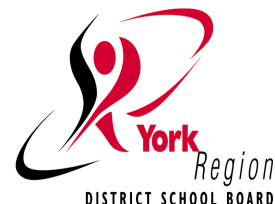


SEPTEMBER 2019

The Info @ Michaëlle Jean P.S.



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

Email: michaelle.jean.ps@yrdsb.ca

Twitter: @MJPSyrdsb

Principal: Nora Mazlounian

Michaëlle Jean P.S.

Superintendent: Michael Cohen

320 Shirley Dr.

905-884-4477

Admin. Support: Nasreen Dhirani

Richmond Hill, Ontario L4S2P1

Trustee: Cindy Liang

Karen Cizmar

Phone: 905-770-6507

Fax: 905-770-9336

Upcoming Dates

Sept. 2	Labour Day
Sept. 3	First Day of School
Sept. 6	Safe Schools Assembly
Sept. 12	Karate Kids Gr.2-3
Sept. 13	Terry Fox Assembly
Sept. 23	PA Day
Sept. 23-27	Safety Week
Sept. 25	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 26	Terry Fox rain date
Sept. 26	Meet the Teacher Open House 6 p.m.
Sept. 27	Character Assembly
Oct. 3	Photo Day
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving (no school)
Oct. 21	PA Day

Message from your Administrator

Dear MJPS Families,

Welcome back to a new school year at MJPS! I hope you are all as excited as I am to be starting the 2019-2020 year. I would like to extend a special welcome to all new and incoming Grade 1 families to Michaëlle Jean Public School as well as our new and returning staff, Mme Kumar who will be teaching our music classes and Mme Dhirani our new administrative assistant.

Preparing the school for a new year takes a lot of work and many hands. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers who have been preparing their classes to welcome your children. We all know that the first day of school is always so exciting! Thank you as well to our office staff who have been working behind the scenes in preparation for the arrival of our students. There are so many layers to their job, from attending to registrations, to ensuring that all students' transportation needs are taken care of, we can always count on them to assist us with any questions we may have. Let us not forget our custodians who have done a magnificent job in cleaning and preparing the school and grounds in order to create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Merci à tous!

In order to help the morning run smoothly, we also had an abundance of volunteers on hand. Thank you to our community members who came to support us during morning entry! Every ounce of help is greatly appreciated!

I look forward to meeting and working with all of our students and families. It is through open communication between home and school that we can ensure a positive school experience for all our students. Our schools are stronger when families are engaged. There are many different ways you can support your child's learning and get involved in school life. I hope that you will be able to support us in whichever way you can. Please join us at our first School Council meeting. Everyone is welcome!

I anticipate a wonderful beginning to the school year and look forward to meeting all of you in the months to come.

Bienvenue à une nouvelle année à l'École Michaëlle Jean!

Nora Mazlounian
Principal

Le caractère compte! *Character matters!*

Each month, we will focus on a character trait to help students to understand what it means to show character. We will also have an assembly to recognize students who have demonstrated this trait throughout the school year. This month, we focus on Optimism – L'optimisme: We will maintain a positive attitude, look on the brighter side of situations and seek opportunities in the face of adversity. We have hope for the future.

At home:

- Talk about a struggle you faced and how you overcame it.
- Model a positive attitude.
- Talk through a problem with your child to find the positive in a negative situation.



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Meet the Teacher Open House!



Thursday, September 26th

From 6:00 to 7:00pm

Would you like to get some information on how you can support your child this year? Please come to our Open House evening on September 26th, 2019 to meet your child's teacher.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Tentative School Organization for 2019-2020

Our school organization for 2019-2020 remains tentative. As you are aware, the Ministry of Education mandates a cap of 20 students in every Primary (gr.1-3) class. To accommodate our school growth, this extension to 23 has been granted to our classes at the grade 2 and 3 level. In French Immersion we have the additional challenge of children who are registered but do not arrive as well as all the late registrations that arrive the first week. Class size will be closely monitored by our administration over the next 3 weeks in the event that we need to re-organize. We will update the community of any changes to our organization at a later date.

