



## **Weekend Update: Friday, March 21, 2025**

Welcome back! We have had a wonderful week getting back into our routines here at school after the March Break. It was fun listening to all the stories about the adventures our students (and staff) had during the break. The weather played a few tricks this week with the almost summer-like conditions to the rain and return of cooler temperatures. The mild temperatures, melting snow, and rain have left our field saturated with water and mud. This meant that we had to adjust our recesses to the pavement only so our students wouldn't be drenched. Hopefully we can get back onto the field next week if we can get some more of the beautiful sunshine and dry conditions.

This week we continued our Lenten Journeys with daily reflections reminding us of the great love that Jesus has for us. Mrs. Fang's class has displayed their beautiful Lenten artwork in our front display case, and our Youth Faith Ambassadors have prepared a schoolwide Soap Drive from March 24 to April 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have boxes for the soap collection in the front hallway of the school for students to place donations in. Our Soap drive supports our almsgiving during Lent, one of the three pillars we are focused on during this liturgical season. Finally, Mlle. Hinterhoeller's class has begun their preparations for our annual Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday.

Throughout the past week we also had the Class of 2025 smiling for the camera as they took their Graduation photos, just another milestone on their journey to Graduation at the end of June. Our Eco Club shared reflections on the importance of Water as World Water Day is celebrated on March 22<sup>nd</sup> as well as Earth Hour Friday afternoon in preparation for Saturday's scheduled hour. We also "rocked our socks" for Down Syndrome with many members of our community wearing mismatched socks in support of World Down Syndrome Day. Perhaps the most exciting news of the week was that all four of our French Immersion students competing in the first board level competition of the Concours d'Art Oratoire in 6 years ranked in the top 3 for their categories coming home with medals and French Dictionaries. Maria came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Junior Immersion category, Eliana tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Intermediate Immersion category, while both of our Francophone students, Elora and Rosie, came home with 1<sup>st</sup> place medals. Congratulations, Mercy Magic!!

As we look ahead to the coming weeks, we will see our Grade 3's begin their Swim to Survive classes, Mlle. Hinterhoeller, Mrs. Romaniuk, and Mr. Galbraith's classes will be heading to the ROM for the Auschwitz exhibit, our Well-Being Leaders making their way to their next Leadership Conference, we will be hosting the Mississauga West Chess Tournament and our Intermediate Basketball teams will be preparing for their pod competitions. Plus, all our classes continue to work hard through all their academics.

We wish everyone a wonderful weekend! May you have some time to go outside and enjoy the early Spring, maybe you will even have some time to begin to look for signs that spring is "springing" in our neighbourhood. Enjoy!

*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
Colleen Dougherty	Grade 6/7 French Immersion Teacher
Lisa Manns	Grade 6/7 French Immersion Teacher (LTO) Tues, Thurs
Marly Faltas	Grade 6/7 Teacher (LTO)
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**

As a reminder, all our students will receive a special Lenten Pretzel 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 was sent home at the beginning of March. These were a BIG hit last year!

### **Mercy Magic Easter Fundraising Campaign:**



This will be your final full week to purchase some yummy Easter treats from Purdy's as part of our Easter Fundraiser. All orders need to be placed by the end of the day on April 1<sup>st</sup>, with orders submitted on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will allow for all the chocolate to be delivered to the school before the holiday weekend. When we have confirmation of delivery, we will send out pick-up information. Thank you to everyone who has already ordered. We have already sold over \$2,000.00 in chocolate, making a profit so far of \$579.83!! This is amazing. Keep it up Mercy Magic!

### **Grade 7/8 Vaccination Clinic:**

The next Vaccination Clinic for our Grade 7 and 8 students is scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2025. Information regarding consent and vaccines being administered was sent to all our Grade 7 and 8 families this week. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school. This is the final clinic for this school year. Information regarding consent for the 2025-2026 school year will be sent home to our current Grade 6 students next week. Keep a look out for it.

### **Grade 3 Swim To Survive:**

Our Grade 3 parents are reminded of the permission forms that went home earlier in the week for the annual Swim To Survive program. Students will begin their swim classes on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and will have two additional lessons, the following 2 Friday's. Families are reminded that students will need a swimsuit, towel, and bag to put their wet clothes in on each of those days.

