

DIVINE MERCY MESSENGER

October Edition 2024

Divine Mercy Catholic School



Principal: S. Viola

Administrative Assistant: R. Panousis

Trustees:

Wards 9 & 10: Brea Corbet 905-301-9373

Wards 6 & 11: Luz del Rosario 416-528-6447

Wards 2 & 8: Herman Vilorio

Superintendent of Mississauga West: Laura Odo

Catholic School Council Co-chairs 2024-2025: Tannice Ashman & Angela Trewartha

Parish- Merciful Redeemer Pastor: Rev. James (Seamus) Hogan, Associate Pastors: Rev. John Sutka and Rev. Adam Pantaleo

Parish Number [905.812.0030](tel:905.812.0030) Parish E-mail: <https://mercifulredeemermi.archtoronto.org/>



Divine Mercy
Catholic Elementary School

Contact Information:

Email: divinemercyinfo@dpcdsb.org

Website: <https://www.dpcdsb.org/DMRCY>

Location: 2840 Duncairn Dr, Mississauga L5M 5C6

Phone: 905-812-5445

Twitter: [@DivineMercyDP](https://twitter.com/DivineMercyDP)

School Schedule: Times to remember

- 8:15 - 8:30 Open entry (students to use doorway closest to Kiss n' Ride)
- 8:30- 10:36 Learning Block
- 10:36 - 10:51 Recess
- 10:51-11:31 Learning Block
- 11:31-12:31 Lunch
- 12:31-1:54 Learning Block
- 1:54-2:09 Recess
- 2:09 - 3:00 Learning Block

- 3:00 Dismissal



Translate

Please feel free to click on the Translate button on the newsletter to choose your language of preference! *(Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Italian, Vietnamese, Hindi etc.)*

Merciful Redeemer Parish Bulletin

Trustees Brea Corbet, Luz del Rosario and Herman Viloria



MW Trustees Newsletter October 2024.pdf

Download
465.2 KB



Luz del Rosario
Chair/Trustee,
Mississauga
Wards 6 and 11
(416) 528-6447
luz.delrosario@dpcdsb.org



Brea Corbet
Trustee,
Mississauga
Wards 9 and 10
(905) 301-9373
brea.corbet@dpcdsb.org



Herman Viloria
Trustee,
Mississauga
Wards 2 and 8
(416) 452-9345
herman.viloria@dpcdsb.org



Catholic Education | PILGRIMS OF HOPE

**“We must fan the flame of hope
that has been given to us.”**

Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022

Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations: I have a voice!



- I speak, write and listen as Jesus would want me to
- I care about others and speak up for them
- I am honest
- I think carefully before I react or speak
- I respect all people and their languages
- I listen to the Word of God

Because I have a voice, I will use it lovingly, and I will live my life like Jesus.

Virtue of the month: Empathy

The virtue of the month of October is empathy.

An Empathetic Person..

- Is confident in the dignity of selves and others
- Believes that the cross is the ultimate sign of forgiveness
- Seeks and grants permission

Judge your neighbor's feelings by your own, and in every matter be thoughtful. (Sir. 31:15)



Virtue of Empathy through Social Justice

God wants us to care about everyone's feelings. Empathy is the ability to put oneself in another's shoes and the capacity to feel what the other person is feeling. When we are unable to fully understand another individual's perspective because that is not our lived experience it is integral that you believe and trust that individual's story. Tatiana Mac, engineer, writer and speaker explains this in one of her talks. "Empathy is feeling what someone else is feeling. It is attempting to crawl into their minds and hearts and experience what they're experiencing...We cannot feel what it is to be anyone but ourselves. Instead of trying to feel something we can't truly know to validate it, we should *trust* others' experiences." This perspective offers up a new way to understand Empathy...as a way to validate, believe and trust the lived experiences of individuals that differ from our own to promote justice

Month of October: A Marian Month

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily because the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7. It was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. That is why Pope Francis has invited all the faithful to pray the Holy Rosary every day in October.