Michaëlle Jean Staff List

2019-2020

Grade 1	Mme Collin, Mme D'Agostino, Mme A. Lee, Mme Manarin, Mme Prabakaran, Mme Yum
Grade 2	Mme Bawab, Mme Bourrie, Mme C. Lee, Mme Kamyab, Mme Kim, Mme Marjanovic, Mme Yau
Grade 3	Mme Barr, Mme Darvish, Mme Griffiths, Mme Karchevskaya Mme Messeroux, Mme Safar

Specialty Teachers

Mme Kalfon (SERT), Mme Kumar (Music), M. Segbor (Phys. Ed.), Mme Bernard (Teacher-Librarian), Mme Kesisyan (Phys. Ed.), Mme Simba (Drama, Dance, Health), Mme Papa (CYW)

Office Staff Mme Dhirani & Mme Cizmar

**Caretaking Staff M. Lush, M. Laursen,
M. Kotsopoulos**

Welcome to all new and returning staff!

Eco-Litterless Schools/Waste-Free and Boomerang Lunch

In keeping with our commitment to teach our students about the importance of protecting our environment we have adopted a waste-free boomerang lunch initiative. A litterless/waste-free lunch contains no throwaway packaging or food leftovers. Lunches are packed in servings that will be completely eaten. You can help by ensuring that all food and drinks are packed in reusable containers in a reusable lunch bag or box. With this type of lunch, food items can be bought in larger quantities. The packaging can be left at home for reuse or recycling. Waste-free lunches are not only a wise environmental choice; they are less expensive as well. With Boomerang Lunch programs, whatever comes to school for lunch and snacks and is not consumed, will go back home.

Let's all work together to be an Eco-Friendly School.

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 picking up 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!!**



Allergies

There are students in our school who have life-threatening allergies to nuts and/or other products which can cause an anaphylactic reaction. Anaphylaxis is an allergic reaction that is so severe that it can cause death. The throat closes and the child cannot breathe. This allergic condition differs from any other allergic reactions in that it is life-threatening. Even contact with trace amounts of the nut allergen (through ingestion or touch) can trigger this type of reaction. The **ONLY** way to ensure a safe environment is to avoid bringing nut and nut products onto the school premises. To do this, we need everyone's cooperation. Isolating students with anaphylaxis from the rest of the student population during lunch time does not solve the concern because upon their return to class a reaction is possible. For example, since children tend to play in such close proximity to each other, contact from someone's sticky peanut butter covered fingers is possible. As well, peanut butter or crumbs from cookies or chocolate bars, etc., can be left on rugs, desks, chairs, books or other school equipment, no matter how hard we try to clean these areas. When the child returns to class, a severe reaction is possible.

The child who suffers an anaphylactic reaction must be administered an EpiPen® and transferred immediately to the local hospital. If the ambulance is delayed, a second EpiPen® must be administered. Avoidance is the key in preventing the occurrence of these reactions.

It is for this reason that **we ask for your co-operation in refraining from sending peanut products and by-products to school.** We hope that you will be able to support us in this regard to reduce the risk factor.

Please check the ingredients label on any food you may send with your child for lunch or snack. Ensure that peanuts/tree nuts are not listed in the ingredients. Also ensure that there is no warning of "may contain traces of peanuts/treenuts" or "manufactured in a facility that handles peanuts/tree nuts". The warning may vary between manufacturers but they will identify if there is a risk that the food product contains nuts. Examples of tree nuts are almonds, pecans, walnuts, cashews, etc. If there is no warning on the ingredients label and no peanut/tree nuts listed, then you may send the food item for your child.

We respectfully ask that children wash their hands thoroughly before arriving to school to ensure that he/she is not bringing any trace amounts of the allergen to the classroom and common areas such as library, playground and washrooms.

Your support in this important matter is deeply appreciated and critical to ensure the safety of all of our students.

Together we can ensure a safe environment for all.

Students' health and medical info

If your child needs to take medication during school hours, we ask that you obtain the necessary forms from the school office. For legal and safety reasons, written permission is required for ALL medication including inhalers, Aspirin, Tylenol, Epi-pens etc. Medication must be kept secure in the office (except for Epi-pens, where one will remain in the office and one is to be with the child at all times). Please ensure that all medication is brought directly to the office.





Student Transportation

The majority of students at Michaëlle Jean P.S. arrive to school via school bus. It is our priority to ensure the safe arrival of all students. You can support them by

1. Ensuring that your child knows his/her bus route number and the name of the stop where he/she boards and gets off the bus
2. Ensuring that your child arrives at the bus stop on time in the morning
3. Talking to your child about safety on the bus, including staying seated, no throwing objects out of the window or in the bus, no loud conversations.
4. Ensuring that if your child will not be riding the bus on a particular day or if your plans for pick-up change, your child's teacher is informed in writing that day and the office is informed

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit www.schoolbuscity.com



Milk Programme

Our school milk programme will continue this year. If you would like your child to participate, please look for registration information on School Cash Online.

