



We began last week with our commemoration of Remembrance Day. We gathered as a community, led in prayer and reflection by Mme. Dougherty's Grade 6/7 French Immersion class and in song by Mlle. Hinterhoeller's beautiful choir. I want to congratulate all the students who participated in our Liturgy as well as our entire community for their prayerful attendance. It provided us all the time to reflect on the sacrifices of men and women of the past who fought for our rights to be free today, as well as to pray for peace in our world. We also welcomed the Morning Star School Liturgy volunteers on Wednesday for our monthly visit to pray the rosary. Our Grade 8's spent a wonderful day at Merciful Redeemer Parish on their retreat with the opportunity to reflect on the Ontario Catholic School Graduate expectations, leadership, and legacy. Thank you to our Grade 8's for their fantastic participation at the retreat. We look forward to our Grade 7's having their turn this upcoming week.

Last week all our students received their Progress Reports. If you have not yet downloaded your child's progress report card, please make sure you go ahead before the link expires. We thank all the teachers and parents who joined us at the school on Thursday evening for the Parent-Teacher Interviews. We always look forward to opportunities to work with parents as part of our ongoing partnership. If you didn't have a chance to book an interview and you still have questions for any of your children's teachers, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school.

Our Intermediate flag football team hosted the Mississauga West tournament on a chilly, but dry, day last week. Coach Galbraith, Duivesteyn, and MacSporran want to congratulate the team on their hard work and dedication on the field. The competition was fierce, and they should be very proud of their efforts! The Intermediate Volleyball teams continue to practice as they prepare for their pod tournaments at the end of the month.

As we look forward to the week ahead, we are very excited for our Bullying Prevention Spirit Week. Each day, students are encouraged to dress up in our theme for the day to help us continue to raise awareness of what bullying is, and how to change the power by being upstanders instead of bystanders. Monday, all our students are encouraged to wear mis-matched socks in a demonstration of how we are all different, and all awesome! We will have reflections on the morning announcements and activities in classes all week long! Thank you to our Well-Being leaders along with Ms. Petruccelli, Mrs. D'Agostino, Mrs. Romaniuk, Ms. Brassard, and Ms. Donaher for all their efforts preparing this week for us. I also remind our Graduates that the link to purchase a grad hoodie expires today! Don't miss your chance to purchase yours! The link will not be reopened.

Finally, I want to formally welcome Ms. Cindy Nguyen to our school community. Ms. Nguyen has been hired to teach the Grade 3/4 class for the remainder of the year. I know you will all give her a wonderful Mercy Magic welcome!

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

Gingerbread Houses



This is a reminder that we are once again excited to host our Community Christmas event prior to the Christmas break. If you want to order a Gingerbread house, please go to schoolcash online. All orders are due on November 25th so we can order from the bakery to have them in time for our special night on December 19th.



Warm Clothes Drive:

Thank you to all the families who brought items in for the warm clothing swap. All items that weren't picked up on Thursday evening will be donated.

Grade 8 Transition Activities and Graduation Hoodies:

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:

The Ottawa trip is going!! Thank you to all those who have signed up. If you are still interested, please reach out to the school. It's not too late and we want to send as many students as possible.

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 Retreat at Merciful Redeemer Parish:

Our Grade 7 students will be participating in their retreat at the Parish on November 20th. 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.

Weekly Lunches

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

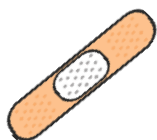
Students Signing Out for Lunch:

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 Catholic School Council meeting scheduled for Monday, November 18th has been postponed. The Agenda and Link for the revised date will be sent out later this week.

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.

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:



We have many exciting events planned for the remainder of 2024! I invite all our students to enjoy the fun while continuing to focus on their studies and reaching their goals. Also, don't forget that we have a PD Day on Friday, November 22nd!!

Pilgrims of Hope

Good and gracious God,

Be with us as we journey together as Pilgrims of Hope and builders of peace.

Sowing seeds of faith, hope and love along the way.

Be with us as we journey.

Bless the path on which we travel and be our guiding light from above.

Help us treat each other as your beloved.

*Let us honour human dignity as we welcome everyone into our communities
with open hearts of love and kindness.*

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Upcoming Events:

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



November 18-22:

Bullying Awareness/Prevention Week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Mismatched Socks! Celebrating our differences.	Wear Bright Colours! Let's get loud to put an end to bullying!	Wear Pink!	PJ Day! Put Bullying to bed!

Tuesday, November 19:

See/Hear Clinic at OLMCY

Gonzaga Guidance at 1:00

Wednesday, November 20:

Grade 7 Retreat at Merciful Redeemer

Friday, November 22:

PD Day: No School for students

November 25-26:

Lacrosse Workshops (Grades 4-8)

Monday, November 25:

Gingerbread House orders close.

Friday, November 29:

Gonzaga Jazz Band Concert @ 1:00

December 3:

Christmas Market

December 10:

Advent Mass at 10:00 (Parents are welcome)

December 17-19:

X-Movement Workshops

December 19:

Community Christmas Event 5:30-7:00

December 20:

Last day of school for the Christmas break.

