

# School Newsletter



Issue No. 1 | November, 2022

## Eco School & Take Me Outside Day



JMSA has applied to be an Eco School! This is a child-centred program that involves completing several challenges focused around nature and the conservation of the earth. Each month, classes will participate in fun and engaging educational activities as we work towards achieving Eco School status.

The first activity that JMSA participated in was Take Me Outside Day. This day is part of a global campaign to encourage children to play and learn outdoors and to encourage nature exploration as a significant part of student's day. During the week of October 17th-21st, every class completed a minimum of one hour of outdoor learning activities and enjoyed the amenities surrounding our school. Some of the activities included a camping trip, sensory walk, making, hanging, and observing bird feeders, and exploring leaves. Be sure to check out some highlights from this day on our social media.

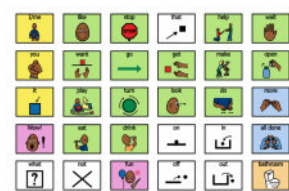
## Core Communication

Core vocabulary refers to the words used most frequently in day-to-day communication. These include verbs, adjectives, prepositions, and pronouns, and make up 80% of speech. Core words are usually flexible and conceptual, meaning that they are relevant across multiple contexts.

At JMSA, most of our students use a core board or AAC device that is core-based. These devices allow students to communicate for a variety of functions including: requesting, protesting, commenting, asking questions, and directing.

Over the last year, we have made it a priority to ensure that all classroom core boards are inclusive and feature a variety of skin tones. We have also personalized students' individual core boards to reflect who they are. These changes include gender, skin tone, and creating dual-language boards for our English language learners.

If you would like a core board to model communication at home, please let us know!



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## Upcoming Dates...

- PA Day 11/18/22
- International Day of People with Disabilities 12/3/22
- Pallister-Killian Syndrome Day 12/4/22
- PJ Day 12/9/22
- Ugly Sweater Day 12/13/22
- Holiday Assembly 12/22/22
- PJ & Movie Day 12/23/22
- Winter Break Starts 12/23/22
- Winter Break Ends 1/9/23
- Hypotonia Awareness Day 1/4/22
- PA Day 1/20/23

# A Message from Our Principal

JMSA Families,

It was my pleasure to welcome new and returning John McGivney School Authority (JMSA) families to the 2022-2023 school year. We are very excited to have your child at our school, and we look forward to an awesome year filled with a lot of learning and student success.

JMSA is one of six school authorities operating under Section 68 of the Education Act. Working in collaboration with our children's parents, guardians, JMCC clinicians, JMSA teachers, and support staff, we 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 that make up the foundation of their program, but each child will be exposed to much more throughout the school year.

This year, JMSA reopened with all of our students returning to in-person learning under enhanced Covid protocols to ensure student safety.

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

- 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.
- Students will remain in one cohort for the full school day, with the exception of therapy and school-wide events.
- Rotary arts instruction will be provided by one teacher who will rotate through each classroom daily.
- We are very pleased to welcome families back into our school authority for school-wide events, however we continue to require all individuals who enter the building to be masked at all times.
- Additional changes to Covid restrictions may occur during the school year, as directed by the MOE.

Additional updated Covid related information for 2022/23 has been posted on the JMSA website.

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](http://school.jmccentre.ca)

# School Information

## Meet the Staff

### Class 1

Mrs. Winiarski -Classroom Teacher  
Cindy Detmar -Support Staff  
Ashley Brouillette - Support Staff

### Class 2

Mrs. Wirag -Classroom Teacher  
Rabiya Lulat -Support Staff  
April Werstein -Support Staff

### Class 3

Mrs. MacDougall -Classroom Teacher  
Courtney Moureau -Support Staff  
Nadine Tetley -Support Staff

### Class 4

Mrs. Fuerth -Classroom Teacher  
Cindi Ruthven -Support Staff  
Dave Zeman -Support Staff

### Class 5

Ms. DiFonte -Classroom Teacher  
Tracy Garant -Support Staff  
Madison Babula -Support Staff

### Rotary Arts

Mrs. Targachoff



### Office Staff

Brenda Roberts-Santarossa -School Principal  
Luisa Pace -Administrative Assistant  
Steevens Ortiz -Business Manager  
Amanda Laforet-McGowan - Education Consultant  
Kelsey Smith - 21st Century Teacher/ Consultant  
Angelica McGuire -Communication Disorders Asst.  
Austin Tyrrell - Communication Technology Asst.

