



Weekend Update: Friday, September 20, 2024

I want to begin this “Weekend Update” thanking all our students and families for a very successful “reorganization” this week. Students transitioning to new classes with new teachers all had an extremely positive experience as they settled into their new spaces. Thank you to the teachers for always being so supportive and welcoming. Now that all our classes are settled, teachers and students are working hard, getting deeper into their material. We look forward to sharing resources with parents at our Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 26th.

This past week we didn’t have the excitement of being on live television, but we did have a fantastic week getting more of our Teams and clubs up and running. The Volleyball teams are practicing, Cross Country and Flag Football tryouts are completed, and Choir and Youth Faith Ambassadors have been busy getting ready for our Opening Mass with Father Adam on Wednesday morning at 10:00 in the school gymnasium (parents are welcome to attend). Our students also began reflecting on the impact of the Residential school system in preparation for Truth and Reconciliation Week. Students have prepared messages of hope, love, and reconciliation for survivors and their families as we build our own special commemorative “Geronimo’s Wall” in solidarity of Geronimo Henry’s efforts. Throughout next week, classes will participate in daily reflections, activities, and special webinars to learn more about the impact of Canada’s Residential School System as we continue to share the truth and work to promote true reconciliation.

I also want to take a moment to thank our community for the incredible response to our Terry Fox Campaign this year. We are absolutely smashing our goal and cannot wait to see where we land. We may be a small school, but we are certainly mighty! For those who still want to donate, you still have time! Our Terry Fox Day is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2nd and you can continue to donate at the link for our school: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/68589/donate>.

Mentioned earlier, we are very excited for the upcoming Curriculum Night BBQ and Open House. Please make sure you order your dinner online through SchoolCash online to ensure you have food. There MAY be food available at the event, but if you want to make sure, it’s best to order before it closes on Tuesday night. We will once again have our BBQ from 4:30-6:00 and then open the classroom doors for families to visit classes and teachers for the final hour. Our Book Fair will also be open for parents to stop by for some fun shopping! This event is always such a wonderful way to officially welcome the new school year. We cannot wait to see you all there! Feel free to bring blankets and lawn chairs to set up on the playground during dinner.

I hope everyone enjoys the final weekend of the season of summer as we welcome Fall officially on Sunday.

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
No special Lunches.	Subway Order from Lunchbox on SchoolCash by previous Sunday @ noon.	Lunchlady Order from the lunchlady website, 48 hours in advance.	Panago Pizza Order forms are out now, due Thurs. Sept. 26 th . Payment on Schoolcash.	Harvey's Order from Lunchbox on SchoolCash by previous Sunday @ noon.

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.

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.

Childcare Centre Open House:

PLASP's new Early Learning and Childcare Centre at Our Lady of Mercy School will be opening soon. The centre will operate Monday to Friday from 7:00am to 6:00pm and provide full-day care for toddlers and preschoolers. You are invited to visit the centre during our open house on Thursday, September 26 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm.

PLASP Childcare Services is a charitable organization, operating on a not-for-profit basis, providing award winning programs for children, for more than 40 years. PLASP programs are licensed by the Ministry of Education and follow *How Does Learning Happen?*, Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years. The programs provide safe, enriching care for children and peace of mind for parents.

Visit plasp.com to register, or contact the PLASP Support Services Centre at 647-484-4372.

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:

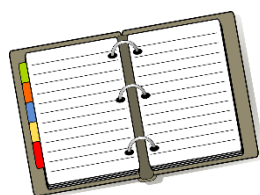
Web: www.go.schoolmessenger.ca

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 cannot wait to see all our families at Curriculum Night on Thursday! Have a wonderful weekend.

Golden Leaves

*We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.*

*We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.*

*Creator God, who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,*

*sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled,
mouths fed.*

*And, as your good earth rests
through winter's cold embrace,
we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by Spring's first touch.*

- Author Unknown





Upcoming Events:

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

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)

Monday, October 7:

Intermediate Ottawa Trip Parent Information Mtg (Virtual) @ 7:00 PM

*more information to come

Friday, October 11:

PD Day: No school for Students

Monday, October 14:

Thanksgiving Monday: No School

Tuesday, October 15:

Grade 7 Vaccination Clinic

Wednesday, October 16:

PICTURE DAY!

Thursday, October 31:

Halloween! Dance-A-Thon