



Weekend Update: Sunday, September 8, 2024

Congratulations on a fantastic return to school, Mercy Magic! It has been truly wonderful to have our classrooms full and the school filled with the energy of our students back and ready to learn! This month our daily affirmation each morning is, “I am ready and excited to learn because learning is my Superpower!” We continue to support our students in working towards growing their “yets” and continuing to build a wonderful growth mindset. I know many of you have already discussed goals (maybe formally or informally) with your children for the start of the new year. I encourage all our students to continue to think about the growth they are hoping for at school this year and make plans to realize these ideas.

This past week our morning prayers were all related to the start of the new year and our Catholic Education Week Theme, “Pilgrims of Hope”. We will continue to reflect on the sub-themes this week along with reflections on the Virtue of the month, Faith, and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectation of being a discerning believer. This will also be supported in our Opening Mass at the end of the month, which you are all invited to attend.

Some of our teams and clubs got off to a fast start handing out permission forms and information for Junior and Intermediate Volleyball as well as Choir. Tryouts and rehearsals will commence this week for both these activities. We also look forward to sending four Intermediate students to the Mississauga West Family of Schools Well-Being Leadership Training Day on the 17th of September. We remind all our students to listen closely to the announcements for opportunities, as well as to watch the new slides in the front hall which will be updated each Monday with the week’s activities.

I also want to thank all our families for working hard to move through the Kiss and Ride each morning and afternoon so smoothly. As a reminder, no cars should be driving in the Bus Lane, or stopping at the entrance of the parking lot to drop students off. Please drive your car up to the median to allow students safely out of the car closer to the front of the school. Students can then make their way to the entrance. This ensures the safety of our students and allows for the flow of traffic to move and not back up on Glen Erin.

Please take a few moments to review the items in this Weekend Update. This is a weekly tool that I use to ensure that you are all kept informed in a timely manner of all things related to our Mercy Magic Community! Of note this week, our appearance on CP24 this week, the return of weekly lunches for order and important reminders about lunches and bringing toys to school.

Thank you again for a wonderful first week back! I am really looking forward to the week ahead.

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.

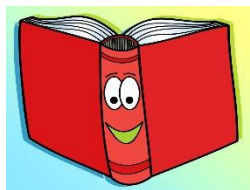
Faith

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)
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**

UNESCO's World Literacy Day



September 8th is UNESCO's World Literacy Day. A Day where we focus on the importance of reading, and the fun of course! Since this day falls on a Sunday this year, The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board will commemorate this special day on Monday, September 9th. We will have a special read-aloud during the morning announcements along with a presentation to our students sharing some of our teacher's favourite books!

CP24 Live Eye: Thursday, September 12th

We are very excited to welcome President's Choice Children's Charities and Loblaw volunteers to our school on Thursday morning as well as the CP24 Live Eye! Media consent forms will be sent to all families early in the week. These will need to be returned by Thursday morning. Students who do not have consent to be filmed and/or interviewed that morning will not be near the filming area. Once we confirm all the details with CP24, we will communicate specific details about the morning for our families.

Weekly Lunches

This year, we will once again be utilizing "Lunchbox" to support the ordering of Subs on Tuesday each week. We are also adding Fridays with Lunchbox with a burger day! The subs will still be ordered from Subway and the vendor for our burger day will be Harvey's. Families will need to order Lunchbox from your SchoolCash online account. Orders for the following week will need to be completed by noon on the Sunday before. So, if you want Subs on Tuesday, September 17th or a burger on Friday, September 20th, the order will need to be made by Sunday, September 15th at 12:00 PM. I am attaching a Lunchbox information sheet to the email that this Weekend Update is also attached.

Along with Lunchbox, we have added Lunchlady on Wednesday's each week. Families will order directly through the links sent by Lunchlady. Lunchlady has a great selection of kids' favourites along with snacks and drinks.

Finally, our Catholic School Council will be confirming our Pizza ordering for the year. This will be sent home via a form in September. Families will need to place pizza orders for a set time (usually about 13 weeks) through SchoolCash online. **Lunchbox (Subway and Harveys) will commence the week of September 16th and Lunchlady will be September 25th. Stay tuned for Pizza!**

Our lunch offerings are always optional and meant to ease the pressures of daily lunch making for families and our students do enjoy their special lunches as well! The school does get a share of commission from these items to support extra activities and materials in our school.

