



Weekend Update: Sunday, November 3, 2024

We cannot start with an update from last week without starting with Halloween! We had a fun week participating in fun theme days leading up to our special Halloween Spooktacular day and Dance-A-Thon. Our students all had so much fun dancing the morning away in the Gym to fun tunes courtesy of DJ Galbraith! The students looked fantastic in their costumes and orange and black and left the gym still singing all the way back to class. I want to thank all our families for your support of the Dance-A-Thon fundraiser. I will provide an update with how much money we raised for enhancements in the school, including new jerseys and technology. If you didn't have a chance to donate, the "Donate" tab is always available on the school website, all year long. We thank you for your ongoing generosity!

Aside from Halloween, last week we welcomed Ms. Morris, a Literacy Facilitator from the Program department who worked with our Primary teachers supporting early literacy programs, resources, and practices. Our K-2 students will have a reading screener completed by their teacher on November 12th as part of the Ministry of Education's commitment to reading as a right for all. We ended the week on All Saint's Day with a beautiful celebration of the Virtue of Empathy led by Mme. Dougherty's class. Students throughout the school were presented with Certificates of Achievement for demonstrating Empathy at school. Like the Saints, we remind everyone in our community that putting ourselves in the shoes of others and thinking about the impact of our words and actions before we use them, is such a powerful way to support belonging in our school. At the end of the Liturgy the 6/7 FI class introduced the school to the virtue for the month of November, Conscience!

As we look ahead to the busy week in front of us, I remind everyone in our community that it is Treaties Recognition Week. We will have reflections on the importance of treaties and continue our work supporting Truth and Reconciliation in classes. Our Grade 4's will be writing the CCAT test on Monday and Tuesday, our Grade 8 students will be heading to Gonzaga and Loyola as part of their transition to Secondary School on Wednesday. Grade 8's are reminded to check for the dates of Information Events at the schools they are considering for Grade 9 as they are all in the next few weeks. We also will be welcoming the Divine Mercy Grade 4 FI students for the first of many transition activities throughout the year. Finally, leading up to Remembrance Day, we will share reflections on the impact of various community groups for war and peace efforts in our history.

As a final reminder, we are accepting gently used, and cleaned warm clothing items that families have outgrown all week long. If you have items, please drop them off at the Main Office and we will have a clothing swap during our Parent-Teachers on the 14th. There are many new items in the Weekend Update this week. Thank you for taking some time to review! Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday!

Leslie Marchand

November's Virtue of the Month: Conscience

"Therefore, I do my best always to have a clear conscience toward God and all people". (Acts 24:16)

God helps us to choose to be good people



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

Progress Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews:



Progress reports will be distributed via student email on Tuesday, November 12th.

Information regarding accessing the reports along with scheduling Parent-Teacher Interviews is being sent home on Monday with each student. This year we will be using a new online booking system for scheduling interviews. The link will be included on the form. Interviews will be conducted in-person on Thursday, November 14th from 3:30-7:30 PM.

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.

Grade 8 Transition Activities and Graduation Hoodies:

On Wednesday, November 6th, our Grade 8's will be going to St. Aloysius Gonzaga SS and Loyola CSS to spend the day learning more about Grade 9 and life in High School. The English students will be going to Gonzaga, and the French Immersion students to Loyola.

Over the next few weeks, all Secondary schools will be hosting their Information Nights. If you are looking at programs in different schools, I highly recommend you attend these events to hear about each school and learn more about the specific programs. 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>

On Tuesday, November 19th, Guidance Counsellors from St. Aloysius Gonzaga will be at our school supporting students transitioning there in September in making course selections. Students attending Loyola, or other schools for specialty programs will have the same opportunity later.

Finally, all our Grads are invited to purchase their Class of 2025 hoodie at the link below. The link will be open until November 17th. There will not be another opportunity to purchase the hoodie later in the year, so please do not miss out on your chance! <https://form.jotform.com/243005221166241>

Intermediate Ottawa Trip:



We will be getting the final update on numbers from our Brightspark rep on Monday and will share with our grade 7 and 8 families the outcome. If you have not made the initial deposit but still want to attend, please contact the school. This is a special trip for all our Intermediate students, not a "Graduation" trip. We are hoping to offer a trip to Ottawa for one year, with a trip to a Muskoka sports camp the next year, but these trips cannot be run if there is not a clear majority of students attending. Thank you to all the Intermediate families who have placed their deposit for the Ottawa trip.

