



# SJAM PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

**School Council Meeting ~ April 18th, 2017**

# OUR SCHOOL PLAN FOCUS AREAS AND BOARD FOCUS AREAS

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM UPDATE

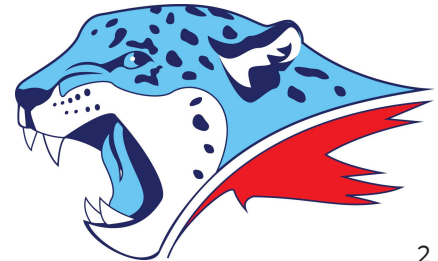
PRIMARY FAMILY MATH NIGHT – TUE MAY 2

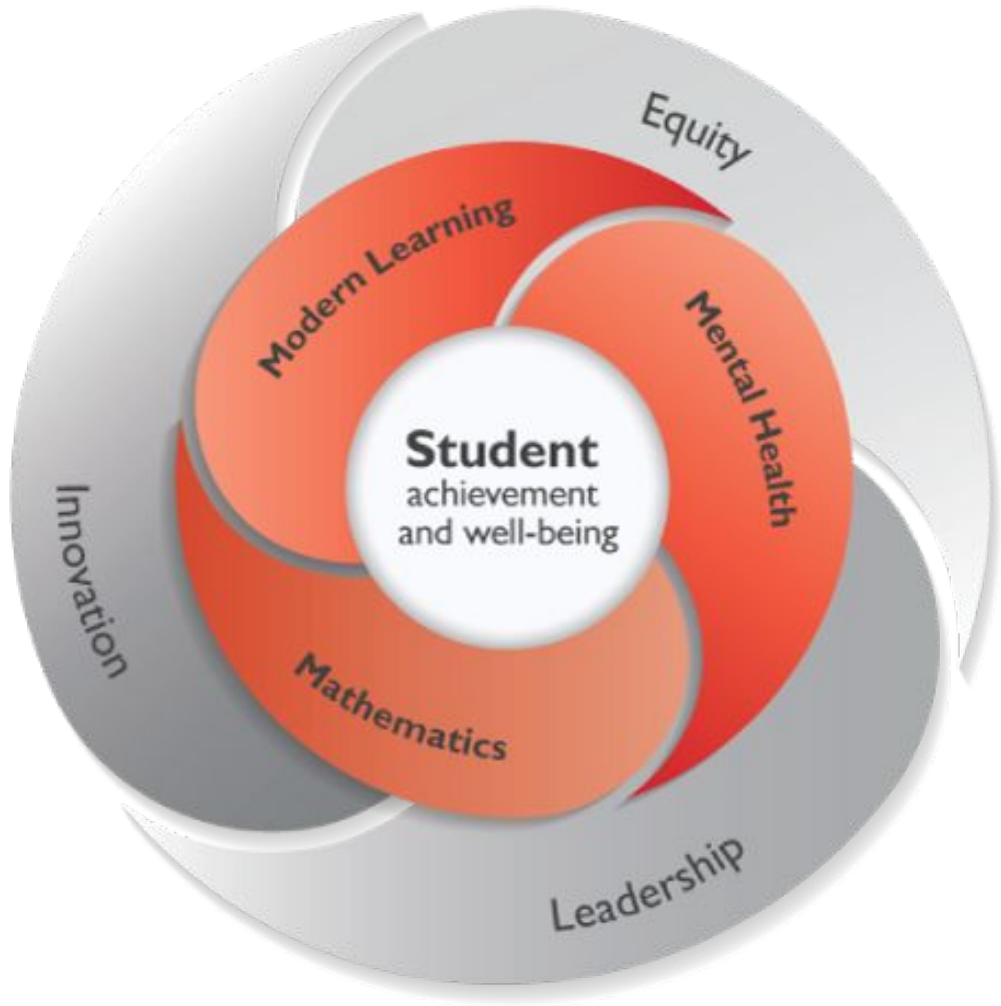
WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN – TUE MAY 9

TRACK AND FIELD AT FRISBY PARK – FRI MAY 12

SPRING CONCERT – TUE MAY 30

GRADE 8 GRADUATION – MON JUN 19





How can we help educate our SJAM community on our school goals and focus areas?

How can we help promote parent engagement?



# MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION STRATEGY

## CONTEXT

The York Region District School Board (YRDSB) values positive mental health as fundamental to student achievement and well-being. Mental health can be viewed as a continuum from health to illness. Schools are ideal settings for mental health promotion, addiction awareness education, resiliency development, and connecting those in need to care pathways. Early identification and intervention are important because many mental health challenges manifest in childhood and appropriate care is not often accessed.

The Mental Health and Addiction Strategy provides direction for actions in classrooms, schools and the system to foster optimal mental health and well-being.

To support understanding of a specific school context, visit [tools to access school reports/data](#) and YRDSB's [mental health targets](#).

## FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICES THINKING PROMPTS

The following three thinking prompts are designed to assist in fostering an Equity, Innovation and Leadership mindset. While reviewing the contents of the Mental Health and Addiction Strategy, these questions provide a lens through which decisions should be filtered.

1. Who might share leadership (Formal leaders/ Informal leaders/ Student leaders/ Other) in implementing an action? How might implementing this action both engage and develop leadership skills more broadly?
2. How will we ensure that our diversity strengthens our implementation of an action? How might we identify and reduce barriers in order to increase equity and inclusion in our implementation?
3. How might innovations in our practice (processes, technologies, resources) improve our implementation of an action? How might we consider local and global research in implementing this action?

