



Michaëlle Jean P.S.

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

Principal
Vice Principal

Nadia Russiello
Jean Rudman

Superintendent
Trustee

Michael Cohen
Carol Chan



Dates and Events

1	First Parkash (Sikhism)
4	Ganesh Chaturthi (Hinduism)
5	Labour Day
6	First Day of School
9	Welcome Assembly
9	Karate Kids visits Gr. 2 & 3
10	Day of Hajj (Islam)
11	Eid-ul-Adha (Islam)
11	Coptic/Ethiopian Orthodox New Year (Christianity)
12	Bus Evacuation
15	Karate Kids begins
15	Ananta Chaturdasi (Jainism)
21	School Council Mtg. (7 pm)
22	Mabon (Wicca)
22	Autumn begins
23-30	Safety Week
26	PA Day (no school)
29	Terry Fox Walk
29	Meet the Teacher Open House
30	Le caractère compte! Character Matters Assembly
30	Terry Fox Walk (Rain Date)



From the Administrative Team:

Welcome Back! Bonne Rentrée! On behalf of all the staff at Michaëlle Jean Public School, we would like to welcome all of the families in our community to another exciting school year! We hope that everyone enjoyed a safe and relaxing summer, and that all students are ready and eager to meet the challenge and excitement that comes with the start of another school year.



Every school year brings with it a wealth of possibility, opportunity and new beginnings. Both myself and my Vice Principal are thrilled to be serving the Michaëlle Jean PS community. The beginning of a new school year means many things for our students and parents. For some, this is a new adventure—their first year in French Immersion. For others, it is their turn to be in the older grades. Together, we will seek to provide the best environment possible for the academic and personal achievement of our students.

We have been busy preparing for the arrival of your children! A special thank you is extended to our office staff for all their work to ensure a smooth start to the school year. Also, our caretaking staff has done an amazing job preparing classrooms for learning. A hearty 'Merci' goes out to our teachers for all their work in making your children's classrooms welcoming learning environments.

MJPS is pleased to welcome the following new and returning staff members for the 2016-2017 school year: Mme Bernard, Mme German, Mme Afonina, Mme Martin and Mme Timson.

We are committed to student learning through focused instruction for each student and in working together to build a safe, supportive and inclusive school climate. We know that when parents, teachers and students are partners in education, a caring community is formed and student learning is supported. As partners, we support each other's efforts on behalf of our students. Please call the school with any questions or to discuss ideas with us. We strongly believe and value the community school concept, where the school is an integral part of the community and serves students and their families by providing opportunities for life-long learning.

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.

School Year Calendar for 2016-2017

Labour Day	Monday September 5, 2016
PA Day	Monday, September 26, 2016
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
PA Day	Friday, June 30, 2017

Important Information and Important Forms

During the first week of school, there will be classroom newsletters and important information coming home with your child. Please take the time to review this information and complete and return the appropriate forms. The following documents contain important information regarding school and board routines and procedures. Please review and keep them for future reference:

Student Agenda Parent Insert
The School Start Up Package
The Guide to the New School Year

Character Matters!

This year we are excited to renew our focus on the Character Matters traits. Each month, we will highlight one of the ten character traits. An assembly will be held each month to recognize those students who have demonstrated one of the character traits. Families will be notified when their child is being recognized at an assembly.

This month's trait is **OPTIMISM (L'OPTIMISME)**:

"We maintain a positive attitude. We look on the brighter side of situations. We are able to see opportunities even in the face of adversity. We have hope for the future."

Michaëlle Jean P.S. Staff

Grade 1	Mme Bernard Mme Collin Mme Karchevskaya Mme C. Lee Mme Manarin Mme Prabakaran Mme Yum
Grade 2	Mme Bawab Mme Bourrie Mme Kamyab Mme Kim Mme Marjanovic Mme Tajahmady Mme Yau
Grade 2/3	Mme Gray Mme Ryan
Grade 3	Mme Barr Mme Bessette Mme Darvish Mme Griffiths Mme Messeroux M. Mohamed Mme Safar
Music/Prep Coverage	Mme German (Mme D'Agostino)
Phys Ed/Prep Coverage	Mme Afonina (Mme A. Lee) M. Segbor
Drama/Dance/Health	Mme Simba
SERT/Prep Coverage	Mme Kalfon
Library/Prep Coverage	Mme Tollefsen
Educational Assistant	Mme Martin
Office Staff	Mme Timson Mme Hijazi
Custodians	M. Sedore M. O'Leary M. Laursen
Administration	Mme Russiello (Principal) Mme Rudman (Vice Principal)

Meet the Teacher Open House



Please mark **September 29th** on your calendar.

