

John McGivney School Authority

School Newsletter



Issue No. 2 | March 11th, 2022



Whether it's fall or winter, sunny or snowy, JMSA staff and students love being outside. Above: Class 1 made a point of getting outside while the snow fell to experience the beauty of all different kinds of weather. Class 2 and Class 3 shared many laughs racing down the hill in the playground and playing outside in the snow. Class 4 and 5 brought the outdoors in and explored snow in a warm environment. Lastly, students in Class 6 enjoyed some outdoor play during their synchronous learning breaks.

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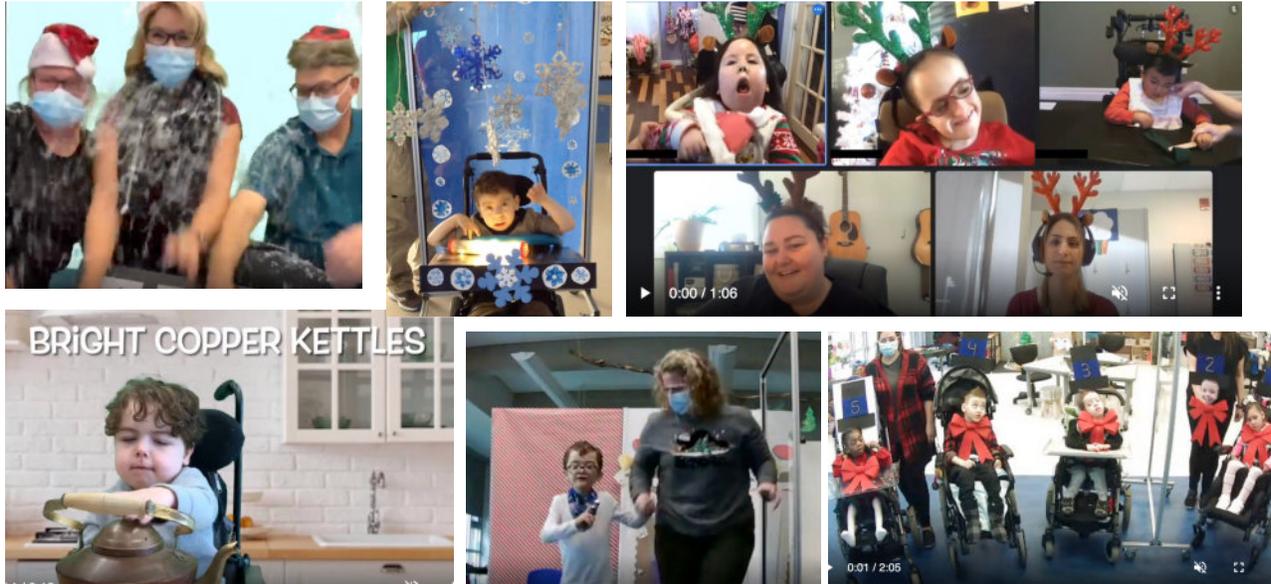
- Winter Virtual Assembly
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- New Classroom Resources
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Upcoming Dates...

- March Break - March 14-18
- Rock your Socks for World Down Syndrome Day - March 21
- Wear Green for National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day - March 25
- Wear Purple for Epilepsy Awareness Day - March 28
- Wear Blue for World Autism Awareness Day - April 2
- Good Friday (No School) - April 15
- Easter Monday (No School) - April 18



