preceded by ten days of remembrance of the dead. It symbolizes the renewal of the world after winter. Irrespective of their religion, many Iranians celebrate this day. Naw Ruz is also observed/celebrated by many other faith and cultural groups around the world. This celebration may also fall on March 20 based on the time of sunrise</p>	<p><b>March 28-Birthday of Prophet Zarathustra,</b> the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.</p>