Our classrooms will be open providing you the opportunity to see where your child spends a large portion of their day.

It will also be an opportunity to connect and acquaint yourself with your child's teachers.

Look for more information to come soon.

The Challenges of Change

We are closely monitoring the change in enrolment that occurs every year between June and September, in order to make the most effective school organization in accordance with Ministry of Education mandated class sizes.

On **September 26th** we will be required to meet the requirements for primary class size as set out by the Ministry of Education. This may necessitate a reorganization of our classes. This has become common practice across the province and in our community. We recognize the disruptive nature of this process but we must comply with Ministry expectations.

In these situations, our children will take their lead by the example that we set for them. If as adults we approach these changes positively, so too will our children. Please prepare yourselves for the fact that we must comply with Ministry of Education requirements and that it may necessitate the shuffling of our class organization in order to do so. These sorts of reorganizations can be looked upon as opportunities to embrace change.

Pick Up and Drop Off Routines



We ask all parents to support us in ensuring the safe arrival and departure of all our children. **WE ENCOURAGE ALL PARENTS TO PUT THEIR CHILDREN ON THE SCHOOL BUS IF THEY ARE ENTITLED TO IT.**

We would like to remind parents that **buses have priority to enter the school for the safety of all our students and because the buses have to make two stops, one at our school and one at Beverley Acres every morning and every afternoon.** The entrance to the school will be closed to all vehicles except for **buses between 7:45 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. and between 2:00 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.** This procedure is necessary to allow for the busses to safely enter and exit the school.

Parking continues to be a concern. We have a large staff and therefore we need most of the parking spots on the school lot for our teachers, office staff and caretaking. It is for this reason that we encourage you to park on Shirley Drive and walk to the school with your child. We appreciate your support.

Also, 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 the 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.**

*****bus passes or bus switches are not issued at our school for safety reasons*****

Please do not park in the loop at the front of the school. This is the Fire Route and we require that this area remain open in the event that emergency vehicles need access.

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.

Visitors

Any person entering the school must report to the office. For the protections and safety of our children and staff, everyone must wear a Visitor sticker obtained at the office and must sign in the Visitor's Log Book.

All parent volunteers must have a recent Vulnerable Sector Screening completed. Please click on the following link to access the form required for a Vulnerable Sector Screening.
<http://www.yrp.ca/pvsc.aspx>

Keeping Our Environment and Students Safe

Allergies – We ask that you remember that a number of our students and staff members are allergic to many food products and scents. The York Region District School Board policies require us to keep the environment free of nuts and nut products. Although a good source of nutrients, nuts can be lethal to those with nut related allergies. **Please leave all nuts and nut products at home. Let's keep MJPS a nut safe place to learn and work.** In keeping with this policy, **please do not send food to school with your child to celebrate his or her birthday.** We will acknowledge birthdays by announcing them on the morning announcements and providing each student with a birthday pencil. Likewise, scents and perfumes can make breathing very difficult for those who suffer from allergies. Please refrain from wearing these products when you enter the school.

Safe Play Alert – Our students are reminded that in order to keep our play areas safe, rough play including tackling is prohibited on the yard.

Clothing and Footwear

Please make sure your child has a pair of **indoor shoes** for school. 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 running shoes, with non-marking soles, for their physical education classes, which they can also wear as indoor shoes. Please help your child achieve success in physical education and help us keep the school clean. Please also send in a change of clothing for your child. Children often need to change into clean/dry clothes during the day.



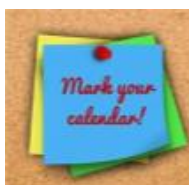
Personal Property

Students who bring valuable personal property to school do so at their own risk. The school has no storage facilities for valuable items and we cannot take care of these items for students. The School Board or school will not assume any responsibility for lost or stolen items. We ask that all valuable items are left at home.



P.A. Day

On Monday, **September 26**, all the schools in the YRDSB will be involved in professional development activities and reorganization of classes to meet the Ministry class size compliance. There will be no classes for students on this day.



Picture Day

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



Casual School Assistants Needed

If you are interested in becoming a casual back up School/Lunch assistant at our school, please contact our office. This is an occasional on call paid position for one hour at lunch time.

Daily Schedule

7:45 a.m.-7:55 a.m.	Busses unload
7:58 a.m.	Warning Bell
8:00 a.m.	Students enter the school
9:40 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Morning recess
11:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m.	Lunch Hour
2:20 p.m.	Dismissal bell
2:20 p.m. -2:40p.m.	Bus boarding



STUDENT BUSING ELIGIBILITY



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.

