

March 2017



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

JOHN M. JAMES PUBLIC SCHOOL



Website - <http://johnmjames.kprdsb.ca>



@JMJSchool

INITIATIVE

I am eager to do what needs to be done without being prompted by others. I seize opportunities and willingly take the steps necessary towards achieving a goal.

Principal
Mike Menheere
michael_menheere@kprdsb.ca

Vice Principal
Valerie Ledrew-Williams
Valerie_ledrewwilliams@kprdsb.ca

Superintendent of Student Achievement
Joseph Tompkins
Joseph_tompkins@kprdsb.ca

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Cathy Abraham
(905) 987-1833
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School Council Chair
Katherine Johnson
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Message from School Administration

The Importance of Punctuality

Lately (no pun intended), we have been getting an increasing number of students whom are arriving late for school in the morning. We need your help to ensure that your children are getting to school on time.

This may not seem like too big of a deal; however, arriving to school late in the morning often has the following impact:

- ⇒ Disruption of a student's routine, which can throw some students off for the rest of the day;
- ⇒ Disruption to classroom instruction that is already in progress;
- ⇒ Congestion in the main office due to the secretaries needing to sign people in and write late slips;
- ⇒ Establishment of habitual behaviour where students can get the impression that being late is the norm;
- ⇒ Creation of additional anxiety in students from feeling rushed and having to catch up from the get go.

Please help us in ensuring that your children have the best possible start to their day. Thank you.

Bullying - How Can We as Partners Respond and Advocate?

First, and foremost, it is important to ensure that we have fluid two-way communication between home and school. Most often, bullying behaviours occur and continue when the person who is doing the bullying thinks that no one is aware of what is going on. Observe your child's behaviour. If there are changes, watch and listen more actively - try to engage your child in conversation, and let school administrators know when your child discloses bullying situations.

Please continue to assist us in helping to underscore the difference between "Telling" and "Tattling". Telling is for the purpose of holding everyone accountable to the same standards of behaviour and letting the right people know so that something can be done. "Tattling" is to get somebody in trouble for the sheer enjoyment of it. Fear of retribution is often what keeps children quiet and keeps the cycle going. We can act without naming a child. If we know when and where to watch, our job is much easier.

In addition to continuing to ensure that students are clear on the differences between bullying and conflict, we are also currently working with our students to get some input around the reporting of bullying. Our current data says that students are telling someone when this does happen. However, this information may not be making its way to the adults in the building who can help.

Bullying is a part of every facet of our society—children live with these poor examples every day. We need to make sure we provide examples of character - integrity and the courage to stand up for what is right.

Power is in the hands of the person who demonstrates these characteristics. Power is only relinquished when people succumb to the person who is demonstrating bullying behaviours, compromise their standards and ultimately, their self-esteem.

M. Menheere V. Ledrew-Williams
Principal Vice-principal

School Council Update

Hello Spring from School Council! Hope everyone had a great week with Jungle Sport!!!

March is a busy month, with all our pizza and hot dog lunches and popcorn sales! With your support to these programs, we have been able to raise funds to purchase a laminator for all the school staff, and raise funds to go towards the new gymnastics team that Mrs. Ernst and Ms. Purves, with the assistance of Sharon Washburn, will be building next year.

We have our annual Dance-a-thon coming up next week, Thursday March 9th. The cost of the dance is \$2 and that gains students entry and a glow bracelet! We will have more bracelets for sale at the dance for the cost of \$0.50 each. The theme of the Dance-a-thon is Hawaiian, so send your child in bright colour clothing, grass skirts, leis, sunglasses, or anything else you can think of! We will be giving out prizes as well, so tell your children to get on their dancing shoes!

Budding Artist is here and students are almost finished with their creations! We will be sending home customized order forms Monday, March 20th, with each child that participates displaying their masterpiece on over a dozen different customized gift items that can be ordered. The funds raised from Budding Artist will help pay for Jungle Sport!

Thank you for all your continued support!

Board News

It's back! KPR encourages families to participate in Earth Hour once again on **Saturday, March 25, from 8:30-9:30 p.m.** Participation is easy; just turn off your lights and electronics for the hour. Then, once Earth Hour is over, register online at kprschools.ca to indicate the number of people in your family who participated in the event.



The five KPR schools with the highest percentage of families registered as having participated in Earth Hour will receive special banners. Since KPR first started encouraging families' participation in Earth Hour nine years ago, about 30,000 people have registered with KPR. Please join us in recognizing the importance of protecting our planet. Further information is available at earthhour.org

THIS EARTH HOUR, SHINE A LIGHT ON CLIMATE ACTION.

Switch off your light and switch on your social power at earthhour.org

Check out KPR's [Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar](#) to see important dates coming up in March and beyond.

Signing In/Out Routines

Students are to remain on school property from the time they arrive at school to the time they leave at the end of the day.

