
John McGivney School Authority

School Newsletter



Issue No. 1 | November, 2021



All of the classes at JMSA have embraced our outdoor spaces as an extension of their classrooms. This year students have explored language, literacy, math and science concepts through nature and by bringing manipulatives outside. Class 4 (above) explored lights and sounds at Play McGivney during music class with Mrs. T. while Class 2 (below) engaged in a story retell using robotics.

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Upcoming Dates...

- International Day of People with Disabilities 12/3/21
- Progress Reports go home 12/3/21
- Pallister-Killian Syndrome Day 12/4/21
- Holiday Assembly 12/16/21
- Winter Break Starts 12/20/21
- Winter Break Ends 1/3/21
- Hypotonia Awareness Day 1/4/22
- PA Day 1/14/22



A Message from Our Principal

JMSA Families,

It was my pleasure to welcome new and returning John McGivney School Authority (JMSA) families to the 2021-2022 school year. We are very excited to have your child at our school, and we look forward to an awesome year filled with much learning and student success.

JMSA school is one of six school authorities operating under Section 68 of the Education Act. Working in collaboration with our children's parents/guardians and Centre staff, JMSA teachers and support staff create and implement a program designed to support each student's unique needs. Your child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that includes learning expectations in conjunction with classroom based therapeutic goals.

This year, JMSA reopened with both in-person delivery of learning (continued enhanced health and safety protocols) and one multi-grade virtual classroom.

Please see below for important information regarding our reopening plan...

- The delivery of instruction in the virtual classroom will adhere to Ministry of Education (MOE) guidelines for remote learning. Music therapy will continue daily.
- Students attending "in-person" will remain in one cohort for the full school day. Cohorted classes will remain with one classroom team where possible. Rotary arts instruction will be provided by one teacher who will rotate through each classroom daily.
- The safe return/entry of medically fragile students is of the utmost importance to the JMSA. Parents/guardians are responsible for consulting with their child's health care provider(s) to ensure a return to in-person learning is safe for their child.
- School access remains restricted to essential visitors only. Exceptions/changes to essential visitor restrictions may occur during the school year, as directed by the MOE.

Additional updated Covid related information for 2021/22 has been posted on the JMSA webpage. The guidance document is entitled "COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operation Guidance for Schools 2021."

As parents/guardians cannot enter our school due to the pandemic, we strive to update our social media and school website regularly to provide families with relevant information and opportunities to see all the wonderful activities happening within our school community. Please check our website frequently, especially your child's classroom page.

As always, we thank you for all of your support. We feel privileged to be entrusted with the education and well-being of your child.

Sincerely,
Dr. Brenda Santarossa
Principal



Follow our Learning on Social Media...



@schoolmcgivney



@schoolmcgivney



school.jmccentre.ca

Meet the Staff



Classroom Teams

Class 1

Teacher: Mrs. Winiarski
Support Staff: Michelle Joinville
and Cindy Detmar

Class 2

Teacher: Mrs. Wirag
Support Staff: Rabiya Lulat
and Nadine Tetley

Class 3

Teacher: Mrs. McLeod
Support Staff: April Werstein
and Courtney Moureau

Class 4

Teacher: Mrs. Fuerth
Support Staff: Cindi Ruthven
and Dave Zeman

Class 5

Teacher: Ms. DiFonte
Support Staff: Tracy Garant
and Madison Babula

Class 6 (Virtual)

Teacher: Mrs. Saad

Arts/Rotary Teacher: Mrs. Targachoff

Lunchaides: Sue Mandolfo, Gina Ortega, and Randa El-Houssaini

Administration

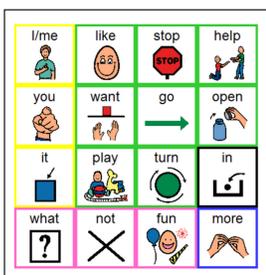
Principal: Brenda Roberts-Santarossa
Administrative Assistant: Luisa Pace
Business Manager: Steevens Ortiz

Education Consultant: Amanda Laforet-McGowan
Communicative Disorders Asst: Angelica McGuire
Communication Technology Asst: Austin Tyrrell

A big welcome to new and seconded staff!

Magic of Modelling

Our first parent engagement workshop "Magic of Modelling" took place on November 18th, 2021. Thank you to all the families who attended. During this session, Angelica McGuire (Communicative Disorder Assistant) introduced what modelling is, how to do it, and why we should be modelling language for our children. She demonstrated how to incorporate modelling into everyday routines such as getting dressed, eating breakfast, watching TV, and making a smoothie. Modelling can sometimes feel difficult at the beginning but just give it a try! A little modelling is better than no modelling at all. If you were unable to attend but would like some support using a core board or modelling on a communication device, please contact the school to speak to Angelica.



School News

Halloween Spooktacular



Halloween at JMSA this year was spooktacularly fun! Each class decorated their windows and a mystery pumpkin that they revealed during our virtual assembly. Through Google Meet, we met with families and therapists to show off our costumes and pumpkins. After the assembly, students went trick or treating around the Centre and School.

Big CONGRATULATIONS to Class 1 for the best window decorations and to Class 2 for best Pumpkin. We would also like to thank Class 5 for hosting this fun, spooky event.

Toronto Blue Jay's Challenger Program



We are so excited to be a Jay's Care Affiliate School and participate in the Challenger baseball program! Challenger is an adaptive baseball program that empowers children and youth living with cognitive and physical disabilities. The program is designed to teach its athletes the core life skills inherent to baseball including: teamwork, communication, determination, resiliency, inclusion, support, and courage.

Challenger Baseball ensures every athlete has the opportunity to play in a fun and safe environment where they can learn to become more independent, build confidence and self-esteem, improve their communication skills, and set and achieve their own personal goals.

National Day of Truth & Reconciliation

Our school was proud to take part in Canada's first ever Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Students and staff wore orange to raise awareness of this important day. We also all took time in our classrooms to learn about about Indigenous culture and history.



Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a very important and special day at the John McGivney School Authority. We take time and care in preparing a thoughtful and meaningful memorial. It is important to remember and reflect at this time. The School Authority has once again used this opportunity to honour our fallen heroes and those who have served this great country of ours! Thank you to Class 4 for planning a child-centred ceremony.

