



Weekend Update: Sunday, October 2, 2023

Last week we focused a considerable amount of time on Truth and Reconciliation through attending virtual presentations, lessons in classrooms, and daily reflections during the morning announcements. Together we wrote messages of love, and hope, for the victims of the Residential School System and prayed that we may truly walk together as reconciled people, living each day with a deep sense of justice and care for one another, because “every child matters”. Friday, we commemorated “Orange Shirt Day” here at Our Lady of Mercy School (and across the Board) since the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was on the weekend. Our school was a sea of **orange** as a sign of solidarity. The work of Truth and Reconciliation does not end on October 1st however... We spent time reflecting on the actions we can take as individuals beyond wearing an orange shirt once a year and classes have been considering what that looks like. In picking up the challenge, Mrs. Murphy’s class will share their Land Acknowledgments with us during morning announcements throughout the week.

On Monday, September 25th Father Suresh joined us to preside over our Year Opening Mass. It was a wonderful celebration where he reminded us of God’s love and the importance of loving one another. The message was so fitting as this year’s theme for Catholic Education Week is “We are called to Love”. I want to thank Mrs. Cahill and Mme. Dougherty for their hard work and leadership with our Youth Faith Ambassadors who prepared a wonderful Mass for us, and to Mlle. Hinterhoeller for her leadership, along with Mrs. Caruso, with our choir who shared their beautiful voices with us. Thank you also to the parents who came to join us in our celebration. The opportunities we have to gather together as a Faith Community bring us a stronger sense of community within the school and remind us of our call as Catholic Educators. We look forward to more opportunities to share and gather in this way throughout the school year. This week, we will reflect on the Virtue of Faith as we celebrate a Liturgy honouring the students who will be receiving Certificates of Excellence for demonstrating Faith in our school. This will be done during the morning announcements.

Last week also saw our many teams continuing to practice for tournaments and meets coming in the weeks ahead. The Junior Boys Volleyball POD tournament is next week as is the Cross-Country Meet, followed one week later by the Junior Girls POD tournament. Once again, I thank the coaches who volunteer their time to prepare our athletes for competition. Aside from Athletics, we also had an information meeting about an exciting opportunity for students in the Arts as well as saw the inaugural meeting of our Eco Club! Our little school does not miss any opportunity! We always recommend that students listen closely to the announcements each morning so they don’t miss a thing! Go Mercy Magic!

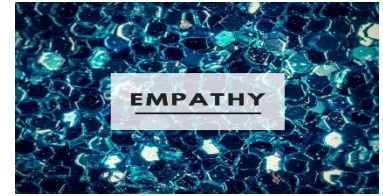
Let’s have another amazing week!

Leslie Marchand, MEd

October's Virtue of the Month: Empathy

*Judge your neighbor's feelings by your own, and in every matter
be thoughtful. (Sir. 31:15)*

God wants us to care about everyone's feelings.



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 Petrucci | 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) |
| TBD (LTO) | Planning Time Teacher (schedule to follow) |
| Ashley Galvao | Education Resource Worker |
| Sylvia Caruso | Education Resource Worker (Sanctuary) |
| Kellie Donaher | CYW (Tues, Thurs, Alternating Friday's) |
| TBD | CYW Sanctuary Program |
| 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 |



Terry Fox: Marathon of Hope

As we head into the first week of October, we are all anxiously awaiting our annual Terry Fox Marathon of Hope scheduled for Thursday morning. We remind families that donations to our school fundraiser are made directly through the link <https://schools.terryfox.ca/37677>. We have set a goal of \$1205.00 and currently have raised \$490.00! We got this Mercy Magic!!