Exceptions:

- 1) Students who have returned a signed permission form allowing them to go home for lunch (2nd nutrition break) each day during this school year. (These were distributed on the first day of school.) **Please note that these students still must sign out when they head out for lunch and sign in when they return from lunch.**
- 2) Students who bring in a note from a parent/guardian stating they have permission to go home for lunch on a specific day or that they have an appointment that day. This note should be brought to the office at the beginning of the school day and the student should sign out. If/When the child returns to the school after lunch or an appointment, they must remember to sign back in at the office.

Students are **never to leave the school property without permission**. It is very important that the school knows where all of the students are at all times!!!

DESSERT CONCERT FUNDRAISER



Our Dessert Concert is a fundraiser for the JMJ music program

- ❖ The concert will feature the JMJ Concert Band, solos, duets, trios and the Clarington Concert Band.
- ❖ Guests can enjoy some delicious treats and a beverage.
- ❖ Tickets are \$5 and children under 5 years of age are free.
- ❖ Tickets can be purchased by using the schools cash online option
- ❖ Deadline for ticket orders is March 10th.
- ❖ If you wish to pay by cash or cheque, please send all money and the order form to the office. Cheques to be made payable to John M. James Public School.
- ❖ Tickets will be sent home with your child one week prior to the concert.
- ❖

**Thursday, March 30th @ 6:15pm until 7:30pm -
School Gym**

Safe Arrival System

Just a reminder that our new Safe Arrival system is now in play. It allows you to report your child's absence quickly and conveniently, in any one of the following three ways:

- ◇ By calling **1-866-740-2902** toll free; (no need to register in order to use this option)
- ◇ By logging into the Parent Portal website at **kprdsb.schoolconnects.com** to set up the ability to report absences online (**you must have an account for this option**), or;
- ◇ By downloading an app onto your iOS or Android device, to report absences. (**you must have an account for this option**),

You are able to use whichever of these methods you prefer to report your child's absence, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You are also able to report future absences at any time.

*****If you have changed your email address, please contact the school office to have your contact information updated.*****



FUN LUNCHES ON-LINE

You've been asked to order your Fun Lunches On-Line... Now what? Go to www.HealthyHunger.ca and click "REGISTER STUDENT". After your account is created, you will be able to view all up-coming Fun Lunches, place orders, and then pay for your orders Online with Visa, MasterCard, or Interac Debit.

HOW IT WORKS

Creating an account

Parent Account Registration

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Phone:

Work Address:

ADD STUDENT

First Name:

Last Name:

Province:

School:

Class:

Grade:

Add a Student

Account Balance

Item	Amount	Payment Status	View Order	View Receipt
2012-01-01	\$10.00	PAID	View Order	View Receipt
2012-01-02	\$10.00	PAID	View Order	View Receipt
2012-01-03	\$10.00	PAID	View Order	View Receipt
2012-01-04	\$10.00	PAID	View Order	View Receipt
2012-01-05	\$10.00	PAID	View Order	View Receipt
2012-01-06	\$10.00	PAID	View Order	View Receipt
2012-01-07	\$10.00	PAID	View Order	View Receipt

Order Summary

Order Date: 01/10/12

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Student Lunch	\$10.00	1	\$10.00
Student Lunch	\$10.00	1	\$10.00
Student Lunch	\$10.00	1	\$10.00
Student Lunch	\$10.00	1	\$10.00
Student Lunch	\$10.00	1	\$10.00
Student Lunch	\$10.00	1	\$10.00
Student Lunch	\$10.00	1	\$10.00
Student Lunch	\$10.00	1	\$10.00
Student Lunch	\$10.00	1	\$10.00
Student Lunch	\$10.00	1	\$10.00
Total			\$100.00

Payment Method:

Payment Status:

Payment Date:

Payment Amount:

Payment Reference:

Payment Description:

Payment Notes:

Payment Confirmation:

Payment Cancel:

Payment Complete:

STEP 1.
Click "Register Student" and create your account.

STEP 2.
Login, and add your children to the account.

STEP 3.
View all of the Up-Coming Fun Lunch dates.

STEP 4.
Place your orders and make payment Online.

BENEFITS

1. Receive an email reminder if you have not ordered for an up-coming lunch.
2. Receive automatic email notification when your School posts a new Fun Lunch.
3. Order for multiple children attending the same or different Schools.
4. Flexibility & Control. Order for 1 lunch, 2 lunches, or the entire year.
5. Cancel orders at any time before the 5 day Cut-Off
6. Quickly review your orders at anytime.
7. Free and Unlimited Tech Support from Healthy Hunger.

