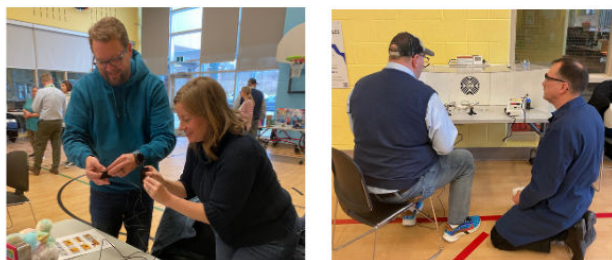


School Newsletter



Issue No. 2 | January 2024

Hack the Holidays



The inaugural "Hack the Holiday" was a great success! Thirty (30) parents/grandparents/guardians were guided through the "how to's" of building a switch by Kelsey Smith, JMSA's Education Consultant and 21st Century Teacher. Participants learned how to safely cut and strip wires and solder from Lana Brode (Education Coordinator) and Bill Fetter (Technology Consultant) from Greater Essex County District School Board. Upon completion of their switch, parents selected a free pre-adapted toy. Toys were previously adapted by Grade 11 and 12 Computer Engineering students from Belle River High school. Complimentary gift wrapping was completed by Jennifer Newton, Education Consultant with GECDSD and Mike Wilcox, Principal at JMSA. We were also lucky to have Occupational Therapist Julie Bially from JMCC and CDA Angelica McGuire from JMSA/GECDSD. All toys were generously donated by the Optimist Club of Kingsville.

Core Communication

Winter is here, the snow is falling, and it's a great time to get outside and play. Here are some suggestions on words you could model (on a core board or verbally) while out enjoying some winter activities.

Building a Snowman

More, I like it, wow, I go, you do it, help, my turn, big, small, put on, off.

Going for a Walk

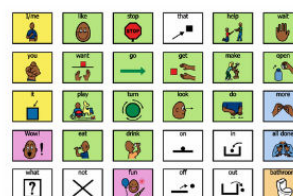
Go, stop, fast, slow, look, what that, all done, fun.

Riding on a Sled

Go fast, go slow, go up, go down, stop, look, I like it, I not like, make it go, fun, more, turn me.

Making Hot Chocolate

Make it, turn, drink, hot, cold, I like it, not like it, want more, all done.



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Upcoming Dates...

- PA Day January 19, 2024
- PA Day February 16, 2024
- Family Day February 19, 2024
- The Toy Tune Up February 24, 2024
- Rare Gene Day February 26, 2024
- Spring Break: March 11-15, 2024

A Message from Our Principal

Dear Families,

We were very saddened by the passing of one of our own JMCCSA students in December. Known for her perseverance and infectious smile, Gabby will be greatly missed by staff and all those who knew her. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

We had a very busy first term and ended it with a very busy week before the holiday started. On behalf of the School Council, I would like to thank all of our families who purchased raffle tickets for our Holiday Raffle this year. The raffle was a big success!

Our Holiday Assembly was a great big hit and we appreciated the number of parents and family members who came out to support it. I would really like to acknowledge the hard work of our students and give a special shout out to the Walkerville Collegiate students who provided music under the direction of Music Teacher Amanda Sands. Bravo!

We had a wonderful turn out for our Hack the Holidays Event on Saturday, December 2, 2023. We had over 30 parents/grandparents who came out to learn how to create accessibility switches to use with an adopted toy provided by the Optimists Club of Kingsville. We are planning a similar event in February, called "The Toy Tune Up".

We are also planning a parent/guardian engagement event in March where parents/guardians will be invited into their child's classroom to have the opportunity to watch the learning that occurs in our school. Again, more details will be forthcoming.

First term report cards will be going home, Monday, February 26th. Please remember that next Friday, January 19th is a PA day and there is no school. Have a great January everyone!

Mike Wilcox, Principal



Follow our Learning on Social Media...



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Information

Active Learning Strategies

Active Learning is an approach to learning for children with multiple disabilities and visual impairments, developed by Dr. Lilli Nielson. The goal is to provide opportunities for children to actively explore and discover their environment. Through active learning children can develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness and an understanding of cause and effect. The learning is endless!



