



Weekend Update: Sunday, October 27, 2024

It is really hard to believe that we are already in the final week of October, and that we are celebrating our Halloween Spirit Week! Throughout the week, students are invited to participate in fun spirit days including Pyjama Day, Halloween Accessories, Mercy Magic Spirit Wear and of course, wearing Halloween costumes on Thursday. Students are reminded that all Halloween costumes should be appropriate for school and all props, masks, and pretend weapons need to stay at home. We look forward to our Dance-A-Thon on Thursday, where all students will have an opportunity to spend some time in the Gym dancing along to their favourite spooky toons! The Dance-A-Thon is also a fundraiser for our school. We will send home a separate flyer for the event on Monday, and we thank you all in advance for your ongoing support of the school. This year we are looking to increase and update the technology in our school which includes purchasing new Chromebooks and replacing SmartBoards. Wishing everyone a wonderful week ahead!

Last week, students on our Cross-Country Team who qualified for the Board Tournament had the opportunity to compete. We were so proud of all their accomplishments! Congratulations to all our student athletes for their hard work and dedication and a special shoutout to Amelia in Grade 6 who came in FIRST PLACE in the BOARD! Way to go Mercy Magic!! Our Flag Football team continues with their early morning practices as they prepare for the tournament (that we will host) in November. At the end of the week, Mrs. Maxwell and Mrs. Loiacono's classes spent a fun day at the Farm on their trip to Andrew's Scenic Acres. Their excitement as they left the school was electric!

As we look forward to this week, aside from all our fun Halloween activities, we also welcome Literacy Facilitator, Tanya Morris, from the Board's program department, who will work with our primary teachers and students. We also welcome Michael (the Seminarian) from Merciful Redeemer. Finally, we end the week with All Saint's Day and the celebration of our monthly Virtues Liturgy, as we honour those students who were caught demonstrating Empathy!

We look forward to a fun and energetic 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 Duivesteyn	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
Asmaa Ezzo 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. This week will be the final cookie day from this order.

Warm Clothes Drive:



As we prepare for the cooler weather and look ahead to needing to update coats, hats, and mittens for growing children, we are inviting families to bring in ***gently used, and laundered, outdoor winter clothes*** that your children have outgrown. Items can be dropped off at the school between November 1st and 11th. We will lay all the items out on tables, sorted by size, for parents to peruse on November 14th during the Parent-Teacher Interview night. These will be available at no cost to families.

Halloween Dance-A-Thon: Thursday, October 31, 2024



All students are invited to wear their costumes to school on Thursday (Halloween) to celebrate the day and participate in our annual Dance-A-Thon. This annual event also acts as a Fundraiser for our school. We are asking that all students donate at least \$5.00 to the school either by clicking on the “Donate” tab on our school website (tax receipts will be issued) or by bringing the money into the school.

www.dpcdsb.org/olmcy

Intermediate Ottawa Information Meeting:



Thank you to all the Intermediate families who have placed their deposit for the Ottawa trip. When we look at our numbers, we are still shy of the numbers needed for the trip to be able to run and to minimize costs. If you haven't put a deposit on the trip, but would still like the opportunity, please contact the school so we can have the link reopened for you. The absolute deadline to determine if the trip will run will be the end of the month.

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.

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 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:

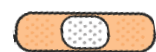


Please make sure your children come to school with their lunch. Our intermediate students (**grade 7 and 8 only**) may bring a note to sign-out for lunch. Please ensure the note is dated with the appropriate date. Students can then go out to eat but are asked **not to bring food or drinks back to school**. 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.

French Immersion Information Sessions: Kindergarten Year 2 Parents:

Year 2 Kindergarten parents/guardians who wish to learn more about French Immersion or wish to enroll their child in a Grade 1 French Immersion class for September 2025, are invited to attend an information meeting at one of the following virtual parent evening sessions. Information regarding Parent Sessions for French Immersion was sent out last week to all Year 2 FDK parents.

2025-2026 EXTENDED FRENCH INFORMATION SESSION DETAILS

Grade 4 parents/guardians who wish to learn more about Extended French or wish to enroll their child in a Grade 5 Extended French program for September 2025, are invited to attend an information meeting at one of the following virtual parent evening sessions:

<u>EF School Region</u>	<u>Session Date & Time</u>	<u>Meeting Information</u>
<u>MISSISSAUGA</u> <u>San Lorenzo Ruiz (Miss. Central)</u> <u>St. Christopher (Miss. South)</u> <u>St. Philip (Miss. Southeast)</u> <u>St. Rose of Lima (Miss North Central)</u> <u>St. Therese of the Child Jesus (Miss. North)</u> <u>St. Thomas More (Miss. East)</u>	<u>Thursday, November 7, 2024</u> <u>7:00 p.m.</u>	<u>Virtual Extended French Information, Session #2</u> <u>Microsoft Teams Live Meeting #2 Link</u>

Catholic School Council

Our next Catholic School Council Meeting will be on Monday, November 18th. 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.

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.

Merciful Redeemer Parish



Please check out the Merciful Redeemer website at www.mercifulredeemer.org for the latest bulletin and other events happening at the Parish. Students in grades 6 through 8 are reminded that Edge Youth Ministry has their kick-off event on Friday, November 1st. Please register on the Parish website.

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:



Teachers are actively working on developing Progress reports, which will be distributed (via email) on November 12th. Our students are reminded to focus on their learning goals and success criteria in all their subjects/activities! It's easy to be distracted this week with all the excitement of Halloween, let's try to stay focused (as much as possible) on our schoolwork! Let's have a great week!

Upcoming Events:

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



Monday, October 28:

Welcome to Tanya Morris: Literacy Facilitator (for the week)

Thursday, October 31:

Halloween! Dance-A-Thon

Students may wear their costumes.

November 1-11:

Warm, outdoor clothing drop-off

Wednesday, November 6:

English Grade 8's: Explore Gonzaga

French Grade 8's: Loyola Visit

Tuesday, November 12:

Progress Reports distributed (email)

Wednesday, November 13:

Grade 8 Retreat @ Merciful Redeemer

Thursday, November 14:

Photo Retakes

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Warm Clothes "shopping" during 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

