



Michaëlle Jean P.S.

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Principal: Nadia Russiello

Superintendent: Michael Cohen

Vice Principal: Linda Taglieri

Trustee: Carol Chan

Administrators' Message

December is always a busy month and here at Michaëlle Jean we have many different initiatives underway to create interesting learning opportunities as well as lasting memories. We are preparing for our Concert which will take place next week. Gregg LeRock will be coming in to work with our Grade 3 students to create a school song. We would also like to thank Mme Brown for her work in grade 2 and M. O'Leary for keeping the school in top shape. We welcome back Mme Bourrie to grade 2 and Mme Blazys to our Caretaking Team.

As we focus this month on the character trait of empathy, we are encouraging students and families to participate in our Giving Tree Donation Drive. It is important that during the holiday season and all throughout the year, that we help children to understand what it means to be empathetic – to understand how someone else may be feeling, or to understand another's point of view. Donating some time to a Food Bank or listening when someone is speaking are ways we can help children to learn to be empathetic, but also to be appreciative of our blessings: good health, loving families, safe homes, the first snow fall, and the list could go on and on.

The Holiday Season is a perfect time to begin new family traditions, such as taking time at the dinner table to share what or who you appreciate, or having children keep an appreciation journal to record their thoughts at the end of each day. This way, when things may not be going so well, children can be reminded of these conversations or notes to lift their spirits. Children and adolescents can learn to show their appreciation of the little things that we often overlook. This also helps them to build resiliency and to bounce back from a rough day.

It is equally important to remember the simplicity and importance of family time, for example, with a family game night or a family walk to enjoy the snowfall. Studies have shown that screen time prior to bedtime can have a negative impact on restful and restorative sleep. All electronics should be turned off and put away at least one hour before bedtime to allow for adequate down time prior to going to sleep. This is a great time to read a story, talk about the day, or have an "appreciation" conversation. Ensuring a "good night's sleep" should be a top priority to prepare the mind and body for the following day.

We wish all of our Michaëlle Jean community a peaceful and joyous Holiday Season, and a very happy New Year!

Mme Russiello et Mme Taglieri

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.



Dec. 4-15 - Giving Tree Donations
Dec. 7 – Winter Concert @ 6:30pm
Dec. 11 – School Council Meeting @ 7pm
Dec. 22 – Character Assembly @ 8:30am
Dec. 25-Jan. 5 – Winter Holidays
Jan. 8 – First Day back after the Break
Jan. 18 – French Immersion Info Night (for students entering grade 1 in Sept.2018)

Donation Drive: Thank you to all of you who contributed to our fundraising event. We raised over \$5000. This money will be used for our outdoor classroom, technology and other items to enhance student learning and achievement. We would also like to thank School Council & our volunteers who helped make this fundraiser a great success.

Pizza Fridays

If you ordered pizza through School Cash Online, please mark the following dates in your calendars:

December 8 & 15
January 12 & 26 (2018)



Pita Mondays

If you ordered pitas through School Cash Online, please mark the following dates in your calendars:

December 11 & 18 **January 8 & 22**
February 5

Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be absent:

- Call 1-855-203-2994 or go online yorkrdsb.schoolconnects.com before 8:00 a.m.

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.

Character Award Recipients for November

Grade 1:

Mme Collin – Alicia & Candice
Mme Karchevskaya – Diana & Alexander
Mme Lee -- Aharan & Kingsley
Mme Manarin – Hannah L. & Lucas
Mme Mnknjian – Ariana & Nisha
Mme Prabakaran – Effie & Dorsa
Mme Yum – Swara & Ethan P.

Grade 3 :

Mme Barr – Kouroush & Ilene
Mme Bessette – Avia & Jasmine
Mme Darvish – Angel & Arwa
Mme Griffiths – Robbie & Daniela

Grade 2:

Mme Brown – Olivia L. & Alex Y.
Mme Kim – Roneika & Dariani
Mme Marjanovic – Reiko & Niki
Mme Tadrissi – Maggie & Brandon
Mme Tajahmady – Nadeeran & Anne
Mme Valerio – Hanna & Aleena
Mme Xie – Talia & Stefan
Mme Yau – Tiffany & Liza

Mme Messeroux – Valerie & Matthias
M. Mohamed – Farid & Carol
Mme Ryan – Samyaar & Iva
Mme Safar – Lillian & Serena

Le Courage



Le caractère compte ... Character Matters!

