



Weekend Update: Friday, September 22, 2023

Let's begin with a huge "Thank You" to our entire school community for the amazing turnout at our BBQ and Open House on Wednesday evening. Thank you to everyone who ordered food and enjoyed dinner with us! Thank you to those who visited teachers and classes inside the school and learned more about the resources that your children will be using to meet their academic goals this school year! Thank you to the teachers for their efforts in organizing materials for the evening, and to Mrs. Pereira, Mr. DiRenzo, and Mr. Buhian for keeping us organized! It always warms my heart to see our community gathered for events like this!! I hope we will have many more opportunities to celebrate together this school year. Please remember that on Monday, September 25th we have our first gathering to celebrate the Eucharist and parents of course are welcome to come and share in this celebration with us. Thank you to our YFA and OLMCY Choir for their efforts putting this mass together with such tight timelines.

Aside from the Curriculum Night, this past week we were busy getting into more Curriculum heavy work as our class distribution and teacher schedules were finalized. Some of our primary classes had the opportunity to attend a virtual reading of "That's not my name" with the author Anoosha Syed. Opportunities such as this continue to support the equity and diversity work we are doing in our school and we will continue to look for these opportunities to enhance and emphasize the learning that is already being done at the school. Our Intermediate classes had the chance to meet Alphonse, the Seminarian currently at Merciful Redeemer Parish, along with Danielle, our youth minister. Alphonse will continue getting to know our school community with his bi-weekly visits throughout the school year.

As we prepare for Truth and Reconciliation Week (next week) we spent a few morning reflections setting the stage for the important learning we will share as we continue to work towards the Calls for Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, specifically CTA # 62 and 63 asking that "age-appropriate curriculum and learning resources be available for K-12 students on Aboriginal Peoples in Canadian History" (Truth & Reconciliation Commission, Calls to Action, 2015). We heard a few words from Geronimo Henry (Residential School Survivor) and students signed an orange brick to be displayed in our hallway as we build our own symbolic wall in solidarity with Geronimo Henry and others like him. Next week we will share more about what Truth and Reconciliation means, and why it is necessary, during our morning announcements and in classes. The week will culminate with our commemoration of "Orange Shirt Day" on Friday (although the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is on Saturday this year). We invite our community to wear orange shirts (from Every Child Matters Organization or not) as a visible sign that truly, every child does matter!

I hope all our families have a wonderful weekend and I once again look 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.

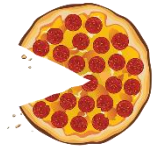


Staff Directory:

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 (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



Lunch Orders:



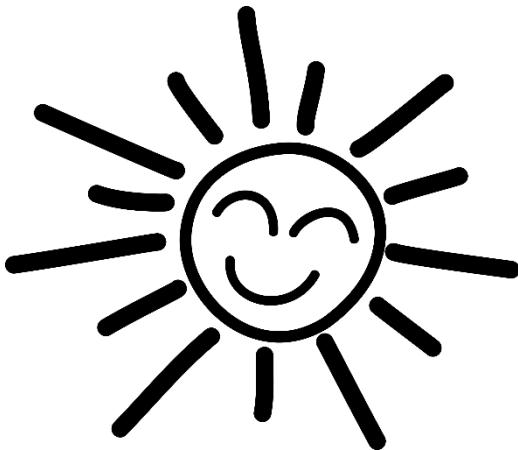
You would have seen this week that our Pizza Days are returning! Our first pizza day will be Thursday, October 5th. Families need to place their pizza orders on SchoolCash Online by September 29th. No late orders will be able to processed. This year our pizza will be supplied by Panago (3030 Thomas St). Panago products are peanut and nut free, for more information please see: <https://urldefense.com/v3/> <http://www.panago.com>

On Monday, students will also receive order forms for the return of our Tuesday, Subway days! Once again, orders will be placed on SchoolCash Online.

Finally, our October cookies will be available again this year for delivery to students on Tuesdays throughout the month. Ordering for the cookies (from TerraCotta Cookies) will begin next week on SchoolCash online.

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

Breakfast Club



Our grants have come in and we are busy stocking the fridges for the return of our Breakfast Club the week of October 2nd. Students will have the option to take breakfast as they enter the building each day. If they are hungry, or like what is being offered, they are welcome to take breakfast and have it in their classroom during the morning announcements. We ask that students not take food if they don't like the choice that day and are just going to throw it away. I want to thank Ms. Box for her hard work organizing our Breakfast Club and the teachers who volunteer their time in the mornings to make sure that all our students start the day off with a healthy meal. 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.

Intermediate Well-Being Training Conference

Thank you to Mr. Protomanni, Mrs. Romaniuk, Mrs. Caruso and our four Intermediate Well-Being Leadership reps for their attendance at the Mississauga North Family of Schools Training Conference on Friday, September 22, 2023. We look forward to the leadership that this group of students (along with others they will recruit) will bring to our community to support well-being at Our Lady of Mercy School.

Terry Fox Marathon of Hope

We are also looking forward to the continued tradition of participating in the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. The information form went to students at the beginning of the week which included a link for families to donate. We will be on the move on Thursday, October 5th in the morning following a brief assembly/pep rally in the gym! We look forward to another fun morning participating in this event as well as crushing our fundraising goals to support ongoing Cancer research!

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

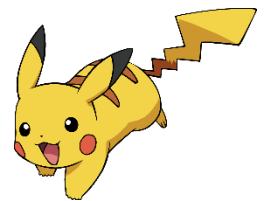
This is just a reminder that cell phone communication is not permitted during the school day. If you need to connect with your children, please feel free to contact the school and we will support this communication. Students responding to text messages on their phones during class time provides a significant 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.

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 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.

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. 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!

Catholic School Council

Thank you to all those parents who submitted nomination forms to be a part of this year's Catholic School Council. The first meeting will be on Monday, September 25th at 6:30 pm. The meetings are scheduled as in-person meetings, but we will continue to have a hybrid option for those who may need to attend virtually.

As always, all parents are welcome to attend. A link will be sent out on Monday morning.

God of all Creation, we pray for healing, forgiveness, and unity, creating a path of goodwill, with justice and compassion.

Jesus, through the power of your love, you have given us the courage, wisdom, and strength to share our gifts and talents in humility. In peace and understanding we reconcile with each other. AMEN





Upcoming Events:

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

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

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

Friday, October 13:

Grade 7 Vaccination Clinic at OLMCY

Wednesday, October 18:

Picture Day!