



## Weekend Update: Monday, December 9, 2024

I want to begin this Weekend Update by thanking our Catholic School Council along with all the parent volunteers, who organized and facilitated our Christmas Market last week. This event is a favourite with our students year after year! It is delightful to hear them talk with their friends about the gifts they purchased for their loved ones and so much fun seeing what they chose! This initiative does not simply come together at the last minute, it is months of planning and preparation, and we are grateful for the commitment of these dedicated volunteers.

Along with our Christmas Market, we started the first of Advent off with a beautiful Liturgy during the morning announcements, reminding us how important it is to prepare our homes but also our hearts for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. We reflected throughout the week on “hope”, the theme for the first week of Advent as well as our Virtue for the month of December. Our community is working to provide hope for those in need this Advent season by bringing in non-perishable food items and socks. We thank all who have already done so and remind parents that your “ticket” as admission for the Christmas Concert on Friday is the same.

Our Intermediate Girls Volleyball Team faced tough competition at the Family Tournament last week. While they didn’t advance to the Board Final, we congratulate them on a fantastic season! Tryouts are now beginning for our Junior Boys and Girls Basketball teams. Students are reminded to return permission forms and listen to announcements for their tryouts!

As we now enter the second week of Advent, we focus our minds and hearts on Peace. We look forward to our Advent Mass on Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 and remind our parents that you are also welcome to join us in the Gym for this celebration. We are also eagerly anticipating our Christmas Concert on Friday at 1:30 pm. Students can be seen practicing their dance moves and singing along to their chosen song throughout the school day. We will be sending home a note allowing parents to release their children after the concert on Friday, should you choose.

We are all looking forward to another fantastic week at Our Lady of Mercy School and look forward to seeing you all during our community events.

*Leslie Marchand*

### **December’s Virtue of the Month: Hope**

“May the God of hope fill you all with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Rom. 15:13)

God helps us to work for a more peaceful world even when we feel discouraged.



### **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 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

### **Inclement Weather:**

As a reminder, weather that could cause cancellations and/or closures is now upon us. Should there be bus or school cancellations reported in the morning, Our Lady of Mercy School is located in Zone 1 for Dufferin-Peel Catholic DSB. Bus cancellations affect only a small handful of our students, as the majority of students do not depend on transportation for daily school attendance. If buses are canceled, the school is open. If schools are closed, all students are to stay home and access "Snow Day" work in their Google classrooms. These are tasks that will allow for review and consolidation. There will be no virtual learning for the day.

### **Christmas Concert:**



All classes are working hard to prepare a special song, dance, presentation for our Christmas Concert on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. All parents are welcome to attend the presentation. We ask that you please bring in non-perishable food items for our Christmas Food Drive and/or new socks for the Sock drive as admission.

### **Community Christmas Event:**

All families are welcome to join us for the Mercy Magic Community Christmas event on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Families who purchased Gingerbread houses will be able to decorate their house, but even if you didn't purchase a house, you are invited to come to celebrate the season. Santa will be dropping in and there will be lots of dancing, and singing too!

### **Trustee Newsletter:**

You will find attached to the Email for today's "Weekend Update" the December Newsletter from our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet.

### **Weekly Lunches**

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

### **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:

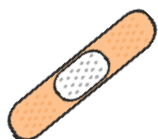
Web: [www.go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://www.go.schoolmessenger.ca) App: SchoolMessenger Phone: 1-844-435-3440 (toll free)

Student absences not reported will trigger phone calls to confirm the absence each morning. If you need assistance, please contact the school.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

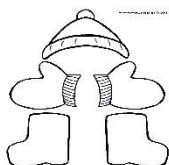
### **Students Signing Out for Lunch:**

**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.

### **Dress for the Weather:**



Please be mindful of the weather conditions and dress children appropriately. Students need to have warmer items to play outside comfortably, such as hats, gloves, and warm 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 videos of students or teachers during the school day is prohibited, ESPECIALLY when there is no consent.

### **Catholic School Council**

The next Catholic School Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 13, 2025 @ 6:00 PM. The agenda and link for those who wish to join virtually, will be sent out closer to the date. If you have items for consideration for the Agenda, please reach out to the school. Approved minutes can be found on our school website: [www.dpcdsb.org/olmcy](http://www.dpcdsb.org/olmcy) .

### **Merciful Redeemer Parish**



Please check out the Merciful Redeemer website at [www.mercifulredeemer.org](http://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 are looking forward to all the opportunities to celebrate the season of Advent and ultimately Christmas with our school community.

## **Upcoming Events:**

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



### **Tuesday, December 10:**

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

### **Wednesday, December 11:**

Pathways and Transition Teacher: Intermediate

Morning Star School Rosary Volunteers

### **Thursday, December 12:**

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

Girls Coding Club: Mentor Visit @ Lunch

### **Friday, December 13:**

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

### **December 17-19:**

X-Movement Workshops

### **Thursday, December 19:**

Community Christmas Event 5:30-7:00

### **Friday, December 20:**

Last day of school for the Christmas break.

### **Monday, January 6, 2025**

Return to school after Christmas break.

### **Monday, January 13, 2025**

Catholic School Council @ 6:00

### **Monday, January 20, 2025**

PD Day

*A prayer for lighting the  
Advent Wreath: Week 2*

*God of power and mercy  
open our hearts in welcome.  
Remove the things that  
hinder us from receiving  
Christ with joy so that we  
may share his wisdom and  
become one with him when  
he comes in glory, for he  
lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
forever and ever.*

*Amen.*