TVO Learn Resources to Support Student Learning in Mathematics

TVO Learn continues to provide high quality, FREE RESOURCES that can support student learning both at home and in the classroom:

- [TVO Learn](#): TVO Learn provides engaging, straightforward, and free resources to families to help students explore learning that aligns with the Ontario curriculum, from Kindergarten to Grade 12. These resources can supplement learning that is happening at school.
- [TVO Learn Mathify](#): TVO Learn Mathify provides free 1:1 math tutoring with OCT certified teachers for students in Grades 4-12. Whether it is to get help with homework, clarify a concept, visually sketch math problems, or prepare for an upcoming test, the online tutors are there to help. Tutors are available Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. To get started and create an account, click [here](#).
- [TVO Learn mPower](#): TVO Learn mPower provides students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 with free math and STEM games. All content is aligned with the Ontario math curriculum and students build confidence and practice math concepts in a safe, online environment. To get started and create an account, click [here](#).

Thanksgiving Food Drive

This year we are once again participating in a Thanksgiving Food Drive. We have partnered with Eden Food For Change and have placed boxes at the entry ways of the school for students to drop off food. We ask all who are able to support this important cause. Urgently needed items include canned fish and meat, cooking oil, baby food, and juice boxes. Every little bit helps to fill the shelves to support food security in our community.

Lunch Orders:

The link for ordering Pizza for our first block of Pizza Days is now closed. We thank all those



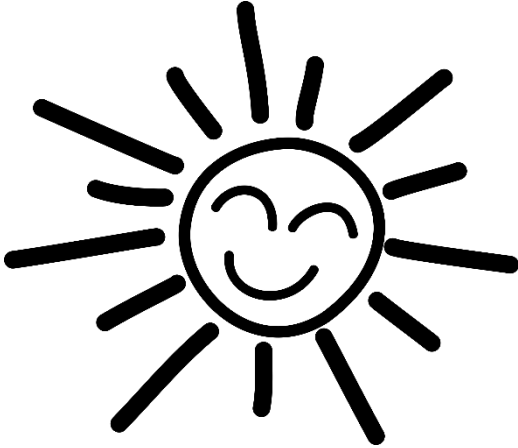
families who made their orders. Volunteers from our Catholic School Council will now work to tally up our orders and prepare to hand out Pizza on Thursday, our first pizza day!

Orders for our Tuesday Sub Days will also close soon, Tuesday, October 10th! Don't miss out.

Finally, our October cookies will be available again this year for delivery to students on Tuesdays throughout the month. Ordering for the cookies will close at the end of the day on Monday, October 2nd.

I know our students look forward to the special lunches and treats! Thank you for your participation.

Breakfast Club



The fridges and cupboards are all stocked up and we are ready to start offering Breakfast once again this week! Students will have the option to have breakfast as they enter the building each day. If they are hungry, or like what is being offered, they are welcome to take breakfast items and have them in their classroom during the morning announcements. We ask that students not take food if they don't like the choice that day and are just going to throw it away. I want to thank Ms. Box for her hard work organizing our Breakfast Club and the teachers who volunteer their time in the mornings to make sure that all our students start the day off with a healthy meal. While we only provide items that are peanut and nut free, we ask students with allergies to speak to the teachers to ensure that the food is safe for them.

Grade 7 Vaccination Clinic:

On Thursday, October 13, 2023, OLMCY will be hosting a vaccination clinic for our Grade 7's students. Information will be sent directly to those families.

PD Day: Friday, October 6, 2023

This is just a reminder that there is a PD Day on Friday, October 6, 2023, which means no school for our students. Information was sent from the Board outlining the professional activities/development that our staff will be working on.

Students and Families who identify as First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is providing an opportunity for students to self-identify their First Nation, Métis and/or Inuit ancestry in a voluntary and confidential manner. This program will allow the Board to provide expanded supports, events and opportunities to First Nation, Inuit and Métis students. Indigenous students and families will have access to culture and language programs, funding opportunities through potential scholarships and bursaries, and monthly programming for students and families. Relevant information will be sent directly to students and families about upcoming cultural events and opportunities which help to build community and a sense of Indigenous pride in DPCDSB.

