



Michaëlle Jean P.S.

320 Shirley Drive, Richmond Hill, L4S 2P1

Telephone: (905) 770-6507

E-mail: michaëlle.jean.ps@yrdsb.ca

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

Principal

Nadia Russiello

Superintendent

Michael Cohen

Vice Principal

Jean Rudman

Trustee

Carol Chan

From the Administrative Team:

September at MJPS has been a busy month with students and staff working diligently to get into the swing of classroom and school routines. Students have quickly made new friends, reconnected with old friends and adapted to new routines and teachers. We have been working hard to ensure that our grade 1 students have adjusted well to their new school and have mastered the two bus shifts.

As a result of the changes that have taken place between June and September in our school's enrolment and in order to comply with the Ministry of Education's Primary Class Size Compliance requirements, we have reorganized and added a grade one classroom. We are pleased to welcome Mme Mnknjian who is teaching the new Grade One class. We also welcome Mme Armeland who will be teaching Dance, Drama and Health. We are very proud of our grade one students and how they have adapted to a new school community, are learning a new language and have experienced recess for the first time. We are also proud of our grade two and three students who are always willing and ready to lend a helping hand to our new students. Bravo to all MJPS students!

This month, we also welcome Mme Digiacinto in the office. Mme Digiacinto will be with us until June. We thank Mme Timson for all her work to help get our year off to a great start!

We also want to thank parents/guardians for your patience as you sifted through large amounts of paper. We can assure you that this will slow down now that the September rush is over.

Thank you to parents who have shown interest in the School Council and volunteering for School Lunches. An update from the School Council is provided to you with the names of its members in this newsletter.

In this newsletter we share our school's EQAO results with you. As a school, EQAO assessment data will be used as an additional source of information to support the improvement of student learning. Parents can also access these results through the [Board's public website](#).

We look forward to our next month together!

Sincerely,

N. Russiello

N. Russiello

Principal

J. Rudman

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.

Dates and Events	
1-9	Navaratri
2	World Communion Day
	First Day of Muharram
3-4	Rosh Hashanah
5	Lice Check
6	Gr. 2/3 Karate Kids (Lunch)
7	Pizza Lunch
10	Thanksgiving
12	Yom Kippur
	Ashura
13	Gr. 2/3 Karate Kids (Lunch)
14	Photo Day
16	Pavarana
17	Kathina
17-23	Sukkot Begins
17	Volunteer Orientation Meeting(8:15-9:15 a.m. in Library)
18	Scientists in the School (Gr.2)
19	Roland Bibeau Performance
20	Scientists in the School (Gr.2)
21	Pizza Lunch
	Character Assembly –Fairness
24	Shemini Atzeret
25	Shemini Simchat
26	Scientists in the School (Gr.2)
27	Gr. 2/3 Karate Kids (Lunch)
28	PA Day –no school for students
29	Diwali
30	Mahavira Nirvana
31	Samhain

School Year Calendar for 2016-2017

Thanksgiving	Monday October 10, 2016
PA Day	Friday, October 28, 2016
PA Day	Friday, November 25, 2016
Winter Break	Monday, December 26, 2016 to Friday, January 6, 2017 inclusive
PA Day	Friday, January 20, 2017
PA Day	Friday, February 3, 2017
Family Day	Monday, February 20, 2017
March Break	Monday March 13, 2017 to Friday March 17, 2017 inclusive
Good Friday	Friday, April 14, 2017
Easter Monday	Monday, April 17, 2017
Victoria Day	Monday, May 22, 2017
PA Day	Friday, June 2, 2017
Early Dismissal	Thursday, June 29, 2017

