



## Weekend Update: Sunday, December 3, 2023

Today marks the official start of the Advent season as we light the first candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing hope. We were blessed to celebrate our Advent mass last week with Father Suresh where he reminded us of the need to “watch” during Advent. Watch our WORDS, ACTIONS, and THOUGHTS to support our CHARACTER and HEART as we prepare to make room for the coming of Christ. We are so grateful to Father Suresh for sharing this inspiration with us, especially as it was his last opportunity to be part of the Our Lady of Mercy School community as he makes his way to his new role as Pastor in a Brampton parish. The school presenting him with a card signed by all our students and staff to thank him for his years of service and spiritual leadership. We also thank the Youth Faith Ambassadors for their efforts organizing the mass as well as the upcoming Advent Liturgies in the coming weeks. We were also blessed to be led in song by the beautiful voices of our Mercy Magic Choir. The coming Christmas season and holiday is a fun and busy time. We will work to ensure that amidst the decorations, lights, and pre-Christmas hustle and bustle, we take time to remember to prepare room in our hearts for the coming of our Saviour through prayer, reflection, and giving. Once again, this year we will collect canned food for those less fortunate than ourselves, and who deal with food insecurity daily. We will also once again be collecting socks! I thank you all in advance for your ongoing generosity. Through witnessing charity at home, we are setting wonderful examples for our children on the true meaning of Christmas, especially in a world where it is easy to get caught up in commercialism.

Last week our Intermediate Boys hosted their Pod tournament at our school and while they did not move on to the Family tournament, Coach Galbraith, and Coach Petruccelli are so proud of the hard work and dedication that the boys displayed while preparing for their tournament as well as the character they showed during their games. With the Volleyball season over, we look ahead to Basketball as well as participation in an invitational Junior Soccer Tournament. Aside from Athletics, we also have Eco Club, Youth Faith Ambassadors, Aladdin, Choir, and Hacker Gal Coding Club all running right now, and Global Reading just wrapping up. Many of these clubs all take on new students interested in participation. Students are reminded to listen to the activities during the morning announcements if they are interested.

On Friday, Mrs. Maxwell’s class had a great day at the Living Arts Centre working on some beautiful Christmas creations and Mrs. Loiacono and Mrs. Fang escorted their students to Black Creek Pioneer Village. Thank you to the parents who joined our classes as Supervisors on the trips and thanks to the teachers for taking the time to organize these experiences for their students. We are also looking forward to the upcoming Intermediate trip on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

I also want to thank all the families who participated in our Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser. This initiative has raised over One Thousand dollars for the school! We are excited to get the dough into your hands on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, just in time for yummy cookies through the holiday season, and maybe even to leave for Santa! I also want to thank families who have purchased a Gingerbread house for our Community Christmas event on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Finally, please see further in the Weekend Update for a link for Spirit Wear. We have been trying to get this out since September but there were several changes in staffing with the vendor which created significant delays. We are pleased to finally have it ready!

*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 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 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 ordered 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:**

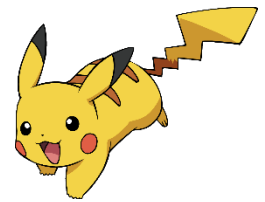
This is a reminder that Peel Public Health will be at our school on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> for Seeing and Hearing screening. For your children to be assessed, please ensure that the permission forms and \$20.00 is brought to the school. We will share this with the Peel Public Health Team.

### **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

Our Catholic School Council is excited to announce the return of our Annual Christmas Market! Back by popular demand, students will once again have the chance to do some of their Christmas shopping at school. The Christmas Market will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. **If there are any parents who are available to assist with our Market, please contact the school. We are in need of volunteers for this event!**

The Catholic School Council is also excited about our special Community Christmas event on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. 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.



**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.

Included in the Weekend Update Email, you will also find the Christmas Mass Schedule.

*Advent Family Prayer*

*God of Love,  
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.  
He is a sign of your love.  
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,  
As we wait and prepare for his coming.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.*

*- Author Unknown*



**Upcoming Events:**

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

**Monday, December 4, 2023**

Advent Liturgy by YFA on Announcements

**Thursday, December 7, 2023**

See, Hear Clinic @ OLMCY

**Monday, December 11, 2023**

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

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023**

Christmas Market!

Last day to purchase Mercy Magic Spirit Wear

**December 19-21, 2023**

X-Movement in the school

**Thursday, December 21, 2023**

Community Christmas Night!

**Friday, December 22, 2023**

Last day of school before Christmas vacation!

**Monday, January 8, 2024**

Welcome back to school!

