



Weekend Update: Sunday, January 19, 2025

Our week began with some fun on National Rubber Ducky Day. Students and staff wore yellow, brought duckies from home and spent the day doing activities related to rubber ducks throughout the day. The Main Office was also all decorated with ducks to get into the spirit. The Program department sent activities for all grades in Numeracy and Literacy, and we just had fun with it. Our week was also quite busy with sports teams practicing at all recesses each day. Little Mermaid rehearsals were also back in full swing, as were our Eco Club and Well-Being leadership group. I want to thank our teachers who act as Coaches, Directors, and Facilitators for our clubs, teams, and the musical. The Grade 7's welcomed Father Seamus who met with them in preparation for the upcoming Teaching Mass at Merciful Redeemer and we welcomed the Morning Star School Rosary volunteers for their monthly visit leading all classes in the Rosary. We were fortunate that the temperatures warmed up enough for us to be able to enjoy recess, especially as we look ahead to the forecast "polar vortex" which will likely see temperatures that keep us indoors next week.

As we look ahead to the week of January 20th, we begin with a reminder about the PD Day on Monday which means no school for students. Teachers will be using this day for working on reporting for Term One. Our Grade 7's have the Teaching Mass on Tuesday morning at Merciful Redeemer. In looking ahead to the weather, we have arranged for a bus to pick up the students to bring them back and forth to the Parish instead of walking. Wednesday, January 22nd is "Bell Let's Talk Day" and our Well-Being Leaders will have some activities and reflections prepared for the day as we continue to diminish the stigma about mental health and encourage continued conversations about caring for our mental health, just as we do our physical health!

We hope all our students enjoy their extra long weekend! Get some rest, have some fun, and recharge as we prepare to wrap up Term One in the coming weeks. We will continue to monitor the weather throughout the day to ensure that the safety of our students and parents are asked to ensure that all children are dressed appropriately for the weather. We look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday!

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 be taking a school bus to and from the Church due to the forecasted frigid temperatures. Students should still dress appropriately for transit on the bus (coat, hat, gloves, scarf, boots).

PD Day: Monday, January 20, 2025

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:

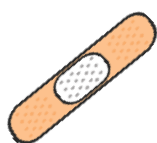
Web: www.go.schoolmessenger.ca App: SchoolMessenger Phone: 1-844-435-3440 (toll free)

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

Water Bottles:

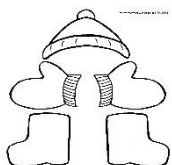
As we are a Platinum Eco School, we remind students to bring a reusable water bottle to school each day. We have water-filling stations for their bottles to be refilled but we do not have any disposable cups for students to fill.

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, February 3, 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:

In looking ahead to Bell Let's Talk Day, we continue to focus on mindfulness, and well-being as we remind students to breathe deeply when things get tough, and focus on activities that support them feeling balanced and calm.

Upcoming Events:

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



Monday, January 20, 2025

PD Day

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Grade 7 Teaching Mass @ Merciful Redeemer

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Bell "Let's Talk" Day

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Elizabeth Fry Society Presentations: Grade 7/8

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

Junior Boys Soccer Tournament (indoor)

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Junior Girls Soccer Tournament (indoor)

Monday, February 3, 2025

Catholic School Council @ 6:00

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Intermediate Boys Soccer Tournament (indoor)

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Intermediate Girls Soccer Tournament (indoor)

Girls Who Game Trip to Microsoft

Grade 6-8 Trip to the Rose Theatre

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Report Card Distribution (electronic delivery)

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

Your Love

*Bless us with Love, O Merciful God;
That we may Love as you Love!
That we may show patience, tolerance,
Kindness, caring and love to all!
Give me knowledge; O giver of Knowledge,
That I may be one with my Universe and
Mother Earth!
O Compassionate One, grant compassion
unto us;
That we may help all fellow souls in need!
Bless us with your Love O God.
Bless us with your Love.*

- Author Unknown