Photo Day

This year, photo day will take place on

Thursday, October 3rd, 2019

Please note that we will continue to use Edge Imaging as our photographer. This year, Edge Imaging is asking that you place your orders online. Discounts apply for families with multiple children as well as family members that are attending different schools also using Edge Imaging.



Scent Sensitivities

Some children and adults also suffer from allergies to scents and perfumes. When exposed to such scents, it can become difficult for these people to breathe easily. We ask that all children and adults entering the school refrain from wearing or using scented products (e.g., hand sanitizers, body sprays and perfumes, etc.) when coming to the school. Although the scent may not be strong for you, it can be very strong to those with sensitivities.

We appreciate your understanding.



Electronic Transmission of School Materials:

As we are an Eco-Friendly school, once again this year we will be sending as much correspondence home electronically as we possibly can. If you have not already provided us with your email address(es), or if you wish to remove/update your existing email address(es), please forward a reply via email to michaëlle.jean.ps@yrdsb.ca indicating your child/ren's name as well as the new email addresses you would like us to keep on file.

Freedom of information and protection of 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 recognizing student achievements, at the school and board level. We recognize that these practices may be contrary to the wishes of some parents. In these instances, parents are welcome to discuss any restrictions they require with the school Principal.

School Times

7:45 a.m.	Busses unload & Playground Supervision
7:48 a.m.	Warning Bell
8:00 a.m.	Students enter the school (any students arriving after 8 a.m. must report to the office)
8:00 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.	Instruction begins
9:40 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Morning recess
10:00 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.	Instructional time
11:40 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.	Lunch & Recess
12:40 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.	Instructional time
2:20 p.m.	Dismissal
2:20 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.	Bus boarding

IMPORTANT BUSSING INFORMATION

STSYR works closely with school bus operators to help ensure safe, reliable transportation is provided to students. Occasionally service times may be disrupted for various reasons. As a result, parents and students are encouraged to review the Late Bus Report.

<http://net.schoolbuscity.com/latebus>

First Day Package List

In order to support our ECO initiatives, this year we have decided to place our start-up package on School Cash Online. We ask that you please check your account and fill out the forms online.

Please also sign and return the following form by Friday, September 13th, 2019.

⇒ Student Registration Verification Form (will be sent home within the first week of school)

MICHAELLE JEAN P.S. BELIEVES IN

Respect Responsibility Honesty
Empathy Fairness Initiative
Courage Integrity Perseverance
Optimism

Back
to
School



Safe Arrival Program

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, indicate the absence on Edsby (please see steps below) 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.**

Your support in following the procedure above is important and greatly appreciated in ensuring the safe arrival of our students.

Thank you.

Indoor Shoes



Our caretakers have done an outstanding job cleaning our school inside and out. Please help support their efforts by sending a pair of indoor shoes with your child.

Message From Our Trustee

I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families to another school year. As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The [Board of Trustees](#) makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#).

We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

As we start the new school year, I want to highlight the importance of relationships. We want to build and maintain relationships with our families that are built on trust, respect and responsive communication. To support that, I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities, and I encourage you to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website.

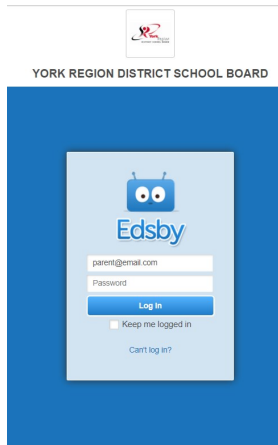
In addition, I invite you to share your feedback on our Board policies. Policies govern everything from field trips, school volunteers, equity and inclusive education, student discipline and much more, and we greatly value input from families on these important matters. We regularly post on our website the [policies that are under review](#) and available for comment as well as information about how to share your feedback. I hope you will take a look.