Picture Day

All students and classes will be photographed on **October 14, 2016.**

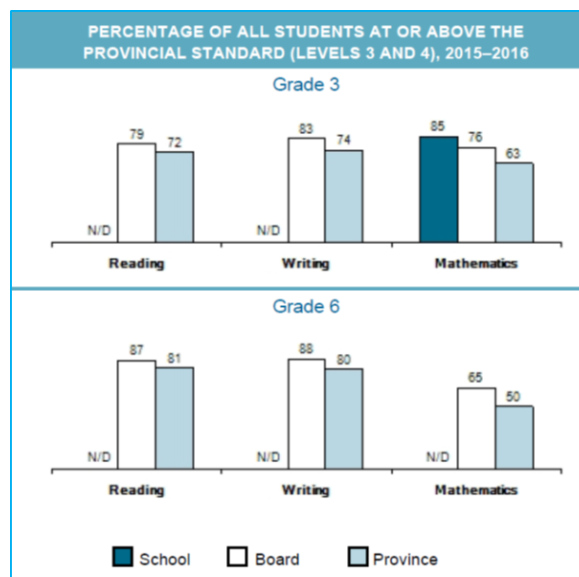
Remember: Do Not Wear Green

Safe Arrival

Please remember to call the school when your child is going to be absent or late. Our answering machine will take your calls when the office is closed. Calling will help us ensure the safety of your child and prevent a call to you at work or at the emergency number that you have provided for us. Please remember, the fewer calls we have to make, the sooner we are able to contact parents with a concern. When illness is at a peak we may have to make 50 or more calls in one morning.

The YRDSB protocol states that if we are not able to reach an adult to confirm a child's absence we are to call the police.

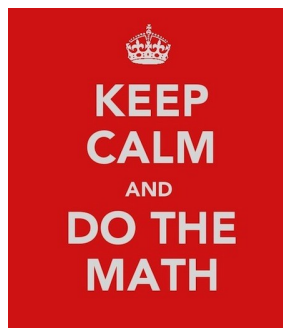
EQAO Results for MJPS (2015-16)



MATH Tips and Tools for Parents by the Ministry of Education

Tips for kindergarten to grade 3

1. **Counting can be fun and entertaining.** Sing counting songs such as "One, Two Buckle My Shoe". Your local librarian can recommend fun counting books. Play Hopscotch – it's a counting game! There are lots of games where you count, such as *Snakes and Ladders*, *Dominoes*, *Crazy Eights* and *Candyland®*.
2. **Computers + math = fun.** There are great computer games available for math – ask your librarian or check out your local computer store. Make sure they are "parent approved". There are also super websites that have fun math games, such as [TVOKids](#), or do an Internet search for other sites.
3. **Start Easy and Work Up!** Once they have got the hang of counting by 1s, introduce skip counting, such as counting by 2s and 5s.
4. **Use household items for counting practice.** Practise adding and subtracting with objects found around your house like spoons or pots and pans. When they've become good at these skills, move on to simple multiplication.
5. **Tap into your child's curiosity.** Go on a number hunt together and discover places where numbers are used such as a clock, TV, computer keyboard, calendar, telephones and licence plates.
6. **Use everyday activities.** Your child's world is filled with everyday math problems that can be solved. For example, "There are four people in our family and we each need a knife and a fork to eat dinner. How many knives and forks do we need to set the table?"
7. **Kitchens can be math zones.** Bake some muffins or cookies and ask your child to help you measure out the ingredients. It may be a bit messy but it's fun family time and there's nothing like a fresh cookie as a reward. Have math fridge magnets available so children can start making number patterns and doing simple math problems.
8. **Predict and compare.** Start to measure and estimate things like how far it is from the driveway to the house or how long a trip will take and then measure and compare the actual time it takes.
9. **Talk about time.** The concept of time can be hard to grasp. Talk to your kids about minutes and hours. Then get them to try counting days and weeks – for example how many "sleeps" until the weekend or a visit to a friend or relative.
10. **Identify geometric shapes and sizes.** Play "I Spy". Instead of looking for words beginning with a letter, look for different colours or shapes and count the number you find in the room.



A+ Lunch Tips

Pack those veggies and fruit!



According to a Canadian survey, 7 out of 10 children get less than the recommended servings of five fruits and vegetables per day¹. That's 70 percent of them! 5 servings may sound like a lot, but if you include fruit or vegetables with every meal (maybe a fruit with breakfast and a vegetable with both lunch and dinner), and include veggies or fruit in two snacks throughout the day then bingo, you did it! Fruit and vegetables are packed with vitamins and minerals, as well as fibre. Sending fruit and veggies in your child's lunch bag is a great way to get those servings in.

Here are some ways to make it fun:

- ✓ Kids are in a hurry to get outside and run around at recess, which is a good thing. So if they can eat their snack quickly, they are more likely to. Cut veggies and fruit in bite size pieces so kids can easily eat it without any prep.
- ✓ Go for colour and shape. Part of the taste experience comes from how food looks: if it looks good, kids are more likely to eat it. Bright, colourful veggies and fruit cut in fun shapes will draw them in.
- ✓ **Fruit ideas:** melon balls, apple wedges with lemon (to keep them from browning), orange sections, berries, bananas, grapes, watermelon chunks
- ✓ **Veggie ideas:** diced or sliced red, yellow and orange peppers, carrot sticks, sugar snap peas
- ✓ If your child likes to dip, include a small container of plain Greek yogurt--a good source of protein with a thick consistency that's perfect for dipping.



