



Weekend Update: Sunday, November 12, 2023

It feels like we filled a great deal of content into last week with honouring Treaties Recognition Week, Indigenous Veterans Day and Remembrance Day. The highlight of the week had to be our Assembly on Wednesday, November 8th when we welcomed Warrant Officer Pavlovic to speak to our students about the importance of commemorating Remembrance Day as well as sharing his own experiences as an active member of the Canadian Armed Forces. We are grateful for his service, along with all of those in our community who serve to protect our freedoms. Mme. Dougherty's class added to our presentation by sharing prayers and readings including an Anishinabek prayer for peace and the beautiful voices of the Our Lady of Mercy School Choir (led by Mlle. Hinterhoeller) sang out to set the tone at the beginning of the assembly. Our students, all donning poppies for our service, participated with reverence and a few lucky students had the chance to try on Warrant Officer Pavlovic's vest and helmet. Along with the staff and students who worked so hard to prepare the Assembly and WO Pavlovic, I also want to thank our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet, for sharing the morning with us.

On Thursday, November 9th our junior students made their way to The Rose Theatre for Brampton Music Theatre's production of "The Wizard of Oz". The students had a wonderful time visiting Oz along the yellow brick road with Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, and the Lion. We congratulate the cast and crew for the fabulous production and our students for being such a wonderful audience. Thank you to the teachers for organizing the trip as well as the parent volunteers who attended for supervision.

Last week also saw the anticipated return of our Scholastic Book Fair. Students all had the opportunity to visit and create their wish list and many families took advantage of the family buying night, despite the terrible weather conditions. The Book Fair is all packed up now! We will find out how much credit the school has received from Scholastic for new books for our Library!

This week we continue with our Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser. If you haven't had a chance to check out the website (store) please take a moment to see all the delicious options available for purchase and to be delivered just in time for the holiday season! These are great to have in your freezer when guests are coming over, or even to prepare for Santa on Christmas Eve! On Tuesday, students will all receive their Progress Report cards to their student email accounts as explained by the email communication from the school on Friday afternoon. Students also went home with a parent-teacher interview request form for our Interview night on Thursday, November 16th. This is an excellent time to connect with your child's teacher(s) to discuss their strengths, needs, and next steps. Please complete the form and return to your child's teacher to schedule your interview.

There are a number of new items in this week's Weekend Update. Thank you for taking the time to read through and review. As always, if you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at the school. I look forward to seeing you many of you this week for your interviews.

Leslie Marchand, MEd

November's Virtue of the Month: Conscience

Therefore, I do my best always to have a clear conscience toward God and all people.

(Acts 24:16)

God helps us to choose to be good people.



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

Progress Report Cards:

All students will receive their Progress Report on Tuesday, November 14th delivered to their STUDENT email address. Teachers will ensure that all students go home with their email username and password to support you in accessing the document. It might be a good idea to check with your child prior to Tuesday to make sure you can access their Dufferin-Peel email address prior to the digital delivery of the report on Tuesday afternoon. If you encounter any challenges, please contact us at the school.

Interview Night:

Our formal Parent-Teacher Interview Night is on Thursday, November 16th. Please return the interview request form to your child's teacher so they can schedule an interview with you. Some teachers are holding interviews on additional days/times. This will be communicated by the individual teachers.

Terra Cotta Cookie Dough “Drop” fundraiser:

Our Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser is currently underway. Please go to our online store at: <https://fundraising.terracottacookies.com/current-fundraisers/our-lady-of-mercy/>. Thank you to all those who are sharing the link with family and friends and making purchases. The store will close on Monday, November 27th at 4:00 PM. The cookie dough will be delivered on Monday, December 11th and will be available for pick-up between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM.

Spirit Wear and Grad hoodies:

We are pleased to say that Spirit Wear will be available at the beginning of December for purchase. We had this set up and ready for the start of the school year, but the rep with the company changed, and we had to start the set-up again. There will be youth and adult sizes of Mercy Magic T-Shirts, dry fit shirts, hoodies, and crew neck sweaters available.

The Class of 2024 all received the link to purchase their Grad hoodie on Friday. The link is posted in the Google classrooms as well as was sent home via email to all parents of our future graduates! That link will close on Friday, November 24th, so don't miss your opportunity if this is an item that you are looking forward to purchasing.

Bullying Prevention Week: Monday, November 13 to 17:

This week we will once again be participating in activities to raise awareness of Bullying prevention at our school. This will include spirit days, morning reflections, and activities in the school. Please see the spirit days listed below.

Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mismatched sock day! To showcase how we are all different and unique!	Wear Pink Today!	Wear Bright Colours! This year's theme is "Make a Noise about Bullying" so let's get LOUD Our Lady of Mercy!	PJ Day! Let's put bullying to sleep once and for all!

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. Please refer to the attachment in the Weekend Update email for further clarification. This communication was sent out by the Board last week.

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 each day. 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

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

Last week at the Divine Mercy Catholic School Council meeting, a discussion was had regarding French Immersion, and specifically the transition that students make from Grade 4 at Divine Mercy to Grade 5 here at Our Lady of Mercy. At our next Catholic School Council meeting (Nov. 20th), this will also be an item on our Council Agenda. We will be joined by several Senior Executive members from the Board as well as Catholic School Trustees. **The agenda along with link to the meeting, and the members of the Board who will be in attendance will be sent to our community on Monday, November 13th** in an email. As many of our families share students at both Our Lady of Mercy School and Divine Mercy School, we wanted to make this information available to you in advance and we look forward to including all interested parents to participate in this discussion.

Our next Council Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, November 20, 2023**, at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held in person, but as always, we will have a hybrid option for those who wish to attend but are unable to make their way into the school.

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.

PLASP is hiring!

PLASP Mississauga is looking for RECE's, OCT's, and CYW's with experience working with groups of children. If you are interested, please visit PLASP.com for more information.

Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, November 13, 2023:

Bullying Prevention Week begins with Mismatched Sock day!

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Progress Reports will be sent to student email accounts

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Wear PINK today for Bullying Prevention Week!

Morning Star School Rosary Program

Ms. Raposo (Gonzaga CYW) to see Grade 8 students

Gonzaga Open House (6-8 PM)

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Wear BRIGHT Colours today for Bullying Prevention Week!

Picture Re-Takes

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Friday, November 17, 2023

PJ Day: Let's put Bullying to sleep!

Mississauga North Intermediate Flag Football Tournament @ OLMCY

Monday, November 20, 2023

Bus Safety Assemblies in AM

Thursday, November 23, 2023

Gonzaga Band performs at OLMCY at 1:00

Friday, November 24, 2023

PD Day