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

Thanks to popular demand, EQAO staff have added another date, Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 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.

### **Webinar Registration Link:**

- [Tuesday, April 1, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.](#)

### **Secondary Summer School, Grade 8 Reach Ahead – July 2025**

Information about Secondary Summer School, Grade 8 Reach Ahead Information was sent home with all our grade 8's this week. It has also been posted on the [Secondary Summer School – Grade 8 Reach Ahead Webpage](#) on the board website. Registration is now open and closes on **Wednesday, June 11, 2025**. Summer School programs will run from July 7 to August 1, Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 1:30 each day.

Students must register using the link posted on the [Secondary Summer School – Grade 8 Reach Ahead Webpage](#).

### **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.

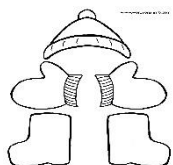
### **Water Bottles:**

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.

### **Peel Public Health:**

As part of the email with the Weekend Update, you will also find the April Peel Public Health Infographic for all families.

### **Trustee Newsletter:**



Please find attached to this edition of the Weekend Update, the March Newsletter from our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet.

### **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**

Due to a conflict of schedule, our next Catholic School Council meeting is being postponed to Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. 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**



This week we were so pleased to welcome back the Morning Star School Rosary leaders along with Father Adam. Praying the rosary with the volunteers is a highlight on our monthly schedule!

We also want to remind all students preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation of the Crosses and Confession date on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> between 4:00 and 6:30 pm.

Attached to the Weekend Update email will also be a copy of the Schedule for Holy Week and Easter Weekend at Merciful Redeemer Parish. We invite you to continue to 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.

### 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 was reminded of the importance of putting our trust in God and reaching out to him with outstretched arms ready to receive His love and forgiveness. May we allow God to guide us through our daily lives and use His example to show the same love and goodness to all those we meet. Have a blessed weekend!

### *Come, My Light*

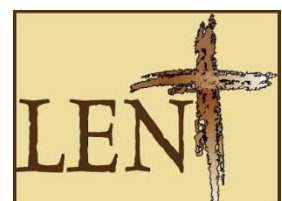
*Come, my Light,  
and illumine my darkness.*

*Come, my Life,  
and revive me from death.*

*Come, my Physician,  
and heal my wounds.*

*Come, Flame of divine love,  
and burn up the thorns of my sins,  
kindling my heart  
with the flame of thy love.*

*- Dímítríí of Rostov*



### **Upcoming Events:**

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



#### **Monday, March 24, 2025**

Soap Drive begins  
Last week to purchase Purdy's

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

Grade 7/8 Trip to the ROM

#### **Wednesday, March 26, 2025**

Michael (Seminarian) Visits

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

Grade 3: Swim to Survive

#### **Monday, March 31, 2025**

Catholic School Council @ 6:00

#### **Tuesday, April 1, 2025**

Last day for Purdy's Purchase

#### **Wednesday, April 2, 2025**

Well-Being Leadership Conference

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

Miss. West Chess Tournament (at OLMCY)

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

Grade 3: Swim To Survive  
Int. Boys Basketball Pod Tournament (OLMCY)

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

Grade 7 Vaccination clinic  
Mrs. Fang/Ms. Nguyen's Class @ Library

#### **Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

Int. Girls Basketball Pod Tournament @ St. Bernard

#### **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

#### **Tuesday, April 22, 2025**

Earth Day

#### **Thursday, April 24, 2025**

Fire Prevention Assemblies (AM)  
Catholic School Council/Public Board Budget  
Information Meeting (Virtual)

#### **April 30-May 2, 2025**

Intermediate Ottawa Trip

#### **May 5-9, 2025**

Catholic Education Week

#### **Wednesday, May 7, 2025**

Confirmation @ Merciful Redeemer

#### **Wednesay, May 14, 2025**

Celebration of Mary: Morning Star School  
Rosary Leaders (AM)

#### **Friday, May 16, 2025**

PD Day: No School for students

#### **Monday, May 19, 2025**

Victoria Day Holiday: No School