Happy Hallowe'en and School Safety

Monday, October 31st, 2016

Hallowe'en is a time of great excitement for our students. We ask that students do not arrive at school in costume, but rather change in the afternoon. We would like to remind all of our parents that Hallowe'en treats are NOT to be brought to school as the risk to students with allergies is too great.

In keeping with the Safe Schools Policy, we would like you to be aware that The York Region District School Board prohibits weapons and replicas from being brought to school at any time. With Hallowe'en approaching, we remind families that this policy includes costumes.

Weapons or replicas of any kind, including swords, guns, knives, and axes are not to be brought to school.

Let's work together to ensure our school is peanut/nut safe!

Our school is a peanut/nut safe school and we want to thank all of you for complying with the request to abstain from bringing any food that contains peanuts/nuts.

It has come to our attention that some parents may be including spreads on sandwiches that look like peanut butter but are actually peanut/nut safe (e.g. No Nuts Golden Peabutter). Because these products are safe and can be a replacement for peanut butter, we are allowing them to be packed in lunches or snacks. However, due to their similarity in appearance to peanut butter, and to ensure we are promoting a peanut/nut safe environment, we are asking you to follow this simple guideline:

If you are including a peanut/nut safe spread that looks like peanut butter in your child's lunch or snack, please include a note that states the name of the product and its ingredient list.

We want to thank you for your understanding and your willingness to ensure we have a peanut/nut safe school environment. For more information on peanut/nut safe environments please visit the Allergy and Asthma Information Association at <http://aaia.ca/en/schools.htm>.

For health related information call York Region Community and Health Services *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653 or visit www.region.york.on.ca.

We are Proud of our Gold Status as an Eco School!



Let's keep up the great work!!

TERRY FOX WALK

On September 29th our smiling students and staff walked 1 kilometre for Cancer Research. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this great cause!



A special thank you to our parent volunteers who helped our students stay on course and be safe during the walk.

Hava Jouharchi, Bernadee Koh, Hina Ghazanfar, Rahele Rahimi, Adina Hodges



Students are escorted by MJPS staff on their Terry Fox Community Walk.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

A reminder that only buses are allowed in the bus loop between 7:45 a.m. and 8:05 a.m. and between 2:20 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. This is imperative for your children's safety! Also please remember that students may only enter the school from the school yard; only this entry area is supervised. The pathway on the south side of the building is out of bounds. If you plan to pick up your child early from school, you must send your child's teacher a note and come to the office to sign out your child as well. If you call the office, we may not get this message until much later so a note to the teacher is preferable.

If your child's pick up arrangements change, please send a note in the agenda AND contact the office with the information by 12:00 p.m. that day.



shutterstock - 125125786

CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

Please make sure your child has a pair of **indoor shoes** for school with non-marking soles. Outdoor shoes track in mud and dirt and it can be very uncomfortable for the children to wear wet shoes and socks all day. Every student **must** have a clean pair of sneakers for their physical education classes, which they can also wear as indoor shoes. Help your child achieve success in physical education and help us keep the school clean.

Also, please send in a change of clothing for your child. Children often need to change into clean/dry clothes during the day. Remember to label all items.



SCHOOL VISITORS

For the safety of all our students and in accordance with the School Board's Safe Schools Policy, all parents must check in at the office. This includes when volunteering for the lunch programs.

RECESS BREAKS

Students are expected to be prepared for outdoor recess. If the weather is very cold, stormy or rainy, an indoor routine is followed. Generally speaking, if your child is too sick to go out at recess, then your child is too sick to attend school. Requests to stay in at recess or lunch cannot be accommodated as we do not have staff to supervise indoors.

Student Readiness for Snacks and Lunches



Please remember to pack a spoon or fork if your child needs this to eat a snack or lunch. The school is not able to provide them.



Due to safety concerns, knives of any kind (plastic, metal) are not allowed at school.