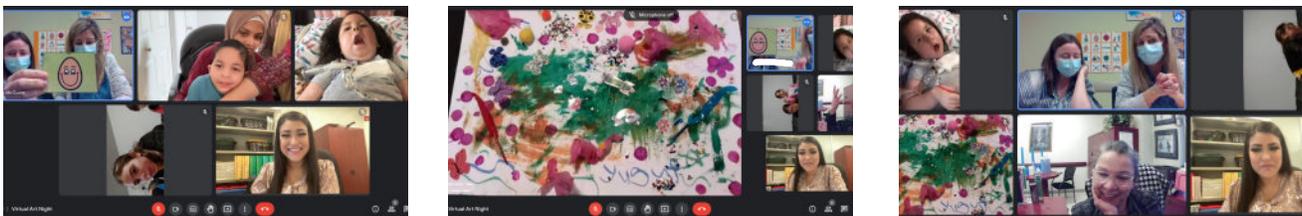
JMSA Winter Assembly



This year's winter concert was filled with incredible musical performances. Each class added a personalized twist to showcase their interpretation of a favourite winter song. Many thanks to our music therapist Mrs. Candice, for accompanying each performance. Be sure to check out videos from this event featured on our school Twitter and Instagram pages.

Virtual Art Night

On February 24, our own Mrs. Targachoff demonstrated some fun and engaging activities that families followed along together with from home. Thank you to all who attended! Keep an eye on our social media for similar upcoming events.



Follow our Learning on Social Media...



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school.jmccentre.ca

Winter Olympics Virtual Assembly



To celebrate the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, JMSA participated in a variety of Olympic themed games. Students participated in hockey, ring toss, snowman bowling, ski races and an Olympic torch relay. Our virtual class also participated from their homes and involved their families in each game. A lot of fun was had by all and several students and staff demonstrated a competitive nature! Our Olympic week concluded with a Closing Ceremony. Classes presented their flags and each athlete received an award for their participation.

Meet Ozobot and Indi



This year, our classrooms welcomed two new programmable robots: Ozobot and Indi. Ozobot is a small round robot that follows coloured lines. It can be programmed to move, alter its speed, change direction, or perform "cool moves." Meanwhile, Indi is a robotic car that responds to coloured tiles. Each tile tells Indi how to move (e.g., forward, spin, turn). Both resources have helped reinforce core language in our school community. Through the use of robotics, students practice words such as "go," "turn," and "stop." We look forward to continuing to utilize these tools to enhance programming in our school authority.

CVI Spotlight

Cortical vision impairment (CVI) affects the visual processing system of the brain. Individuals with CVI may have normal eye exams but are often observed as "looking away from things" or not focusing on objects and people. This is because the brain has a hard time interpreting what the eyes see. Thus, the impairment involves the way the brain processes visual stimuli. CVI is the most prevalent visual impairment affecting children in North America. Thankfully, with visual training, CVI can improve. Several students in our school authority have CVI and therefore our classroom teams have invested in a lot of training in this area over the last several years. In order to meet the needs of these learners, our staff develop sensory programs that include modified classroom environments, collaboration with therapists, and incorporating specific materials to best meet students visual needs.

School News

Improvements to the School Lobby

We have begun updates to the school lobby in an effort to make it kid-friendly and engaging. This space can now be utilized as an extension of the classrooms for continued learning. Improvements include the addition of magnet boards, lava tiles, squiqz, lights and a sensory table. Students have enjoyed exploring letters of the alphabet and pictures of their peers through magnetic play. The touch activated lights have also proven popular as students can use touch to change the colour of the tiles or practice visual tracking.



Toronto Blue Jay's Challenger Program



As mentioned in the fall 2021 JMSA newsletter, we have been chosen as a recipient school for the Toronto Blue Jay's Challenger Baseball Program. In January, our baseball equipment arrived and our classes quickly got to work practicing running, throwing, catching and batting skills. As part of this program, students also completed the Unstoppable Kid Challenges to gain points towards additional equipment. These challenges included freeze dances, baseball scavenger hunts, eating healthy, being kind to others, etc. We are excited to continue expanding our skills and hope to play a school wide baseball game in the Spring. PLAY BALL!

Outdoor Learning Continues

Students at JMSA love being outdoors! ...and that has not stopped throughout the winter. Classes have bundled up and taken their learning outside to explore literacy, math, science and art concepts in the cold and snow. Involving nature in learning opportunities encourages students to use their senses to explore the world. Classes have participated in scavenger hunts, used sticks to make 2D shapes, gone on nature walks, investigated animal tracks in snow, and ventured out to the hill for tobogganing. We look forward to continuing outdoor learning into the spring.
