



## **Weekend Update: Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

We begin this week having just spent a long weekend celebrating “Thanksgiving”. This may look different in each home, but regardless of the “how” you celebrate, it is a time that is allotted us for reflection of the abundance of gifts that God has given to each of us. Gratitude is truly wonderful! It allows us to focus on time and energies on the positives in our lives when it is so easy to get caught up in the daily challenges and struggles. This past weekend I had the opportunity to spend time thinking about my own abundance. I am truly grateful for this beautiful community where I have the pleasure of serving each day. I gain so much from the gifts and talents of the staff and the children who fill the halls of the school. I hope your weekend was filled with positivity, love, laughter, and maybe even some yummy food!

Last week student athletes on our Cross-Country Team competed at their meet at Erindale Park. I want to congratulate all the students for their hard work, dedication, and perseverance both at practices and their competition. I also congratulate the students who have moved on, qualifying for the Board Final! Thank you also to the Coaches who have given up their spare time supporting the team. Our Flag Football team continues with their early morning practices as they continue to prepare for their tournament on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> was the first Catholic School Council meeting of the 24-25 school year. I thank the parents who put themselves forward to volunteer as part of our council! Please continue to look to the school website for updated minutes and upcoming meetings. Even if you are not a voting member on our council, parents are always welcome! I also thank the parents who have been filling out “Annual Declarations” to keep Criminal Reference Checks up to date with the school. We cannot operate without the support of our parent volunteers for Field Trips and other events (like the Christmas Market) throughout the year.

This week will be another busy one, despite the shortened days. We have our Vaccination Clinic for the Intermediate students, Picture Day for the whole school on Wednesday, our first visit from the Morning Star School Rosary Volunteers, and a visit from representatives from St. Martin Catholic Secondary School’s Regional Sports Program to share information with some of our students as they continue (or begin) their high school programming discernment.

Thank you for continuing to take the time each week to peruse the Weekend Update. I try to make it a “one-stop” place for everything you need to know about the happenings at Our Lady of Mercy School. I am grateful for our home-school partnership!

*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
Luigi Aquino	Night Custodian

#### 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:



Thank you to all the families who joined us for the Ottawa Trip Information meeting with Brightspark last Monday evening. It was a fantastic turn-out and we appreciated the great questions. Information packages were sent home the following day. As a reminder, the deposit for the trip is due to Brightspark by October 21<sup>st</sup>. This initial deposit will determine our numbers for the trip. If our numbers are high enough, we will continue through the payment schedule. If there is little interest, your deposit will be refunded. We are hopeful that we will be able to provide this opportunity to our students in the Spring. If you have any further questions as you decide, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school.

### Weekly Lunches

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

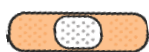
### Students Signing Out for Lunch: Clarification

**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 next Catholic School Council Meeting will be on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any agenda items you would like considered for the Agenda, please reach out to the school. The Agenda and Link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

### **Peel Public Health:**

This is a reminder that the Grade 7 Vaccination Clinic is coming up on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 to all the families who brought in non-perishable food items for our food drive, you have helped provide hope for people in our own local community! Have a wonderful week.



### **Upcoming Events:**

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

#### **Tuesday, October 15:**

Grade 7 Vaccination Clinic

IEPs distributed to applicable students

#### **Wednesday, October 16:**

PICTURE DAY!

Morning Star School Rosary

Michael's visit (Seminararian)

#### **Thursday, October 17:**

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

#### **Wednesday, October 21:**

Intermediate Ottawa Trip: Deposit Due (Brightspark link)

#### **Tuesday, October 22:**

Cross Country Board Meet

#### **Friday, October 25:**

Grade 1/2 Trip to Andrew's Scenic Acres

#### **Thursday, October 31:**

Halloween! Dance-A-Thon

Students may wear their costumes.

#### **Wednesday, November 6:**

English Grade 8's: Explore Gonzaga

#### **Tuesday, November 12:**

Progress Reports distributed

#### **Wednesday, November 13:**

Grade 8 Retreat @ Merciful Redeemer

#### **Thursday, November 14:**

Photo Retakes

#### **Monday, November 18:**

Catholic School Council

#### **Wednesday, November 20:**

Grade 7 Retreat @ Merciful Redeemer

### ***A Thanksgiving Prayer***

*Heavenly Creator,*

*In this season of gratitude and abundance, we give You thanks for our many blessings as we pray for all who struggle with hunger and want.*

*Be with them in the dark of night, when all hope seems lost.*

*Keep their faith strong as they await relief.*

*And let Your goodness flow through our hearts and hands as we reach out to one another in the full, true joy of Thanksgiving in Christ.*

*Amen*