V. Pray for us, Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O God, whose only begotten Son, by his Life, Death and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech you, that we who meditate on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the blessed Virgin Mary, may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

MYSTERIES

JOYFUL MYSTERIES (Monday and Saturday)

Annunciation; Visitation; Nativity; Presentation; Finding in the Temple

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES (Tuesday and Friday)

Agony in the Garden; Scourging at the Pillar; Crowning with Thorns; Carrying of the Cross; Crucifixion

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES (Wednesday and Sunday)

Resurrection; Ascension; Descent of Holy Spirit; Assumption; Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES (Thursday)

Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan; Manifestation of Jesus at the Wedding at Cana; Proclamation of the Kingdom of God; Transfiguration of Jesus; Institution of the Eucharist

1877 10/20

How to Pray the Rosary



1. Make the Sign of the Cross and say the "Apostles' Creed."
2. Say the "Our Father."
3. Say three "Hail Marys."
4. Say the "Glory Be."
5. Announce the First Mystery; then say the "Our Father."
6. Say ten "Hail Mary's," while meditating on the Mystery.
7. Say the "Glory Be," then say the "Fatima Prayer."
8. Announce the Second Mystery; then say the "Our Father." Repeat 6 and 7 and continue with Third, Fourth and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.
9. Say the "Hail Holy Queen."



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Knights of Columbus

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.

Amen.

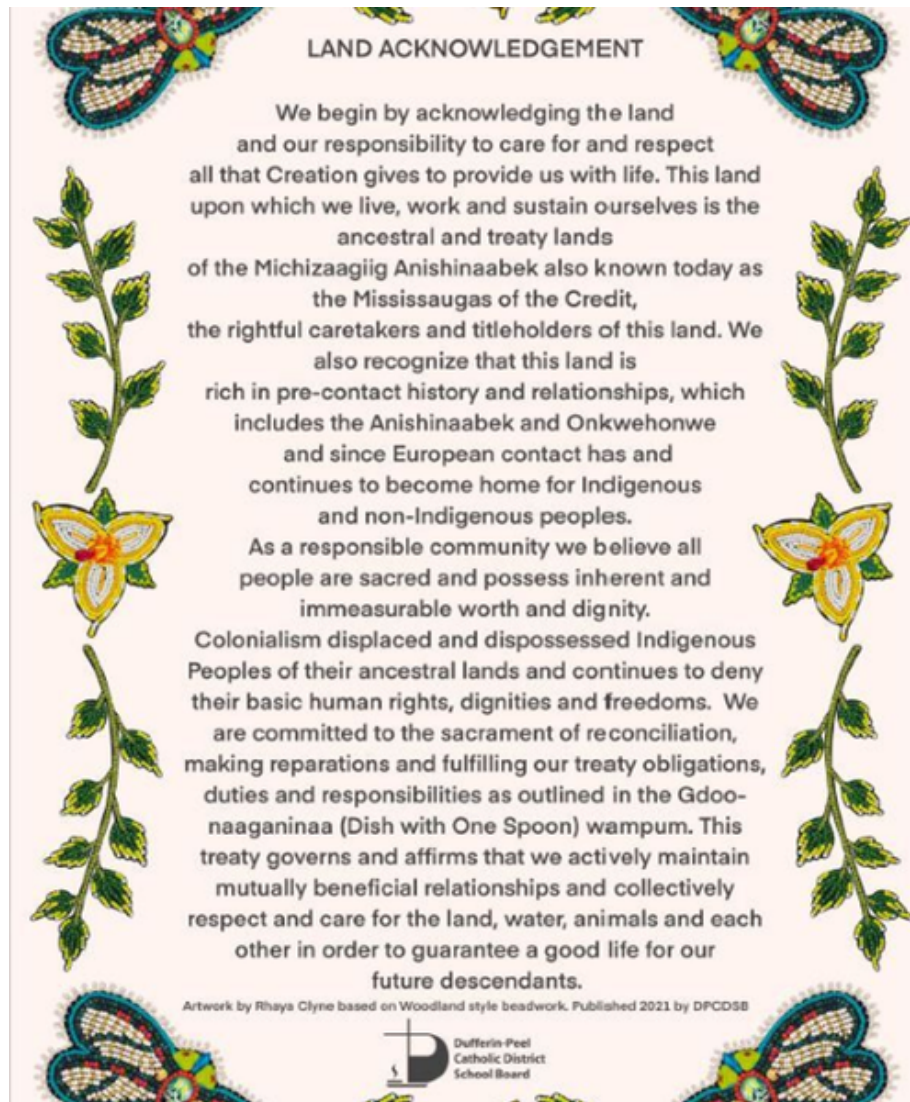
OUR FATHER Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GLORY BE Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

FATIMA PRAYER O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy! Hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope! To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears! Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!



