



The PRIME

March, 2018

Volume 6, Issue 5

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Principal

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Secretary

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Secretary

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/>
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Administrator's Message

Planning for next school year has begun!

As most of you likely know, SJAM is going to feel like a very different school next year. Our French Immersion program is moving to the new school – and SJAM will no longer have a French Immersion program. In June we will be saying goodbye to approximately 300 students and about 20 staff members. This summer you will also notice the removal of all 5 of our current portables.

For those families remaining at SJAM, we will soon be coming together as a staff to carefully consider class placements for your child for the 2018-2019 school year.

Our SJAM staff care deeply about student needs. Years of meeting the learning needs of children give our teachers the unique qualifications to recommend student placement decisions. Rest assured that placing students and balancing classes will include the best opportunities for student achievement and well-being.

A balanced class reflects the diversity of our community and allows the variety of interests and talents of our learners to emerge and be appreciated. Like your family, the class unit provides a balance of opportunities for a range of learners to succeed through appropriate challenges. The learner develops the feeling of belonging and the feeling that in a variety of ways he/she makes a noticed contribution. The family, the school and the community provide opportunities for children to socialize. Each new school year brings opportunities to meet new friends and expand our circle of acquaintances. School becomes more comfortable and familiar and accordingly our potentials have great possibilities of realization.

The following are the criteria we use to guide our placements:

- Balance of Ability, Interests and Talents - all children are unique and different. **The teacher's task of providing meaningful learning programs is enhanced when classes are created to accommodate instructional groupings.**
- Learning Style - how does the learner go about the process of learning? What kind of environment would best suit the learner?
- Social Blending - what is the best cluster of individuals to effectively and efficiently learn? This should not be viewed as a grouping of friends. At particular stages, some close friends learn best in separate classes.

March Break is March 12th—16th

Back to School March 19TH

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

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)

March Break
March 12-16, 2018

Good Friday
Friday, March 30, 2018

Easter Monday
Monday, April 2, 2018

Victoria Day
Monday, May 21, 2018

Administrator's Message (Page 2 cont'd)

Class Placement Requests –

Do we need to know something particular about your child that you feel we do not already know?

Aside from requesting a particular teacher, or for your child to be with a specific friend, parent input is taken into consideration.

If your child has been in a combined grade for 2 years in a row, please do feel free to request a straight grade for your child for 2018-2019 school year. Please send an email to kathy.lott@yrdsb.ca and we will add your request to your child's class placement card. While we cannot make any promises with class placements at this time, we do take all factors into consideration. Combined grade classes are a reality in Ontario public schools.

If you have information to share with us, it must be shared in writing by Friday, April 13th, 2018.

Our school population for September 2018 is projected to be approximately 450 students.

Our TENTATIVE school organization is below here for your reference –

· 5 Kindergarten classes	-	Grade 4A
· Grade 1A	-	Grade 4/5
· Grade 1B	-	Grade 5/6
· Grade 1/2B	-	Grade 6
· Grade 2A	-	Grade 6/7
· Grade 2/3A	-	Grade 7/8
· Grade 3A	-	Grade 8
	-	Community Class

The above 2018-2019 school organization is TENTATIVE and may change based on students moving in and students moving out of our SJAM school boundaries.

Please feel free to call me or drop in at any time if you have any questions or concerns as we plan for a successful 2018-2019 school year!

New School Information Night

New school information was held last night here at SJAM. Parents in attendance had an opportunity to meet our School Trustee, our School Superintendent, and the new school Principal –

Mr. Kevin Ko.

If you would like to review the presentation shared last night – or you were unable to attend – you can view the presentation on the new school page [here](#).

Contribute to Strategic Planning at YRDSB - Upcoming Town Halls

York Region District School Board is revising its Multi-Year Plan (MYP) and Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being. The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting the strategic direction of public education in York Region public schools. The MYP incorporates the direction established by the Trustees with feedback received from all stakeholders, and will inform decision making at the Board in the years to come. Town halls will be taking place across the region and feedback collected from families and community members will inform the creation of a new MYP. Your voice is important and your input and feedback will help York Region District School Board support student achievement and well-being. There will also be other opportunities, including a survey available in April, to share your thoughts if you are unable to attend a town hall.

Save the Date!