Student Punctuality & Entry Times

It is important to teach our children early about punctuality. It is the responsibility of every parent to ensure that their children are in school on time. The entry bell rings at 7:58 am and classes begin promptly at 8:00 am. When students arrive late they must come to the office for an admit slip, as attendance has already been taken in the classroom. Consequently, they lose precious time in the hallways as they are getting ready to enter the classroom. The class is already in progress when the child enters and he/she has missed valuable learning time. As well, the instruction has to stop because the teacher will have to repeat directions and instructions which have already been relayed to the other students. Please be respectful of your child's classmates, teacher and the instructional time.

Please also remember that students who come to school on the bus will never be marked late even if the buses are running late.

Character Award Recipients for September 2016

Teacher	Recipient	Teacher	Recipient
Bernard	Artin S, Stefan M	Gray	Arnika, Rachel
Collin	Henry Z, Aaron Y	Ryan	Kevin, Ellie
Karchevskaya	Celina Y, Roni K	Barr	Lydia A, Richard L
Lee	Lucy L, Noah M	Bessette	Nika, Carmen
Manarin	Ali B, Theresa T	Darvish	Dris W, Elnaz N
Prabakaran	Divya T, Theo L	Griffiths	Dafni, Daniel
Bawab	Nikita S, Ethan Y	Messeroux	Ava R, Aaaron L
Bourrie	Farid A, Kayla P	Mohamed	Rasa, Emilie
Kamyab	Sarah, Ethan	Safar	Brian G, Julia K
Marjanovic	Luke, Sophia, Isabel-la	Yum	Phoebe, Leah L
Tajahmady	Dalia, Melina	Mnknjian	Yeganeh, Emily
Yau	Olivia, Kasra		

October is dedicated to learning the traits of Justice and Fairness.

**Congratulations to MJPS School Council
2016-17**

CO-CHAIRS	Marisa Mahabir Byers & Silvia Moreno-Ip
TREASURER	Sally Wang
SECRETARY	Andrea Pape
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	Ali Pourjafar
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Li Gao Randi Magder
STUDENT SUCCESS	Tracey Cunningham Vivian Cho
PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	Priscilla Joshi Stella Zhang
SCHOOL CLIMATE	Tracey Cunningham Lixia Yang

WE 
VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Orientation Meeting

October 17th

8:15 am -9:15

School Library

Thank you to all of you who have returned the form that indicates your interest in volunteering in a number of capacities at MJPS.

Holidays and Observances

October 2016

Buddhism

October 16: Pavvana signals the completion of the Rains of Retreat.

October 17: Kathina marks Buddha's "descent from heaven". The day is dedicated to remembering the dead and respecting elders.

Christianity

October 2: World Communion Day is observed worldwide. Communion is the most fundamental of all Christian rituals.

Hinduism

October 1-9: Navaratri is a nine-day celebration of the Divine Goddess for good health, happiness, and knowledge.

October 29: Diwali means a row or garland of lights. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali is probably the most widely celebrated Hindu festival. This festival may be celebrated over a five-day period. The diwas herald the start of the new year and symbolize the triumph of good over evil, of light over darkness. For many Hindus, October 30, New Years Day is also very important. Tamil Hindus may observe this day on October 28.

Islam

October 2: Muharram (New Years Day) begins the new Islamic year. This is the year 1438.

October 12: Ashura falls on the 10th day of Muharram. The 10th day commemorates the martyrdom on Hussein, the grandson of Muhammad.

Jainism

October 30: Mahavira Nirvana. The Jain year begins with Moksha by Lord Mahavira. It is popularly known as Deepavali, festival of Lights.

Judaism

October 3-4: Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, marks the start of a ten day period of spiritual self-examination and repentance which ends with Yom Kippur.

October 12: Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement, is the most solemn of the Jewish Holy days, At synagogue, the evening service is called Kol Nidre, People ask for forgiveness of their sins and forgive others. Jews refrain from all eating and drinking on this day.

October 17-23: Sukkot is a Harvest festival. Small huts are constructed in which meals are eaten to commemorate the time when the Israelites dwelled in booths in the desert for 40 years.

October 24: Shemini Atzeret is a festival marking the end of the holiday of Sukkot.

October 25: Simchat Torah is marked by singing and dancing which celebrates the end of public reading of the Torah in the synagogue and the beginning of its reading anew.

Wicca

October 31: Samhain is the third harvest meaning "summer's end", when the ancestors are honoured. It is a magical interval when the mundane laws of time and space are temporarily suspended, and the thin veil between the worlds is lifted, symbolized by the Crone and her aged Consort.