



The end of September and beginning of October proved to be a memorable week at Our Lady of Mercy School. The week began with commemorating the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Monday. Classes were filled with bright orange shirts, honouring the survivors and victims of the Canadian residential school system. All students also received a large “Every Child Matters” button to wear whether they had an orange shirt or not. Thank you to Ms. Petrucci for her efforts organizing resources and virtual sessions for our classes to attend as well as reflections for our morning announcements. We pledge to continue to provide our students with opportunities to learn more about Indigenous Knowledge to support reconciliation and sustainability for our world.

The week continued with our special Terry Fox Day event, a favourite every year! We all gathered in the gym for a special video presentation about Terry Fox and a quick pep rally before the grade 7/8 class led us in stretches and warm-ups and then we made our way outside for the walk/run. We had a goal of raising of \$1,100.00 this year and we crushed this goal early in our campaign. Our final total was \$1, 460.00!!! Thank you, Mercy Magic, for keeping Terry’s Marathon of Hope alive!

Our Junior Girls and Boys Volleyball teams both competed in their Pod tournaments this past week, the boys at home in our gym, and the girls at St. Simon Stock. We want to congratulate them on the perseverance and teamwork they displayed throughout their games! Although neither team qualified for the Family of Schools tournament, their coaches (and our entire school community) are very proud of their hard work and dedication. This week our Cross-Country team will have their opportunity to compete at the Cross-Country meet on Thursday and our Flag Football continues their early morning practices in preparation for their tournament at the end of the month. Thank you to all our Coaches for giving up their spare time to lead our student athletes! In other extra-curricular clubs, our Girls Coding Club is in the early stages of getting organized. This is for girls in grades 6-8 interested in coding and is led by Mme. Dougherty. Information and permission forms were handed out on Friday to all interested students. If your daughter missed the meeting, please make sure she connects with Mme. Dougherty as it is not too late to join.

As we look ahead to a new week, we are excited for our first Catholic School Council meeting of the year followed by the Intermediate Ottawa Trip Information session at 7:00 PM (Monday on zoom). Links were sent out last week and will be posted in google classrooms. Mrs. Fang and Mrs. Langley’s classes are excited for their special trip to see “The Wild Robot” at the Cineplex Junxion on Tuesday and we welcome Father Adam back for his by-weekly visit to our school. Finally, our grade 6-8 students will participate in “Dove Day” on Thursday facilitated by the Sanctuary students and staff. Finally, just a reminder that Friday, October 11th is a PD Day for our students. Looking forward to another exciting 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 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
Luigi Aquino	Night Custodian

PD Day:

Just a reminder that **Friday, October 11th is a PD Day** which means no school for our students. We hope our families enjoy the extra day before the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

October Cookies:



Thank you to everyone who purchased cookies for the month of October. Cookies will be distributed each Tuesday around First Recess.

Intermediate Ottawa Information Meeting:



There will be an information meeting for all parents of students in grades 7 and 8 regarding the proposed Ottawa trip in the Spring. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 7th at 7:00 PM and will be virtual. The Zoom link is attached here:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98576632307?pwd=IKCvZcbXcTQlmgmsMe0Fco6K9Mo2Iy.1>

Meeting ID: 985 7663 2307

Passcode: K7ph9T

October Trustee Newsletter:



Please find attached to the Weekend Update email, the October newsletter from our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet.

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 are to be picked up on the school grounds so teachers can ensure they have been safely met. 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. 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.

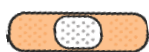
Students Signing Out for Lunch: Clarification

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. 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

Our first meeting will be on Monday, October 7th at 6:00 pm. The link for the meeting, along with Agenda were sent out to all families earlier today.

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 previously.

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 to the entire community for your ongoing generosity. This is also a reminder that we have our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive underway. There are boxes at the entrances to the school for students to drop off non-perishable food items. Thank you to those who have already sent donations to the school!

Upcoming Events:

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



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

Wednesday, October 9:

Father Adam visits AM

Thursday, October 10:

Cross-Country Meet

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 17:

St. Martin CSS Regional Sports Presentation for
Grade 7/8 English students

Friday, October 25:

Grade 1/2 Trip to Andrew's Scenic Acres

Thursday, October 31:

Halloween! Dance-A-Thon

Students may wear their costumes.



Shades of Gold

*So many shades of gold
Autumn*

*Another miracle we take for granted
Another expression of the artist's
vision*

*The blending of the autumn hues
with the setting sun*

*Warm
Comforting
Perfect*

Thank you for autumn, Lord.

- Author Unknown

