



Weekend Update: Friday, November 24, 2023

Once again, we have had a tremendously busy week at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School, and it was a short week! I want to thank all the parents who joined us both in-person and online on Monday night for the discussion about French Immersion with our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet, and two Superintendents. It was wonderful to hear you share some of the positive experiences that your children have had in transitioning to Our Lady of Mercy from Divine Mercy in grade 5. We will continue to work as partners with Divine Mercy supporting this transition to ease any anxieties that students may feel. This year Mr. Galbraith's grade 5 French Immersion have already started to communicate with the grade 4's through the annual Pen Pal program!

This past week our Intermediate girls' Volleyball Team competed in their pod tournament at St. Albert of Jerusalem. They faced some tough opposition and despite showing tremendous determination they did not qualify for the Family of Schools tournament. Coach MacSporran and Coach Murphy are so proud of the dedication and perseverance that the team demonstrated throughout their season. On Monday, we wish our Intermediate boys the best of luck in their pod tournament right in our own Gym! Go Mercy Magic!! On Friday, the teachers all participated in a full day of Professional Development. You can share with your children that while they had a day off their teachers were busy doing their own learning!

As we look ahead to the upcoming week as well as the start of the new Liturgical with Advent beginning on Sunday, December 3rd, we have many activities planned to help our community get in the holiday spirit! On Wednesday, November 29th we look forward to celebrating our Advent Mass with Father Suresh, which will also be his last time presiding over Mass in our community as he transitions to his new role as Pastor at a Parish in Brampton. Parents are of course welcome to attend. We also look forward to weekly Advent liturgies prepared by our Youth Faith Ambassadors as we journey through Advent to Christmas! Finally, we are excited for our Mercy Magic Christmas Community Event on Thursday, December 21st from 5:00-7:30 PM. You would have received a separate email with more information. Our students will also find that the elves were busy while they were away starting to get the school looking very festive!

Finally, we want to thank all the families who have purchased cookie dough from Terra Cotta for our Fundraiser. This is a reminder that the final day to order cookie dough is Monday, November 27th, with the site closing at 4:00 PM. We have almost reached \$700.00 in profit from these sales and we are truly grateful for your continued generosity and support of our school.

I wish all our families a wonderful weekend and look forward to another fantastic week as we head into December!

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

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!!

Gingerbread Houses:

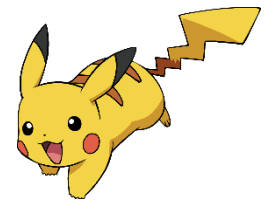
As part of our Mercy Magic Community Christmas Event, families are invited to purchase a Gingerbread house kit for \$15.00. The kits are being sold at cost, this is not a fundraiser, and are baked in a peanut and nut-free facility. Each Gingerbread house will come assembled and ready for families to decorate with royal icing and candy. The deadline is fast for this purchase, however, as we have to place our order on Thursday, November 30th, to the company so that they can have our houses ready for pick-up on the 21st of December. Families can purchase the Gingerbread kits from your account in SchoolCash online.

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

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 21st. Aside from decorating Gingerbread houses, families will be able to enjoy the ambience with Christmas carols, and the school choir. 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:



We look forward to our Advent Mass with Father Suresh on Wednesday, November 29th at 10:00.

We also continue to be grateful for our by-weekly visits from Alphonse and our monthly visits from the Morning Star School Rosary Volunteers!

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

Prayer for Inclusion

*Lord, give us new strength so that we can build places of belonging:
To create a community for all to share their gifts,
To know that each of us is loved,
To help us to see the light of Christ in all that we serve.
Let us remember that each of us is loved, each of us is willed and each of us is
necessary.
May we balance mercy and justice so that we can achieve equity and access for
all of Your children.
We do this in Your name.
Amen.*

Loyola University, Chicago

Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, November 27, 2023

Intermediate Boys' Volleyball Pod Tournament @ OLMCY (no parent spectators)

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

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Mme. Dougherty's class: Scientists in the School

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

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

Last day to order Gingerbread House Kits

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Alphonse visits

Friday, December 1, 2023

Mrs. Maxwell's Class to Living Arts Centre

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

Sunday, December 3, 2023

First Week of Advent

Thursday, December 7, 2023

See, Hear Clinic @ OLMCY

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!

Friday, December 22, 2023

Last day of school before Christmas vacation!

