



Michaëlle Jean P.S.

320 Shirley Drive, Richmond Hill, L4S 2P1

Telephone: (905) 770-6507

E-mail: michaelle.jean.ps@yrdsb.ca

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

Principal: Nadia Russiello

Superintendent:

Michael Cohen

Vice-Principal: Linda Taglieri

Trustee:

Carol Chan

Administrators' Message

C'est la rentrée!! We would like to welcome everyone back to school for the 2017-2018 school year. "Bienvenue" to all of our new Grade 1 students and their families, along with the many other new students and families in our community. We hope that you had a wonderful summer.

Excitement has definitely been in the air as our staff prepared the school for this new academic year. Special thanks to our caretaking staff for their many hours throughout the summer to get the school looking amazing!

The summer has also brought some staffing changes to MJPS. We would like to welcome the following new teachers: Mme Valerio, Mme Tadrissi and Mme Brunet, and we welcome back Mme Brown. We also would like to welcome our new CYW to the school, Mme Papa. If you have been by the office, you've surely noticed that Mme Siavelis has assumed our Head Secretary position and Mme Cizmar is our other new office assistant. We welcome them both and thank them for their hard work to getting things in order for September. Also, Mme Taglieri has joined us as our new Vice-Principal.

For students, September always brings a mixed bag of emotions as we begin the school year. Enthusiasm about learning new things, excitement about re-connecting with friends, nervousness around meeting new teachers or worry about achieving higher expectations – these are all normal feelings that children may experience as the school year begins. As parents/guardians, it is important to validate these feelings, but also to reassure your child that these emotions are part of a new challenge, and that there are many people to support him/her along the way. We need to remember that every school year is a new journey, full of ups and downs. The key to success lies in the belief in ourselves that we can handle the challenges ahead as well as understanding and accepting that others can assist us to handle these challenges! A "growth mindset" is important in assisting our young people to become resilient.

Together, we look forward to this journey, as we help our students to learn and grow into responsible citizens.

Sincerely,

Mme Russiello et Mme Taglieri

vive la rentrée



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.



Sept. 8 – Welcome Assembly

Sept. 12 – Safe & Caring Schools Assembly

Sept. 14 – Karate Kids Lunch Program begins

Sept. 25 – **PA Day** – No school for students

Sept. 26-29 – Safety Week

Sept. 28 – Terry Fox Walk at 8:15 am (rain date Sept. 29 at 12:40 pm)

Sept. 28 – Meet the Teacher / Curriculum Night @ 6 pm

Sept. 29 – Character Assembly @ 8:30 am

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.

MICHAËLLE JEAN STAFF 2017-2018

Grade 1	Mme Collin Mme Karchevskaya Mme Lee Mme Manarin Mme Mknjian Mme Prabakaran Mme Yum
Grade 2	Mme Valerio (Mme Bawab) Mme Brown (Mme Bourrie) Mme Brunet (Mme Gray) Mme Tadrisi (Mme Kamyab) Mme Kim Mme Marjanovic Mme Tajahmady Mme Yau
Grade 3	Mme Barr Mme Bessette Mme Darvish Mme Griffiths Mme Messeroux M. Mohamed Mme Ryan Mme Safar
Music/Prep Coverage Drama/Dance/Health Physical Education	Mme D'Agostino Mme Simba M. Segbor Mme A. Lee
SERT/Prep Coverage	Mme Kalfon Mme Afonina
Teacher Librarian Child & Youth Worker	Mme Bernard Mme Papa
Office Staff	Mme Siavelis & Mme Cizmar
Caretakers	M. Lush M. O'Leary M. Laursen
Principal Vice-Principal	Mme Russiello Mme Taglieri



**Photo
Day will
be on
Friday
October
13.**

School Year Calendar for 2017-18

Labour Day	Mon. Sept. 4, 2017
PA Day	Mon. Sept. 25, 2017
Thanksgiving Day	Mon. Oct. 9, 2017
PA Day	Fri. Oct. 20, 2017
PA Day	Fri. Nov. 24, 2017
Winter Break	Mon. Dec. 25, 2017 to Fri. Jan. 5, 2018
PA Day	Fri. Jan. 19, 2018
PA Day	Fri. Feb. 2, 2018
Family Day	Mon. Feb. 19, 2018
Mid-Winter Break	Mon. March 12 to Fri. March 16, 2018
Good Friday	Fri. March 30, 2018
Easter Monday	Mon. April 2, 2018
Victoria Day	Mon. May 21, 2018
PA Day	Mon. June 4, 2018
PA Day	Fri. June 29, 2018



