



## Weekend Update: Friday, December 20, 2024

This past week we have continued to build on the energy and momentum from our amazing Christmas Concert. We continued to reflect on Advent and preparing ourselves for the Christmas season, as well as participating in fun spirit days along with the X-Movement Workshops. Congratulations to all the classes on their fantastic door decorating! Each class door was a work of art, filled with so much creativity and individuality. These doors decked our halls with even more spirit! We concluded the week with our annual sing-along where Mlle. Hinterhoeller and the choir led us all in a fun selection of Christmas Carols!

Students all participated in three days of workshops with X-Movement. The workshops had our entire community moving and burning off some extra Christmas-break energy while focusing on positivity, gratitude, and celebrating self and others. We always look forward to these days each year and thank X-Movement for their work with our students as well as all the fun they added to our Community Christmas event!

We cannot reflect on last week without spending some time thanking our community for coming to celebrate together one final time before the break. Our Community Christmas Event was such a huge success! Thank you to all the families who came out to make Gingerbread houses, visit with Santa, and enjoy the dancing! I also want to thank our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet for also taking the time to celebrate with us once again!

Although we continue to journey through Advent as we are just getting ready for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, today we said goodbye to our friends and colleagues and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas. We have spent so much time over the last several weeks reflecting on Advent, and Christmas, it is almost hard to believe we are leaving for the Christmas break. On behalf of the entire staff, may I extend the warmest wishes for a “magical” Christmas. May the blessings of our Saviour bring you all joy and hope. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 2025!

Merry Christmas,

*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

### **Pizza Day Orders: January**



As a reminder, pizza orders for the new year were sent home in December. You can order pizza for the next session (January 16 to April 10) on schoolcash online. All orders are due by Friday, January 10, 2025.

### **Thank you!**

On behalf of the entire staff, please accept our gratitude for all the gifts and cards. Please know that your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated.



### **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.

### **Weekly Lunches**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
No special Lunches.	<b><i>Subway</i></b> Order from Lunchbox on SchoolCash by previous Sunday @ noon.	<b><i>Lunchlady</i></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><i>Harvey's</i></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:**

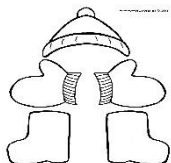
As we are a Platinum Eco School, we remind students to bring a reusable water bottle to school each day. We have water-filling stations for their bottles to be refilled but we do not have any disposable cups for students to fill.

### **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.

### 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!

### 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.

### **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, along with the Christmas Mass Schedule.

### **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:**

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy holiday!

### Upcoming Events:

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



#### Monday, January 6, 2025

Return to school after Christmas break.

#### Thursday, January 9, 2025

Loyola @ OLMCY Course Selection

#### Monday, January 13, 2025

National Rubber Duckie Day  
Catholic School Council @ 6:00

#### Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Morning Star School Rosary

#### Monday, January 20, 2025

PD Day

#### Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Grade 7 Teaching Mass @ Merciful Redeemer

#### Monday, February 3, 2025

Catholic School Council @ 6:00

#### Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Report Card Distribution

#### Thursday, February 13, 2025

P/T Interviews PM

#### Friday, February 14, 2025

PD Day: P/T Interviews

### *Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent*

*All-powerful God, your  
eternal Word took flesh on  
our earth when the Virgin  
Mary placed her life at the  
service of your plan. Lift our  
minds in watchful hope to  
hear the voice which  
announces his glory and  
open our minds to receive  
the Spirit who prepares us  
for his coming. We ask this  
through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

