



Weekend Update: Monday, November 25, 2024

Last week all schools were focused on Bullying Awareness/Prevention Week. Throughout our school, we had daily reflections on the morning announcements led by our Well-Being Leaders, along with fun spirit days aimed at raising awareness of what bullying, and more specifically, cyberbullying looks like. We also spent a great deal of time discussing specific steps that we all can take to be an upstander and put an end bullying once and for all. We reminded students that our focus on the virtues throughout the year are aimed at helping us to live a virtuous life, leading always with kindness, empathy, and using our conscience and faith to guide us in positive relationships each and every day. Thank you to all the teachers, student leaders, and students who participated in events throughout the week.

On Friday, the Mercy Magic Staff spent the PD day working through several different modules as outlined in the communications sent out by the Board. We also found some time in the busy agenda to put on some early Christmas cheer, and made sure our students had a lovely surprise when they came to school this morning, to see the school decorated for Christmas. With Advent beginning next weekend, we are pleased to be planning some very exciting activities to channel the energy that comes along with Christmas approaching. This includes our Community Christmas Event on the 19th where families can make Gingerbread houses, visit with Santa, and dance along with special guests, X-Movement. We are also excited to see the return of the Christmas concert on Friday, December 13th at 1:30 pm, where all parents are welcome to attend. Of course, we also look forward to our Advent Mass with Father Adam on December 10th at 1:00 (please note the changed time) where parents are also welcome.

As we start a new week, the final week of November, we look forward to 2-days of Lacrosse workshops with our Indigenous Education department. Our Intermediate Volleyball teams both have their pod tournaments this week, “Go Mercy Magic!!” Finally, we are excited for the return of the Gonzaga Concert and Jazz bands on Friday afternoon. This is always a fantastic concert and a fun kick-off to our holiday season.

As a final note, I wanted to remind all parents that there is no supervision for students until 8:30 in the school. Students should not be congregating outside of the school prior to the start of the day. We thank you for your cooperation. Students should enter the school at 8:30 and make their way into the school, past breakfast, and head to their classrooms to prepare for the day.

Please don't forget to order your Gingerbread house if you want to decorate one with us at our community event, or if you want one from home. All orders are due by midnight tonight.

Have a great week,

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.

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.

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:

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 is tonight. The Agenda, along with zoom link for those who may not be able to come in person, is attached to this email.

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.

You can find the Christmas Mass schedule also attached to the Weekend Update email so you can plan ahead.

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 encourage all our students to think about the lessons and reflections that we had during Bullying Awareness Week and remember to stop and "THINK" before speaking, acting, and typing making sure it is true, helpful, inspirational, necessary and Kind! Let's have a great week Mercy Magic!

Upcoming Events:

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



November 25-26:

Lacrosse Workshops (Grades 4-8)

Monday, November 25:

Gingerbread House orders close.

Tuesday, November 26:

Intermediate Girls Volleyball @ St. Bernard

Wednesday, November 27:

Intermediate Boys Volleyball @ St. Teresa of Avila

Friday, November 29:

Gonzaga Jazz Band Concert at 1:00

Tuesday, December 3:

Christmas Market

Friday, December 6:

President's Choice Children's Charities:
Bowlerama (small group of students)

Tuesday, December 10:

Advent Mass at **1:00 PM** (Parents are welcome)

Thursday, December 12:

Cahill, Maxwell, Loiacono: Trip to the Library (AM)

Friday, December 13:

Christmas Concert @ 1:30 PM. Admission is a non-perishable food item.

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.

Prayer for Christ the King

*O Lord our God, You alone are
the Most Holy King and Ruler
of all nations.*

*We pray to You, Lord, in the
great expectation of receiving
from You, O Divine King,
mercy, peace, justice and all
good things.*

*Protect, O Lord our King, our
families and the land of our
birth.*

*Guard us we pray Most
Faithful One.*

*Protect us from our enemies
and from Your Just Judgment.*

*Forgive us, O Sovereign King,
our sins against you.*

*Jesus, You are a King of
Mercy.*

*We have deserved Your Just
Judgment*

*Have mercy on us, Lord, and
forgive us.*

We trust in Your Great Mercy.

*O most awe-inspiring King, we
bow before You and pray;*

*May Your Reign, Your
Kingdom, be recognized on
earth.*

Amen.