



## Weekend Update: Sunday, January 7, 2024

Happy New Year!! I hope that everyone has had a wonderful Christmas holiday and enjoyed some time away from school, work, and hopefully screens. Although the break is welcomed, and a great opportunity to recharge, it is also good to be getting back into routines. Like last year, as we come back this year, we are already well into the second week of January. Teachers and students will be working to complete necessary tasks for the completion of Term One. As always, I encourage parents to contact teachers should you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress. There will of course be an opportunity for interviews in just over one month's time.

The virtue of the month for January is Self-Control. This is timely as many of us use the new year as an opportunity to set new goals and resolve to make some changes. For our students this could include having self-control during lessons in class, or in reviewing their work, or completing their daily tasks. I encourage all our students to come back to school tomorrow with new goals in mind as they work towards the learning goals in all their subjects. I remind them all to continue to grow their, "yets" as they work with growth mindsets truly believing that "there is nothing they can't do... YET! Continue to reach for the stars this 2024.

With the possibility of some inclement winter weather this week, I remind parents to review how school and bus cancellations will be communicated. Our school remains open if buses are canceled, but will not if the schools are closed. If students are home due to weather, they can access "snowy weather" work in the google classrooms. This is material that is meant to review and consolidate learning. There will be no synchronous online learning. As always, should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school.

I also remind our Intermediate parents of the information session planned for Wednesday evening @ 6:30 regarding the spring Camp Muskoka Trip at the school.

I am truly looking forward to seeing everyone return tomorrow and hearing about all the adventures that took place during the holiday.

See you tomorrow,

*Leslie Marchand*

### *The Work of Christmas Begins*

*When the carols have been stilled,  
When the star-topped tree is taken down,  
When family and friends are gone home,  
When we are back to our schedules  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To welcome the refugee,  
To heal a broken planet,  
To feed the hungry,  
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,  
To share our gifts,  
To seek justice and peace for all people,  
To bring Christ's light to the world.*

**January's Virtue of the Month: Self-Control**

*Like a city breached, without walls, is one who lacks self-control" (Proverbs: 25-28)*

God wants us to do what we know, and feel is right.

**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
TBD	Night Custodian

**Intermediate Muskoka Trip: Parent Information Night**

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

### **Catholic School Council**

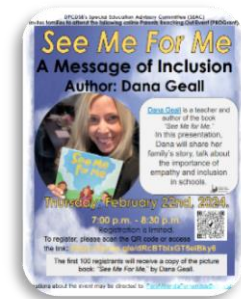
We are working on rescheduling the January Catholic School Council date. That revised date will be shared with our community in advance.

### **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.



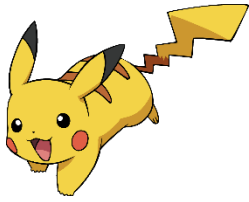
### **Student Lunches**

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 not to 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:**

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.

### **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 are required to have separate shoes for outdoor play 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. Students may want to share some of their special new items from the holidays, but we'd hate to see these new favourites get lost. 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.

### **Reporting Student Absences**

Student absences should be reported by parents/guardians for each student in our school though 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.***

### **News from Merciful Redeemer Parish**



Please continue to refer to the Merciful Redeemer Parish website for updated information.

[www.mercifulredeemermi.archtoronto.org](http://www.mercifulredeemermi.archtoronto.org)

**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**

CCCSC 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