TOWN HALL DATES AND TIMES	LOCATIONS
Monday, April 16, 2018 7 - 9 p.m.	Keswick High School
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 6 - 9 p.m.	Markville Secondary School 1000 Carlton Rd., Markham
Sunday, April 22, 2018 2 - 4 p.m.	Sir William Mulock Secondary School
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Maple High School 50 Springside Rd., Maple
Saturday, April 28, 2018 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Bayview Secondary School 10077 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill

Summer Institute

Looking for summer learning and fun activities for students entering Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8? Summer Institute offers academic, recreational and athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum.

The program runs for six weeks during July and August. It is offered at 11 school sites around York Region.

For more information on dates, programs and locations, please visit the Summer Institute page on www.yrdsb.ca.

Registration opens March 7. Families can now register online, as well as in person or by mail.

Regional Parent Symposium

Inclusive School and Community Services in collaboration with the Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) is pleased to announce the return of its annual

Regional Parent Symposium: Parent Voice Matters!

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

5:00pm - 9:00 pm

Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Richmond Hill

Call our SJAM office if you plan to attend.

Parking Lot Best Practices

As previously communicated, we appreciate everyone's support with our school parking lot. Like most schools, our parking lot is very busy at entry and dismissal times. Our foremost goal is safety for all students, staff and community members, and we need your help.

In the interest of improved traffic flow during drop off and pick up, we would ask for your continued support with current procedures:

- All drivers drive with particular care in and around the school. We share a common interest in providing a safe environment for our almost 700 students and we ask that all drivers approach the school patiently, with consideration for pedestrian traffic, and other drivers.
- When dropping off a child (or children), drivers are asked to pull into the furthest available curbside spot in the Kiss and Ride, and take care when merging back into the inner driving lane. No student should be dropped off from the inner driving lane and subsequently walk between vehicles.
- At no time should a vehicle be left unattended or otherwise parked in the Kiss and Ride as parking is not permitted.
- Parents are to pull away from the Kiss and Ride as quickly and as safely as possible.
- Parents are not permitted to use the bus loop at the front of the school to drop off or pick up their children. This is a designated Fire Route and is permitted to accommodate only school buses.
- Our parking lot is designed as a one way loop, please do not drive against the traffic. And for the safety of all children, no student should be dropped off from the inner parking lot and subsequently walk between vehicles
- We would ask, most of all, for your cooperation in supporting our traffic plan, and we appreciate your patience in dropping off and picking up your children. We thank you for your support in helping to improve drop off and pick up times at the school, and we would encourage you to review these procedures with your children. As always, we remind parents that walking to school or the bus stop (if your child(ren) qualify) is the best way to alleviate traffic congestion and both an environmentally friendly alternative to driving as well as a healthy choice.



YOU WILL BE TICKETED if you park illegally in our school area!

This past week many, many tickets were issued to our parents.

POLICE presence has been requested for the safety of our children – and will be at SJAM on a regular basis.

SAFETY is everyone's responsibility.

With the spring weather upon us, please consider allowing your child(ren) to walk to school on their own – or with a parent, guardian, friend, or older student if your child is in a primary grade.

New Perspectives Conference

On March 5 and 6, the Junior/Intermediate division is participating in a 2 day conference called "New Perspectives". Teachers from the Junior/Intermediate classes created sessions that students from Grades 4-8 will rotate through over the course of two days. The goal of the workshop is to help students gain an understanding of the varying perspectives people have, and to continue building an inclusive and positive community at SJAM and beyond. Topics that will be covered include how to be an ally, discrimination, cyberbullying, personal & social identities, among other important ideas surrounding equity and inclusion. SJAM is committed to creating a sense of belonging for all students, staff and community members, and the New Perspectives Conference will help with that by opening up the minds and hearts of our students, and challenging our ways of thinking.

Intermediate Boys & Girls Basketball

Congratulations to the Intermediate Boys basketball team for tying for second place in their pool at areas. They played with energy and intensity and came back with a total of two wins and 2 losses. In their first game against Laurier, they were down eight points in the first half but made an outstanding comeback because of their excellent teamwork. In the end, they lost by 1 point to a clutch free throw. In their second game, they lost by 11 points to Castlemore but they learned that they needed to close out on shooters and get rebounds. In their third game they played Lincoln. They played them with all their effort and a good mentality and in the end, they took the win of 17-15. In their last game against Coledale, they played with high intensity and a commitment to win the game. They won 25-19 and ended up tying for second in their pool. We would like to give a shoutout to Arthur, Hayden, and Andrew for their great blocks and rebounding. Also a shoutout to Benson and Jaiden for being team leaders and helping the team by creating the plays and running practices alongside with Ms. Lewis and Mr. Ho. A big shout out to Mr. Ho and Ms. Lewis for being amazing coaches and leading us to second in our pool. Lastly, a shout out to the whole team for playing with great effort, positivity, and teamwork.

