



Weekend Update: Sunday, September 15, 2024

It is hard to believe how much we managed to fit into the second week of school!

Already, we have Volleyball try-outs completed, the Choir and Youth Faith Ambassadors have had their first meetings, and Cross-Country and Intermediate Flag Football are set to get going this upcoming week. I want to thank all the teachers who give their free time throughout the day to provide these opportunities for our students. We remind students to continue to pay attention to the announcements each morning, along with the front hall display for all the information they need about clubs and teams in our school.

We certainly cannot reflect on last week without mentioning the amazing fun we had with CP24 on Thursday morning. Thank you to all the families who came to school early that morning to participate! I also want to thank all the staff who came to school early to help with supervision and ensuring that only students with media consent were in the production space. We hope all our students enjoyed their special treat from our local Loblaw's! We are very grateful to President's Choice Children's Charities' "Power Full Kids" program for their generous support of our breakfast club! In case you missed it, here is a clip of the footage:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FD8Dlan7GKY>

We have now completed the reorganization of several classes in the school as outlined by the Board. Most of these changes impacted our French Immersion students. All students affected by the changes have been notified both through a phone call from the school as well as a letter that was sent home on Friday. Once again, I want to thank all our families for your support and cooperation throughout the process. I also want to express my gratitude to Ms. Almeida for her hard work over the last few weeks in our Grade 3/4 class. We will miss her and wish her all the best as she transitions to a new school. Change is never easy, but I have no doubt that all our students changing classes this week will thrive!

As we look ahead at the calendar, there are several events that I want to highlight briefly. Our Opening Mass is on September 25th and all families are welcome to join us. Then, on September 26th we will open our doors in the evening for our annual Curriculum Night BBQ and Open House. More information will come regarding times and ordering food. That same week, we will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair at the school, and parents will have an opportunity to purchase books during our Open House. We also want to remind you that our Terry Fox Event is planned for Wednesday, October 2nd. The fundraising campaign has already started however, and the link to donate is <https://schools.terryfox.ca/68589/donate>.

Thank you again for a wonderful week. Now that we are settling into our classes for the year, I look forward to our continued partnership supporting the growth and well-being of all the children in the school.

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.



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
Heather Langley	Grade 3/4 Teacher
Trish Fang	Grade 4/5 Teacher
David MacSporran	Grade 5/6 French Immersion Teacher (LTO)
Colleen Dougherty	Grade 6/7 French Immersion Teacher
Trish Duivestyn	Grade 6/7 Teacher
Madeleine Hinterhoeller	Grade 7/8 French Immersion Teacher
John Galbraith	Grade 7/8 Teacher
Sara Petrucci	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 (M, T, Th, F)
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

Student Monitors:

We are still looking for people interested in being Student Monitors at the school during the Lunch Hour. This is a daily job, where individuals supervise our students during Lunch, both in the classrooms while they eat, as well as outside during recess. It is a paid position. If you, or someone you know may be interested, please reach out to the school. We are currently looking for TWO full-time Student Monitors as well as those who are available to be on-call.

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.

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.

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:

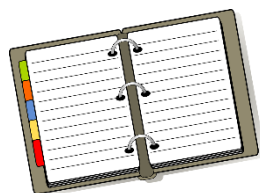
Web: www.go.schoolmessenger.ca

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.

Students Signing Out for Lunch: Clarification

There appears to have been some confusion with the blue "Notifications and Consent" Form that went home regarding students leaving the property for lunch. **ONLY students in Grades 7 and 8 are permitted to leave the property for lunch.** EACH time your child wants to go out for lunch in the community, parents are required to provide a note, dated, and signed, for that specific day. We thank you for supporting your children in making these plans 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 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

This is a reminder that forms were sent out last week for nominations for this year's Catholic School Council. A copy will also be placed on the school website. 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:



I want to thank all the parents I spoke with throughout the past week as we worked through the reorganization plans that had to be implemented. I appreciate that we continue to work together! I hope everyone has enjoyed a lovely weekend; the weather certainly cooperated! Enjoy the PD Day tomorrow, and I look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday morning.

For Times of Transition

God of Love,

You are with us in every transition and change.

*As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety,
we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.*

*We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills
with which you have blessed us.*

*We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.
We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our
own work.*

*Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one
another.*

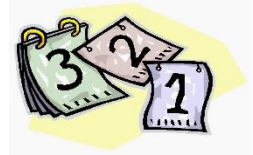
*We ask this in your Holy Name.
Amen*

- Joseph P. Shadle



Upcoming Events:

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



Monday, September 16:

PD Day for Students

Tuesday, September 17:

Well-Being Leadership Training @ BT for Miss
Lunchbox: Subway

Friday, September 20:

Lunchbox: Harveys

Week of September 23rd

Truth and Reconciliation Week
Scholastic Book Fair

Wednesday, September 25:

Opening Mass @ 10:00 (School Gym)
Lunchlady

Thursday, September 26:

Curriculum Night: BBQ and Open House

Monday, September 30:

Orange Shirt Day

Wednesday, October 2:

Terry Fox Event (AM)