



Weekend Update: Monday, May 5, 2025

Welcome to May! The first week of May brings us not only the hope for warmer temperatures, the signs of nature waking up from the long winter slumber, but also the excitement of Catholic Education Week. We began the school year with prayers during morning announcements related to the themes of Catholic Education Week and throughout the year we have reiterated that we are pilgrims of hope, together, on our faith journey through the jubilee year. This week, we see the blooming of these seeds we have planted throughout the past months, with daily activities, and reflections throughout the school. We invite parents to join us on Friday afternoon as we gather after lunch to celebrate the learning through a very special Catholic Education Week Liturgy, led by our Youth Faith Ambassadors, where students will present artifacts of the work they have done as pilgrims of hope in honouring human dignity, caring for creation, responding to human poverties around the world, serving in solidarity, and living as peacemakers. Just like the planted seeds that are now taking root and blooming in our gardens, we continue to plant seeds of hope and the virtues for everyone in our community, and love to watch our students bloom as they demonstrate the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations which we will honour at Graduation in June.

Along with Catholic Education Week, we are also celebrating Mental Health Awareness Week. Our Well-Being Leaders have a wonderful week of activities planned for our community including daily spirit days, classroom activities focused on well-being, and some extra fun during several lunch recesses. Together, we hope to continue to “unmask mental health” as the theme for the week asks. We will be focusing on well-being, celebrating our diversity, and having some fun! Please see the list of Spirit days a little further along in the Weekend Update.

Last week was another busy one at Our Lady of Mercy School. Perhaps the most eventful activity was our Intermediate trip to Ottawa! It doesn't feel that long ago that we began planning this action-packed adventure, and now our students have been and returned. We look forward to hearing all about their experiences this week and I want to thank Mr. Galbraith for his efforts planning and organizing the three-day excursion along with Mlle. Colavecchia, Ms. Donaher, Mlle. Hinterhoeller, and Mr. MacSporran for giving up time with their families to spend with our students last week in Ottawa. Along with Ottawa, our students preparing for their Confirmation made their way to Merciful Redeemer Parish for a special retreat day on Monday, Mrs. Fang's Grade 5's and Mr. MacSporran's class spent a day at Peel Safety Village, our Intermediate Boys Basketball team competed in the DPCDSB Board Tournament and lost a heartbreaker in the Semi-Finals and many of our other clubs and groups continued to meet.

This week, along with Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Awareness Week, our Graduates will nominate their Valedictorians, Peel Public Health will be here for Dental Screening (JK, SK, 2, 4, 7), we will have our Team/Club Picture Day for the yearbook, and several students will participate in the Shining Stars event at St. Aloysius Gonzaga CSS. We will also celebrate all our Intermediate students being Confirmed in their faith!

Leslie Marchand

May's Virtue: Acceptance

If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. (1 Cor.12:26-27)

God wants us to make friends with everyone no matter how different they may look or act.

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
Vacancy	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 Ezzo 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

Mental Health Awareness Week: Spirit Days

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Workout Day: Wear your favourite team shirt/jersey. Activities/games led by Well-Being Leaders at Lunch Recess	Celebrating Uniqueness: Wear your clothes backwards, inside out, or mis-matched to show how we are all unique!	"Twin Day" Dress the same as a friend or classmate to show how we are not alone! Dance Party in the Gym at Lunch	"The Many Colours of Me" Wear bright colours, or tie dye to represent the many emotions we all feel.	"Feel Good Friday" Wear your comfy clothes, or favourite pyjamas today.

Along with our spirit days and daily class activities based on the themes identified above, each class will also honour a "Wellness Success Day". This day is intended to be a low-stress day, allowing students the opportunity to get caught up on work, consolidate learning, and review! Perhaps they may even set some new goals for the final weeks of Term Two. Most of our classes are having their "Wellness Success Day" on Friday.

Team/Club Picture Day

On Wednesday morning, students will be invited to come to the gym to have their picture taken with the teams and clubs they have participated in throughout the year. These pictures will be used in the yearbook! The yearbooks will be on sale soon!!

Dental Screening Forms:



Dental Screening will take place on Tuesday of this week. Thank you to all the families who have returned forms. You may be getting a call from the school if you have not yet informed PPH of your consent. Students will be called to the Conference room for the screening. Only students with consent will be screened.

AYSP and DPCDSB Parent Workshop Series on Promoting Positive Behaviour

Associated Youth Services Peel and DPCDSB invite parents/guardians of youth age 12+ to virtual group sessions during the month of May. The purpose of the sessions is to promote positive behaviour in youth and prevent problematic behaviour such as substance use and internet overuse.

