



Weekend Update: Sunday, October 22, 2023

There is no other way to start this Weekend Update than congratulating our Junior Boys and Girls Volleyball teams on their REPEAT, DOUBLE, CHAMPIONSHIP at the Family of Schools Tournament on Friday! What an incredible accomplishment! We know how hard these athletes and their Coaches have been working, practicing, and with great determination, they were once again both crowned the Champions! Thank you to Mr. Galbraith, Mr. MacSporran, Mrs. Murphy, and Ms. Petruccelli for their commitment to the development of these teams. We cannot wait to cheer you on at the Board Finals! We also wish our 11 students heading to the Board Cross-Country Meet on Tuesday at Centennial Park the best of luck! We know you will represent us with pride and look forward to hearing about your success!

Last week our Kindergarten students participated in their first #kindergarten bio-blitz of the year. Students went outdoors to make predictions, observations, and connections during the beautiful Fall season. If you follow us on twitter (@OLMCY) you will have seen some of the results of their hard work. The kindergarten students are now excited to begin a new potato bug inquiry! We look forward to hearing everything they learn! While our youngest learners were busy exploring all the signs of fall, some of our older students were busy starting the newest club at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School, the "Hackergal" Club. This group, run by Mme. Dougherty, has female students in grades 6 through 8 meeting weekly to learn to code! The first meeting was a huge success, and all interested students are reminded to join the Google Classroom. Finally, auditions for our Spring Musical, Aladdin, were fantastic last week! Thank you to all the students who put themselves out to take a chance in getting a speaking role. There will be one final chance for speaking role auditions on Monday at lunch recess prior to any necessary call-backs on Wednesday. Students interested in being part of the ensemble as dancers will have their opportunity to show their moves on Thursday. Thank you to Mr. Galbraith and Mlle. Hinterhoeller for all their efforts as we get the cast organized to begin rehearsals!

As we look ahead to the upcoming week, we welcome our EGELT (Elementary Guidance Transition Teacher) Ms. Nadia Tropea, who will spend the week in our Intermediate classes. We also welcome Ms. Lia Pedrosa who has accepted the position of Planning Time teacher, working with our Grade 5/6, 7, and 8 English classes every other week. Ms. Pedrosa will have her first day at our school on Thursday, October 26th. We are also excited for our Halloween Spirit Week, which will begin on Thursday and end on Tuesday, October 31st with students having the opportunity to wear their costumes and participate in our annual Dance-a-thon. Please see more information about Halloween activities later in the Weekend Update.

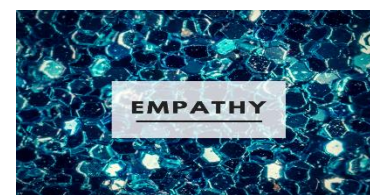
I hope that everyone enjoys the remainder of this beautiful Autumn weekend and look forward to another fantastic week at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Elementary School.

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 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 (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

Recess Zones:

During dry, and favourable weather conditions, our students have set zones of play intended to keep age-appropriate games in each area. When our field is wet, but it is not raining, we sometimes have students all on the paved area of the playground for a “walk and talk” recess. During this type of recess, students are not permitted to play with sporting equipment. This allows students to go outside for fresh air on days they may be stuck inside all day. During a “walk-and-talk” recess we continue to follow the same teacher supervision schedule outside.



Halloween Activities:



As Halloween approaches, we are excited for the return of our Halloween Spirit Week. Our first spirit day will be on Thursday, October 26th with Halloween Accessories Day. Then on Friday students can wear their coziest clothes for our PJ Day. On Monday, October 30th students are invited to wear Halloween colours (orange, black, and purple) and then on the big day, students may wear their costumes. We remind all families that full face-masks, weapons, and props are not permitted. Costumes should also be appropriate for our Catholic school and should not appropriate someone else's culture. Please see the attached "Halloween Costumes Best Practices" for more information.

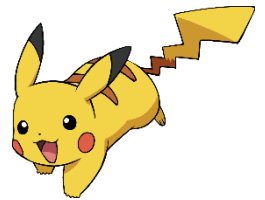
Dance-A-Thon:

On Halloween we will once again see the return of our annual Dance-A-Thon. All students will have an opportunity to sing and dance to fun tunes brought to us by a hired DJ. As in past years, we will use this event as a fundraiser in our school. To donate to our Halloween Dance-A-Thon, we ask families to click on the "Make a Donation" tab on our school website. You will then need to choose our school from the drop-down menu and choose a denomination. You can also add your child's name in the honoree section, or the message to the school board area. Tax receipts are available from this donation space. All funds raised will be used for student activities and opportunities in our school.

(<https://dpcdsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/4/146/false/true>)

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! A link for the hybrid meeting will be sent on Monday afternoon.

News from Merciful Redeemer Parish:



We had a great first visit from the Morning Star School Rosary Program last week. And we continue to enjoy our by-weekly visits with Alphonse (Seminarist).

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

Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, October 23, 2023

Catholic School Council @ 6:30

Week of October 23:

Grade 4 CCAT Testing

EGELT at OLMCY all week

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Cross-country Board Meet

October 26:	October 27:
Halloween Accessories Day	Pyjama Day
October 30:	October 31:
Halloween Colours Day!	Halloween! Wear your costumes.

Tuesday, October 31:

Halloween! Dance-A-Thon

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Murphy, MacSporrán, Dougherty Trip to SilverCreek

Hinterhoeller (Grade 8 FI) @ Loyola CSS

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Remembrance Day assemblies (AM)

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Junior trip to the Rose Theatre (Wizard of Oz)

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

REVISED DATE: Progress Reports go home

Wednesday, November 15, 2-23

Morning Star School Rosary Program

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Picture Re-Takes

REVISED DATE: Parent-Teacher Interviews

Friday, November 17, 2023

Mississauga North Intermediate Flag Football Tournament @ OLMCY

A prayer for October

O God of infinite goodness and mercy, fill our hearts with a great confidence in Thy most holy Mother, whom we invoke under the title of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and grant us by Her most powerful intercession all the graces, spiritual and temporal, which we need. Through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

