



Weekend Update: Sunday, October 15, 2023

The Coaches at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School began working with teams the first week of the new school year. This past week, a few of our teams had their first opportunities for competition and to put their newly refined skills to the test. On Tuesday, our Junior Boys Volleyball hosted the Pod tournament and qualified to move on to the Family of Schools Tournament on the 20th of October at St. Aloysious Gonzaga SS. Then, on Friday, our Cross-Country team made their way to Erindale Park for the Family level “Meet” and eight students ranging from grades 5 through 8 have qualified for the Board Level “Meet” the week of October 23rd at Centennial Park. Congratulations to our athletes and their coaches. We look forward to cheering on our Junior Girls Volleyball team during their Pod Tournament on Monday.

Although it was another short week, with the holiday on Monday, we filled the past week with as much as possible. Aside from Athletics, our Youth Faith Ambassadors and Eco Club were both busy preparing new opportunities for the Mercy Magic community which include our upcoming Get Outside and Learn day as well as Halloween Spirit Days (at the end of the month). Students interested in performing in our Spring Musical, have been busy preparing for their auditions, Junior students continue to meet for the Global Read Aloud group with Ms. Pandullo, and our student Wellness Group is putting the finishing touches on their first posters bringing awareness to the importance of well-being and strategies for supporting wellness at school. We are so pleased to be able to offer such a wide variety of activities for our students. Thank you again to the amazing teachers who volunteer their time for these opportunities.

This week also promises to be a full week. Our classes continue to participate in virtual workshops with an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity lens, as well as Indigenous Education. This week, Mr. Protomanni’s class will participate in the Author-led workshop for “That’s Not My Name” and Mrs. D’Agostino’s grade 8’s will be participating in their third workshop focused on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s “Calls to Action”. Our FDK class will participate in their first #BioBlitz of the school year, getting outside and making predictions, and connections for the Autumn season along with some fun new tools sent by the Board! Stay tuned to our Twitter account (@OLMCY) for all their findings. Wednesday we are excited to welcome the Morning Star School Rosary program back for their first visit of the year to pray and celebrate the Rosary in all our classes. We also welcome Edge Imaging on Wednesday for Picture Day! Make sure students pack their extra smiles that day 😊. We also remind our grade 8 students and their families to make sure to put the upcoming Secondary School Open House dates on your calendar: Loyola C.S.S. (October 19); St. Aloysious Gonzaga C.S.S (Nov. 15); St. Martin C.S.S. (Regional Sports Program) (Nov. 8); St. Francis Xavier C.S.S. (IB Program) (Nov. 8). For a full listing of all the schools and different programs available, please go to the www.dpccsb.org website.

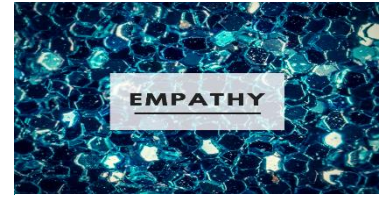
I hope you all enjoy the remaining time on this beautiful, albeit chilly, fall weekend. I look forward to another great week ahead!

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 MacSporrán	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



Peace Garden

The plants/bushes that are planted around the Peace Garden out on the field are covered in large thorns. These are a safety hazard to the students when they are in that area. We are looking for community input to see when these were planted, if they were donated for a purpose, or a special cause. The intent is that we would like to switch the planting for a species that poses less of a risk. If you have any information, please contact the school.

Lunch Orders

Thank you to everyone for all the Lunch Orders. Everything is now complete and this week our Subs will be delivered on Tuesday, along with Pizza on Thursday!

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.



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.

Kiss and Ride:



Parents who are driving their children to school 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.

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:

As the weather starts to change, students are encouraged to wear layers for the cooler mornings and warmer afternoons. Students are asked to have indoor shoes as wet and soiled boots and shoes will remain in the hallways to keep the classrooms clean!

Catholic School Council

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

News from Merciful Redeemer Parish:



We look forward this week to visits from the Morning Star School Rosary Program AND from Alphonse (Seminarist).

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

Autumn Months

*O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.
As we welcome the autumn months,
may the earlier setting of the sun
remind us to take time to rest.
May the brilliant colors of the leaves
remind us of the wonder of your creation.
May the steam of our breath in the cool air
remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.
May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and
bounty we are to share with others.
May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is
temporary and life is eternal.
We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.*

Amen



Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, October 16:

Junior Girls' POD Tournament @ St. Faustina

Wednesday, October 18:

Picture Day!

Morning Star School Rosary Program

Friday, October 20:

Mississauga North Junior Volleyball Tournament @ Gonzaga

Monday, October 23, 2023

Catholic School Council @ 6:30

Week of October 23:

Grade 4 CCAT Testing

Tuesday, October 31:

Halloween! Dance-A-Thon

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Remembrance Day assemblies (AM)

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

REVISED DATE: Progress Reports sent home

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Picture Re-Takes

REVISED DATE: Parent-Teacher Interviews

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mississauga North Intermediate Flag Football Tournament @ OLMCY