Congratulations to the Intermediate Girls basketball team for their strong performance at the Area Tournament. The girls fought hard and made it all the way to the finals. Unfortunately they suffered a heartbreaking loss to John McRae. Mr. Hamilton and Ms. Lewis are very proud of what the girls accomplished over the course of the season. Way to go Jags!



Happy Lunar New Year from many of our SJAM students!

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

LOST AND FOUND

Please drop by the school between March 5th and March 8th to look for and claim any lost items. All lost and found items left at the school on March 9th will be donated to a local charity

How Can You Be a Bucket-Filler?

- ♥ Open the door for someone
 - ♥ Tell someone that they look pretty today
 - ♥ Share your snack with someone
 - ♥ Sharpen someone's pencil for them
 - ♥ Help your partner
 - ♥ Pick up someone's backpack (or other belongings)
 - ♥ Help someone do their job
 - ♥ Ask someone to play with you on the playground
 - ♥ Clean up without being asked
 - ♥ Clean up even though you didn't make the mess
 - ♥ Make sure someone is feeling okay
 - ♥ Give a compliment to a kid or an adult
 - ♥ Make a toy or something else for someone at school
 - ♥ Hold the door for someone with their hands full
 - ♥ Smile at someone you don't know
 - ♥ Be extra helpful to teachers or other adults
 - ♥ Offer to help someone who appears to be struggling
 - ♥ Tell someone you like their work
 - ♥ Treat others the way you would like to be treated
- Try to fill a bucket EVERY DAY!



Save the Date
 SJAM Spring Concert
 Tuesday, May 1st, 2018

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH

@BELIEVEPHQ

www.BelievePerform.com

LOVE
Be there for your child and show care and love

EXERCISE
Encourage play, exercise and sport

BEHAVIOUR
Keep an eye out for any changes in behaviour

SUPPORT
Regularly support, encourage and praise your child

REST TIME
Help your child to manage stress by building in some rest time

BE PROUD
Tell your child that you are proud of them

PATIENCE
Be patient. Don't pressure your child

HELP
Don't be afraid to seek help from professionals

FEELING
Get to know how your child is feeling

EDUCATE
Educate yourself about mental health problems

PROBLEM SOLVING
Help your child to effectively problem solve

LISTEN
Make sure you take time to listen to what your child has to say

COPING
Help your child to learn some simple coping skills such as relaxation

SYMPTOMS
Be aware of signs and symptoms

CONVERSATION
Encourage your child to engage in conversation

ENVIRONMENT
Provide a positive environment for your child where they can thrive

25 GROWTH MINDSET STATEMENTS AND AFFIRMATIONS

by Big Life Journal

1. Mistakes help me learn and grow
2. I haven't figured it out YET
3. I am on the right track
4. I can do hard things
5. This might take time and effort
6. I stick with things and don't give up easily
7. I strive for progress, not perfection
8. I go after my dreams
9. I cheer myself up when it gets hard
10. I am a problem solver
11. I try new things
12. I embrace new challenges
13. Learning is my superpower
14. I am brave enough to try
15. I improve with lots of practice
16. I grow my brain by learning hard things
17. I try different strategies
18. When I don't succeed right away, I try again
19. I ask for help when I need it
20. I learn from my mistakes
21. I focus on my own results
22. I was born to learn
23. When I fail, I say "I can't do it YET" and try again
24. I strive to do my best
25. I can learn anything!

Big Life Journal - biglifejournal.com

MARCH SPECIALS

Each month we feature specials and combos to bring you more variety. For the month of March your child can enjoy:

1. Chicken Shawarma in a whole wheat pita

Shawarma chicken strips, shredded cabbage, lettuce and cucumbers with a creamy cucumber dressing stuffed in a pita.

Halal version available.

2. Falafel in a whole wheat pita

Falafel, shredded cabbage, lettuce and cucumbers with a creamy cucumber dressing stuffed in a pita.



3. Chicken Pot Pie with Caesar salad

Chunks of chicken in a creamy sauce with a flaky pastry crust.



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

These specials are available until **March 30th**. Place your orders today!

Please note that the office will be closed for March Break: March 12-16, 2018.

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.

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

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

