

Weekend Update: Friday, January 10, 2025

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We have had a wonderful week back at school regardless of the freezing temperatures. Students have been excited to see their friends, teachers, and classmates after the two-week long break and quickly got back into the regular school routines. We spent some time reflecting on setting new goals for the new calendar year and many classes worked on New Years' Resolutions, some of which you can see prominently displayed in our front hallway. With Term One coming to an end, this is a perfect time for students to work towards making changes that will have a positive impact at school.

We did have to battle with the cold this week. Each day, we continued to monitor temperatures and wind chill values to ensure the safety of all our students. We were able to get outside but each day we had to modify our Lunch Recess as 40 minutes in those conditions seemed too long. We were happy to get them outside for some (very) fresh air, but not too long where they would be uncomfortable. Our students were also reminded to ensure that they wore all their warm outdoor clothing including hats, earmuffs, scarves, mittens and boots.

The return to school meant the return to practices, rehearsals, meetings and tryouts for many of our clubs, teams, and the musical. Our junior basketball teams were busy practicing, Indoor soccer tryouts were had for both boys and girls Junior and Intermediate teams, and the cast of the Little Mermaid got right back into choreography, singing and perfecting their lines. Mme. Dougherty's class led us in a beautiful Hope liturgy towards the end of the week to honour the recipients of the Virtue of Hope Award of Excellence. The virtue for the month of January is self-control and we will continue to have morning reflections, and our monthly affirmation focused on how "God wants us to do what we know and feel is right" (DPCDSB).

As we look ahead to next week, we are excited to celebrate "National Rubber Ducky Day" on Monday, January 13th. Students and staff are encouraged to wear yellow, and classes will participate in live streaming events, as well as Literacy and Numeracy activities all about those fun little friends, our rubber ducks! We also look forward to welcoming the Morning Star School Rosary volunteers back to our school for their monthly visit leading our students in praying the rosary.

We are looking forward to a fabulous 2025 together, Mercy Magic!

Leslie Marchand

January's Virtue of the Month: Self-Control

"Like a city breached, without walls, is one who lacks self-control" (Proverbs 25-28)

God wants us to do what we know, and feel is right.

SELF-CONTROL
GREEK: EQKRATEIA
1. THE VIRTUE OF ONE WHO MASTERS HIS DESIRES AND PASSIONS
2. RESTRAINT EXERCISED OVER ONE'S OWN IMPULSES, EMOTIONS, OR DESIRES



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

Daycare Opening:



After much time talking about it, living through the construction, and anticipating the arrival of our little friends in our Daycare, it is happening! As of Monday, January 13th the PLASP daycare being run out of the renovated wing will have children. We ask parents who may be parking along the side of the school to please be aware of Daycare reserved spaces. Parents interested in registering should contact PLASP. We are excited to be sharing our space and for this partnership.

Grade 7 Teaching Mass:

Our Grade 7 students will be making their way to Merciful Redeemer Parish on Tuesday, January 21st to participate in a teaching mass with Father Seamus. Students will walk to the Church after morning announcements, and then return to school prior to Lunch. More information will be sent home with our grade 7 students.

PD Day: Monday, January 20, 2025

Trustee January Newsletter:

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

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

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.

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:

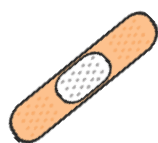
Web: www.go.schoolmessenger.ca App: SchoolMessenger Phone: 1-844-435-3440 (toll free)

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

Water Bottles:

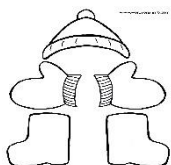
As we are a Platinum Eco School, we remind students to bring a reusable water bottle to school each day. We have water-filling stations for their bottles to be refilled but we do not have any disposable cups for students to fill.

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.

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, 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:

It has been wonderful to have everyone back at school this week. I encourage all our students to continue to work to meet the success criteria in all their assignments and utilize descriptive feedback as we close out Term One over the next few weeks.

Upcoming Events:

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



Monday, January 13, 2025

National Rubber Duckie Day! Wear yellow or duck themed attire.

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

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Elizabeth Fry Society Presentations: Grade 7/8

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

Monday, February 17, 2025

Family Day Holiday

Thursday, February 20, 2025

French Concours

A New Year Prayer

We Pray...

For healing...prepare us for surprises.

For strength...prepare us for surprises.

For vision...prepare us for surprises.

For transformation...prepare us for surprises.

For messengers and messenges...prepare us for surprises.

For community...prepare us for surprises.

For acceptance - of ourselves and others...prepare us for surprises.

For making room at our tables...prepare us for surprises.

For Truth-seeking...prepare us for surprises.

For support...prepare us for surprises.

For Common Ground...prepare us for surprises.

*Walk beside us, O Holy One,
as we question and welcome,
as we challenge and invite,
as we discover and understand,
as we see, touch, taste, smell, and listen for
the Newness awaiting us in 2020.*

*May we, Your Holy People, walk forward
together side by side.*

Amen

*Written by Sister Mary Ann Barret, O.P.
Offered by Melissa Baumann*

