



Weekend Update: Friday, December 22, 2023

This past week has been filled with much energy and excitement for the arrival of the Christmas break and the coming of Christmas! Our Advent wreaths are glowing brighter as the birth of Christ is upon us. We concluded the week with our final Advent Liturgy led by the Youth Faith Ambassadors. This group has led us on our Advent journey for the past four months commencing with our Advent Mass. We are very grateful for their hard work and look forward to seeing what else they have in store for us in the new year.

I want to thank everyone for your participation in our Mercy Magic Community Christmas event! Families had a great time making their Gingerbread houses, visiting with Santa, and singing Christmas carols as well as dancing with X-Movement! I want to thank our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet, for taking the time to come and celebrate with us, as well as our Catholic School Council for supporting this event and the families for coming out! I also need to take a moment to thank our incredible staff for working so hard to bring the event to life! I say it often, I am so blessed to be a part of this beautiful community!

Along with our special community night, this past week students all participated in workshops run by X-Movement, as well as our fun spirit week. Today, we all gathered in the gym and were led in some Christmas caroling by Mlle. Hinterhoeller and our Mercy Magic Choir for our annual sing-along! All these activities were a great way to help students channel all the extra Christmas energy as the break approached.

As the Christmas vacation begins, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our community a very Merry Christmas! May you all feel a little Christmas “magic” and experience the love and joy that the coming of our Saviour brings. Please be safe, and I look forward to seeing everyone back on January 8, 2024!

Leslie Marchand, MEd

A Christmas Prayer

*Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we
praise you for the great wonders you have sent us:
For a shining star and angel's song, for an infant's cry in a
lowly manger.*

*We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little child.
We behold his glory and are bathed in its radiance.*

Amen



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 MacSporran	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 Petrucci	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



Winter Break Support

Attached to the Weekend Update is a list of resources that students can access if they need some extra help and don't have access to the Support Services that they would if school were in session. This resource is also being posted in our Google Classrooms.

Intermediate Muskoka Trip: Parent Information Night

The Parent Information Night for the Intermediate trip in the Spring has been changed to Wednesday, January 10th at 6:30 PM. Please mark this date on your calendars. This meeting will be held at the school.

Catholic School Council

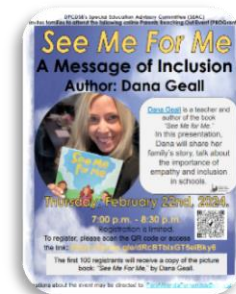
We are working on rescheduling the January Catholic School Council date. That revised date will be shared with our community in advance.

Human-Trafficking Presentation:

The Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC) will be hosting an upcoming Parent Engagement Presentation on Anti-Human Trafficking, **Thursday, January 18, 2024**. This event is being held over the Zoom platform. Please see the attached flyer accompanying the Weekend Update for more details.

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.

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.



Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, January 8, 2024

Welcome back to school!

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Intermediate Overnight Trip: Information Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Tuesday, January 16, 2023

Grade 5 Trip to Queen's Park

Thursday, January 18, 2024

CCCCSC Parent Presentation: Anti-Human Trafficking (Zoom meeting) PM

Monday, January 22, 2024

PD Day for students

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Grade 7 Teaching Mass @ Merciful Redeemer Parish at 10:00 AM

Friday, February 16, 2024

PD Day: Interviews

Monday, February 19, 2024

Family Day Holiday: No School



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