



## Weekend Update: Monday, October 21, 2024

Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming back the Morning Star School Rosary volunteers from Merciful Redeemer for our first monthly visit of the school year. We also had Michael (Seminarian) join us for his regularly scheduled visit. We are so blessed to have such an active partnership with the Parish. This is a relationship that we will continue to work to cultivate as part of our call to nurture Catholic education. Edge Youth Ministry is also getting ready to start up for the year. Teachers in our grades 6 through 8 classes have posted a QR code for students interested in joining. The first session will commence on November 1<sup>st</sup>. remind our families to make sure you visit the Merciful Redeemer website at [www.mercifulredeemer.org](http://www.mercifulredeemer.org) frequently for updates on all the Parish happenings, including EDGE! I also highly recommend that you follow them on Social Media for the latest inspirational homily, new recipes, and to learn some new dance moves.

Along with the Rosary volunteers, we had the opportunity to have our picture taken last week on Picture Day. For families who missed it, there will be a retake day on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. We also welcomed one of the teachers from St. Martin Catholic Secondary School to speak to our Grade 7 and 8 students about their Regional Sports Program. I remind all our grade 8 families that it is now the time for all the Secondary Schools to host their Open House events. Please go to the board website for all the dates that may interest you at: [Dufferin Peel Secondary Information Evenings](#). Of note are St. Aloysious Gonzaga on November 13 @ 6:00; Loyola SS on November 14 @ 6:00; Iona (Regional Arts) on November 14 @ 6:30 and St. Martin CSS (Regional Sports) on November 6 at 6:00. I highly recommend taking the time to visit the schools that you are thinking about attending.

This week in our school, our Cross Country athletes who qualified for the Board Tournament are gearing up for their meet on Tuesday, and Little Mermaid Auditions are underway. Our Eco Club had their first meeting and the Girls Coding Club is now busy working through their programming creations. I once again thank our dedicated staff for the time and energy they put into supporting our students inside and outside the classroom!

Finally, last week we had to say, “Goodbye” to Ms. Galvao, one of our ERW’s. Ms. Galvao has worked tirelessly at our school over the last year supporting students and staff alike. We wish her the best of luck as she transitions to St. Bernard of Clairvaux. This meant that we also had the opportunity to welcome Ms. Esso, our new ERW. We are blessed to have such a capable and dedicated educator joining our staff. I know you will give her the same wonderful Mercy Magic welcome when you see her!

Wishing everyone a wonderful week ahead!

*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 Duivesteyn	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
Asmaa Esso Daher	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:**



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**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
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.

### **Grade 8 Secondary School Information Nights:**

Please see the full schedule for Secondary School Information Nights at the link:

<https://www3.dpcdsb.org/Documents/2024%20Secondary%20School%20Information%20Sessions%20Info%20for%20Website.pdf>

### 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.

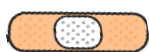
### Students Signing Out for Lunch: Clarification

**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.

### **Merciful Redeemer Parish**



Please check out the Merciful Redeemer website at [www.mercifulredeemer.org](http://www.mercifulredeemer.org) for the latest bulletin and other events happening at the Parish. Students in grades 6 through 8 are welcome to register for EDGE Youth Ministry. You can register online through the website. All classes have posted a picture with a QR code as well.

### **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:**



As we begin a brand new week, I remind everyone of our monthly virtue, empathy. The ability to think about how someone is or may be feeling is such a powerful gift that can truly guide us in our daily interactions with one another. We look forward to celebrating this virtue at the end of the month and honouring students demonstrating empathy throughout the school.



### **Upcoming Events:**

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

### **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  
French Grade 8's: Loyola Visit

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

Progress Reports distributed

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

Grade 8 Retreat @ Merciful Redeemer

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

Photo Retakes  
Parent/Teacher Interviews

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

Catholic School Council

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

Grade 7 Retreat @ Merciful Redeemer

### **Friday, November 22:**

PD Day

### **Friday, November 29:**

Gonzaga Jazz Band Concert @ 1:00

*A Prayer for Empathy*

*Lord, I pray that my heart will  
become an instrument of Your  
own merciful Heart. In any way  
that I lack the empathy and  
compassion flowing from Your  
Heart, bring me healing. And in  
every way that I have been  
blessed to experience the  
struggles and joys of others on  
account of sharing in Your  
Mercy, I thank You.*

*Amen*