I know school staff are excited to welcome back students, and I look forward to meeting more of our families throughout the upcoming school year. I encourage you to build a relationship with the staff members and community at your school. There are so many [different ways to get involved](#) and support your child's education. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Cindy Liang

Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 3, 5 and 6

EDSBY Reporting



How to report absences online using Edsby – **Step by step document:**

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/boarddocs/Pages/Reporting-Absences-.aspx>

How to report absences online using Edsby – **Step by step video:**

<https://vimeo.com/165483080>

How to report absences via the mobile app – **Step by step document:**

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/boarddocs/Pages/PlanningScheduling-an-Absence.aspx>



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Head lice

Head lice are tiny insects that live on the scalp, where they lay eggs. Head lice do not spread disease. It's not your fault if you or your child has head lice.

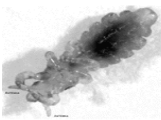
Having head lice does not mean you are not clean.

What do head lice look like?

Lice have 3 stages – the egg (nit), the nymph and the adult.

- Nits are whitish-grey, tan or yellow ovals, about the size of a grain of sand. They stick to the hair close to the scalp and can look like dandruff. Nits hatch into nymphs in 9 to 10 days.
- Nymphs are baby lice. They look like adult lice but smaller.

Adult lice are hard to see since they are about the size of a sesame seed. Adult lice can live for up to 30 days on a person's head, but they die within 2 days away from the



(Figure 1) An adult louse measures 2 mm to 4 mm.
Reprinted with permission from www.headlice.org

scalp.

How do they spread?

Head lice spread easily, especially where people are in close contact. They are very common among school-aged children or children in child care.

- Head lice spread through direct hair-to-hair contact or indirectly by sharing hats, combs, hairbrushes and headphones.
- Head lice don't fly or hop, but crawl very quickly.

The head lice that live on people are different from the kind that live on cats or dogs. People cannot get head lice from animals.

How do you know you have head lice?

One of the first signs of head lice is an itchy scalp, but it's possible to have head lice without any symptoms. Most itchy scalps are not from head lice. If your child has an itchy scalp or was exposed to head lice, check his hair right away. Check again once a week for 2 weeks in case you missed them.

How do I check for head lice?

Look carefully through the hair for live lice and nits. If you only find nits, your child may not have head lice. Usually children have no more than 10 to 20 live lice.

- Because lice are so small, good lighting is important. A magnifying glass may help.
- Head lice move fast and are hard to see. You may just see movement rather than the actual lice. Lice are usually found very close to the scalp, at the bottom of the neck and behind the ears.

To look for nits, part hair in small sections, moving from one side of the head to the other. Look close to the scalp. If you only find nits and no lice, check again every day for 1 week to make sure that you did not miss any live lice.

How can I treat head lice?

Do not treat anyone with a head lice product unless you find live lice in their hair. If someone in the house has lice, check all family members.

Head lice can be treated in a variety of ways: **Insecticides**

Insecticides are chemicals that kill insects. In Canada, 2 insecticides are approved to treat head lice:

Head lice Cont'd

- permethrin (Nix creme rinse or Kwellada-P creme rinse)

Pyrethrin and permethrin are safe when used on humans over two months old. You do not need a prescription. Over time, head lice have become resistant to some of the chemicals used to kill them. So some products may be less effective

How to apply insecticides:

- Follow package directions carefully.
- Don't leave the shampoo or rinse in the hair longer than directed.
- Rinse hair with cool water after the treatment. It's best to rinse over a sink, not in the bath or shower, so that other body parts don't come in contact with the product.
- Repeat the treatment after 7 to 10 days, in case new lice hatched from the nits.

These treatments can sometimes make the scalp itchy or can leave a mild burning feeling. If your child is scratching after treatment, it does not necessarily mean the lice are back.

Non-insecticides

- Isopropyl myristate/cyclomethicone (Resultz) is approved for use in Canada, **but it should only be used in children 4 years of age and older**. It dehydrates the lice and they die. Apply to a dry scalp and rinse with warm water after 10 minutes. Repeat after 1 week.
Silicone oil dimeticone (NYDA) is effective against live lice, nymphs and nits. It is **not recommended for children under 2 years old**. A second treatment is recommended after 8 to 10 days.
Benzyl alcohol lotion 5% (Ulesfia) is effective against live lice but a second treatment is recommended after 9 days.

These products are usually more expensive than insecticides. It is not known for sure whether they work better.

Other treatments

- Some people suggest home remedies such as mayonnaise, petroleum jelly, olive oil, vinegar or margarine. Although these products may make it hard for lice to breathe, they probably won't kill them. There is little evidence that wet combing (removing lice by combing wet hair with a fine-tooth comb) works all on its own.
There is no evidence that products such as tea tree oil or aromatherapy work to treat head lice.
Ivermectin is a drug that can be taken by mouth or used as a cream, but it is not approved for use in Canada.

