



The PRIME

December, 2017

Volume 6, Issue 3

Kathy Lott
Principal

Tara Wagg
Vice Principal

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Administrative
Assistant

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Gruppuso**
Secretary

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Peter Tse
Superintendent of
Schools
905.940.7800

Billy Pang
Trustee

SCHOOL DAY TIMES

For all Students JK-8

7:50-8:00 a.m.
Yard Supervision

7:55 a.m.
Entry Bell

8:05-9:45 a.m.
Learning Block

9:45-10:15 a.m.
Recess

10:15-11:55 a.m.
Learning Block

11:55 a.m.-12:55 p.m.
Lunch (all students
outside from 11:55 a.m.-
12:30 p.m.)

12:55-2:35 p.m.
Learning Block

2:35 p.m.
Dismissal

Sir John A. Macdonald Public School
45 Murison Drive, Markham, ON, L6C 0J4
t. 905.888.5777 f. 905.927.2082
www: <http://sirjohnamacdonald.ps.yrdsb.ca/>
email: sir.john.a.macdonald@yrdsb.ca
twitter: @sjamps



Administrator's Message

Ah...December is here! This time of year is a time for celebration and reflection while spending quality time with our friends and families. Our students are well set into their classroom routines, understand our school expectations and are becoming more involved in their own learning. Our teachers in all subject areas continue to strive to **improve each child's achievement by sharing with students what the learning targets and success criteria are to be successful.** On-going descriptive feedback is provided on formative assessment to help each child meet their potential and reach their goals. Setting goals this time of year is suggested on the Elementary Progress Report Card for success and increased student achievement and well-being. Please do pay particular **attention to your child's achievement levels in the Learning Skills and Work Habits section on the front of the Progress Report Card.** Together as a staff, we continue to **discuss ways to learn about each child's strengths, interests and needs, and our professional learning is around sharing strategies to engage our learners with an increased focus on modern learning strategies.** Unit plans and daily lesson plans include **opportunities for students' voice and choice to further engage students in learning together with us at Sir John A Macdonald PS.** We are truly learning and growing together.

We hope that throughout the month of December, you find time to celebrate the great accomplishments and successes of all those in your lives. We are looking forward to seeing you at a couple of our special planned events in December (if possible):

Holiday Concert – Tuesday, December 19th, 2017

Final 2017 School Assembly – Thursday, December 21st, 2017

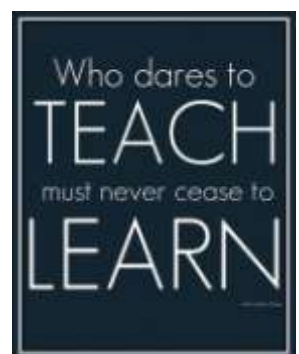
As a professional learning team, the staff at Sir John A Macdonald PS are engaged in purposeful, intentional on-going learning. In alignment with our Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA), we are focusing our school plan (SIPSA) on deepening our learning in the 3 key areas of

Mathematics, Modern Learning and Mental Health.

Mathematics: Students will be confident problem solvers who use mathematical knowledge, skills and processes to be contributing members of a changing society.

Modern Learning: Modern Learning is authentic, relevant, deep learning that enables learners to create, to connect, to communicate, to share their learning with the world and be future ready.

Mental Health: A healthy school / workplace climate provides opportunities for all students and staff to make healthy choices in a learning and working environment that is respectful of their social, emotional and physical well-being.



2017-2018
Professional
Activity &
Training Days
(No School for
Students)

Friday, January 19, 2018

Friday, February 2, 2018

Friday, June 4, 2018

Thursday, June 28, 2018
11:05 a.m. DISMISSAL
FOR ALL STUDENTS

Friday, June 29, 2018

2017-18
School Holidays
(School Closed)

Winter Break
December 25, 2017-
January 5, 2018

Family Day
Monday, February 19,
2018

March Break
March 12-16, 2018

Good Friday
Friday, March 30, 2018

Easter Monday
Monday, April 2, 2018

Victoria Day
Monday, May 21, 2018

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.

Crossing Guard Needed!