Monday, September 16th: PD Day

Just a reminder that Monday, September 16th will be a PD Day. If the school is required to reorganize any classes, parents will be notified prior to the PD Day.

Forms, Forms, Forms

Thank you for continuing to look for and complete forms that are sent home at the beginning of the year! So far, the main forms are the blue Yearly Notifications and Consents and the green Phys-Ed consent form.

Trustee September Newsletter:

Please find enclosed a copy of our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet's September Newsletter.

Student Monitor Position:

We are still looking for people interested in working at the school during the lunch hour as a Student Monitor. If you, or anyone you know are interested, please contact the school for more information.

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 (other than FDK) are asked to 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 are dismissed at 3:15. Primary students should be picked up on the school grounds. The teachers will ensure that they are picked up. 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:

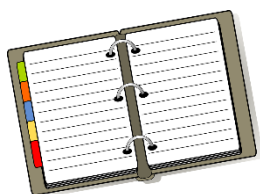
Web: www.go.schoolmessenger.ca

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 were all given a hard copy 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. All parents and students can access the updated **Student Handbook for Elementary and Secondary** on the DPCDSB main website under the **STUDENT** tab (link below).

https://www.dpcdsb.org/Documents/Student_Handbook/Elementary_Student_Handbook.pdf

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 **not to 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. Students will not be permitted to call home to ask for permission, please have this arranged in advance.

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.

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!

Non-Essential Items at School



Just as a reminder, we ask that students refrain from bringing non-essential items to school like toys, and trading cards. Students may want to share some of their special new items, but we'd hate to see these favourites get lost. These items are a distraction from learning and can also create conflict between students if they go missing. I thank you all for supporting this from home.

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 contact the school and we will support you in connecting with them. Students bringing phones to school are expected to leave them in their backpacks on silent or turned off. Smart watches should also be set to school mode.

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.

Catholic School Council

Forms will be sent out this week regarding the importance of our Catholic School Council along with descriptions of each role. Nomination forms will also be included. All parents wishing to be a part of this year's council are asked to ensure the forms are returned to the school by Monday, September 30th.

Self-Identification Option for Indigenous Families:

If you are First Nation (Status Indian or Non-Status Indian), Métis and/or Inuit you can self-identify as Indigenous. You do not need to produce any documentation or proof of ancestry. Self-identification is voluntary and confidential. "This has been really important for us because of the sense of community and the connection to other Indigenous families." ~ Melanie Cormier, parent.

Self-identification will provide access to culture and language programs and monthly programming for students and families. Relevant information will be sent directly to you about upcoming cultural events and opportunities which help to build community and a sense of Indigenous pride in Dufferin-Peel.

To learn more about opportunities for Indigenous students and families please visit:

<https://www3.dpcdsb.org/students/indigenous-self-identification>

Final thoughts:



Thank you again for taking the time to review the items in this edition of the Weekend Update. I know there is a lot here! New items will always be added to the beginning of the Weekend Update, and items that are important all year round will stay each week for ease of reference. I hope you all continue to enjoy the weekend and I look forward to another fantastic, and exciting week!

Catholic Education Week Prayer: Pilgrims of Hope
Hope is our calling, O Lord, and the destination of our pilgrim journeys. As we mark this Jubilee Year of hope, keep our eyes focused on Jesus, and on the hope he reveals to us. All our hope is in you, O God, in the name of Jesus our Lord and companion. Amen.



**"We must fan the flame of hope
that has been given to us."**

Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022

Upcoming Events:

Please click on the following link to access the [2024-2025 School Year Calendar](#).

Monday, September 9:

UNESCO's World Literacy Day
(commemorated at school)

Thursday, September 12:

CP24 Live Eye

Sunday, September 15:

Deadline NOON to order Subway or Harvey's for
the upcoming week.

Monday, September 16:

PD Day for Students

Tuesday, September 17:

Well-Being Leadership Training @ BT for Miss
West Family of Schools

Lunchbox: Subway

Friday, September 20:

Lunchbox: Harveys

Week of September 23rd

Truth and Reconciliation Week

Wednesday, September 25:

Opening Mass @ 10:00 (School Gym)

Lunchlady

Thursday, September 26:

Curriculum Night: BBQ and Open House

Week of September 23rd

Truth and Reconciliation Week

Monday, September 30:

Orange Shirt Day

