



Weekend Update: Sunday, September 29, 2024

Truth and Reconciliation Week provides us with the opportunity to focus on reflections and discussions (in age-appropriate ways) with students around the Residential School System Indigenous children were subjected to in Canada's history. As a school, we shared reflections and videos each morning on the announcements, participated in video calls, shared stories, and shared our own messages of hope, along with pledges of reconciliation through building our own wall in solidarity with Geronimo Henry's dream of building a wall of commemoration. On Monday, our nation commemorates the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as "Orange Shirt Day". We invite everyone in our community to wear their orange shirts, but please do not stress or panic if you don't have one, all students will be given a special "Every Child Matters" button to wear throughout the day.

Along with our reflections and work towards Truth and Reconciliation last week, we had the opportunity to celebrate our Opening Year Mass with Father Adam. Our Youth Faith Ambassadors quickly got to work this September planning and organizing the first Mass of the year, along with the beautiful choir. Thank you to Mrs. Cahill and Mme. Dougherty who lead our YFA student leaders and Mlle. Hinterhoeller for her leadership of our choir. Thank you also to the parents who came to celebrate the Eucharist with us. We look forward to ongoing visits from Father Adam as well as Michael (Seminarist) throughout the school year.

I certainly cannot speak about last week without mentioning our fabulous Curriculum Night BBQ and Open House! Thank you to all the families who joined us for dinner for some delicious BBQ hamburgers and hotdogs, as well as our Open House to visit classrooms and meet with teachers. We also thank all the families who supported our Book Fair! We hope all our students love their new books, pens, posters, and bookmarks, and we cannot wait to see all the new books we will be able to purchase for our Library.

As we head into a new week, and welcome October, we look forward to our Terry Fox Day to conclude our Terry Fox campaign. Please note that we have had to change the date of our Terry Fox Day to accommodate the Junior Boys' Volleyball tournament which has now been scheduled for Wednesday. **Our new date is now Tuesday, October 1st**. After announcements we will meet as a school community in the Gym for some reflections on Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope, do some warm-up stretches, then head out behind the school for our walk/run. Students are encouraged to wear their Terry Fox t-shirts, or red and white on the day of our event. Thank you to everyone who has donated to our campaign. We CRUSHED our goal of \$1100.00! We'll give the final sum in next week's Weekend Update. If you still want to donate, here is the link: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/68589/donate>. We also want to wish our Junior Boys and Girls Volleyball teams the best of luck at their Pod Tournaments this week!

Leslie Marchand

October's Virtue of the Month: Empathy

Judge your neighbor's feelings by your own, and in every matter be thoughtful. (Sir. 31:15)
God wants us to care about everyone's feelings.



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 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 (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.

Intermediate Ottawa Trip: Parent Information Meeting

After the success of our Intermediate trip to Camp Muskoka last spring, we are looking forward to the idea of bringing our students to Ottawa this year. A virtual information meeting has been planned for **Monday, October 7th at 7:00 on Zoom**. We will send the link to all Intermediate parents this week. We invite you all to tune in to learn more about the trip.

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 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. We thank you in advance for your attention to this as you pack lunches.

Reporting Student Injury:

When students get hurt and come to the Office for care, we look at their injury and provide first aid treatment as appropriate. Sometimes, students are just looking for some “magic ice” and a visit in the Office and then go on their way. When students hit their head, or require more significant treatment, you will receive a call from the school to inform you of the injury. This may come from the Office, or the classroom teacher.

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 nomination forms for this years' Catholic School Council are due on Monday, September 30th. Our first meeting will be on Monday, October 7th at 6:00 pm. The link for the meeting, along with Agenda will be sent out to all parents. If you have any items you would like added to the Agenda, please forward them to the school for consideration.

Peel Public Health:

This is a reminder that the Grade 7 Vaccination Clinic is coming up on Tuesday, October 15th. Information regarding the clinic was emailed to parents earlier in the week.

Please also find attached to the Weekend Update email Peel Public Health's October eBlast.

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'm really excited for our Terry Fox Day as well as cheering on our Jr Volleyball teams this week! Go Mercy Magic!!





Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, September 30:

Orange Shirt Day

Tuesday, October 1:

Faith Liturgy

Terry Fox Event (AM)

Wednesday, October 2:

Junior Boys' Volleyball Pod Tournament @ OLMCY

Thursday, October 3:

Junior Girls' Volleyball Pod Tournament @ Simon Stock

Monday, October 7:

Catholic School Council @ 6:00

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

Tuesday, October 8:

Wild Robot Movie Trip: Mrs. Langley's 3/4 class and Mrs. Fang's 4/5 class

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!

Friday, October 25:

Grade 1/2 Trip to Andrew's Scenic Acres

Thursday, October 31:

Halloween! Dance-A-Thon

Students may wear their costumes.

Ephesians 4:25

*Oh Lord, as we work together to build your empire,
let us be the light that leads the world to you.*

*God, teach us to be good role models to the people
around us, so that when they see you and your love
within us, they would want to know you more and
more.*

*God grant us the patience to work together, bring us
all together as a family.*

*Let us work together with understanding and
compassion in our hearts. Let us not be rude or
arrogant towards one another, as we light the way
to your heavenly kingdom.*

*- Christiansst (Resource for prayers, faith,
belief, and spirituality.)*

