



Weekend Update: Sunday, October 29, 2023

Another week brought more incredible athletic outcomes for Our Lady of Mercy School. I want to congratulate the eleven members of our Cross-Country team who competed at the Board meet last week. We had a second-place finish along with lots of great "PB's". Then, our Junior Girls' Volleyball team made it all the way to the Championship game at their Board tournament on Wednesday. They lost a heartbreaking third set to end up in second place. Then, Thursday, our Junior Boys' Volleyball team competed in their Board Championship losing in the semi-finals. Once again, we are so proud of the tremendous accomplishments of all three of these teams along with their coaches. Last week we finished try-outs for the Intermediate Volleyball teams and our Flag Football team continues to practice as they prepare for their tournament in a few weeks! Go Mercy Magic!!

This week also saw the beginning of our Halloween Spirit Week brought to us by our Youth Faith Ambassadors. We have already had "Halloween Accessories Day" along with a cozy, "Pyjama Day" to end the week. This week we invite everyone to wear their Halloween Colours on Monday and then we have the main event... The Halloween Spooktacular Dance-A-Thon is back on Tuesday with students wearing their costumes and dancing up a storm. Please take a moment to head to the school website to "make a donation" for our Dance-A-Thon fundraiser:

<https://dpcdsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/4/146/false/true> . All funds raised will be used to cover costs associated with the Dance-A-Thon, as well as help to fund our mural project which we are hopeful of getting completed this year! Thank you to our generous families for your ongoing support! For Halloween, we ask that parents NOT send candy or food treats for students to share with friends. If you want to send a treat for your children's classmates, please send non-edible items such as pencils, stickers, etc...

Last week we also had our second Catholic School Council meeting of the year. Thank you to all the parents who joined us in person and online. We are always pleased to meet new parents at the Council meetings. The next meeting will be on Monday, November 20th @ 6:30 pm.

As we look ahead to the upcoming week, aside from Halloween, we also have several classes making their way to SilverCreek on Wednesday for the day. And our grade 8 French Immersion students will be heading to Loyola CSS also on Wednesday to get a sense of a day in the life of a Loyola CSS student as they continue to work towards supporting their transition to high school. We also want to thank our EGELT (Elementary Guidance and Experiential Learning Teacher) Ms. Tropea who spent last week with our Intermediate students. We look forward to her next week with us, later this year.

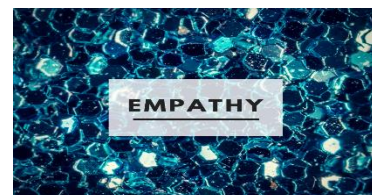
We are all looking forward to all our Halloween fun this week! Please ensure that costumes are appropriate for our school environment, and do not include face masks, and props. I am also eager to see if our students can guess what their teachers are dressed as this year, with our annual theme costume! Enjoy the remainder of your weekend.

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 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

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:



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 facemasks, weapons, and props are not permitted. Costumes should also be appropriate for our Catholic school and should not appropriate someone else's culture.

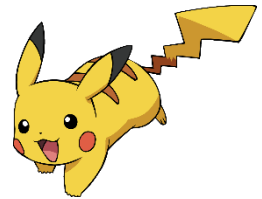
Dance-A-Thon:

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, November 30, 2023, at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

News from Merciful Redeemer Parish:



We look forward to another visit this week from Alphonse.

We are excited for Father Suresh as he prepares to leave Merciful Redeemer Parish and make his way to St. Anne as Pastor. We look forward to our final opportunity to have him celebrate Eucharist for us at our Advent Mass at the end of the month.

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 30, 2023:

Halloween Colours Day!

CCAT continues (Grade 4)

Tuesday, October 31:

Halloween! Dance-A-Thon

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Murphy, MacSporran, 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