Intersection: Murison & Russell Dawson
Hours: *Morning shift: 7:30am – 8:30am; Afternoon shift: 2:30pm – 3:30pm*
Pay rate: \$17.00/hour
Please call 905-737-1600 if interested.



SJAM Eco Update

Did you know that SJAM is now a “Zero Waste” school?

This year, SJAM is partnering with the City of Markham to implement the Zero Waste Program at our school. In October, the City of Markham came to our school, sorted our waste and taught us how to sort our waste into organic materials, recyclable materials and garbage. Our goal is to have as little garbage as possible!

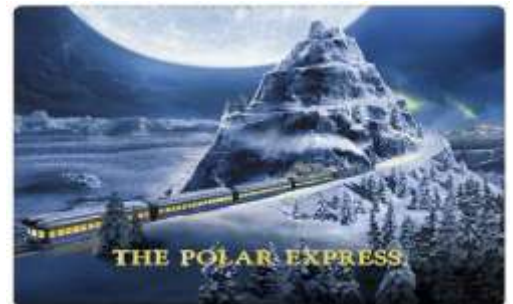


A special thank you to SJAM for embracing our new Zero Waste initiative over the last two months! Keep up the great work. A special shout out to our care taking team for their hard work and support in getting this up and running. It is certainly no small task :)

Just a friendly reminder that we are still a “Boomerang Lunch” school. Students are asked to bring home any garbage that they produce at snack and lunch (e.g. granola bar wrappers). As always, thank you for your ongoing support in our Eco initiatives at SJAM and for supporting our students in becoming environmentally responsible citizens!

Walk on the “Polar Express” (Dec. 11th-15th)

We invite you to “Walk on” the Polar Express and join us for SJAM’s first Polar Express Walk to School Week from Dec. 11- 15th. Bundle up and walk or park a block and walk to school! Students that walk to school will receive a ballot to win some cool prizes!



Festive Celebration

Please mark your calendars! Our Festive Celebration is happening on Tuesday December 19th! There will be a morning performance at 10:30 am and an evening performance at 6 pm. Stay tuned for details about tickets and which classes/groups are performing.



Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 19, 2018

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 19, 2018 for the 2018-19 school year. Registration forms are **available on YRDSB's website:** www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2018, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.

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 enroll 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.

Lost and Found

All clothing from the lost and found box is available for pick-up in
the main foyer

until Tuesday, December 19th

Please pop by the school between 7:00 a.m. + and 6:00 p.m. to
look for lost items.



All items remaining at this time will be donated to charity on December 20th, 2017

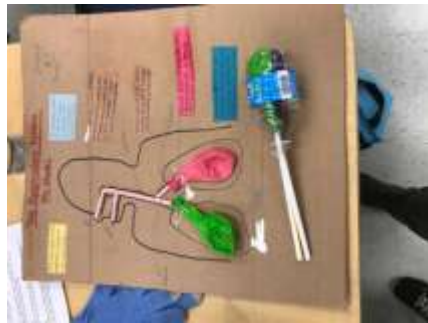
Ms. Dudani's 5/6 Science Class

At Sir John A. Macdonald Public School there was a special event called Scientist in School. The grade 5s and 6s got to participate in this very fun event. The class observed animals that were preserved. The class had lots of fun studying the animals and learning many different facts about biodiversity. Some of the students even got a bit scared by the animals. There were different types of animals and plants for us to examine such as, a pig, a mouse, a starfish, a bat, a bird, a cricket, and many more organisms.

All together there were 3 groups, but the animals were sorted into 2 groups, invertebrates(have no backbone) and vertebrates(have a backbone- a backbone is also called a spine. The animals that fall into the vertebrate category that we looked at was a pig, a bird, and a snake. The invertebrates we looked at were the starfish, the cricket, and jellyfish.

The third group that we studied was the Moneran and Plante. We use microscopes to observe bacteria like celilla, and spirillum. There were so many different types of questions that came up! We had to answer questions such as:how does the organism get its nutrients? How do they move around? Some of these bacteria are very dangerous to us, but there are also good bacterias that we need in our life. Plus we cannot escape bacteria because it's everywhere. We had a great time!!