Daily Schedule at MJPS 2017-2018

7:45 a.m.	Busses unload & playground supervision
7:58 a.m.	Warning Bell
8:00 a.m.	Students enter the school (Any student arriving after 8:00 a.m. must report to the office)
8:00 a.m. – 9:40	Instructional Time
9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	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 Information and Forms

During the first week of school, there will be important information coming home with your child. Please review this information, and complete and return the necessary forms. This includes the forms in the Start-Up Package. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Meet the Teacher Open House

Please mark September 28th on your calendar. Our classrooms will be open providing you the opportunity to meet your child's teacher, see where your child spends his/her day and learn about the Curriculum. More information to come soon!!

Attendance & Safe Arrival

We will continue using the **Safe Arrival** system which allows parents/guardians to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently.

If your child is going to be absent:

- Call 1-855-203-2994 or go online to yorkrdsb.schoolconnects.com to report your child's absence, before 8:00 a.m.

There will also be an automated notification system to contact parents who have not reported their child absent. The automated notification system will contact parents at multiple contact numbers until one of the designated contacts is reached. If our system is unable to reach a designated contact after 20 minutes, office staff will follow up. If we are unable to reach you by phone, we will continue to follow the YRDSB safe arrival protocol and contact York Regional Police.

By reporting your child absent in advance using the **Safe Arrival** toll free number or website, you will NOT receive a call.

A confirmation number must be assigned once the absence is reported. Please do not hang up before the confirmation number is assigned.

Please contact the school office if you have questions.



Keeping staff and students safe!

MJPS is a peanut- & nut-free school

We have a number of students and staff who have life-threatening food allergies to peanuts/nuts or other by-products. If some of these individuals smell or come in contact with these foods, they may go into "anaphylactic shock", a potentially life-threatening condition. We ask all parents to please check the ingredient list of all snack and lunch items for peanut and nut products before sending them to school. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping all children safe at school.

Student Medical Conditions

School staff and parents are responsible for creating a safe and healthy environment for students. It is essential that parents communicate any life-threatening medical conditions/allergies to the school as soon as they are aware. The school needs to keep accurate records and inform staff of the condition so that proper procedures can be followed in case of an emergency. **If your child has a serious medical condition and you have not yet informed us, please communicate with our office staff immediately.**



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.

Healthy School and Birthdays

While we understand that many families celebrate their children's birthdays with a variety of food traditions at home, **we request that you do not send any food items to school to be shared with classmates for birthdays.** There are a number of reasons for this request. Several parents do not want "sweets" being sent to school for birthdays. Parents have questioned their child's perceived "need" to bring something to give to all classmates on their birthday. As well, many children have serious food allergies and others have medical concerns such as Type 1 diabetes. Birthday treats and sharing should be a **home tradition**. We will continue to recognize our students on their birthdays in a variety of simple ways. Thank you for your cooperation.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTINES

Busses have priority to enter the school at entry and dismissal times for the safety of all our students. The entrance to the school will be closed to all vehicles except for busses between 7:45 a.m. and 8:05 a.m. AND between 2:00 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. This is necessary to allow for busses to safely enter and exit the school driveway.

We understand that there may be times when parents / caregivers will need to pick up or drop off a child. When necessary, we ask you to **park on Shirley Drive AND walk your child to the playground**. We need to reserve parking spots in the lot for our growing staff. As well, we remind everyone to avoid parking in the loop at the front of school. This is a FIRE ROUTE and must be kept clear for Emergency Vehicles.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are picking up your child early from school, **you must send a note to your child's teacher AND come to the office to sign out your child**. If your child's pick up arrangements change, please send a note in the agenda AND contact the office by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the change.

Bus passes or bus switches ARE NOT PERMITTED for a variety of safety reasons.

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



Visitors and Volunteers

All Visitors to the school must SIGN-IN at the office. Everyone must wear a 'Visitor' sticker for the safety of our students and staff. All Volunteers must have a valid police check including the Vulnerable Sector Screening on file. More information is available in the school office.