### Lunchaides

Sue Mandolfo  
Gina Ortega  
Olubukola Ayodele

On December 5th, we are excited to welcome Mrs. Fuerth back to Class 4. We also recently said farewell to Ms. Michelle in Class 1 who is off on a leave and Mrs. McLeod whose long term in Class 4 ended.

## Lending Library



John McGivney School Authority has been given the opportunity to provide resources for home use with your children. The focus on these resource bags are to practice supporting your child's communication and language at home. They were exclusively made for families and include activities that are functional and motivating. They provide an excellent opportunity for your child to transfer skills learned at school to their home environment.

In each bag, you will find an activity, core communication board specific to your child, and suggested words/phrases to model. To see the full list of activities available, please visit our school website under the "Parents" tab.

# School News

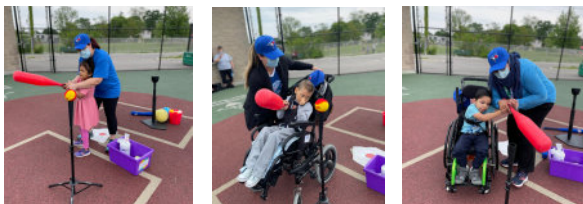
## Halloween Spooktacular



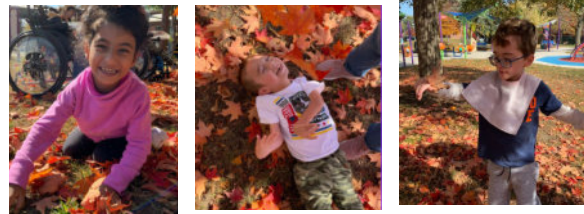
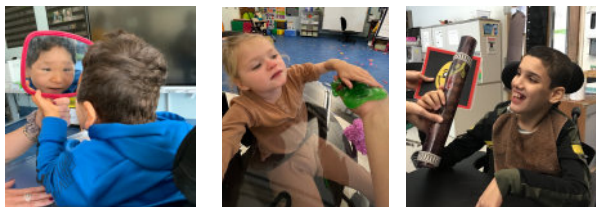
Halloween this year was a spooktacular sensory experience! During our Google Meet, we met with families to show off students' costumes and showcase Fall- and/or Halloween-related activities students have been working on during class. After the meeting concluded, students participated in a centre-wide Trick-or-Treating event. We strongly believe in this tradition, as it creates an important experience for our students. Halloween is typically not an accessible activity for our students in the community.

Smiles and laughter filled the halls! In the afternoon, classes participated in a sensory scavenger hunt in the gym. Thank you to Class 5 for planning and organizing this event!

## Toronto Blue Jay's Challenger Program



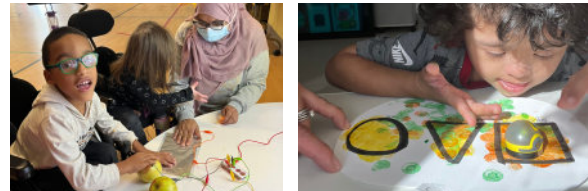
We are so excited to announce that JMSA was selected to participate in the Jay's Care Challenger Baseball program again this year! Through this opportunity, our players will form, enhance, and maintain relationships with their peers and coaches, reinforce skills such as turn taking, cooperation, communication, and collaboration, and develop a love of sport.



## 21st Century Learning

JMSA is fortunate to have a 21st Century teacher for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Smith works in classes daily to assist students in developing 21st Century competencies such as critical thinking, communication, creativity, problem-solving, perseverance, collaboration, and global citizenship.

At JMSA, technology is used to enhance learning and increase accessibility for our students. In order to promote independence, and access to the curriculum, all classes have a Smartboard, touch screen computers, iPads, switches, and robotics kits. Students explore these devices through small group instruction in their classroom, daily.



## Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a very special day at JMSA. We take time and care in preparing a thoughtful, meaningful, child-centered memorial. It is important to remember, reflect, and honour our fallen heroes and those who have served this great country of ours.

During this year's ceremony, all classes participated in our poppy presentation, and the retelling of the poems "Poppy, Poppy" and "In Flanders Fields. Thank you to all that joined us for this day of remembrance.