To further support the implementation of the actions, visit the [foundational practices core resources](#).

## MENTAL HEALTH THEORY OF ACTION

*If we:*

- build knowledge and capacity;
- develop mentally healthy environments;
- reduce stigma; and
- create collaborative care pathways,

**then** we will foster optimal mental health and well-being for all students.



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE  
AND CAPACITY



DEVELOPING MENTALLY  
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS



REDUCING STIGMA



CREATING COLLABORATIVE  
CARE PATHWAYS



[Message from the Chair](#)

Lorelea Carruthers



[Message from the Director](#)

J. Philip Parappally

## News & Events



[Jurisdictional Learning](#)



[Trustee Vacancy - Town of Georgina](#)



## Online Tools



[Student Tools & Resources](#)

Career Cruising

[Individual Pathways Plan &  
Online Course Selection](#)



[School Year Calendar](#)

Elementary & Secondary  
Learning Calendars

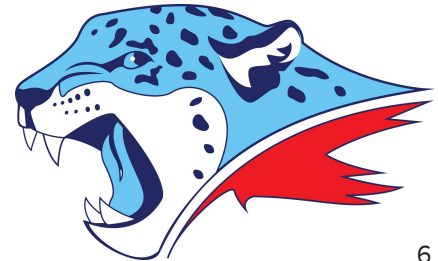


[School Locator](#)

Locate your schools from  
your address

# Staff and Student Leadership - based on our SJAM context...

- The role of the bully, the bullied, the bystander and the up-stander
- Well-Being School Team (Ontario Well Being Strategy)
- Achieving Excellence: Promoting Well-Being
- Fact Sheet for Parents
- Social, emotional learning supports (CYW support - eg Zones of Regulation)
- Character Development
- Growth Mindset (Modern Learning)
- Restorative Approaches, Progressive Discipline, Mediation



# SJAM'S ECO-TEAM SCHOOLYARD GREENING PROJECT

**An Outdoor  
Classroom**



\$10,000. SC funds put towards total cost of \$14,200.  
Stage 1 - as previously agreed upon (Council 2015-2016) 7

# WHAT IS AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM?

**“Outdoor classrooms bring learning to life. An outdoor classroom is a space that brings learning outside. It’s becomes a gathering place for teachers and students and provides an opportunity to integrate nature into your school grounds. By giving students the opportunity to get outside and experience nature, they can bring learning to life.”\***

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\*Building outdoor classrooms: A guide for successful fundraising



# OUR PLAN

## PHASE 1

### Teaching circle

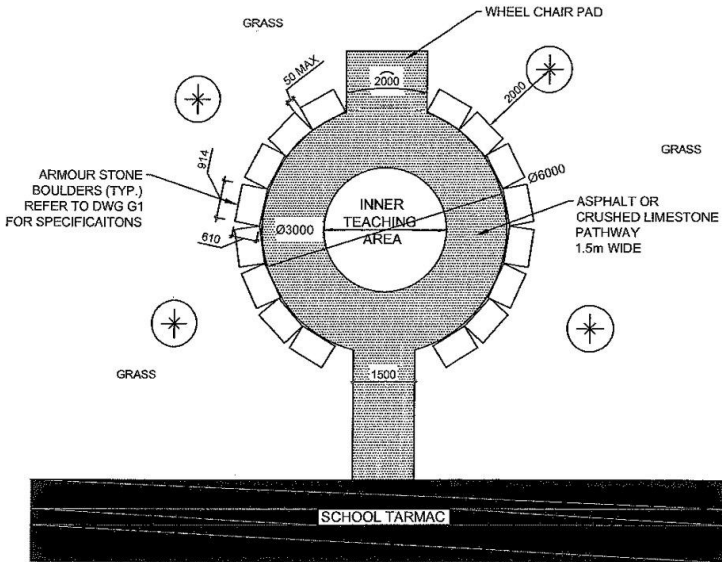


Photo courtesy of Royal Roads Public School

# OUR PLAN

## PHASE 2

Student workspace



Photo courtesy of Royal Roads Public School

\*Building outdoor classrooms: A guide for successful fundraising<sup>10</sup>

# BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR LEARNING

- Improved mood and happier students
  - Enhanced appreciation of the outdoors
  - Increased retention rate for subject material
  - Improved learning experience for tactile and experiential learners
  - Familiarity with and appreciation for nature
  - Building stewardship skills for the environment
-

# HOW WILL WE USE OUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM?

**“An outdoor classroom can be used for subjects beyond environment, science and geography. All classes can be taught outside and should be encouraged among all teachers at your school. Focus on cross-curricular studies.”**

- **Arts** - nature provides an inspirational starting point for many creative projects/work
- **Music** - organize an outdoor drumming circle or create music based on the sounds of nature
- **Math** - take students outside to do hands on math activities such as measuring, then meet at rocks to record, document and share their learning
- **Literacy** - take students outside to sit and draw/write or read a book independently
- **Community Building** - take students outside to sit on rocks and read a story, conduct a sharing/community circle
- **Mindfulness** - have a break from everyday stress and connect with nature, and their peaceful surroundings
- **Recess** - provides a space for students to sit and socialize
- **Classroom Kits** - our hope is to create classroom kits of clipboards and magnifying glasses that teachers can sign out to use to support their outdoor learning

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT  
AND FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO  
STUDENT LEARNING AT SJAM!

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**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

