



Weekend Update: Friday, October 6, 2023

I hope the start of the Thanksgiving long weekend has been a good one for all our families. While students enjoyed a day away from school, the Educators at Our Lady of Mercy School were busy working and learning together. Engaging in professional development as a learning community is an integral piece to building a culture of inclusivity and welcome at our school. Today we spent time reflecting on High Impact Math Strategies, the revised Language Arts Curriculum, Mental Health Literacy in our classrooms, and Health and Safety. Teachers spent time as a whole staff engaged in professional learning, as well as in their smaller division teams for group work more specifically related to their specific grades.

The highlight this week at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School had to be our Terry Fox Marathon of Hope event from Thursday morning. We all congregated in the Gym to start our event, pep rally style! Students led us in prayer, followed by an inspirational video about Terry Fox and then Mr. MacSporrán's grade 6/7 FI class led us through some fun warm-ups to get our hearts beating and our muscles ready for the trail! This year, each class also made a special sign that they brought with them during our time outdoors. The school was a sea of red and white and Terry Fox t-shirts and the energy was palpable. It was a beautiful morning for our event! There will be a great spread of our Marathon of Hope in this year's Yearbook!

As we look ahead to another week, we will see our Junior Boys' Volleyball team compete in their pod tournament right after Thanksgiving and then our Cross-Country team will compete in their meet at Erindale Park to end the week. Our Intermediate students will have the opportunity to participate in a presentation by St. Martin C.S.S. regarding their Regional Sports Program and more information will be shared with interested students about our Musical and the process for auditions. I continue to feel so blessed to be a part of this remarkable community. This small community of educators goes above and beyond to provide the students at Our Lady of Mercy School with as many rich experiences as possible in and out of the classroom!

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend! I know that I will be adding my gratitude in being part of this community to my list of things to be thankful for this weekend!

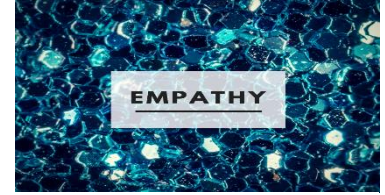
Happy Thanksgiving!

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)
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

Once again I want to thank our students for their excitement and enthusiasm as we participated in our Annual Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Event on Thursday. We are sitting just shy of \$800.00 raised for Cancer research. If you didn't have the chance yet, the link will stay open this weekend and we will provide a final total next week. <https://schools.terryfox.ca/37677>.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thank you to all the families who brought in non-perishable food items for Eden Food For Change! As a community we have helped to support the food security for families living in Mississauga!

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

Our first Pizza Day was a big success, especially after spending so much time outdoors that morning! Just a reminder that Sub orders will close on Tuesday, October 10th. Don't miss out!

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

Breakfast Club



This past week our Breakfast Club was back up and running! Thank you to the staff who come early to get breakfast ready to hand out. All students are welcome to take breakfast when they enter each morning if they are hungry, or like what is being offered. We ask that students not take food if they don't like the choice that day and are just going to throw it away. 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.

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. Please see the attached flyer from Peel Regional Health regarding healthy lunches for students, attached to the Weekend Update email.

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!

This Photo by

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:



Thank you to Alphonse for his special visit on Thursday morning, which included joining us in our Terry Fox Marathon of Hope event! We look forward to his next visit in a few weeks!

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

Crowded With Gratitude

*Lord God,
Our hearts are crowded with gratitude
as we celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving.
We have come to this our feasting table
with great joy and eagerness,
for we are truly grateful to you, our God,
for all that we have been given.
We pause now and, in silent prayer,
do thank you for the great generosity of Your gifts.*

*We also thank one another for gifts -
especially for the gifts of love and affection
that we have freely shared.
We are thankful
for all who are present at this our feast
as well as for all those who have labored in love
in order to bring this dinner to our table.*

*May You, our God, bless this Thanksgiving feast
and all of us who shall share it
in your holy name.*

- Hays, Edward, *Prayers for the Domestic Church: A Handbook for Worship in the Home* (Kansas: Forest of Peace Books, 1979), 122.



Upcoming Events:

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

Tuesday, October 10:

Junior Boys' POD Tournament @ OLMCY

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

St. Martin C.S.S. Regional Sports Program: Presentation (Grade 7 and 8) AM

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!

Morning Star School Rosary Program

Monday, October 23, 2023

Catholic School Council @ 6:30

Tuesday, October 31:

Halloween! Dance-A-Thon

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Progress Reports sent home

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Remembrance Day assemblies (AM)

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Parent-Teacher Interviews

