



## Weekend Update: Sunday, December 10, 2023

We began last week being led by our Youth Faith Ambassadors in the first of our Advent Liturgies. The YFA walked us through reflections and gospel passages related to “HOPE”. Throughout the week, we continued to focus on preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ at Christmas and also celebrated the Virtue of Conscience through prayer and awarding the November “Conscience” certificates. Congratulations to all our students who work hard to use their conscience, along with other virtues, to make good choices that foster a sense of belonging and inclusion in our school community. We look forward to more reflections from our YFA in the coming weeks as well as their leadership with our annual Christmas drives collecting socks and non-perishable food items for residents in our local community.

As we get closer to Christmas, we are excited for some fun events. This week we remind families of the Annual Christmas Market running on Tuesday. Students all brought home envelopes that you can work with them to fill out and return on Tuesday when they get to go shopping! More information along with some pictures of some of the available items can be found later in the Weekend Update. We thank our Catholic School Council volunteers for their hard work preparing for this fun event. We also continue to look forward to our Mercy Magic Community Christmas Event on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. All the Gingerbread houses have been ordered, the members of the choir are busy practicing some favourite Christmas carols and the man in “red” is looking forward to stopping by to spread some Christmas cheer.

Amidst all the excitement for the holidays, students continue to work hard in their classes, continuing to work towards the goals they set and possibly revised after the Progress Reports several weeks ago. Classes continue to participate in virtual workshops related to a variety of topics including author readings, coding, and Indigenous Education. I thank our teachers for their continued dedication in finding and providing these opportunities for our students. We also look forward to welcoming back the Morning Star School Rosary volunteers on Wednesday, as they have prepared a special Advent/Christmas edition related to celebrating the Joyful Mysteries.

As a reminder, all families who purchased cookie dough from our Terra Cotta Fundraiser are reminded that Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 is the time set aside for picking up your orders. The dough will need to be brought home and placed in the freezer where it will wait for the perfect time to bake up some yummy treats! We also remind you that the online store selling Mercy Magic spirit wear closes on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

May the lighting of the second Advent Candle this weekend, representing PEACE, bring peace to all in our community.

*Leslie Marchand, MEd*

### **December’s Virtue of the Month: Hope**

*May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 15:13)*

God helps us to work for a more peaceful world even when we feel discouraged.

### **Staff Directory:**

Leslie Marchand	Principal
Serita Pereira	Head Secretary
Jennifer Cahill	FDK Teacher
Hui Zhang	DECE (LTO)
Heather Maxwell	Grade 1 Teacher
Caroline Loiacono	Grade 2/3 Teacher
Trish Fang	Grade 3/4 Teacher
John Galbraith	Grade 5 French Immersion Teacher
Michelle Murphy	Grade 5/6 Teacher
Colleen Dougherty	Grade 6 French Immersion Teacher
David MacSporrán	Grade 6/7 French Immersion Teacher
Gianni Protomanni	Grade 7 Teacher
Madeleine Hinterhoeller	Grade 7/8 French Immersion Teacher
Paola D'Agostino	Grade 8 Teacher
Sara Petruccelli	SERC Teacher/Planning Time
Elaine Romaniuk	Sanctuary Program Teacher
Katie Box	Special Education Teacher/ESL
Heather Langley	Core French/ Planning Time Teacher
Mena Pandullo	Teacher Librarian/Planning Time
Lyla Colavecchia	Planning Time Teacher (LTO) (Every other Friday)
Lia Pedroso	Planning Time Teacher (LTO) (Every other Thursday)
Ashley Galvao	Education Resource Worker
Sylvia Caruso	Education Resource Worker (Sanctuary)
Kellie Donaher	CYW (Mon, Wed, and alternating Friday's)
Jamie Brassard	CYW Sanctuary Program (Tues, Thurs, and alternating Friday's)
Maria Papadogianis	Social Worker (Wednesday)
Margaret Russ	MHSW (Sanctuary)
Jason Kotsopoulos	School Psychologist
Cheryl Suh	Speech and Language Pathologist
Tony DiRenzo	Head Custodian
Lynce Buhian	Night Custodian

### **Spirit Wear Available:**

From December 1 – 12, Mercy Magic Spirit Wear is available for purchase at the following link: <https://ourladyofmercyspirit2023.itemorder.com/shop/home/>. Unfortunately, items will not be ready to have under the Christmas tree, but families will receive their orders early in 2024. Youth and Adult sizes are available. All items are to be purchased online through the link, and will be mailed to the school for distribution.

### **Terra Cotta Cookie Dough:**

Thank you again to everyone who ordered cookie dough from our Fundraiser. Just a reminder the dough will be ready for distribution on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-4:00 pm. Parents are invited to come to the school for distribution of all orders.

**See/Hear Clinic:**

Thank you to all the families who participated in the See/Hear Clinic. Results are being sent home. Those requiring more urgent follow-up will be contacted.

**Christmas Market: Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

Our annual Christmas Market is being held on Tuesday Dec 12th (9am to 3pm). All students received a shopping list envelope that can be used to record their budget for each gift and hold their money (cash only). Gifts range in price from \$1 to \$15. Here are a few pictures of items that are available... If you are available to help out any time on Tuesday, please contact the office.



**Dress for the weather!**

To ensure the comfort of all our students when they are outside for the 70 minutes of recess each day, please ensure students come to school dressed for the weather. Students will be required to have separate shoes for outdoor play as the wet and snowy weather comes to ensure that classrooms stay dry.