Watch what Indigenous students and family members have to say about their experience:

<https://youtu.be/7-fagv-27rQ>

For more information and how to self-identify please visit:

<https://www3.dpcdsb.org/students/indigenous-self-identification>

Cellphone Communication

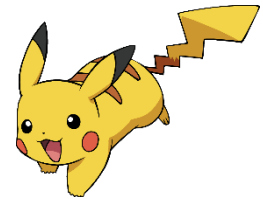
This is just a reminder that cell phone communication is not permitted during the school day. If you need to connect with your children, please feel free to contact the school and we will support this communication. Students responding to text messages on their phones during class time provides a significant distraction.

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.

Non-Essential Items at School

Students only need to come to school with school supplies, their lunch, and appropriate changes of clothing/shoes as needed. **Students NEVER require money at school.** We also ask that items such as personal toys and collectable cards (ie: Pokémon Cards) remain at home. This can cause a significant distraction and even conflict between students if they go missing. I thank you all in advance for supporting this from home.



Picture Day:



Please note that our Picture Day is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18th. Further communication will be sent home closer to the date.

School Day and Kiss and Ride:

Our school day commences at 8:45. Students will be able to enter the school as of 8:30 each morning and will be asked to make their way to their classroom. All students will enter the school through the side door closest to the driveway entrance of our school. Parents who are driving are asked to drive their children up to the front of the school so staff supervising the Kiss and Ride are present to assist children exiting cars and making their way to the sidewalk. Please avoid pulling over to drop children off at the entrance to the parking lot, as this significantly backs up traffic. If you wish to park and walk your children to their entrance, you are welcome to do so.

Students are dismissed at 3:15. Primary students may be picked up on the school grounds for parents who have walked or parked the car. All students being picked up by car are asked to walk around to the front of the school to line up on the sidewalk and wait for their ride. No students will be picked up past the gate near the rear parking lot.

All our Kindergarten students are to be dropped off and picked up at their gate at the front of the school.



I want to thank our parents for your support in making the Kiss and Ride run smoothly this past week but NOT stopping the car at the entrance to the parking lot.

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:

Please make sure you are sending your children to school each day with lunches 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.

Water Bottles:

As we are a Platinum Eco School, we remind students to bring a reusable water bottle to school each day. We have water filling stations for their bottles to be refilled but we do not have any disposable cups for students to fill.

Dress for the Weather:



This Photo by

Please be mindful of the weather conditions and dress children appropriately. As the weather starts to change, students are encouraged to wear layers for the cooler mornings and warmer afternoons. Students will be asked to have indoor shoes at school, especially once the weather changes as wet and soiled boots and shoes will remain in the hallways to keep the classrooms clean!

Catholic School Council

Thank you to all the parents who have joined this year's Catholic School Council and attended our first meeting on the 26th of September. Please refer to our school website: www.dpcdsb.org/olmcy for updated minutes (upon approval) and the names of this year's council.

Our next Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

Trustee Newsletter:

Please see attached to the Weekend Update email, the October Newsletter from our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet. Please take some time to review the material that she has shared with you all.

News from Merciful Redeemer Parish:



Just a reminder for our parents whose children are in Grade 2 and making their First Communion this year, of the Parent Meeting at Merciful Redeemer on Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm.

We continue to have Alphonse (Seminarist) visit our school this week on Thursday, this time spending time in our younger classes.

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

Prayer for Empathy

Let us pray for the grace and strength to be people of empathy-people who can really identify with and feel the concerns of those around us.

Gracious and merciful God of all creation,

You made us to live together in communities.

We are nothing without relationships.

You have given us the virtue of empathy to ensure that we are able to identify with and feel other people's concerns.

We come to you now asking for the grace and strength to follow your plan and feel your presence among us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son, who lived to show us your way.

Amen





Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, October 9:

Thanksgiving Monday: No School

Tuesday, October 10:

Junior Boys' POD Tournament @ OLMCY

Friday, October 13:

Grade 7 Vaccination Clinic at OLMCY

Miss. North Cross-Country Meet @ Erindale Park

Monday, October 16:

Junior Girls' POD Tournament @ St. Faustina

Wednesday, October 18:

Picture Day!

Tuesday, October 31:

Halloween! Dance-A-Thon