



## **Weekend Update: Sunday, March 2, 2025**

This week marks the beginning of Lent. At Our Lady of Mercy School, we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday on March 4<sup>th</sup> with a Pancake breakfast in the Gym prepared by President's Choice Children's Charities. This time of filling up prepares us for a season of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer which begins the next day with Ash Wednesday. We look forward to once again welcoming Father Adam to preside over our special Ash Wednesday Mass, where we will start our Lenten journeys with receiving ashes during the celebration. All families are welcome to join us for this celebration, please note that the Mass will begin at 9:00 in the morning.

Last week we concluded our Black History Month presentations as we learned about Danielle Norris (FDK), Kay Livingstone (Maxwell), and Oscar Peterson (Sanctuary). Students from all three classes shared with us the exceptional qualities that these individuals possess(ed) and how they have brought hope to the community. I want to thank ALL our classes for their hard work preparing their slides and oral presentations as we took the time to "Look Back, Look Within, and Look Ahead" throughout the month of February. We also reminded our students of the importance of sharing these stories all year long, not just during Black History Month!

Students from Mme. Dougherty's class led us in our Self-Control Virtue Liturgy, a little late, but we were pleased to be able to honour the students who received certificates of excellence for demonstrating the virtue of Self-Control in our community. February was focused on the virtue of respect, and we look forward to the Liturgy and Awards ceremony towards the end of the week. In March, we will be reflecting on the Virtue of Kindness, which is well-timed as we just honoured Kindness during "pink shirt day" and classes are recording their random acts of kindness each day. We remind everyone in our community that it doesn't cost anything to be kind, and that kindness is the foundation of a school community that is safe, and inclusive for all.

Led by Mr. MacSporran, students in our Grade 5/6 FI and Grade 6/7 FI classes participated in "Student Vote Ontario". A poll site was set up in Mr. MacSporran's class, and students from the two classes made their way through signing in, receiving their ballot, casting their vote and finally placing their ballot in the secured ballot box. Thank you to Mr. MacSporran for setting up this opportunity for our students to learn more about the importance of voting in a democratic society. Students in Mr. Galbraith and Mlle. Hinterhoeller's classes participated in a special Black History Month Workshop on Wednesday and Mme. Dougherty's class had a special presentation/workshop hosted by Science North on Tuesday.

I want to conclude by asking all our parents to please pack patience during drop-off and pick-ups, especially with the pilings of snow. I remind you that speeding through the area causes significant safety risks for our students and other families. Please, do not park your car at the entrance to the parking lot and wait for your children, please carefully proceed along the line and wait for your children to safely cross to get into your car where they are supervised. Last week there was an incident where a parents' vehicle was struck by another car. We are all very grateful that no one was injured in this incident, there was however damage to the car.

We are looking forward to a great week as we prepare for the March Break!

*Leslie Marchand*

## March's Virtue: Kindness

*Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life and honor. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. (Prov. 21:21; 31:26)*

God wants us to give generously to others around us.

### **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 Esso 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
Jeremiah Scott	Night Custodian

### **Lenten Pretzels**

Information will be sent home on Monday about the Lenten pretzels which students will all receive following the Stations of the Cross Liturgy on Holy Thursday. We are asking families to make a donation to ShareLife on SchoolCash Online for each pretzel. All children will receive one pretzel, regardless of the donation. The ingredients are listed on the information sheet that will be sent home. These were a BIG hit last year!

### **EQAO Math Webinars for Parents and Guardians: NEW Dates Added**

EQAO staff have added NEW dates to their free LIVE webinar series 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.

We invite you to share this information and the registration links with families in your school community.

#### **Webinar Registration Links:**

- [Thursday, March 6, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, March 26, 2025 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.](#)

### **Psychology Month 2025: Helping Students Strive, Grow & Thrive**

February is Psychology Month. Psychology staff at the DPCDSB help students Strive, Grow & Thrive every day by supporting their learning, behaviour, and mental health.

This year, to recognize Psychology Month the psychology department has created a curated list of on-line resources on ADHD.

#### **[Psychology Online ADHD Resources for Students, Parents & Educators](#)**

This resource has been added to the Psychology Department library of articles on topics of interest to staff, students, and parents located on the DPCDSB website ([www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org)). A copy of the resource will also be added to the Weekend Update email.

#### **THRIVE Newsletter**

A copy of the monthly THRIVE newsletter is also attached to the Weekend Update email.

#### **Ottawa Trip:**

We met with all students attending the Spring Ottawa Trip last week to discuss expectations on the trip, along with expectations leading up the trip. Students also had the opportunity to list the names of students they would like to share a room with. Teachers will use these lists to ensure that students all have at least one friend with them in their rooms. As a reminder, the trip will be loaded with excursions and site-seeing around Ottawa, and there will be very limited time in the hotel rooms. The final installment for payment will be charged to your registered credit cards from the vendor this week.

#### **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.	<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.

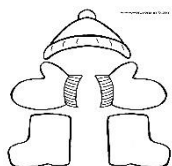
### Water Bottles:

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!

### March Break: March 10-14

As a reminder, please mark the March Break on your calendars! **There will be no school from March 10<sup>th</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup>.**

### 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. If students are feeling unwell, they are reminded that they need to come to the office and call home from there, so we are aware and can monitor them. Thank you for your attention to this.

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 parents who were able to join us for our Catholic School Council meeting on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2025. Should you have items you'd like to request be added to the Agenda, please email us at [OLMCYCSCInfo@dpcdsb.org](mailto:OLMCYCSCInfo@dpcdsb.org) or contact the school.

### **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.

Congratulations to all our Grade 2 students who made their First Confession last week as part of their ongoing preparation for their First Communion in May!

### **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:**



This week, I ask that we all take some time to reflect on the beginning of Lent and consider what our Lenten journeys will consist of. Lent is a time of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. We frequently "give something up" during this time frame, but maybe there are also things we can add as we continue our pilgrimage of Hope during this jubilee year.

## **Upcoming Events:**

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

### **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. 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  
French Concours (Board Level Competition)

### **Tuesday, March 25, 2025**

Grade 7/8 Trip to the ROM

### **Friday, March 28, 2025**

Grade 3: Swim to Survive

### **Thursday, April 3, 2025**

Miss. West Chess Tournament (at OLMCY)

### **Friday, April 4, 2025**

Grade 3: Swim To Survive

### **Monday, April 7, 2025**

Grade 7 Vaccination clinic

### **Wednesday, April 9, 2025**

Morning Star School Rosary

### **Friday, April 11, 2025**

Grade 3: Swim to Survive (Final class)

### **Sunday, April 13, 2025**

Palm Sunday

### **Thursday, April 17, 2025**

Holy Thursday: Stations of the Cross  
Lenten Pretzels handed out

### **Friday, April 18, 2025**

Good Friday

### **Sunday, April 20, 2025**

Easter Sunday

### **Monday, April 21, 2025**

Easter Monday: No School

### ***Invite Us Deeper***

*Almighty and ever living God,  
you invite us deeper into your world,  
your people, your Lent.  
May this time be one of outward  
focus;  
seeking you in those we often ignore.  
Help us live a Lent focused on  
freedom, generosity, and encounter.  
Give us hearts hungry to serve you  
and those who need what we have to  
give.*

*Amen*

*- Author Unknown*