This month, we focus on "L'Empathie" (empathy). We show empathy when we strive to understand and be sensitive to others' feelings and needs. Empathy requires us to have an open-mind, and we need to recognize how differently others experience the world. (For more information visit: parentingscience.com – teaching empathy)

At home:

- When reading a book or watching a movie, talk about the character's feelings.
- Help children to identify different facial expressions as they relate to our emotions (i.e., happy, sad, afraid, lonely, etc.)
- In both joyous or sad situations, ask your children to put themselves in someone else's place and describe how they might feel.

Winter Weather & Recess

All students are expected to go outside for recess except in extreme conditions (e.g., cold, windy, icy conditions, etc.). Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather: boots, snow pants, mitts, a hat and scarf are all essential items for our wintery weather. Students should also have a change of clothes (including socks and pants) in case their clothing gets wet. **Please be sure to label your child's clothes and accessories**, as our lost & found tends to overflow in the winter months.

Please note: If a child is healthy enough to come to school, then the child will be sent outside for recess. If parents feel a child should not be outside for recess, it may be best to keep him/her at home to prevent the spread of the illness.



LUNCH ASSISTANTS ARE NEEDED

Are you able to spare 1 hour of time over our lunch hour? This is a paid position from 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. Our lunch assistants are invaluable members of our school team as they supervise while students eat, as well as during outdoor recess. Please call the school office if you can help.



The Giving Tree

December 4-15

This year, we are continuing our tradition of helping those in need in our own community of Richmond Hill, through a school Giving Tree. Please send in **new** mittens, gloves, hats or scarves to add to our tree in the school office. We will also be accepting gift card donations (i.e., grocery store, department store, etc.) for families in need. All items will be donated to Central Cares – see page 6 for more information.

French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on January 18, 2018 at 7 p.m. Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2018 (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location. **FI registration will begin January 19, 2018.** Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2018, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 19 and February 9, 2018. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools.

More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108

EQAO for 2017-18

At Michaëlle Jean, our Grade 3 students will be writing the Mathematics portion of the EQAO assessment later this year. Please do not book appointments or vacations during the period of May 22-June 4, 2018. More information for families will be provided as we approach these dates. Thank you for your cooperation.



Holiday Concert

Thursday December 7 @ 6:30pm

- Families of the following classes are invited to join us for this concert in our school gym:
- 3-Messeroux 3-Barr
- 3-Safar 2-Tadrisi
- 2-Yau 2-Xie
- 1-Karchevskaya
- Due to space constraints, we will have 2 other concerts so that all classes will have the opportunity to present, and all families will be able to see their children on stage.
- We will also be accepting items for our Giving Tree (i.e., new hats, scarves, mitts/gloves or gift cards).**

Eco Corner

Our students have been busy monitoring our energy usage and reminding their peers what items go in the green, blue or garbage bin. Be sure to be using your green bin and recycling every week so that we can reduce our garbage production and keep our Earth clean.

With the holidays approaching and convenience taking priority, please consider avoiding Styrofoam plates and cups. **DID YOU KNOW It can take Styrofoam anywhere from 500 years to FOREVER to decompose!!**

Stay tuned.... Marker and Pen recycling program will begin in January. Bring dried-out markers & pens to school for our recycling program.

BUS CANCELLATIONS **DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

You must **notify** the **school** if your child will be **absent** due to **bus cancellations**.

PLEASE CALL 1-855-203-2994 or GO ONLINE
yorkrdsb.schoolconnects.com to notify the school.

SCHOOLS REMAIN OPEN

During an Inclement Weather Day, the school is open and alternate programming may be provided depending on the number of students in attendance on this day.

PIZZA/PITA LUNCH & KIDS' KITCHEN

If Pizza or Pita Lunches are scheduled on an Inclement Weather Day they will be **cancelled and rescheduled**.