The three parent workshop topics include:

[Parenting in the Digital Age Balancing Screens and Social Media – Tuesday, May 13, 2025 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Building Resilience and Managing Stress in Youth – Thursday, May 22, 2025 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Fostering Positive Parenting and Communication – Wednesday, May 28, 2025 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.](#)

Click each title above for more details about the topic and the link for registration. Each session requires separate registration. Parents/Caregivers can attend one or more sessions. Sessions will be broadcast via Zoom.

Parent Engagement Evening: Systems Navigation

DPCDSB, in collaboration with the DPCDSB Black Community Advisory Council (BCAC), is hosting a Systems Navigation Night on **Wednesday, May 21, 2025, from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM at St. Augustine Secondary School, located at 27 Drinkwater Road, Brampton.**



This event will focus on ways to navigate the education system as Black students and families. During the evening, there will be a presentation from the Guidance Department, covering topics such as how to choose courses, understand prerequisites, and advocate for oneself in the guidance office. Additionally, there will be smaller presentations detailing both in-school supports and community support services. The Systems Navigation Night is open to DPCDSB families with students in grades 7 – 12+ who wish to attend.

Interested families are invited to register early, as capacity is limited.

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: St. Augustine Secondary School, 27 Drinkwater Rd, Brampton

Registration: [linked here](#)

Target Audience: DPCDSB families with students in grades 7 – 12+

EQAO Webinar for Parents and Guardians of Elementary School Students:

Register for this free live webinar about EQAO’s Primary and Junior Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Participants will learn about the purpose of Ontario’s large-scale assessments. EQAO staff will explain the assessment format, highlight resources to support students, and answer questions from participants. The session is approximately 45 minutes, followed by a live Q & A with EQAO staff.

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

Registration Links:

- [Tuesday, May 6, 2025](#), 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Parent Engagement Evening: STEAM – Tuesday, May 6, 2025

DPCDSB, in collaboration with the DPCDSB Black Community Advisory Council (BCAC), is hosting a parent engagement evening highlighting the importance of representation in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) will be hosted on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. located at St. Margeurite D'Youville Secondary School, 10815 Dixie Rd, Brampton.

This event will focus on highlighting Black representation in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math, while showcasing potential careers, and identifying multiple pathways to STEAM industries. The evening will feature a keynote presentation from a Black female leader in STEAM industries, and offer opportunities for students to engage in hands-on STEAM activities. The STEAM Parent Engagement Night is open to DPCDSB families with students in grades 7 – 12+ who wish to attend.

Interested families are invited to register early as capacity is limited.

Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: St. Marguerite D'Youville S.S., 10815 Dixie Rd., Brampton

Registration: Please indicate interest in the event on the form [linked here](#)

Target Audience: DPCDSB families with Black-identifying students in grades 7 – 12+



Click [here](#) to access a flyer advertising the event

Grade 6 Vaccination Consent forms:

This is the final call for Vaccination Consent forms. We will be forwarding all of the forms to PPH this week.

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](#).

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 Popcorn	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

Thank you to the parents who joined us for our Catholic School Council meeting this week and also participated in the DPCDSB Public Budget Information Webinar. Our next Catholic School Council meeting is Monday, June 2, 2025. 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 us all as Pilgrims of Hope

Dear Lord,

We ask for your blessing as we journey as Pilgrims of Hope who honour human dignity.

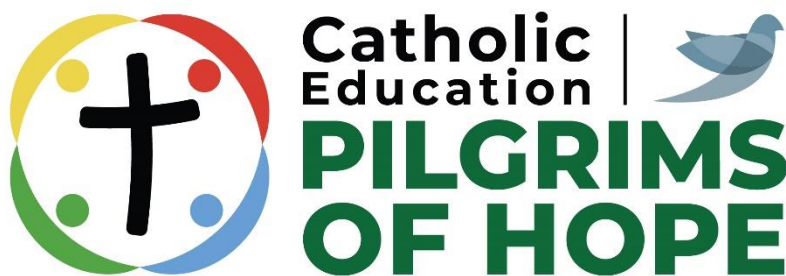
Guide our minds and fill our hearts with hope.

Nurture our relationships and help us to see your divine image in each other and give us courage to work for justice.

May the flame of hope be enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit and reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

We ask all this in Jesus' name.

Amen.



Upcoming Events:

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

May 5-9, 2025

Catholic Education Week
Mental Health Awareness 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)

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Grade 6 Flight Museum Trip

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
Journey Into Learning @ 6:00

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!

