



Weekend Update: Monday, April 14, 2025

Our Lenten Journeys have taken us all the way to Holy Week. Yesterday we celebrated Palm Sunday where we heard the Passion of Jesus retold, reminding us of the extreme sacrifice made for us, from love. This Holy Week, may we take time for prayer as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter. May we all continue to make room in our hearts for God. At Our Lady of Mercy School, we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday at 1:00. Parents are welcome to join us. We thank Mlle. Hinterhoeller for her efforts preparing her class and our choir for this special liturgy. Following the presentation, students will be given their pretzels, a special symbol of Lent. Thank you to all the families who have made a donation to ShareLife on schoolcash online, by paying for a pretzel. The money raised will directly help those in our community who need some hope. I also thank everyone who has donated soap as part of our soap drive.

Last week our Intermediate Girls Basketball team competed in their Pod Tournament. They had a fantastic day, meeting some tough competition and although they did not qualify for the Family Tournament, they worked together as a team and continued to develop skills both on and off the court! Great work, Mercy Magic! Our Chess Team and Intermediate Boys basketball team continue to prepare for their next competitions, and we saw the first meeting of a brand-new club, “The Reading Club”, led by Ms. Nguyen. Students are invited on Tuesday’s during lunch recess to simply go to Room 116 and read! We have many very avid readers in the school, so this is perfect for them! Our Eco Club continues to work on new initiatives with the hope of keeping us as a Platinum Eco School, and I think their efforts are paying off! Don’t forget to bring your reusable water bottles and litterless lunches on Fridays! Every little bit helps. Stay tuned for some more exciting events, including taking some time on Earth Day to get outside and do some spring cleaning, and participation in “Bike to School” Week at the beginning of June!

As we look ahead to this week, we allow Holy Week to take the lead and be our focus. We do have a few special items to point out... The graduating class of 2025 will be invited to receive nominations for Valedictorian, and all our graduates will bring home information about their special ceremony at the end of June. Families who purchased chocolate from our Mercy Magic Easter Fundraiser will be able to pick up their orders as of Tuesday afternoon (after 2:00) so you can get all your Easter baskets filled in time for family gatherings on the weekend! Of course, we also have a short week, with Friday being a holiday in honour of Good Friday. Let’s make this week one that is filled with Love, our virtue for the month of April, as we remember the great love that Jesus showed for all of us in making the ultimate sacrifice of himself, to save us.

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 DiCerbo	Night Custodian
Jeremiah Scott	Night Custodian

Purdy's Orders: Pick-Up



The Purdy's orders are in and can be picked up by parents on Tuesday, April 15th starting at 2:00. All chocolate orders must be picked up from the office by parents/guardians.

Pizza Day/Popcorn Orders:

Orders for Popcorn are now closed on schoolcash online, but Pizza orders are open for a few more days! Don't miss out on the final order of the school year.

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 6 Vaccination Consent forms:

Information regarding consent for the Peel Public Health Vaccination Clinic for the 2025-2026 school year was sent home with our current Grade 6 students. Please complete it and return to the school; we will forward it to Peel Public Health on your behalf.

Dental Screening: May 6, 2025

Consent forms for Dental Screening for students in JK, SK, and Grades 2, 4, and 7 all went home last week. Our Dental screening date is Tuesday, May 6th. Please return the forms indicating your consent or opting out of the screening so we can have lists prepared for Peel Public Health. Should you have any questions about the screening, please contact the school.

Parent Engagement Opportunity: St. Elizabeth Seton School

Please see the flyer attached to the Weekend Update email about a special Parent Engagement night at St. Elizabeth Seton School on Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 in their gym. The event is being facilitated by BRAVE and will discuss issues around bullying.

Grade 3 Swim To Survive:

Congratulations to our Grade 3 students for the completion of their Swim to Survive program! Great work!!

Thrive: April Community Newsletter

You will find the April edition of the Thrive Community Newsletter attached to the Weekend Update email.

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

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

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

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. 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 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>

A Prayer for Holy Week:

Almighty God, as we journey through this Holy Week, open our hearts to the profound mystery of Your Son's sacrifice. Help us to truly see the love and grace that led Him to the cross. May we find strength and hope in His suffering and resurrection. Grant us the grace to walk with Him on His path, embracing the joy of Easter's promise. Amen.



Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, April 14, 2025

Valedictorian Nomination Forms handed out

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Purdy's Pick-Up (Office at 2:00)

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Father Adam visits

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Holy Thursday: Stations of the Cross (1:00)
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
Grade 5 Trip: Peel Safety Village

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

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Report Card Distribution (Via Email)

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

GRADUATION!

Friday, June 27, 2025

Last day of school!

