



## **Weekend Update: Sunday, April 6, 2025**

What a fantastic week for our Mercy Magic teams/clubs! A huge “Congratulations” goes out to our Intermediate Chess Team on their second-place finish at the Mississauga West Family of Schools Tournament this week. The team will now make their way to the DPCDSB Board Finals at the end of the month. Then, our Intermediate Boys Basketball team finished in first place in their Pod Tournament, qualifying them for the Family Tournament right after Easter. Thank you to the students for their commitment to their practices and their team members, and of course to our coaches for their dedication to these students and their development beyond the classroom. We will continue to cheer them on as they prepare for their next challenges.

Our Mercy Magic Easter Fundraiser has now closed and was a HUGE success. We ended up selling over \$4,000.00 worth of chocolate which earned us a profit of \$1,159.10 plus an additional 2.5% of the sales. Thank you so much to everyone who made a purchase. When the delivery date is confirmed, we will share the details of the plans to pick up your yummy chocolate treats. This past week we also sent home details of popcorn sales, organized by our Catholic School Council. The popcorn will be handed out along with pizza for the final pizza order, beginning on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

As we look ahead to another week, our Grade 7 and 8 students are reminded of the Vaccination clinic on Monday afternoon. Information was sent home previously, no action is needed, as consent for the vaccinations was previously submitted to Peel Public Health. The vaccination clinic will be set up in the Gym in the afternoon. Monday morning, Mrs. Fang and Mrs. Nguyen’s classes will be heading to the Public Library then on Tuesday, our Intermediate Girls basketball team will compete at their Pod Tournament, Go Mercy Magic! We welcome back the Morning Star School Rosary volunteers on Wednesday, and our Grade 3’s will have their final session at the pool on Friday. Our Lenten journeys continue with daily reflections as well as our community outreach with the “Soap for Hope” soap drive. Thank you to all those who have already brought in soap, the initiative runs until April 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our Youth Faith Ambassadors.

There continues to be concerns about unsafe actions in the Kiss and Ride during both drop-off and pick-up at the school. I understand that it is busy as everyone is driving into the school at the same time, especially for pick-up, but please remember that everyone is there to safely get their children. If we pack a little extra patience, and follow a few simple expectations, we can ensure that all our children safely get into their cars, or begin their walk/ride home, as well as avoid unnecessary frustration. Parents are asked to drive into the school parking lot and NOT stop to park at the entrance! Cars are reminded to drive through the lane so students can get into the car from the middle island where the teacher supervising is located ensuring student safety. Students leaving from the side door are asked to walk towards the front of the school. Let’s try to avoid unpleasant encounters. Thank you all for your extra attention to this time of day, again, for the safety of our children.

*Leslie Marchand*

## April's Virtue: Love

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:30-31)*



*God wants us to serve and to see the goodness in everyone we meet.*

### **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 (Mon, Wed, Fri)
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 DiCerro	Night Custodian
Jeremiah Scott	Night Custodian

### **Pizza Day/Popcorn Orders:**



This is a reminder that orders for Pizza and popcorn are now open on SchoolCash Online. Don't miss out on your orders. This payment will take us right to the end of the school year. Thank you to our Catholic School Council for all their hard work!

### **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!

### **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 via email last 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 was sent home with our current Grade 6 students on Friday. Please complete it and return to the school; we will forward it to Peel Public Health on your behalf.

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

Our Grade 3 students will have their final session at the pool on Friday morning. Families are reminded that students will need a swimsuit, towel, and bag to put their wet clothes in on each of these days.

### **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.

### **Trustee Newsletter**



You will find our Catholic School Trustee, Brea Corbet's April Newsletter attached to the Weekend Update email.

### Weekly Lunches

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
No special Lunches.	<b>Subway</b> Order from Lunchbox on SchoolCash by previous Sunday at noon.	<b>Lunchlady</b> Order from the lunchlady website, 48 hours in advance.	<b>Panago Pizza</b> Orders are being placed NOW for the final session. Don't forget about the Popcorn too!	<b>Harvey's</b> Order from Lunchbox on SchoolCash by previous Sunday at 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 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!

### Parent Engagement Opportunity:

Parents and guardians are invited to participate in an insightful evening where student safety advocates will address critical issues impacting youth today. Learn how families, school staff and police can work together to create safer and supportive environments for students at school, online, and within their communities. Please see the flyer attached to the Weekend Update email for more information.

### Non-Essential Items at School



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.

### 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.

### **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 everyone who attended our CSC meeting last week. Our next Catholic School Council meeting is Thursday, April 24th. If you have items you would like considered for the Agenda, please reach out to the school or email us at [OLMCYCSCInfo@dpcdsb.org](mailto:OLMCYCSCInfo@dpcdsb.org). The link and agenda will be sent to all families closer to the date.

### **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.

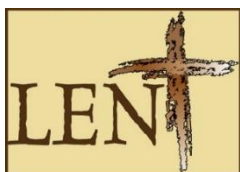
Self-identification will provide access to culture and language programs and monthly programming for students and families. Relevant information will be sent directly to you about upcoming cultural events and opportunities which help to build community and a sense of Indigenous pride in Dufferin-Peel.

To learn more about opportunities for Indigenous students and families please visit:

<https://www3.dpcdsb.org/students/indigenous-self-identification>

### *Let Us Fast*

*While fasting with the body,  
brothers and sisters,  
let us also fast in spirit.  
Let us lose every bond of iniquity;  
let us undo the knots of every contact made by violence;  
let us tear up all unjust agreements;  
let us give bread to the hungry  
and welcome to our house  
the poor who have no roof to cover them,  
that we may receive mercy from Christ our God. - Byzantine Vespers*



## **Upcoming Events:**

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



### **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.  
Albert of Jerusalem

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

Morning Star School Rosary

### **Thursday, April 10, 2025**

Michael visits (Seminararian)

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

Grade 3: Swim to Survive (Final class)

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

Palm Sunday

### **Wednesday, April 16, 2025**

Father Adam visits

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

Holy Thursday: Stations of the Cross  
Lenten Pretzels handed out

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

Good Friday: No School

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

Easter Sunday

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

Easter Monday: No School

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

Earth Day: Wear blue and green today!  
Int Basketball Miss West Tournament

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

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

### **Friday, April 25, 2025**

Int Chess Team @ Board Tournament (Pocock)

### **Monday, April 28, 2025**

Confirmation Retreat @ Merciful Redeemer

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

Intermediate Ottawa Trip

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

Catholic Education Week

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

Confirmation @ Merciful Redeemer

### **Wednesday, 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

### **May 26-29, 2025**

Little Mermaid Week @ OLMCY

### **Monday, June 9, 2025**

PD Day: No School for students

### **Wednesday, June 25, 2025**

GRADUATION!

### **Friday, June 27, 2025**

Last day of school!