

SEPTEMBER 2018

The Info @ Michaëlle Jean P.S.



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

Email: michaëlle.jean.ps@yrdsb.ca

Principal: Nora Mazloumian

Michaëlle Jean P.S.

Superintendent: Michael Cohen

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Admin. Support: Karen Gaston
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Upcoming Dates

Sept. 3	Labour Day
Sept. 4	First Day of School
Sept. 17-18	School Bus Evacuation Program
Sept. 24	PA Day
Sept. 24-28	Safety Week
Sept. 27	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 27	Meet the Teacher Open House 6 p.m.
Oct. 4	School Council 7 p.m.
Oct. 8	Thanksgiving (no school)
Oct. 11	Photo Day
Oct. 22	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 2018-2019 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 teachers, Mme Kesisyan, Mme Bawab and Mme Kamy.

As you may be aware, it has been a very busy summer here at the school; not with students and teachers but rather with some construction in the building! Students, guests and staff will soon access our gym stage via an AODA compliant ramp. The construction of the ramp has also resulted in some changes to our Learning Commons. Students will notice a different layout in the library with the inclusion of new sections that accommodate for a new Makerspace! Teachers will definitely take advantage of the new space and resources to create opportunities for students to demonstrate creativity and innovation.

Preparing the school for a new year takes a lot of work and many hands. We would like to thank our teachers who have been preparing their classes to welcome your children. They are looking forward to greeting their new students with open arms. 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!

As the new principal at MJPS, I look forward to meeting and working with all of our students, staff and families. It is through open communication between home and school that we can ensure a positive school experience for all our students.

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

If you have some time, please join us at our first School Council meeting being held on October 4th, 2018 at 7 p.m. where everyone is welcome!

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

Nora Mazloumian
Principal

Michaëlle Jean Staff List

2018-2019

Grade 1 Mme Collin, Mme Lee A. , Mme Lee C., Mme Manarin, Mme Valente, Mme Prabakaran, Mme Yum

Grade 2 Mme Bawab, Mme Bourrie, Mme Kamy, Mme Kim, Mme Marjanovic, Mme Yau

Grade 2/3 Mme Karchevskaya, Mme Tajahmady

Grade 3 Mme Afonina, Mme Barr, Mme Darvish, Mme Griffiths, Mme Messeroux, Mme Safar

Specialty Teachers

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

Office Staff Mme Gaston & Mme Cizmar

Caretaking Staff M. Lusch, M. Laursen, M. Kotsopoulos

Welcome to all new and returning staff!

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.

MICHAELLE JEAN P.S. BELIEVES IN

Respect Responsibility Honesty

Empathy Fairness Initiative

Courage Integrity Perseverance

Emergency Forms

In the event of an emergency, we rely on the information you have provided us on the emergency forms. Please take a moment to go over the student verification registration form that will be sent home shortly and ensure that all your information is updated. You can make any necessary changes directly on the form and return it to us as soon as possible so that we may update our files.



Meet the Teacher

Open House!



Thursday, September 27th

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 27th, 2018 to meet your child's teacher.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Online Payments at MJPS

School Cash Online provides the following benefits:

- * A convenient fee payment option that saves time
- * Reduces paper
- * No more need to send cash or cheques to school
- * A quick way to register. You can register in less than 5 minutes.

Parents who opt to participate will receive email notifications of school programs. Parents can make online payments via Interac or credit card and receive a receipt.

You will need to know your child's student number to register. Many students know their number already (the number that they use to log onto the computer at school) and it is conveniently located on the top left of the "student registration verification form". Should you still require the number, please contact the office.

To register please click on the School Cash Online link on our school's website at:

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

and select the "get started today" button.

School Assistants Needed for Lunch Supervision!!!

We are 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 11:40-12:40 at Michaëlle Jean P.S. If you are interested, please call Mme Cizmar 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.

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 their order to 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. Please place your order by : **Monday, September 18th**

Photo Day

This year, photo day will take place on

Thursday, October 11th, 2018

Please note that we will continue to use Edge Imaging as our photographer. You may place your orders online or fill out the envelope sent home. 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 Karen Cizmar at karen.cizmar@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

The following information was sent home on the first day of school:

- * School Start-Up Package
- * Guide to the School Year 2018-2019
- * International Languages Program
- * Insurance Packages
- * School Council Nomination Form
- * YRDSB Calendar

Please sign and return the following forms found in the School Start-Up Package by

Friday, September 14th, 2018.

- ⇒ Consent/ Agreement form
- ⇒ Policy Agreement
- ⇒ Information Technology Agreement
- ⇒ Lunch Time Agreement
- ⇒ Caring and Safe Schools Agreement
- ⇒ Student Registration Verification Form (will be sent home within the first week of school)

Character Matters

Respect	Fairness
Responsibility	Empathy
Courage	Initiative
Integrity	Perseverance
Honesty	Optimism



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 pleased to welcome all of our students and families to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. This is an exciting time of year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and is looking forward to the months ahead.

York Region District School Board is committed to advancing student achievement and well-being. The Trustees' new [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#), developed based on feedback from the community, outlines four priorities that will guide this work: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, Build Collaborative Relationships and Empower Ethical Leadership. Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts.

Our schools are stronger when families are engaged. There are many different ways families can support their child's learning and get involved in life at the school, and I hope that you find opportunities to get engaged.

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

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>

A B C's Of Student Success

B is for BEDTIME.

Awwwww, Mom! Already? Sound familiar? On average, children need 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night. Sleep is important for many reasons. Lack of sleep can cause kids to be hypersensitive, impatient, or cranky. It is more difficult for children to concentrate and learn when they are tired. (Some doctors even believe that during sleep the brain "files away" what is learned during the day.) Encouraging quiet activities -- such as reading -- just prior to bedtime offers a transition that helps children relax. *Sweet dreams!*

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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.

School Council Nominations

School councils were established to enhance communication between schools and their communities and to enable parents and students to assume a more responsible and active role in educational programs and services. The main goal of school councils is to improve student achievement through support of our School's Improvement Plan.

The first school council meeting for this year will be held on October 4, 2018 at 6pm in the staff room. All parents are invited to attend whether or not they choose to run for election. Parents interested in submitting a self-nomination form may do so by filling out the form sent home on the first day of school in the School Start-Up Package. We welcome the participation of all parents and community members. The deadline for completed self-nomination/nomination forms is Friday September 21st, 2018 at 2:20 p.m. Please submit these to the office or send back your completed form via your child. If you have any questions, please contact Merav Sharon (Chair 2017/2018) or Mme Mazloumian at the school. At the Annual General Meeting on October 4th, 2018 at 7 p.m., we will hold the annual election for member positions for the 2018-2019 School Council.

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.

Celebrating our Diversity

September's Holidays and 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 2: Sri Krishna Jayanti (also known as Janmashtami) Celebrates the birthday of Lord Krishna. According to the Hindu epics, Lord Krishna was the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. His purpose was to destroy the demonKansa who was responsible for the increase in evil in the world.</p> <p>September 12: 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>
Islam	Jainism
<p>September 10: Muharram (New Year's Day) begins the new Islamic year. This is the year 1440.</p> <p>September 21: 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 24: Ananta Chaturdasi. This is regarded as the holiest period of the year. Fasting, worship, meditation and confession characterize this period.</p>
Judaism	
<p>September 10-11: 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>Sept. 19: 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.</p> <p>Sept. 24-31: Sukkot is the harvest festival of Thanksgiving. Small huts are constructed in which meals are eaten, weather permitting, to commemorate the time when the Israelites dwelled in booths in the desert for 40 years.</p>
Sikhism	Wicca
<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>	<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>