



Weekend Update: Thursday, April 17, 2025

On March 5th we marked our foreheads with ashes as we began to journey through Lent in preparation for the sacrifice, death, and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. Today, on Holy Thursday, we gathered as a faith community to witness a beautiful presentation/liturgy by Mlle. Hinterhoeller's class and our Mercy Magic choir. I want to thank everyone who played a role in preparing and presenting this afternoon. The Stations of the Cross allowed us to reflect, in a prayerful way, on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us as we wait to rejoice with our risen Lord. I also want to thank the parents who joined us today, as well as Mr. DiRenzo, for his efforts to prepare the space.

This week the Graduating Class of 2025 brought home information regarding their Graduation Ceremony and Luncheon on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at Millenium Gardens Banquet Hall. We are asking that the grads return the form that went home indicating their transportation at the conclusion of the dance/luncheon. Parents will also find the Grad Luncheon in their School Cash Online account, but please note payment is not due until the middle of June. We also handed out nomination forms for students interested in representing their class as Valedictorian. Election speeches for the Valedictorian will take place during Catholic Education Week. Finally, we also invited the graduates to create an invitation/program cover. We cannot wait to see the creations.

Throughout the week we also had the first tryouts for the Intermediate co-ed Soccer team and our "Girls at Bat" program had their first after-school session. The Coaches are so pleased with the enthusiasm and turn-out. Our Intermediate Boys basketball team continues to prepare for the Family Tournament, and our Intermediate Chess Team is preparing for the Board tournament! Both are after we return from the Easter long weekend. Our Eco Club has been busy preparing activities for Earth Day (April 22nd) and the cast of Little Mermaid continue to rehearse for the production at the end of May. It is wonderful that our students are able to get involved in such a wide variety of clubs, activities, and teams throughout the year.

Thank you again to all the families who supported our Mercy Magic Easter Fundraiser, we were so happy to hand out all the chocolate that will undoubtedly make your family, friends, and children, quite happy this weekend. I also want to thank everyone who made a donation to Sharelife through the "pretzel" order. Everyone was given a pretzel right after Stations of the Cross, and they were very well received!! Our donation to Sharelife ensures that families in our community will get the support and care that they need. We have raised over \$300.00 for this wonderful charity so far.

I want to wish everyone a wonderful Easter. May you have an opportunity to reflect on the passion of Christ, and rejoice in His resurrection, Alleluia!

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

May Butterfly Cookies:

Information sheets went home today about butterfly cookies for the month of May. The window for ordering will be short, so don't miss your chance to purchase. Cookies will be delivered on Tuesday mornings around first recess.

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 have been sent home. 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.

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.	Subway Order from Lunchbox on SchoolCash by previous Sunday at noon.	Lunchlady 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!	Harvey's 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.

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.

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!

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>

Draw Us Forth

*Draw us forth, God of all creation.
Draw us forward and away from limited certainty
into the immense world of your love.
Give us the capacity to even for a moment
taste the richness of the feast you give us.
Give us the peace to live with uncertainty,
with questions,
with doubts.
Help us to experience the resurrection anew
with open wonder and an increasing ability
to see you in the people of Easter.*

- Author Unknown

*He is
not here,
He has
Risen!*
Luke 24:6

Upcoming Events:

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

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

Monday, May 5, 2025

Valedictorian Election

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Dental Screening: JK, SK, 2, 4, 7

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Team/Clubs Picture Day
Confirmation @ Merciful Redeemer



Friday, May 9, 2025

CEW Liturgy @ 1:15

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Grade 4-8 Track and Field Day

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

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Miss. West Family of Schools Soccer
Tournament

May 26-29, 2025

Little Mermaid Week @ OLMCY

Monday, June 9, 2025

PD Day: No School for students

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Miss. West Track and Field Meet

Thursday, June 19, 2025

FDK Celebration of Learning

Friday, June 20, 2025

Athletic Banquet

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Report Card Distribution (Via Email)
Year End Mass @ 10:00

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

GRADUATION!

Friday, June 27, 2025

Last day of school!