Never use gasoline or kerosene. These products can be extremely dangerous.

Do I need to disinfect the house if someone has head lice?

Because head lice don't live long off the scalp, there is no need for extra cleaning.

However, you do need to get rid of lice or nits from items that touch the head such as hats, pillowcases, combs and brushes:

Wash items in hot water and dry them in a hot dryer for at least 15 min; or store the items in an airtight plastic bag for 2 weeks. Use a Ziploc-type bag that is airtight. A regular shopping bag often has little holes.

Should children with head lice stay home from school?

Children with head lice should be treated and then attend school or child care as usual. 'No-nit' policies that keep children with head lice or nits after treatment away from school are not necessary because:

Head lice are common among young children. Many days of school would be missed if children had to stay home. People are often wrong when they think a child has head lice. It would be unfortunate to see children missing school when they don't really have lice.

- Making children stay at home will not get rid of head lice. Often, other children in the class have lice but don't have any symptoms. Without treatment, they will continue to spread lice.

Volunteering at Michaëlle Jean Public School



Volunteers are a big part of our success at Michaëlle Jean P.S. We value the time that you are able to give us to help support student learning.

All volunteers are required to comply with the YRDSB Policy and Procedure #280 Volunteers in Our Schools and are required to:

- *submit a Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC) completed within the last six months (requirement for new volunteers) OR sign the Annual Offence Declaration (returning volunteers who have a PVSC on file at MJPS)

- *sign a Confidentiality Agreement

The PVSC would be necessary for volunteer tasks such as accompanying students on class field trips and athletic events, working one-on-one with students to support reading, for example, transporting students to events, and engaging in parent-led clubs where no school staff is present.

Exceptions to this guideline may be made at the Principal's discretion where:

- the volunteer is **always** in the presence of school staff;
- the volunteer is **never** alone with students and is not in a position of trust or responsibility
- the volunteer does not access student washrooms or change rooms

Volunteers, on the other hand, who offer to distribute hot lunches, to help with School Council fundraising initiatives or to work under the direction of a school staff member (Library helper, classroom support tasks), would be asked only to complete an Annual Offence Declaration form and Confidentiality Agreement.

Information regarding obtaining a Police Vulnerable Sector Check can be found at the following link:

<https://www.yrp.ca/en/services/vulnerable-sector-check.asp>

If you wish to volunteer at the school, and intend to obtain a PVSC, you must first request a letter from the school that states that the position is a “volunteer non-paid position”. You may speak directly with our office staff to obtain this letter.

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September's Holidays and Observances

Christianity	Hinduism
<p>September 12: Coptic/Ethiopian Orthodox New Year This is the day for Copts (Christians of Egyptian origin) to celebrate the New Year and the Feast of Martyrs. For members of the Ethiopian Orthodox community, the New Year is a chance to celebrate the new month as well as the Feast of St. John the Baptist.</p>	<p>September 2: Ganeshi Jayanti (Chaturthi) celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, God of success and one of the major Hindu deities. He is invoked at the beginning of all new undertakings.</p> <p>September 29-Oct. 6: Navaratri (Fall) is a nine-day celebration of the Divine Goddess for good health, happiness and knowledge.</p>
Islam	Jainism
<p>September 1: Muharram (New Year's Day) begins the new Islamic year. This is the year 1440.</p> <p>September 10: Ashura Falls on the 10th day of Muharram. The 10th day commemorates the martyrdom of Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)</p>	<p>September 13: Ananta Chaturdasi. This is regarded as the holiest period of the year. Fasting, worship, meditation and confession characterize this period.</p>
Judaism	Sikhism
<p>September 30-Oct.1: 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. Families celebrate with a festive dinner at which apples dipped in honey are eaten. (New Year's Day, 5779)</p>	<p>September 1: First Parkash observes the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib, the first edition of Sikh Scriptures, in the Golden Temple by the fifth Guru, Arjan Dev, in 1604 C.E.</p>
Wicca	
<p>September 23: Mabon Autumn Equinox and the second harvest. Wiccans take a moment to pay their respect to the impending dark. They celebrate the aging Goddess as she passes from Mother to Crone, and her consort the God as he prepares for death and rebirth.</p>	