



Last week we honoured Treaties Recognition Week as a school community. Each morning, we shared reflections during the morning announcements aimed at getting a better understanding of what treaties are, and what our collective responsibilities are as treaty people. We listened to a special message from the late, Honourable Murray Sinclair reminding us that the decisions we make today will impact our future, and the future of the land, water, and our relationships with one another. Classes also participated in activities and workshops including read-alongs, and painting workshops. We ended the week with a special presentation for Indigenous Veterans Day, honouring all those who served despite having the same benefits, rights and recognition for their efforts.

Last week also provided several groups of students special transition opportunities as they look ahead to new programs in 2025. Our Grade 8's made their way to Gonzaga and Loyola on Wednesday to see a glimpse of a day in the life of a secondary school student. We also welcomed the Grade 4 French Immersion class from Divine Mercy to our school as part of our efforts for a smooth and successful change to grade 5 at Our Lady of Mercy School next year. The students participated in a scavenger hunt through the school, fun games, as well as creating a beautiful piece of artwork for Remembrance Day. I want to thank Mr. MacSporran and his Grade 5/6 FI class, along with some Grade 7 FI students for all their hard work making our future Mercy Magic feel so welcomed!

Many student groups continue to work hard preparing activities for our school and practicing for upcoming competitions. The Flag Football has now had the last of their early morning practices and they are ready for their tournament on Tuesday! The Intermediate Volleyball teams continue to practice as they prepare for their Pod Tournaments at the end of the month. The cast of "The Little Mermaid Jr" is coming together and rehearsals are soon underway in preparation for the production at the end of May! Our Eco Club and Well-Being Groups continue to meet to prepare activities for the school and the Girls Coding Club continues to create! Thank you again to all the teachers who make these groups possible! This week, we will be looking to finalize our PALS leaders so we can put their training to use leading some fun activities for our primary students during recess.

We will begin this week with a beautiful Liturgy commemorating Remembrance Day on Monday morning after first recess. Mme. Dougherty's class will lead us in reflection and prayer and our choir will perform. Parents are welcome to join us. All students will be provided with a poppy for the Liturgy in the morning, and we invite students to bring in a Loonie or Toonie as part of our schools' donation to the Legion to support veterans. This week students will receive their Progress Reports, digitally delivered to student emails, on Tuesday afternoon. Parents will have an opportunity to discuss reports with teachers during our Interview night on the 14th. Please see the booking link later in the Weekend update for access to the online booking, if you haven't already had a chance.

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
Cindy Nguyen	Grade 3/4 Teacher (LTO)
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 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

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 was sent home last week with each student. This year we will be using a new online booking system for scheduling interviews. <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/xpcjz> Interviews will be conducted in-person on Thursday, November 14th from 3:30-7:30 PM.

Warm Clothes Drive:



At this time, we have only received a few items for a Warm Clothes swap later this week. We will donate these items through Merciful Redeemer Parish and thank the families who shared them with us.

Trustee Newsletter:

Please see the November edition of our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet's Newsletter. The newsletter is attached to the Weekend Update email.

Grade 8 Transition Activities and Graduation Hoodies:

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:



It looks like we have the number of students that we need for our Ottawa trip! Thank you to all the families who have registered with the initial deposit. As a reminder, the next payment is due at the beginning of December. We are very excited to provide this opportunity for our Grade 7 and 8 students. Families who still want to participate are asked to reach out to the school

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 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 were sent home last week. Pizza will be provided for lunch, and there is no cost for the retreat.

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.

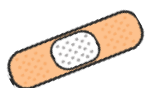
Students Signing Out for Lunch: Clarification

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 brisker, 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.

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 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.

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 the Morning Star School Rosary Volunteers as well as Michael this 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:



Last week we spent much time discussing appropriate play during recess which includes avoiding rough, physical play. Students were reminded to stay in their own zones, designed to keep all our students safe. We will continue to remind students that recess is intended for a break, fresh air, and that the supervisors are there for help!

Upcoming Events:

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



Monday, November 11:

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

Tuesday, November 12:

Progress Reports distributed (student email)
Flag Football Tournament (@OLMCY)

Wednesday, November 13:

Grade 8 Retreat @ Merciful Redeemer
Morning Star School Rosary program
Michael (Seminarian) visit

Thursday, November 14:

Photo Retakes
Shannon Paul Presentation to 7/8 classes:
Exploring Culture and Identity through Art
Parent-Teacher Interviews 3:30-7:30

November 18-22:

Bullying Prevention Week

Monday, November 18:

Catholic School Council Meeting @ 6:00

Tuesday, November 19:

See/Hear Clinic @ OLMCY
Gonzaga Guidance @ 1:00

Wednesday, November 20:

Grade 7 Retreat @ Merciful Redeemer

Friday, November 22:

PD Day

November 25-26:

Lacrosse Workshops (Grades 4-8)

Friday, November 29:

Gonzaga Jazz Band Concert @ 1:00

December 3:

Christmas Market

Remembrance Day Prayer

God our Father, Your Son Jesus surrendered His life to free us from the power of sin and death. He showed us that the greatest love is in giving up one's life for others.

This month, we remember those who fought and died for our freedom. We ask You to bless and console them together with their families. Help us to understand the sacrifices they made in leaving their loved ones to face the horrors of war. May we never forget their generosity.

May the Holy Spirit give us the courage to resist evil in all its forms and show us how to be peacemakers through prayer and action, lest we forget those who fought, suffered and died that we might have the freedom and peace we enjoy today. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