All Kids' Kitchen orders will be delivered, unless cancelled by phone **before 8:00AM** on the day of delivery.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

Students who come to school on a Snow Day may be dropped off and picked up through the parking lot loop. **Pick up will begin at 2:00 pm. Please pick up your child by 2:20 pm.**

School Bus Cancellation Notice

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

- A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be affecting all municipalities in York Region.** Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.
- When bus service is cancelled all school tests and/or examinations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- Student trips involving the use of school buses will also be cancelled.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore, students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM	640 AM	680 AM	860 AM	1010 AM	1050 AM	1540 AM	1580 AM
88.5 FM	89.9 FM	92.5 FM	93.1 FM	94.9 FM	95.9 FM	97.3 FM	98.1
FM99.1 FM	99.9 FM	101.1 FM	102.1 FM	104.5 FM	100.7 FM	105.9	107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CTV Toronto CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following @YRDSB and @YCDSB on twitter.

**Please note that school bus charters (trips) will not operate
when home to school bus service is cancelled.**

EXTENDED HOLIDAYS

Sometimes parents plan extended holidays during the school year. Parents who choose to remove a student from school to travel are responsible for providing the learning experiences the student has missed while away. This means that you might need to review or revisit the concepts missed with your son/daughter.

Teachers are often asked to provide work for the time the student will be absent. The challenge is that the child will need instruction prior to being able to do the work. While not a requirement, teachers can sometimes assemble the work they think the child can do independently. Past experience has shown that the children rarely do the work while on vacation.

If you want your child to do some school-related activity while on vacation, a daily journal written in French and reading in French are great ideas. You could also give your child a 'budget' to spend while away to help them understand exchange rates, currency and the value of money.

When the child returns to school, she/he will need to "catch-up" on the missed concepts taught. Parents will need to support this learning, as well.

Please remember that for each week of absence, a child will miss approximately 25 hours of instructional time.

Health Connections – Car Seat Safety for Children

Using the right child car seat can save a child's life if involved in a collision. The following information is taken from the [Ontario Ministry of Transportation website](#).

Car seats for infants: Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act* requires children to use a **rear-facing car seat until the child weighs at least 9 kg (20 lb.)**. It's best to keep your child in a rear-facing child car seat until they reach the manufacturer's recommended maximum weight and height limits. Some rear-facing car seats are made for children that weigh up to 20 kg (45 lb.)

Car seats for toddlers: Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act* allows children weighing **9 kg to 18 kg (20 to 40 lb.) to use a forward-facing child car seat** or a rear-facing car seat as long as the car seat manufacturer recommends its use. A forward-facing car seat uses a tether strap to prevent the child car seat from moving forward and causing injury in a collision. It is important to use the tether strap exactly as the manufacturer recommends.

Booster Seats: Booster seats raise children so adult seat belts protect them better. Booster seats protect children from serious injury 3-½ times better than seat belts alone. Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act* requires children weighing **18 kg to 36 kg (40 to 80 lb.), standing less than 145 cm (4 ft. 9 in.) tall and who are under the age of 8 to use a booster seat** or allows the continued use of a forward-facing seat as long as the car seat manufacturer recommends its use. It's best to keep your child in a booster seat until they reach the manufacturer's recommended maximum weight and height limits.

Seatbelts: Seatbelts are designed for adults and older children. Children may be ready to move from a booster seat to a vehicle's seatbelt once:

- they can sit all the way against the back of the vehicle seat with legs bent comfortably over the edge and maintain this position for the entire trip;
- they can have the shoulder belt flat across the shoulder and chest;
- the lap belt crosses over the hips, not the stomach.

Ontario's *Highway Traffic Act* allows a child to use a seatbelt alone when any one of the following occurs:

- Child turns 8 years old, or
- Child weighs 36 kg (80 lb.), or
- Child is 145 cm (4 ft. 9 in.) tall or more

Research has shown that children under age 13 are safest in the back seat of motor vehicles away from active airbags.

OHIP+

Beginning January 1, 2018, the province will provide free prescription drug coverage for children and youth aged 24 and under, regardless of family income.

