



Weekend Update: Labour Day Weekend!

Welcome back Mercy Magic! I hope this finds you all well and getting excited for the return to school next week. I know that the start of the new school year may come with mixed emotions as students are transitioning to new schools and bidding farewell to the carefree days of summer. Please know that the teachers at Our Lady of Mercy School understand this, and everyone will be working hard to support transitions to new grades, new teachers, and possibly a new school with ease and success. Last year I shared a video of me and my then 4-year old reading, “The Kissing Hand”. This is a wonderful story addressing some of the anxieties that our children may feel starting school and a strategy that we still use in my house to help ease some of that, including separation anxiety. If you didn’t get to see it last year, or want to see it again, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/Pz9d1LeEpPM>.

We have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure everything is ready for the start of school. I want to thank Mr. Di Renzo and Mr. Buhian for all their hard work this summer making our school sparkle, and it truly does! I also want to thank Mrs. Pereira, our new School Secretary, for her hard work this past week, coming in, finding her way, and making sure we are all organized and our students are all in classes before next week. I know many people have called and even popped in to introduce themselves, please continue to show her that wonderful Mercy Magic warm welcome!

I would also like to welcome some new and returning staff at this time. We are happy to welcome new permanent teaching staff: Ms. Mena Pandullo who is our new Teacher-Librarian and Planning Time teacher, and Ms. Elaine Romaniuk who along with numerous other Support Staff will be the classroom teacher in our new Sanctuary Program. We are also pleased to inform the community that Mr. MacSporran is returning to us and will continue to be teaching in our French Immersion program. We also welcome Ms. Lyla Colavecchia who will be here on alternating Friday’s providing Planning Time to three of our classes. Ms. Zhang is also returning as our DECE in Kindergarten. We also welcome Ms. Ashley Galvao and Ms. Sylvia Caruso as ERW’s, and Ms. Kellie Donaher as our school CYW. Please see the full list of staff, including Support Staff, on the second page of this document. When I review the list of staff who will be here working with you and your children this year, I am confident that we have a fantastic team of collaborative and dedicated professionals committed to the well-being and success of the students in their care. As always, we depend on our partnerships with home as well. So please continue to reach out to the school and classroom teachers should you have any concerns.

Please take a moment to review some of the items in our first Weekend Update. These should help us to make our way through the first week of school with success! I cannot wait to see you all on Tuesday!

Leslie Marchand

September's Virtue of the Month: Faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb. 11:1)
God made us to live together as a family community.



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)
Ashley Galvao	Education Resource Worker
Sylvia Caruso	Education Resource Worker (Sanctuary)
Kellie Donaher	CYW (Mon, Wed, Alternating Friday's)
TBD	CYW Sanctuary Program
Maria Papadogianis	Social Worker
Margaret Russ	MHSW (Sanctuary)
Jason Kotsopoulos	School Psychologist
Cheryl Suh	Speech and Language Pathologist
Tony DiRenzo	Head Custodian
Lynce Buhian	Night Custodian



Class Placements:

Families will be receiving a message over the weekend from the Board providing you with the name of your child's teacher. If you miss it, or it doesn't come through, don't worry, we will have staff prepared with class lists in our school yard on Tuesday morning to help you out.

Tuesday morning:

We ask all students and parents to make their way to the back school yard on Tuesday morning. We will help all students find their teachers. The teachers will have signs with their name indicated to make it easier. Please do not hesitate to approach any staff member for help. We will all be wearing yellow vests.

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 will be 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.



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

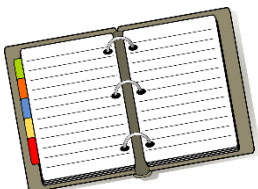
App: SchoolMessenger

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 Agenda's

Students from Grades 1-6 will be given hard copies of the Student Agenda. It is a useful tool not only for organization but also for communication between home and school. Our intermediate students will have access to an online agenda.



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.

Breakfast Club:

Our Breakfast Club will return this year, but we will not be ready for the first few weeks of school as we get organized and wait for grocery deliveries. The official date start will be communicated with our families in a future Weekend Update.

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:

Please be mindful of the weather conditions and dress children appropriately. September is often still a hot month; students are encouraged to bring a hat and sunscreen if they are able to apply it themselves. 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!

Final thoughts:



I will continue to send home the weekly newsletter this year, highlighting the events of the past week as well as the hard work! Please continue to check your email for updates from the school. If you have new contact information, please be sure to update the school. We will send home Student verification sheets to ensure that all the contact information in our Student Information is correct at the beginning of next week.

Once again, we all look forward to continuing to work alongside our parent community to support the success of all our students. I hope you all have a wonderful final long weekend of summer, and we'll see you Tuesday morning!

A Student's Prayer for a New School Year!

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.

Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.

Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends. Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year! -Amen



Upcoming Events:

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

Tuesday, September 5:

First Day of School

Friday, September 8:

World Literacy Day

Monday, September 18:

PD Day for Students

Wednesday, September 20:

Curriculum Night: BBQ and Open House

Monday, September 25:

Opening Mass @ 10:00 (School Gym) *Parents are welcome to attend

Week of September 25th:

Truth and Reconciliation Week

Friday, September 29th:

Orange Shirt Day