School Assistants Needed

We are looking for adults to help supervise students over the school lunch hour (11:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.). This is a paid position. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the school office.



Indoor Shoes & Extra Clothes

All students require a pair of indoor shoes. This helps to keep our school clean and keeps students safe when it is wet outside.

Students should also have an extra set of clothes (i.e., t-shirt, pants, socks, underwear) in case of accidents. Being in muddy or wet clothes can be distracting for our young learners.



Personal Property

Children are reminded to leave all valuable belongings (i.e., electronics, toys, souvenirs, etc.) at home. The school or the School Board will not assume any responsibility for lost or stolen items.

Ministry Class-size Compliance

Over the summer months, 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 25th, after examining our class sizes, the School Board will decide if a reorganization of classes is necessary. This is common in all schools across the Board and the Province.

As in all difficult situations, our children will take their 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 will affect your son/daughter. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Eco Corner

Last year, our Eco Club worked very hard and was awarded "Silver" Certification. September is a great time to set new routines, particularly when it comes to snacks and lunches. Why not think about litter-less or "boomerang" lunches for this school year?

Litter-less lunches: Pack snacks and lunches in re-usable containers. This helps reduce the amount of waste left at school.

Boomerang lunch: Encourage children to bring home any uneaten food. This helps you to see what they've eaten at school and ensures that food doesn't end up in the garbage or compost.

Please be sure the school office has your e-mail address and access our school website for newsletters, the school calendar, School Council news and much more. Visit <http://michaellejean.ps.yrdsb.ca> for this information.



A message from our School Trustee

As we begin the 2017-2018 school year, I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new and returning students and families. This is an exciting time of year and I hope you are starting this new school year as trustees are - with optimism and a commitment to working together to continue advancing student achievement and well-being.

An important part of that commitment is working together with staff members, families and communities to ensure our schools provide an environment that is safe, welcoming and inclusive. This takes on increasing importance given recent local and global events. We take pride in the diversity of our communities and will continue striving to uphold the values of equity and inclusivity in our system.

Trustees have had a busy summer, welcoming our [new Human Rights Commissioner](#) and beginning the [process for selecting a new Director of Education](#) as we continue to move forward implementing the [Minister's Directions](#).

An important part of the director selection process includes collecting input from students, staff, families and community members - input that will be used to shape the job description, interview questions and more. I encourage everyone to share their thoughts through the [survey](#) available in September. We will continue to keep you updated as this work progresses.

Our schools are stronger when we work in collaboration with families and communities. Partnerships with parents and families are essential to achieving the goals we have for our students, and I hope that you will find opportunities to get engaged with the school and your child's learning this year.

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

Carol Chan

Join Us!

Mayor Frank Scarpitti
& Members of Council invite you

Markham EXPO 150

Sept. 8-10 | Markham Civic Centre

culture music fun!

Free Event for All Ages, exciting line-up!

Celebrating Canada & Ontario's 150th Anniversary
Showcasing Markham's History & Diversity

3 DAYS OF CELEBRATIONS INCLUDE:

SEPT. 8 8 pm - Music Under the Stars featuring: Markham Concert Band
Millennium Bandstand, Main St. Unionville

SEPT. 9 2 pm - Bercy Statue Dedication 15th Ave. & Kennedy Rd.
8 pm Entertainment featuring: Comedian Ali Hassan & Award Winning Singing Impressionist André-Philippe Gagnon
Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd.

SEPT. 10 12 noon onwards - Children's Activities | Parade | Exhibits
Entertainment | Food Trucks | Grand Finale Fireworks

6 pm **ONtour Concert Series** featuring:
Barenaked Ladies | Tyler Shaw | Jessica Mitchell
Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Blvd.

Presented by: For program details visit markham.ca/canada150

Celebrating Our Diversity

September's

Holidays and Observances

Christianity	Hinduism
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.	September 20-28: Navaratri (Fall) This is a nine-day celebration of the Divine Goddess for good health, happiness and knowledge
Islam	Jainism
September 1: Eid-ul-Adha This 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. September 21: Muharram (New Year's Day) begins the new Islamic year. This is the year 1439.	September 4: Ananta Chaturdasi. This is regarded as the holiest period of the year. Fasting, worship, meditation and confession characterize this period.
Judaism	
September 21-22: 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, 5778)	Sept. 30: 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.
Sikhism	Wicca
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.	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.