



Weekend Update: Sunday, February 9, 2025

Last week we welcomed the month of February with the first of several Black History Month activities and presentations. Thank you to Mlle. Hinterhoeller's grade 7/8 FI class and Mrs. Loiacono's grade 1/2 class for their fantastic presentations during the morning announcements. Both classes shared with us how their chosen individuals influenced their communities and brought hope, which is our ongoing focus. Classes also participated in a special read-aloud on Monday morning. Read alouds and presentations will continue throughout the month. Our final three indoor soccer teams competed in their tournaments in Brampton, members of our Girls Coding Club spent a fantastic day at Microsoft and our Grade 6-8 students participated in the "Mighty Remix" presentation at the Rose Theatre! Our youngest learners also had the chance to celebrate the "100th" day of school, which is always a favourite! Finally, we thank our Eco Club for bringing us a fun Eco Spirit Week last week.

The upcoming week is also scheduled to be a busy one! Both our Junior Basketball teams will be competing in their "pod" tournaments, and we wish them the best of luck! The Junior Boys team will compete on Monday at home in our gym, and the Junior Girls will compete at St. Bernard of Clairvaux on Wednesday. We are also very excited about our Valentine's Day Dance on the 13th. Students are encouraged to wear their red, pink, and white colours in honour of Valentine's Day which is of course a PD day. Students can also share their special Valentine's cards with their classmates on Thursday. Parents are reminded to please not send any edible food items for classmates due to allergies, but non-edible treats such as pencils, stickers, etc. are perfect!

Term One report cards will also be delivered digitally to all our students on Tuesday afternoon. Remember that the report cards will be delivered to each student's DPCDSB email account. Teachers will ensure that all students have their login information to make retrieving the reports easier. Instructions will also be sent along with the digital delivery confirmation email. It is recommended that you download the report card to your device as soon as you open it, as the link only stays active for one week. As always, should you need any help, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school. Interviews are also scheduled for Thursday evening and Friday during the school day. Please make sure you book your time at the following booking link: <https://schoolinterviews.ca/code/n5guq>. Teachers will be meeting with parents from 3:30-7:30 on Thursday evening, and 9:00-3:00 on Friday. If you cannot find a time that works for you, please reach out to the classroom teacher. You can also book time to see your child's planning time teachers and Special Education Teachers. At this time of the year, we do encourage all families to schedule interviews.

I hope that everyone enjoys the SuperBowl this evening, whether you are hosting a party, attending one, or just watching the commercials and half-time show! Have a wonderful evening and we look forward to another fantastic week.

Take care,

Leslie Marchand

February's Virtue of the Month: Respect

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a servant to all, so that I might win more of them. (1 Cor. 9:19)

God wants us to treat all people with the respect they deserve.

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

Trustee February Newsletter:

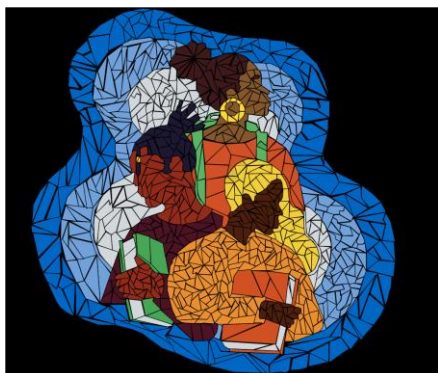
Please see attached to the Weekend Update email the February Newsletter from our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet.

Term One Report Card Distribution and Parent-Teacher Interviews:



Term One report cards will be distributed electronically to student emails on Tuesday, February 11th. We will ensure that all students know how to log into their school email accounts. Parent-Teacher interviews will take place on Thursday, February 13th in the evening, and Friday, February 14th during the PD Day. Information regarding utilizing the online booking system for interviews will be sent to all families at the beginning of February.

Black History Month:



Throughout the month of February, our school will be engaged in activities, workshops, and reflections to honour Black History Month. This year's theme is "Black History 365: A look back, A look within, A look ahead" with specific emphasis on hope in alignment with our Catholic Education Week Theme, Pilgrims of Hope. Each class will present an individual to the school during morning announcements throughout the month highlighting their accomplishments as well as how they bring hope to their lives, and the lives of others in the community. Along with morning announcements, students will have activities in their classes and opportunities to participate in webinars, virtual workshops and the Grade 6-8 trip to the Rose Theatre.

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.

EQAO Math Night for Parents and Guardians

EQAO staff are hosting free LIVE webinars for parents and guardians.

Staff will discuss math questions that Ontario students encounter when they participate in Ontario's large-scale assessments in Grades 3, 6 and 9. During the webinar, EQAO staff will show how these math questions help assess the skills students are learning in their math classes. Staff will also share valuable insights from the past three years of assessment results, which can help parents and guardians support their children's math learning.

Webinar Registration Link: [Tuesday, February 18, 2025](#) 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

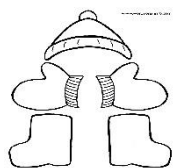
Water Bottles:

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

Thank you to the Catholic School Council for their flexibility in postponing our February 3rd meeting. This meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, February 24th at 6:00. 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.

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:



Our Well-Being focus for the month of February, inspired by Valentine's Day, is "Self-Love". Our Well-being leaders have already shared with the school what self-love is and why it is important, and they will also share some strategies. I encourage everyone in our community to take some time to reflect on the many gifts and talents you all possess and pat yourselves on the back!

A prayer for Self-Love

Loving God, I come to you seeking acceptance and love. Help me to see myself as you see me, as your beautiful and unique creation worthy of love and respect. When I compare myself to others and feel inadequate, remind me that my identity isn't caught up in theirs - that you see me as I really am.

Amen



Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, February 10, 2025

Junior Boys Basketball Tournament @ OLMCY

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Report Card Distribution (electronic delivery)
BHM Read Aloud (Maxwell, Nguyen)

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Junior Girls Basketball Tournament @ St.
Bernard of Clairvaux

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Red, Pink, White Day
Valentine's Day Dance in the AM
P/T Interviews PM

Friday, February 14, 2025

PD Day: P/T Interviews

Monday, February 17, 2025

Family Day Holiday: No School

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

BHM Read Aloud (Maxwell, Nguyen)

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Morning Sar School Rosary/Father Adam

Thursday, February 20, 2025

French Concours

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Grade 6/7 FI Science North Virtual Workshop

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Grade 7/8 Black History Month Virtual
Workshop (Galbraith and Hinterhoeller)

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Provincial Election: OLMCY Voting Site

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Pancake Tuesday
Indigenous Education Workshops with Guest
Tim McGregor

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday: Mass @ 9:00

March 10 to 14, 2025

March Break: No School

Monday, March 17, 2025

St. Patrick's Day: Wear Green!

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Graduation Photos (SK and Grade 8)

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Morning Star School Rosary/Father Adam

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Grade 7/8 Trip to the ROM

Monday, April 7, 2025

Grade 7 Vaccination clinic

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Holy Thursday: Stations of the Cross

Friday, April 18, 2025

Good Friday

Sunday, April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday

Monday, April 21, 2025

Easter Monday: No School