Students and Families who identify as First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board is providing an opportunity for students to self-identify their First Nation, Métis and/or Inuit ancestry in a voluntary and confidential manner. This program will allow the Board to provide expanded supports, events and opportunities to First Nation, Inuit and Métis students. Indigenous students and families will have access to culture and language programs, funding opportunities through potential scholarships and bursaries, and monthly programming for students and families. Relevant information will be sent directly to students and families about upcoming cultural events and opportunities which help to build community and a sense of Indigenous pride in DPCDSB.

Watch what Indigenous students and family members have to say about their experience:

<https://youtu.be/7-fagy-27rQ>

For more information and how to self-identify please visit:

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

Congratulations to our newly elected Catholic School Council for the 2024-2025 year:

Co-chair: Angela Trewartha

Co-chair: Tannice Ashman

Secretary: Tashani Parker

Treasurer: Michelle Ferreira

Parish Representative: Elaine Dantas

OAPCE Representative: Sarah Carson

Teacher Representative: Daniela Letterio

Community Member: Pam Leermakers

Principal: Sandra Viola

Voting members: Paula Mendonca, Lisa Bitonti-Bengert, Deanna Catania, Jessica Clayton, Jonathan Walker, Vivian Correa-Pinto, Pearl Mofunanya



Welcome and thank you to all parents for attending our first meeting.

Our next Catholic School Council Meeting will be on Monday, November 4th @ 5:30 pm.

****All parents/guardians are welcome to attend Divine Mercy School Council meetings.**

September Highlights

Open House



Thank you very much to all families who visited our Open House on September 19th. It was a lovely community event. We appreciate all of your purchases at the Book Fair. You helped raise about \$1900.00 that will go towards more books/ products for our

school library that all students will be able to enjoy. We hope everyone was able to enjoy a delicious ice cream treat!

Opening School Mass

We are so blessed to have Father John lead us in mass this year and join us at the school for regular visits. Brother Michael will also be making regular visits every other Wednesday.



Divine Mercy's Marathon of Hope Success

Our Terry Fox 'On the Move' Marathon took place on Friday, September 20, 2024. The staff and students had a beautiful day to walk together for a great cause. We at Divine Mercy are very proud to have surpassed our school goal of \$500.00 for the Terry Fox Foundation this year. Thank you to all who donated! Thank you for continuing your generous support this year and over the many years. It is greatly appreciated!



Pizza Tuesdays: Thank you Council

Pizza days are finally here! Students have been asking for pizza days for weeks. Rememeber to make your purchases through cash online. Our first pizza day took place on Tuesday, October 1st. We thank the parents and grade 8's for helping deliver the pizza. The attached information was sent out a few weeks ago.



Divine Mercy School Advisory Council Presents ...

Session 1 Pizza Tuesdays!!!

September 17, 2024

Dear Divine Mercy Families:

We are very happy to announce the return of our **Pizza Tuesday Luncheons**. Starting October 1st, 2024, students can participate in a weekly pizza lunch, by Pizza ~~Pizza~~. This is one of our major fundraisers for the school year.

There will be 18 pizza days, every Tuesday from October 1, 2023-February 11, 2025 (this excludes Christmas break) and one more session will follow from February 18th – June 24th. Payments for this session can be made online anytime from September 17th-25th, 2024 through School Cash Online. *Please note, any orders received after the Online Payment is closed may not be processed in time for the first / Pizza Day of Session 1 on October 1st.*

We will once again be offering a choice of cheese or pepperoni pizza! **Each child can choose 1 or 2 slices of either pepperoni or cheese, the may not choose both.**

Session 1 - \$2.50 (1 slice) x 18 weeks = \$45.00 or \$5.00 (2 slices) x 18 weeks = \$90.00

Since no paper forms will be sent home, all ordering records will be processed through the online system. Nothing could be easier as it's safe, secure, convenient and instantaneous – no money to send in with your child to get lost in their backpack.

