



Weekend Update: Sunday, September 10, 2023

Congratulations to our entire community on a fabulous return to school last week. It was wonderful to see everyone and meet new friends, and it was commendable how everyone managed to *beat the heat* with such a positive attitude! After only a few days back, coaches were already holding information meetings for Junior Volleyball and Intermediate Flag Football as were the YFA Advisors and Choir Directors! We are always grateful to the staff who volunteer their free time for the development of our students beyond the classroom. We encourage students to take advantage of available clubs, teams, and intramurals as they become available. This is such an excellent way to support and develop a positive school culture, well-being, and multi-faceted development of students. We strive to provide a wide variety of opportunities for our students again this school year.

This past week during our morning announcements we reflected on the themes for this year's Catholic Education Week (We are Called to Love) with reflections and prayers reminding our school community of the importance (and impact) of being people of Faith, Hope, Mercy, Justice, and Joy. We will finish these themes this upcoming week as we then begin to reflect on the Virtue of the Month (Faith) and the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectation of being a Discerning Believer. The month will end, as last year, with a Liturgy on the Virtue of the month and distribution of Certificates of Excellence to students who have demonstrated this virtue. We also look forward to our Opening Year Mass with Father Suresh on Monday, September 25th at 10:00 AM. All parents are welcome to attend to celebrate with us.

Each week this school year I will continue to send home the Weekend Update via email, usually on Friday or Sunday evenings. This is my opportunity to share with you some of the events of the past week from the hallways and classrooms in our school as well as other pertinent information. I thank you all for taking a few moments each weekend to review the items in the Weekend Update and remind you that the last page will always contain the upcoming events that you can add to your calendar. In this week's Update I include information about our Breakfast Club, Curriculum Night, Picture Day, and reminders about cell phones, toys, and collectable cards. It would be helpful if you could also review some of this information with your children, which we will also do during our Division Assemblies this upcoming week.

Finally, this is also a reminder to please make sure you continue to reach out to your children's teachers and the school should you have any concerns or questions. We are collaborative partners in your child's education, communication is an important tool in that effective collaboration.

Have a wonderful Sunday! I am looking forward to another fantastic week ahead!

Leslie Marchand, MEd

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 Petrucelli	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 (Wednesday)
Margaret Russ	MHSW (Sanctuary)
Jason Kotsopoulos	School Psychologist
Cheryl Suh	Speech and Language Pathologist
Tony DiRenzo	Head Custodian
Lynce Buhian	Night Custodian



School Reorganization?

Each year during the first week of school, Principals are required to submit the actual numbers of students sitting in each classroom. At the end of the week of submissions, numbers are reviewed and if the numbers vary greatly from the projections, reorganization in the school is a possibility. At this time, schools have not yet been informed of any necessary revisions. If there are changes for our school community, parents will be notified.

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.

Curriculum Night Barbecue and Open House



All students went home with a flyer/invitation to our Curriculum Night prior to the weekend. The BBQ and Open House will be on Wednesday, September 20th from 4:30-7:30 PM. BBQ Brothers will once again be at the school cooking up hamburgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs. All orders must be submitted to the caterer in advance. The items may be purchased on SchoolCash online. You should be able to order your entire family's dinner in one order. If you are not yet connected to SchoolCash and need some further information, please call and speak with Ms. Pereira in the office.

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.



Picture Day:

Please note that our Picture Day is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18th. Further communication will be sent home closer to the date.

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.



I want to thank our parents for your support in making the Kiss and Ride run smoothly this past week but NOT stopping the car at the entrance to the parking lot.

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:

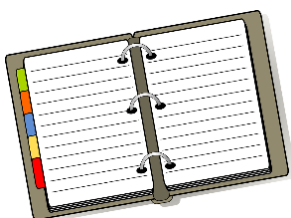
Web: www.go.schoolmessenger.ca

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 Agenda's



Students from Grades 1-6 have all received 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 (including those in the 6/7 FI class) will have access to an online agenda. This is a fantastic tool for keeping students' tasks organized but also for communicating with teachers. Please feel free to use the Agenda to leave notes for the teacher as necessary.

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.

Spirit Wear:



We are just finalizing the details to make Spirit Wear available to our school community. Please stay tuned for further information.

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!

Professional Activity Day: Agenda

Please see the attached communication that was sent out by the Board last week regarding the Agenda for the upcoming PD Day on Monday, September 18, 2023.

Trustee September Newsletter

Please also take a few moments to read the attached Newsletter from our Catholic School Trustee Brea Corbet.



Upcoming Events:

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

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Grade Level Assemblies

Friday, September 15, 2023

“Dot Day” Celebrating Growth Mindset

Monday, September 18:

PD Day for Students: See attached Communication from the DPCDSB for Staff Agenda

Wednesday, September 20:

Curriculum Night: BBQ and Open House: 4:30-7:30 PM

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

Catholic Education Week Prayer 2024

God who is love,
Love is our calling, and the goal for which you have made us.
As we celebrate Catholic Education Week,
may our love in action reveal to our world
that we are people of justice and mercy.
May our daily words and example show clearly
that we are people of faith and hope.
In the ways we reflect you daily,
may everyone recognize us as people of joy.
Help us to never forget how much you love us,
and to cherish your life within us,
which gives energy and direction to our loving.
May we hear your call to love generously and inclusively,
and may we call our world to be more loving also.
All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, our Friend and our Lord.
Amen.