**Non-Essential Items at School**

Just as a reminder, we ask that students refrain from bringing non-essential items to school like toys, and trading cards. These items can be a distraction from learning and can also create conflict between students if they go missing. I thank you all for supporting this from home.



### **Cellphone Communication**

This is just a reminder that cell phone communication is not permitted during the school day. If you need to connect with your children, please contact the school and we will support this communication. Students responding to text messages on their phones during class time provides a significant distraction from learning.

We understand that many children have phones to let their parents know that they have arrived at school safely; the recommendation is that they inform you they are present, and then put their phones away.

We also remind parents and students that taking pictures, and recording video of students or teachers during the school day is prohibited, ESPECIALLY when there is no consent.

### **Kiss and Ride:**



Thank you to all our families who pick-up and drop-off students in cars each day for your patience and cooperation in ensuring that the Kiss and Ride moves well. As a reminder, please ensure you do not park your car in the Kiss and Ride lanes. If you are going to get out of your car to pick up your children, please ensure you park in a proper parking space. Kindergarten parents are reminded that you can pick up your children as early as 3:00 to help with parking. Parents are also asked NOT to stop your car at the entry of the parking lot as this severely backs up traffic onto Glen Erin. Please take the extra moment to make your way to allow your children to enter the vehicle along the boulevard, this is the safest!

### **Student Attendance**

Ensuring that students are present in school is a major factor predicting success and achievement. It is also an obligation under the Education Act that parents send their children to school. We thank you for ensuring that your children regularly attend. If your child is going to be absent for some time, please continue to reach out to the school and classroom teacher to discuss.

### **Reporting Student Absences**

Student absences should be reported by parents/guardians for each student in our school through the Safe Arrival system in School Messenger. There are three ways to access the program:

Web: [www.go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://www.go.schoolmessenger.ca)

App: SchoolMessenger

Phone: 1-844-435-3440 (toll free)

***Student absences not reported will trigger phone calls to confirm the absence each morning. If you need assistance, please contact the school.***

## Student Lunches



Please make sure your children come to school with their lunch. Our intermediate students (grade 7 and 8 only) may bring a note to sign-out for lunch. Please ensure the note is dated with the appropriate date. Students can then go out to eat but are asked to not bring food or drinks back to school. Students will not be able to go back to their class until the bell rings again at 12:56 to signal the start of our afternoon classes.

## Allergens:

We know that students all have lots of yummy Halloween candy at home from Halloween. We remind families that we are an allergy aware school. Please continue to make sure you are sending your children to school each day with lunches and snacks that are free from allergens including **Nuts, Tree nuts, Pumpkin, and Seafood**. We have many children in our school who have serious allergies to these allergens, some of whom are airborne allergies. Information about the specific allergens in your children's classes will also be sent home in a letter and indicated on the classroom door. We thank you in advance for your attention to this as you pack lunches.

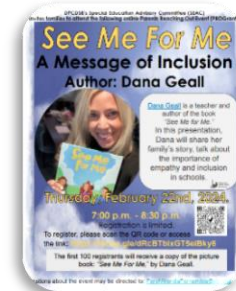
## Catholic School Council

The Catholic School Council is excited and looking forward to our Mercy Magic Community Christmas event on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 to 7:30. Aside from decorating Gingerbread houses, families will be able to enjoy the ambience with Christmas carols, and the school choir, along with a VERY SPECIAL GUEST!! (You won't want to forget your cameras). Then, our students will share all the moves they learned throughout the week with X-Movement. We look forward to seeing everyone there! Thank you to the Catholic School Council for supporting this event.



## SEAC Parents Reaching Out Event "See Me For Me, A Message of Inclusion" Information

The following Parents Reaching Out Event (PROGrant) is hosted by DPCDSB's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). All families of students within DPCDSB are invited to participate in this online session hosted by Author, Dana Geall and the Special Education and Learning Services Department. The focus of the session will highlight Dana's picture book entitled, "See Me For Me," which is based on her personal and lived experience as a mother of triplets born with Cerebral Palsy. Dana will discuss the importance of equity, inclusion, and acceptance of all students as important members within our communities.



**Location:** Microsoft Teams Online Meeting Platform  
**Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2024.  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Registration:** Participants are asked to self-register using the [link](#) or QR code by **Thursday, February 8, 2024.**

A virtual meeting invitation will be forwarded to registered participants.

**December Trustee Newsletter:**

Attached to the Weekend Update email you will also find the December edition of our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet's Newsletter.

**News from Merciful Redeemer Parish:**



Please remember to visit the Parish website <https://mercifulredeemermi.archtoronto.org> for all the latest information including the weekly bulletin.

As a reminder, the Christmas Mass Schedule for Merciful Redeemer Parish was sent along with the Weekend Update last Sunday.

*Advent Prayer*

*God of power and mercy, as we prepare this Advent season for the birth of our Saviour open our hearts in welcome.*

*Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.*

*Amen*





**Upcoming Events:**

Please click on the following link to access the 2023-2024 School year calendar: [2023-2024 School Year Calendar](#)

**Monday, December 11, 2023**

Intermediate Bowling Trip

Terra Cotta Orders picked up at school from 2 to 4 PM

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

Christmas Market!

Grade 8 Students: Course Selection (Gonzaga)

Last day to purchase Mercy Magic Spirit Wear

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

Morning Star School Rosary

**December 19-21, 2023**

X-Movement in the school

**Thursday, December 21, 2023**

Mercy Magic Community Christmas Night! 5:00-7:30

**Friday, December 22, 2023**

Last day of school before Christmas vacation!

**Monday, January 8, 2024**

Welcome back to school!