See/Hear Clinic:

Tuesday, November 19th we will be hosting the "See/Hear" clinic at our school. Information and permission forms will be sent home with all students on Tuesday of this upcoming week. There is a \$20 charge for students to be screened. Parents can send in the money along with the permission forms to school and we will hold these in trust for Peel Public Health and given to them on the 19th.

Grade 4 CCAT Testing:

An information letter was sent home last week regarding the annual CCAT Testing for our Grade 4 students. Grade 4's will complete the tasks on Monday and Tuesday of this week with Mrs. Pandullo. If a child is absent one of those days, we will offer them an opportunity to complete it later in the week when they return.

Grade 7 and 8 Retreats at Merciful Redeemer Parish:

Our Grade 7 and 8 students will be participating in special retreats at the Parish on November 13th (Grade 8) and November 20th (Grade 7). Students will walk to the church, participate in leadership and community building activities with Danielle (Youth Minister) and their teachers. Students will focus on the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, legacy, and inclusion. Permission forms will be sent home this week, there will be no charge to students. Pizza will be provided for lunch.

Picture Retake Day:

As a reminder, our Picture Retake Day is Thursday, November 14th for students requiring a new photo, or for those who were away. Please see the flyer attached to the Weekend Update email.

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.

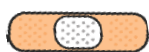
Students Signing Out for Lunch: Clarification

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. The weather is definitely cooling down, the wind is much more brisk, and students will need to have warmer items to play outside comfortably, such as hats, gloves, and warmer jackets. Students are all expected to have indoor shoes at school, 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.

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 to be considered for the Agenda, please reach out to the school. The Agenda and Link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Our Catholic School Council is once again eager for the return of the annual Christmas Market at the beginning of December. If you can help out with set-up and/or sales the day of the Market, please reach out to the school. This is a definite student favourite and cannot run successfully without the help of our parent volunteers. The Christmas Market is scheduled for the week of December 2nd.

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. We look forward to welcoming Father Adam this week on Wednesday!

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 am looking forward to the busy week ahead and supporting student transitions with our Grade 8's visiting the secondary schools and the Grade 4 FI students visiting us on Thursday. I remind all our students to continue to work to focus on the success criteria for all their assignments and learning goals. Even though we are done with our focused work on the virtue of empathy, I hope everyone in our community continues to think of others' before acting or speaking with unkind words. Let's have another great week, Mercy Magic!

Prayer for the Virtue of Conscience

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy

Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work too may be holy

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy

Guide me then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy.

Amen



Upcoming Events:

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



November 1-11:

Warm, outdoor clothing drop-off

November 4-8:

Treaties Recognition Week

November 4-5:

Grade 4 CCAT Testing

Wednesday, November 6:

English Grade 8's: Explore Gonzaga

French Grade 8's: Loyola Visit

Father Adam visit in the AM

Thursday, November 7:

Divine Mercy Grade 4 FI class visiting (AM)

Friday, November 8:

Indigenous Veterans Day

Monday, November 11:

Remembrance Day: Assembly @ 10:40 (Parents are welcome)

Tuesday, November 12:

Progress Reports distributed (student email)

Wednesday, November 13:

Grade 8 Retreat @ Merciful Redeemer

Thursday, November 14:

Photo Retakes

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Shannon Paul Presentation to 7/8 classes:

Exploring

Culture and Identity through Art

Warm Clothes "shopping" during interviews

Monday, November 18:

Catholic School Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 19:

See/Hear Clinic @ OLMCY

Wednesday, November 20:

Grade 7 Retreat @ Merciful Redeemer

Friday, November 22:

PD Day

Friday, November 29:

Gonzaga Jazz Band Concert @ 1:00

December 3:

Christmas Market