5 Principles of Active Learning:

1. Let your child guide their own play
2. Provide plenty of opportunities and time to engage in the play
3. Choose materials that are appropriate for your child's skills
4. Choose materials that your child is interested in (e.g., certain textures, sounds, etc.)
5. Limit any distractions. Shh.. learning is in progress!



The Toy Tune Up

Parents/guardians/grandparents are invited to bring a toy from home and have support adapting that toy to be switch accessible. Please see the flyer for what toys can be adapted, or contact Mrs. Smith. There are two sessions available on February 24, 2024. **Spaces are limited.** (519-977-2205)

WHAT TOYS CAN BE ADAPTED?

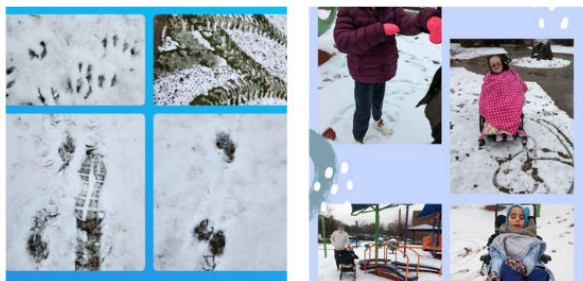
Here are some examples of items to adapt:

- single function toys that talk, move or play music
- toys with simple on/off buttons
- remote controlled vehicles
- dolls or stuffed animals with push buttons on the hand, foot, or stomach
- light projectors
- fans



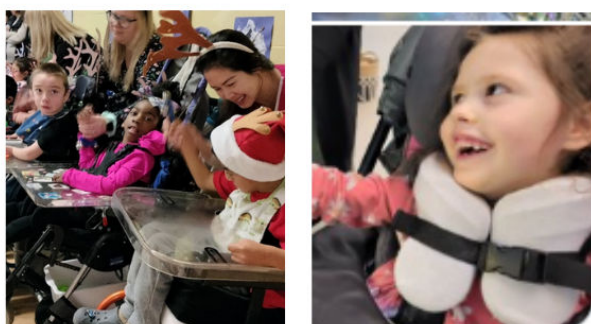
School News

Eco School

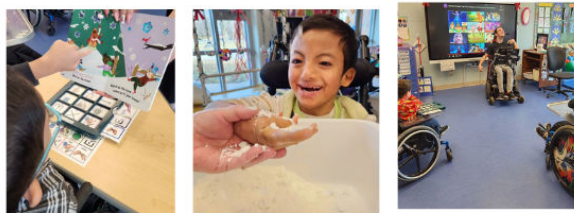


JMSA students and families continue to show their commitment to the environment by bringing wastefree lunches. We have plenty more exciting eco events and activities coming up in 2024. Thanks to all of our families who participated in our waste-free lunch days!

Holiday Concert



The 2023 JMSA holiday concert proved to be a true winter spectacle! Students from throughout the school hosted a Reindeer Parade for the concert attendees before Class 2 shared a video performance of "Snowflake Snowflake." We were then treated to a live performance by the band from Walkerville High School, making their debut at a JMSA holiday concert. Class 5 then performed an adapted skit of the holiday classic, "The Grinch" before a whole school performance of "We Will Jingle." Families then had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activity stations with JMSA students. Thank you so much to all the staff, students, attendees, and community partners for contributing to such a memorable event!



Reading with Nic!

Our JMSA students have been fortunate to have a former JMSA student coming in once a month to read a book and do an activity. Nic is a proficient AAC user who uses his high tech communication system to actively engage our students. Recently students solved a Mystery Box with Nic. Within the Mystery Box, students used their sense of touch and sense of hearing to guess what was in the box. Our students really look forward to visits with Nic.

Music Mondays



Every Monday, each class receives thirty minutes of Music Therapy with Ms. Candice from Inspired Sounds Music Therapy. In December, students used multiple musical instruments to play along with popular winter songs, nursery rhymes, classic hits.

