



## Weekend Update: Monday, February 17, 2025

I hope this finds all our families safe and warm after the blast of snow we have seen over the last several days and I sincerely hope that you have had the opportunity to enjoy the family day weekend. I want to thank Mr. DiRenzo for his efforts digging us out last week after the school closure, and again over the next several days from the weekend's accumulation. I am eager to see the snow on our playground that I know our students will be excited to play in. I remind all our families to ensure that students come to school with the appropriate gear for playing in the snow in comfort, which includes boots! I also want to thank you all for your support and cooperation with re-scheduling parent-teacher interviews from Thursday evening to Friday during the PD Day for those who were able. We will confirm a new date for interviews to take place after school hours in the coming days.

Last week our junior basketball teams competed in their pod tournaments. While the boys' team qualified to move on to the Family tournament both teams should be very proud of their efforts as they both played with great determination, making their coaches very proud! Since the school was closed on Thursday, we are excited for our Valentine's Day celebrations on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> when we all return to school. Students and staff are reminded to wear red, pink, and white in honour of Valentine's Day and get ready to show off their favourite dance moves during the dance on Tuesday morning. Students will also be able to exchange their Valentines. Aside from the Valentine's Day celebrations, this week will bring us more Black History Month presentations during the morning announcements, as well as welcoming the Morning Star School Rosary volunteers and Father Adam on Wednesday. Later in the week, our French Immersion students will hold the FI Speech Competition in the Gym, and we congratulate all our students for all the time and effort they have put into the writing and presentation of their speeches, you are all winners!

With the Term One Reports being distributed last week, I encourage all our students to review their teachers' comments and reflect on the goals they had set for themselves as the school year began, or perhaps revised goals they set after Progress Reports or the start of the new calendar year. What are the new goals? Perhaps a learning skill to work on or a particular subject? Students can write down their goals and set clear action plans for how to meet them.

We look forward to another busy and productive week at Our Lady of Mercy School.

*Leslie Marchand*

### **February's Virtue of the Month: Respect**

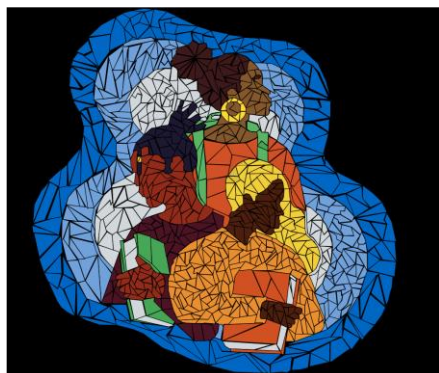
*For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a servant to all, so that I might win more of them. (1 Cor. 9:19)*

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 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

### **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**

<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.

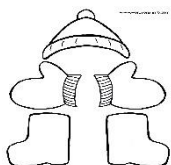
### **Water Bottles:**

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.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. This meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> 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](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.

We are looking forward to seeing Father Adam on Wednesday morning, along with the Morning Star School Rosary volunteers.

### **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:**

As we continue to focus on the Virtue of Respect throughout the month of February, I once again want to commend our students for their efforts in ensuring that our school continues to be a place where people feel valued and accepted. We will continue our ongoing reflection and focus on self-love and taking the time to stop to breathe throughout the day to promote well-being this week. I hope all our parents can do the same.

**A Prayer for Respect**

*Let us pray for the virtue of respect so that everyone we meet will know that  
we are made in the image and likeness of God.*

*Merciful God,*

*We ask that you help us to see the beauty of your creation.*

*To speak and act with humility,*

*To treat others with respect,*

*And to love you with all our heart.*

*Father, you are our guide and teacher,*

*Helps us to walk in the footsteps of Your Son, Jesus,*

*The best example of who we are called to be.*

*Let your shine and light shine through us as we walk in our journey of life.*

*AMEN*

### **Upcoming Events:**

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

#### **Monday, February 17, 2025**

Family Day Holiday: No School

#### **Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

Valentine's Day Celebrations: Wear Red, Pink, or White today.

Valentine's Dance in the AM

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

BHM Read Aloud (Maxwell, Nguyen)

#### **Wednesday, February 26, 2025**

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

#### **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

#### **Thursday, March 6, 2025**

The Big Crunch (AM)

#### **March 10 to 14, 2025**

March Break: No School

#### **Monday, March 17, 2025**

St. Patric'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