Written by Chloe C. and Aaron G.



School Bus Cancellations and Delays

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 FM	99.1 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.

WE ARE HIRING!

York Region District School Board

- *Parents, are you interested in a **PAID job** at SJAM?*
- *Work daily from 11:55 a.m.-12:55 p.m.*
- *We need School Lunch Assistants to support students of all ages*



For more information:

- call the school office: 905.888.5777
- email Vice Principal —tara.wagg@yrdsb.ca
- drop-in the main office



Nut-Free Holiday Cookie Packages

No time to bake for the holidays? Need an easy gift idea?
Let us bake for you!

Order by December 13

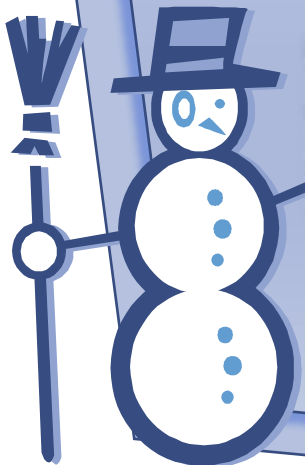
Package 1 \$30

2 dozen Chocolate
Crinkle
2 dozen Cranberry
Orange
1 dozen Coconut
Snowball



Package 2 \$20

2 dozen Chocolate
Crinkle
2 dozen Orange
Cranberry



Gift packaging available! Contact us for more information!

E: mytreats@thesweetdish.ca T: 905.604.6447

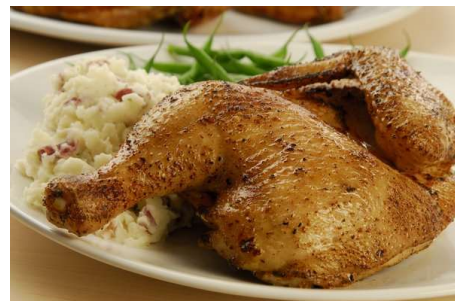
THE 2017 WINTER HOLIDAY SPECIAL

Celebrate the season with our annual festive holiday lunch!

**Roasted Chicken Leg, Steamed Veggies,
Mashed potatoes with Gravy &
a mini Chocolate Peppermint Cupcake**

Gluten-friendly option is available online.

Available on the days we service your school for the month of December.



DECEMBER SPECIALS

For the month of December your child can enjoy:

1. Beef soft taco

Ground beef, taco seasoning, salsa, lettuce & cheese wrapped in a tender whole wheat tortilla.

2. Bean soft taco

Black beans, taco seasoning, salsa, lettuce & cheese wrapped in a tender whole wheat tortilla.



These items are available as a combo or entrée only. Visit us on-line to see our full menu.

These specials are available only **until December 22nd**. Place your orders today!

Holiday Cookie Packages Now Available!

No time to bake for the holidays? Looking for a yummy gift idea? **Let us bake for you!**

Nut-Free Holiday Cookie Packages

Package 1	\$30	Package 2	\$20
2 dozen Chocolate Crinkle		2 dozen Chocolate Crinkle	
2 dozen Cranberry Orange		2 dozen Cranberry Orange	
1 dozen Coconut Snowball			

Call us today to place your order!

Orders will be accepted until December 13th.

We also do custom cakes, cupcakes, cookies & pies.

All items are baked fresh in our nut-free kitchen.

Allergen-free items are made to order.

Contact us for more information!

905.604.6447 | mytreats@thesweetdish.ca



Ordering is easy!

Login to place your orders at www.kidskitchen.ca

Orders are accepted until 10am the previous business day (on Friday for Monday orders). A valid credit card is required.

We're here to help!

Live customer service: 8am – 3pm Monday to Friday.

Holiday hours:

Please note that the office will be closed for the Winter Break December 23, 2017 - January 7, 2018 inclusive.

We will re-open on Monday, January 8th.

Spend more quality time with your kids. Leave the lunches to us!

905.944.0210 | www.kidskitchen.ca | information@kidskitchen.ca