WWW.HEALTHYHUNGER.CA
1-800-818-6260
211-B BROADWAY, SUITE 200, TORONTO, ONT. M5T 1S8

Calgary
403-516-0485
Edmonton
780-800-5688

Mississauga
289-208-1250
Toronto
647-933-9002

Vancouver
604-757-1233



Medical Concerns

All medication required by students must be kept at the office. A medication form must be completed annually, by the physician and parents, and kept in the office. If necessary, (e.g., life threatening allergy, etc.) an Emergency Response Plan should be completed by the parents and the school.



For your calendar

• *March Break—March 10-17, 2017*

• *Good Friday—April 14, 2017*

• *Easter Monday—April 17, 2017*

• *Victoria Day—May 22, 2017*

• *P.A. Day—June 9, 2017*

• *Grade 8 Graduation—June 27, 2017*

• *Last Day of School—June 29, 2017*

No Smoking

The Tobacco Control Act of Ontario prohibits smoking for anyone, anywhere on school property



No Dogs Allowed!

Kindly keep your dogs (both small and large) at home. Leashed or not - do not bring them on school property. We have posted this message on the property and ask you to spread the word. Many students/staff are afraid of, or allergic to dogs. Keeping dogs off the property also saves a lot of mess and aggravation. Thank you for helping to keep our school yard clean and safe for the students.



Visitor's Policy

All visitors, **including parents/guardians** are required to report to the Main Office upon arrival at the school and sign in. If you are staying for any length of time you will require a Visitor or Volunteer Pass. For your child's safety, it is important that we know the identity, at all times, of all the adults that are in our school.

If you are dropping off your child's lunch, forgotten homework, etc. please leave them at the office.

The secretary will ensure that necessary items are given to students in a timely manner, with minimal disruption to program.

Police Record Checks

(including Vulnerable Sector Screening & Search of Sexual Offences Database)

It is wonderful to have so many parents/guardians wanting to volunteer in our school each day! We greatly appreciate all of your help!! Board Policy does require that all school volunteers (e.g. trip chaperones, parent drivers, hot lunch helpers, classroom helpers, pediculis volunteers, etc.) receive a Criminal Records Check and Vulnerable Sector Screening. These must be completed **every year**. These can be completed locally at the Bowmanville or Oshawa office of the Durham Regional Police Services. A letter from the school is required to begin the process. This letter can be picked up at the school office. There is a fee for this service (the records check, not the letter). If you have already completed a record check from the police department, please submit it to the school as soon as possible as we need to have this information on file. For those that are still waiting to receive their information from the police department, please bring it in to the school as soon as possible. Again, please note that all volunteer applicants must provide the school or volunteer program contact with a police record check that:

- is dated within one year
- identifies any criminal convictions or criminal charges
- includes a search of the Pardoned Sexual Offences Database, and
- includes a Vulnerable Sector Search



Crossing Guards

A Crossing guard is available at the corner of Mearns and Apple Blossom to assist your child to cross the road to school safely. The times they will be present are:

8:30 - 8:45

12:45 -12:55

1:15 -1:25

3:05 - 3:15

The Crossing Guards have been asked to adhere to these times. They will be taking names of stragglers to provide to the school.

*****Please note that the intersection of Mearns & Apple Blossom Blvd/Sprucewood Crescent contains a NEW four-way stop sign.*****



Allergy Alert! *Nut Safe School*

This year, we have several students who have a very serious allergy to nuts. We are asking for your support and co-operation in refraining from sending nuts or nut products to school. Due to the rotary schedule that is in place, students spend time in many rooms throughout the school. The school will be continuing these accommodations as we need to maintain the safety of these students by ensuring that they do not come in contact with surfaces with nut products on them (e.g., a door handle touched by someone with peanut butter on his/her fingers, water fountain handles, etc.) **Your help and support in promoting a safe environment at our school is gratefully acknowledged!**

follow us on
twitter



If you have a Twitter account, you can follow us @JMJSchool

If you don't have a Twitter account, you can still receive updates on your cell phone via text message. Send a text message to 21212 with the following message: follow JMJSchool

You will receive confirmation that you are following @JMJSchool and will receive Tweets from the school.

We look forward to enhancing communication with our community and to celebrating all the great things happening at our school.

Breakfast Club

8:15 - 8:40 am

(enter through rotunda doors)

**If you are able to volunteer,
please contact the school at (905)697-7817.**

Class Trips and Excursions

Throughout the school year, as part of our regular program, students leave the school site to go on trips. Some excursions may be community walks, while others are more distant and require transportation by car or bus.

When students are transported by car or bus, a form will be sent home outlining the event requiring a "consent for travel form" to be completed by a parent and returned to the teacher. For a student to participate, a completed consent form must be returned. We regret we are unable to accept verbal permission, and will not phone parents to acquire permission on the day of the event.

Vision Statement

At John M. James, we believe all students can achieve success. Through student engagement and partnerships with our school community, we will strive to ensure that every child realizes their full potential.