Under OHIP+, over four million Ontario children and youth will have access to over 4,400 medications and other drug products. This will help many families access medications their children need to stay healthy at no cost – no co-payment or annual deductible.

Enrollment in OHIP+ will be automatic, based on age. There are no upfront costs for eligible medications. Those who are eligible for OHIP+ will only need their health card number and a valid prescription from their doctor or nurse practitioner when they visit their pharmacist.

Visit Ontario.ca/OHIPplus for more information.



The rate of poverty amongst children/youth across the York Region is about 15% and continues to rise!



Let us care by donating toys for all ages, and used technology (computers, laptops, tablets etc.)

The rapidly growing number of **newcomer and refugee communities** that are settling in central face extreme difficulties to meet their basic needs.



Let us warm their hearts in this cold season by gifts of clothing (for all ages upto 20), winter accessories and boots

Every day more families face an increased **risk of homelessness in York Region**, in our own backyards!



Central can help by donating Gift Cards of all kinds to purchase medication, food, clothing and personal Hygiene products

For information and collection, please contact
Yvonne Kelly at yvonne.kelly@yrdsb.ca or 905.884.4477 | Ext. 345



Message from Our Trustee

In November, about 1,000 students, staff members and community partners came together from across the Board to form a [Ring of Peace](#) and stand together against hate, discrimination and intolerance. The student speakers at the event shared meaningful messages about the importance of feeling welcome, valued and respected.

At York Region District School Board, we are committed to listening to the voices of our students and communities. We will continue working with our school communities to ensure our schools provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for everyone.

Last month, our annual [Quest conference](#) brought together educators from across Ontario, Canada and around the world to share, learn and discuss how to foster well-being in schools. Some of the themes covered included equity and inclusivity, and safe and caring environments.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about some of the positive things happening in our own schools and other districts. In recent months, we have had several international visitors come to our system and schools to learn more about the work in our system to support student achievement and well-being, including Qatar, the Netherlands, Texas and the United Kingdom.

We are pleased to have these opportunities to continue highlighting and sharing the great things happening in our schools thanks to our outstanding students, staff members, families and community partners. Your engagement makes a difference in our schools and I encourage you to continue getting involved in the life of your child's school.

As we enter the holiday season, I am once again impressed by the generosity of our school communities and our students' commitment to helping others.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to 2018.

Carol Chan

Celebrating Our Diversity

December's Holidays and Observances

Christianity	Islam
December 3 – First Sunday of Advent begins the period of preparation for Christmas. In homes and churches, Christians set out special candle holders or Advent wreaths (Western). December 25 – Christmas (Western Calendar) celebrates the birth of Jesus about 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the son of God, and accept him as their Saviour and Lord. In many families, Christmas Eve is celebrated with big dinners, visiting and carol-singing, often followed by midnight church services.	December 1 – Mawlid-un-Nabi celebrates the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). December 13 – Aga Khan (Ismaili) December 13 marks the birthday of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, the 49 th hereditary Imam-of-the-Time descended from the progeny of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It is referred to as Salgirah Khushiali and is a celebratory occasion for Ismaili Muslims to express love, loyalty and devotion to their Imam.
Judaism	Kwanzaa
December 13-20 – Chanukah (Festival of Lights) celebrates religious freedom by commemorating the victory of the Jews over Antiochus who tried to outlaw the practice of Judaism. Starting on the evening of December 12, candles are lit in increasing numbers for eight nights in a “Chanukiah” which is a special candelabrum containing nine candles.	December 26 – Kwanzaa named after the Swahili word for “first fruits” is a seven-day cultural celebration initiated by African Americans starting on December 26 th . Each day a candle is lit and placed in a seven-cup candelabrum called a kinara that sits on a straw mat adorned with fruit and vegetables. The participants discuss the principles or Nguzo Saba of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. On the final night of the celebration, friends and relatives gather for a fest known as Karamu.
Zoroastrianism	
December 26 – Death of Prophet Zarathustra who was the founder of the Zoroastrian faith. His dates are uncertain but Westerners believe he lived in the first of second millennium B.C.E.	