All payments are to be made through SCHOOL CASH ONLINE ONLY from Sept. 17th – 25th

There will be no cash sales for pizza slices on our pizza days. Credits will not be issued for missed days (i.e. family holidays/sick/absent days). However, if a child is away on pizza day, it will be kept in the office fridge for up to two days for the child to pick up if desired.

All volunteers will also wear gloves when handling any pizza for distribution. **As always, parent volunteers are welcome and needed.** Volunteers are required to have a valid Criminal Reference Check form filed with the school. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by sending an email (divinemercyinfo@dpcdsb.org) or a note to the school office (attention: DM School Council – Pizza Committee 2024-2025).

Thank you for your continued support!
DM School Council – 2024-2025

Truth and Reconciliation Week and Orange Shirt Day

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day took place on September 30th. Orange Shirt Day is an indigenous led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of "Every Child Matters." The orange shirt is a symbol of stripping away culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by indigenous children over generations.

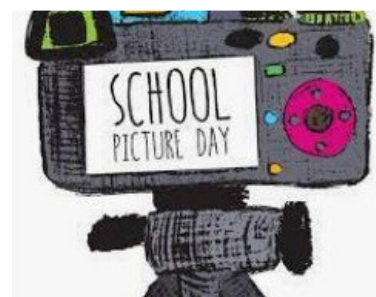


Upcoming Events in October

Photo Retake Day

Photo day took place this past Tuesday, October 1st. For those who missed it,

Reminder: Photo retake day will take place on Monday, November 4, 2024.



Thanksgiving Food Drive

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor
~ Proverbs 22:9

Divine Mercy is holding a Food Drive from October 7th- 16th which is World Food Day. All non-perishable foods collected will be donated to Eden Food for Change, which serves over 500 low-income families every month through their Food Bank programs.

You may also make a monetary donation virtually <https://edenvfd.org/find>

Halloween School fundraiser: More info forthcoming next week



A preview of what's to come:

- All day Halloween dance fundraising party to support school-sponsored student experiences and trips to offset costs related to transportation and programs.
- themed baskets created by each class
- pumpkin decorating

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO!!

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

Equitable and Inclusive Education Best Practices

At the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, we work collectively to fulfill our vocational call as Christians by ensuring that all are welcomed, included and valued. As a system we know that equity and inclusion are valuable contributors to overall student success and as a faith-filled community we are committed to ensuring that all students are engaged and feel welcomed and included in every aspect of school life. The DPCDSB seeks to uphold the human dignity of all as we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

Why is this Important?

When choosing a costume for Halloween, be mindful of the way your choices impact those around you. Ensure that your costume choice does not dehumanize anyone, in particular, any group that experiences oppression due to systemic barriers.

It is important to note that in compliance with Ontario's Human Rights Code, The Code prohibits actions that discriminate against people based on a protected ground in a protected social area.

Some of the protected areas include, but are not limited to: Ancestry, Colour, Race, Ethnic Origin, Place of Origin, Religion, Creed, Disability, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Sex and Sexual Orientation.

Impact over Intent

Concerns arise when people consider using characteristics, stereotypes and stigmas of a culture – clothing, accessories, skin color, and/or religion – and replicating them into a costume. Consider impact over intent. Whether it is intentional or not, wearing certain costumes has real consequences and negatively impacts the people that deal with this kind of discrimination on a daily basis.

Safe and Inclusive

It is important to keep Halloween safe and inclusive by leaving culturally insensitive, racist and sexist stereotypes out. Protecting and upholding the human rights and dignities of all individuals is a shared responsibility and choosing a costume that is offensive, hurtful or potentially harassing and/or discriminatory in nature goes against the Catholic Social Teachings and values of inclusion here at the DPCDSB.

Culture is not a costume. Trying on another race, culture or identity contributes to stereotypes and causes real harm to communities that have been historically marginalized and who continue to face systemic oppression today.

Gender Identity is not a costume. Gender stereotypes have been used to perpetuate harm. Should you choose to dress as the opposite gender, consider whether you are mocking gender traits or enforcing harmful gender stereotypes.

