



Weekend Update: Sunday, November 19, 2023

Thank you to all our families for your patience in accessing Progress reports from student email accounts as well as those who came to meet with teachers throughout the week to discuss student achievement. It is an excellent reminder that we work as partners to support student growth. If you did not have an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher last week, don't hesitate to give them a call; you do not need to wait for a formal interview time.

Last week we were pleased to welcome the volunteers from the Morning Star School Rosary Program from Merciful Redeemer Parish on Wednesday along with Alphonse (Seminarian) on Thursday. Like our partnership with families, we are also very pleased to continue to foster the relationship with the Parish. Parents of students looking forward to their Confirmation this year are reminded of the Parent Information session on Wednesday night at 7:00 PM at Merciful Redeemer Parish. We will send home a reminder from the parish on Monday.

Our Grade 8 students continue to work towards their transition to Secondary School in September with the final of the Open Houses last week. Students are also busy beginning to think about course selection for next year. If you have any questions about the process, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We also remind the Graduating Class of 2024 that your orders for Grad Hoodies are due at the end of this upcoming week, don't miss out! Our Intermediate students also represented us with pride at the Flag Football tournament on Friday. Although they did not qualify for the finals, this team is to be commended for their dedication to learning (for many) a new sport and playing some tough teams (including the team who won the tournament) in some tough conditions. Coach Galbraith and Coach MacSporran are so proud of all the hard work this team put in, including early morning practices that began in late September! We hope you all had some time to rest and recuperate this weekend!

We have another busy week ahead as we welcome Buster the Bus, for assemblies on Bus safety, students and staff from the Gonzaga Bands to get us into the Christmas spirit with their fabulous selection of seasonal music, and our Catholic School Council members as well as special Guests from the Board including Chair of the Board, Luz del Rosario (Trustee Wards 6 & 11), Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet (Wards 9 & 10), Associate Director Del Bianco, Superintendent Thomas, and Superintendent Odo for a discussion on French Immersion at Our Lady of Mercy School; and all of this with a four-day week as students have a PD on Friday, November 24th! The forecast for this week is also looking quite chilly with negative temperatures to start the day tomorrow. I remind families to ensure that all our students come to school with the outerwear needed to ensure that they can enjoy recess and outdoor play comfortably. Looking forward to another fantastic week!

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 MacSparran	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

Terra Cotta Cookie Dough "Drop" fundraiser:



Our Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Fundraiser is now in its' final week. Please go to our online store at: <https://fundraising.terraccottacookies.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. Our three top classes will receive a special prize!!

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.

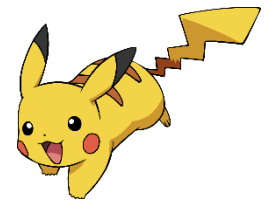
The Class of 2024 are reminded that the link to purchase their Grad hoodies will close on Friday, November 24th! Don't miss your opportunity if this was an item you were looking to purchase.

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 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

Our next Catholic School Council meeting is tomorrow (Monday, November 20th @ 6:30 pm). We look forward to being joined by several Catholic School Trustees along with Senior Executive members from the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board for a discussion about French Immersion. The agenda for the meeting along with the link (for those not able to attend in person) was sent to families last week and is included again with this week's Weekend Update email. We look forward to welcoming all parents who wish to participate in this discussion.



Our Catholic School Council is also 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. More information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

We are also eager to share information about a special Community Christmas event on Thursday, December 21st. Families will be invited to purchase a Gingerbread house to decorate while enjoying some Christmas carols, and then our students will share all the moves they learned throughout the week with X-Movement. Information will be sent out with more details in the coming days. Make sure you mark your calendars for this special event!

News from Merciful Redeemer Parish:



Families are reminded of the Confirmation Information Meeting on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 @ 7:00 PM at the Parish.

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

A prayer for Bullying Prevention

God of mercy,

*We thank you for the example given by Pope Francis,
who shows us what it means to recognize Christ in every person and to accept
people as they are.*

*May our schools be positive, accepting, inclusive and forgiving learning
environments, so that Catholic education bears prophetic witness to the dignity
of every human person.*

*Help us to build your kingdom through joyful service. We make this prayer in
the name of your son and our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

Amen.

Catholic Education Week Prayer (2017)



Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, November 20, 2023

Bus Safety Assemblies in AM

Catholic School Council @ 6:30 PM

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

Parent's Information Meeting for Confirmation @ 7:00 PM

Thursday, November 23, 2023

Gonzaga Band performs at OLMCY at 1:00

Friday, November 24, 2023

PD Day (No School for students)

Last day to purchase Grad Hoodies

Monday, November 27, 2023

Terra Cotta Cookie Dough Drop Fundraiser ends at 4:00 PM

Tuesday, November 29, 2023

Advent Mass @ 10:00 (Parents are welcome to attend).

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mrs. Maxwell's Class to Living Arts Centre

Mrs. Loiacono and Mrs. Fang's classes Trip to Black Creek Pioneer Village

Sunday, December 3, 2023

First Week of Advent

Thursday, December 7, 2023

See, Hear Clinic @ OLMCY (Information will be sent home on November 20th)

Monday, December 11, 2023

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

December 19-21, 2023

X-Movement in the school

Thursday, December 21, 2023

Community Christmas Night!

