



**Weekend Update: Sunday, September 17, 2023**

It may have only been the second week of the new school year, but we filled it with as much activity as we could! This past week we held our annual “Division” Assemblies where we review the responsibilities that our students have at school. This includes looking at the virtues of kindness and empathy, goal setting and mindset, and relationships with classmates in the classroom and on the playground. The main focus truly was on ensuring all our students come to school with a growth mindset every day, remembering that there is nothing they cannot do, and reviewing the phrase “I just can’t do it... YET!” Our Intermediate students also spent time reviewing ideas of acceptance, inclusion, and belonging, and the impact that words have regardless of the intent. It is always the hope that this assembly positively sets the stage for the new school year.

Numerous clubs and teams also got things going this week. Our Choir began rehearsing for the Opening Mass on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, and the YFA worked to prepare the readings and slide show for that mass. Our junior students had the opportunity to try-out for the Junior Volleyball teams, and the Intermediates had their chance to try-out for Flag Football! There will be more clubs that get started and we remind all our students to pay attention to the morning announcements for activities that may interest them!

On Friday, we celebrated International Dot Day, along with students and teachers in over 190 countries around the world. We listened to a special message from the author of, “The Dot” before a reading of the popular story that demonstrates mindset, and encouragement for all our students. The book asks us to “mark a mark and see where it takes us” and students were reminded of the many ways this could be interpreted for them throughout the year!

We have also already completed a Fire Drill and Lockdown Drill at the school. As always, our students were well prepared for the drills, and they were completed with a high level of success.

Looking forward to the week ahead, we are all so excited to open the doors on Wednesday evening for our BBQ and Open House for Curriculum Night. Thank you to those who have purchased dinner. The caterers will be serving food as of 4:30. From 6:30 to 7:30 families are invited to move inside the school to visit classrooms and see some of the resources your children will have access to this school year.

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 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	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



## No School Reorganization!



We were very fortunate to have no school reorganization to complete after the first two weeks of school. The classes will all remain as is! This is great for our school and students.

## Terry Fox Marathon of Hope

Students will be sent home with information about our annual Terry Fox Marathon of Hope activities at the beginning of October, including the link for donations directly to the Terry Fox Foundation. Our Lady of Mercy School has a long history of participation in this event, and we are looking forward to once again crushing our goals!

## Catholic School Council Forms Due: September 22

Parents who are interested in participating in our Catholic School Council this school year, are reminded that Nomination forms are due on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first meeting will be held on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30.

## 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.

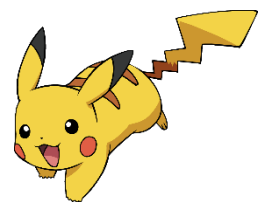
## Curriculum Night Barbecue and Open House



We can't wait to see our community out in force on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Bbq and outdoor fun will be from 4:30-6:30. Families are invited to bring blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy this time. Teachers will be available to meet with parents from 6:30-7:30 in their classrooms.

## 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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.

### **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:**



This Photo by...

Please be mindful of the weather conditions and dress children appropriately. 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!

### **News from Merciful Redeemer Parish:**

We are excited to welcome Merciful Redeemer's Seminarian, Alphonse, to Our Lady of Mercy School. Alphonse will be visiting classes every other Thursday, commencing this upcoming week!





**Upcoming Events:**

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

**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

**Friday, September 22:**

Mississauga North Well-Being Leadership Training @ Blessed Trinity (small group of Intermediate students accompanied by Mr. Protomanni)

**Monday, September 25:**

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

**Week of September 25<sup>th</sup>:**

Truth and Reconciliation Week

**Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>:**

Orange Shirt Day

**Wednesday, October 4:**

Parent information meeting at Merciful Redeemer for students making their First Communion this Spring @ 7:00 PM.

**Friday, October 6:**

PD Day

**Monday, October 9:**

Thanksgiving Monday: No School

*Prayer For Positive Thinking*

*Dear God, I come to You today, seeking Your guidance and wisdom. Help me cultivate a mindset rooted in positivity, love, and joy. Fill my heart with gratitude for the many blessings You have bestowed upon me. As I face the challenges of life, please remind me of my purpose and calling.*

*Amen*

