



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. I have shared this video in the past, of me and my then 4-year-old reading, “The Kissing Hand” and share the link with you all again, especially for those new to our community. 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 possible separation anxiety. If you haven’t seen it in the past, 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 Mrs. DiCerbo for all their hard work this summer making our school sparkle, and it truly does! I also want to thank Mrs. Pereira for her hard work this past week completing registrations and making sure we are all organized and our students are all in classes prior to Tuesday morning. I also thank all the staff who have been in throughout this past week setting up their classrooms.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome some new and returning staff. We are happy to welcome new permanent teaching staff: Ms. Trish Duivestyn in Grade 6/7, and Mlle. Colavecchia, who although is not totally new, is now with us five days a week as our FSL and Planning Time teacher for our French Immersion classes. We also welcome back Mr. MacSporran as an LTO to our school, teaching French Immersion again. We also welcome Ms. Liann Almeida to our Primary division. Ms. Zhang is also returning as our DECE in Kindergarten. Finally, we also give a great big Mercy Magic welcome to Ms. Sheila DeMelo, an Education Resource Worker who will be here in the afternoons each day, and Ms. Gillian Grant, as our Social Worker. No need to memorize any of this, our staff list will continue to be a permanent part of our Weekly Update. 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.

Faith

Staff Directory:

Leslie Marchand	Principal
Serita Pereira	Head Secretary
Jennifer Cahill	FDK Teacher
Hui Zhang	DECE (LTO)
Heather Maxwell	Grade 1/2 Teacher
Caroline Loiacono	Grade 1/2 Teacher
Liann Almeida	Grade 3/4 Teacher
Trish Fang	Grade 4/5 Teacher
Heather Langley	Grade 5 French Immersion Teacher
Colleen Dougherty	Grade 6 French Immersion Teacher
Trish Duivestyn	Grade 6/7 Teacher
David MacSporran	Grade 7/8 French Immersion Teacher
Madeleine Hinterhoeller	Grade 7/8 French Immersion Teacher
John Galbraith	Grade 7/8 Teacher
Sara Petruccelli	SERC Teacher/ESL/SERT/Planning Time
Elaine Romaniuk	Sanctuary Program Teacher
Filomena Pandullo	Special Education Teacher/Planning Time
Lyla Colavecchia	Core French/ Planning Time Teacher
Paola D'Agostino	Teacher Librarian/Planning Time
Ashley Galvao	Education Resource Worker
Sylvia Caruso	Education Resource Worker (Sanctuary)
Sheila DeMelo	Education Resource Worker (PM Only)
Kellie Donaher	CYW
Jamie Brassard	CYW Sanctuary Program
Gillian Grant	Social Worker
Margaret Russ	MHSW (Sanctuary)
Jason Kotsopoulos	School Psychologist
Cheryl Suh	Speech and Language Pathologist
Tony DiRenzo	Head Custodian
Rose DiCerbo	Night Custodian

**WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL**

Class Placements:

Families will be receiving a message via email, 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 to make it easier, especially for those new to our community. 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 should 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

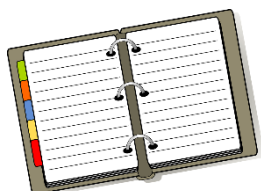
App: SchoolMessenger

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.

In exciting news, President's Choice Children's Charities has chosen our school to participate in a special CP24 Live Eye on Thursday, September 12th. We will be sending home more information as well as media consent forms on the first day of school. Please make sure these are returned to the school for our records. Students without media consent will not be permitted to be seen on -camera that day.

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 can 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!

Board Communication: Welcome to the new School Year

I am attaching the Board Communication that was sent earlier this week to all families along with the Weekend Update. In this communication are important messages, including information about recently passed policies regarding cellphones, and vaping. Please note that if students are bringing cellphones to school, they will be required to stay in student backpacks turned off (or on silent). We thank you for your support in communicating this message to your children.



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 after the Reorganization PD Day.

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 [2024-2025 School Year Calendar](#).

Tuesday, September 3:

First Day of School

Wednesday, September 25:

Opening Mass @ 10:00 (School Gym)

Sunday, September 8:

World Literacy Day

Thursday, September 26:

Curriculum Night: BBQ and Open House

Thursday, September 12:

CP24 Live Eye

Week of September 23rd

Truth and Reconciliation Week

Monday, September 16:

PD Day for Students

Monday, September 30:

Orange Shirt Day