Audit Committee Volunteers Needed

The York Region District School Board is seeking community members with financial expertise and business knowledge to serve on its audit committee for a three year term effective **January 31, 2017**.

The Audit Committee's primary role is to assist the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its duties related to governance and oversight. The committee meets at least 3 times a year, plus ad hoc meetings as required.

Applicants must be a York Region resident and have an accounting designation, as well as sufficient accounting and senior financial management expertise to understand public sector accounting and auditing standards.

Application deadline is Friday, September 23, 2016. For more information and to apply, please visit the [Board website](#).

YRDSB Mobile App

Did you know the York Region District School Board has an app that enables staff, students, parents and community members to quickly access information from their mobile devices?

Get the latest up-to-date news, student resources, school maps and contact information for trustees and senior administration. Users will also be able to access the Report It tool, school year calendars, transportation information and much more.

To download the app, visit www.yrdsb.ca or search "YRDSB" in your app store.

Follow @YRDSB on Twitter

The York Region District School Board is on Twitter as part of an ongoing effort to enhance parent, family and community engagement in public education.

Followers of @YRDSB can expect to receive information about:

- Opportunities to provide feedback or participate in surveys
- Busing and transportation
- Student programs and events
- Board policy information
- Board meetings and agendas
- New content on the YRDSB website
- Board events and photos
- Media releases

Visit www.twitter.com/yrdsb to follow the York Region District School Board.



MJPS is Gold Eco Certified!

To help us maintain our Gold EcoSchool Certification, we are encouraging all M.J.P.S. families to rely on our school website for our school's monthly newsletter and to access important information such as the school calendar, Code of Respect, school council news and much more. Our newsletters are posted on the website at the beginning of each month. School Website: <http://michaellejean.ps.yrdsb.ca/>

Message from our Trustee Carol Chan



As we start another school year, we are very pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you all enjoyed the hot summer months and are looking forward to the start of school.

There is a lot to look forward to in the months ahead and many ways for families to engage with their child's learning. There is a strong connection between parent and family engagement and student achievement and well-being, and I hope that you will find opportunities to get involved.

In the coming year, trustees will continue to focus on the priorities that we set out in our [Multi-Year Plan](#): student achievement and well-being; the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs; and the responsible stewardship of Board resources.

We know that partnerships with parents and families are essential to achieving these goals. However you choose to get involved, know that you are making a difference to your child's learning.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming school year.



Be Food Safe in packing lunches

Keep your children safe by using these four simple food safety steps when preparing and packing your child's lunch and snacks:

CLEAN: Wash your hands before preparing food. Wash all fruits and vegetables (even pre-washed or those with skins or rinds) under cool running water. Wash lunch bags and storage containers every day.

CHILL: Use an insulated lunch bag with ice packs to ensure that food is kept cold at 4°C (40°F) or below. Refrigerate foods prepared ahead of time until packing the lunch.

COOK: Use an insulated thermal container to keep lunches hot at 60°C (140°F) or above. Bring soups to a rolling boil and stir prior to packing in lunch bag (thermal container).

SEPARATE: Store lunches above and away from any raw meat, poultry or seafood in the fridge. Throw out any hazardous food (e.g. cheese, sandwiches, yogurt) that has returned home in the lunch bag.



For more information about creating a healthy school environment, visit www.nutritiontoolsforschools.ca



1-800-361-5653
TTY: 1-866-252-9933

York Region Health Connection

Community and Health Services
Public Health

www.york.ca



Celebrating Our Diversity

September's Holidays & Observances

Christianity	Hinduism
<p>September 11: 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 4: Ganesh 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>
Islam	Jainism
<p>September 10: Day of Hajj (Day of Arafat), or Pilgrimage to Mecca, is undertaken once in a lifetime for those who can afford it. Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam after the Belief in One God, daily prayers, fasting and charity. On the Islamic calendar, it falls on the 9th day in the last month of Zul-Hijjah.</p> <p>September 11: Eid-ul-Adha is the Festival of Sacrifice. It honours Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael to God. In commemoration, Muslims sacrifice a sheep or goat and donate the meat or its equivalent value in cash to charity. This is the "minimum" requirement for those who can afford it.</p>	<p>September 15: Ananta Chaturdasi is regarded as the holiest period of the year. Fasting, worship, meditation and confession characterize the period.</p>
Sikhism	Wicca
<p>September 1: First Pakash observes the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib, the first edition of the Sikh Scriptures, in the Golden Temple by the fifth Guru, Arjan Dev, in 1604 C.E.</p>	<p>September 22: 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>