Ask yourself:

- Does this costume make fun of human traits, identities, cultures, or race?
- Does this costume reduce culture or identity to stereotypes?
- Who might be harmed by my choice of costume?
- Is this costume depicting and perpetuating a stereotype or stigma associated with a particular race, culture, gender, ability or religion?
- Does this costume include a replication of a garment or item that is a significant component of a particular religion or culture of which I do not identify with?
- Is this costume depicting a historical time-period where that look/costume is now considered offensive and discriminatory?
- Does this costume represent elements of a culture or cultural practice that is being commodified for consumption?
- Can I confidently say that this costume choice would not be considered offensive to a particular race, ethnic origin, ability, gender or religion?

Remember:

Halloween can be a time for fun. Think critically and creatively when choosing a costume that honours the dignity of each human person, so that everyone can enjoy themselves.

Costume ideas should avoid the following:
(Please note that this is not an exhaustive list)

- Any cultural stereotype
- Blackface, Brownface
- The Covid-19 pandemic
- A person with differing abilities
- People with mental illness
- Body shaming
- Body objectification
- Animal cruelty
- Culturally specific references: e.g. Day of the Dead, Hula
- Differing lived realities e.g. homelessness, imprisonment
- Anything trivializing
- Anything mocking gender identity
- Anything transphobic
- Depictions of violence

Adapted from: <https://rightsinfo.yorku.ca/inclusive-halloween-costumes/>

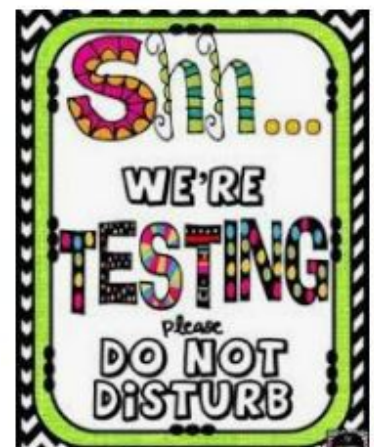


CCAT Testing

We will be having our annual CCAT Testing for all grade 4 students on Monday, October 28th, Tuesday, October 29th and Wednesday, October 30th. The Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT) is administered system-wide annually with Grade 4 students as part of the gifted screening process. Additionally, the CCAT test results provide valuable information for all students and can be used to help identify at-risk students and adapt instruction.

CCAT is a test that measures:

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving skills
- Learning ability
- Ability to digest and apply new information



The CCAT testing will be administered using an **online assessment**. Students completing the testing will require a Chromebook that will be provided in class. More information will be coming soon!

Peel Public Health: October 2024 School E-Blast



LetsTalkAboutVaping.pdf

[Download](#)
508.3 KB



For Parents Guardians_PPH October E-Blast_Elementary-Middle.pdf

[Download](#)
315.6 KB

Reminders for 2024-2025: Classroom Allergens



Divine Mercy is an allergen aware school. There are pupils and staff in attendance who suffer from severe and life threatening allergies to certain foods, such as dairy, peanut and nut products. Exposure to even the smallest quantities can cause severe life threatening reactions. Anaphylaxis is a severe and life threatening allergic reaction. The most common allergen triggers are food, insect stings, medications, and latex. An anaphylactic reaction involves symptoms from two or more body systems. We would appreciate the cooperation of the entire school community by

NOT sending any lunches or snacks that contain nut or nut by products which could potentially harm a pupil. Please make sure that all of your children's caregivers are aware of the food restrictions. Students are also encouraged daily to wash their hands before and after eating meals. Please do not send food for birthdays or special occasions . We look forward to your co-operation in making this a safe year for all of our pupils

Concussions and Head Injuries

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has developed a Concussion Policy and Guidelines for students who have been diagnosed with a concussion by either a medical doctor or nurse practitioner. School staff cannot diagnose a concussion. Anytime a student reports to the office with a head injury, the parent/guardian will be contacted and the incident will be entered into the school's "Documentation of Head Injuries" log. This is precautionary only, and we ask that you check your child when he/she gets home for any signs of a concussion or illness. We will also encourage you to go onto our school website, where a brochure containing information about Concussions is provided. Again this is a precautionary measure and for information purposes.



Bus Loading Zone: NO PARKING

Please be reminded that the front of the school is designated as a "Bus Loading Zone." Parents/guardians are not permitted to pick up or drop off students in this zone. The safety of our students is our priority. Please drop off or pick up students in the designated school parking lot or the Kiss and Ride area.



School Hours

Arrival

Students will be provided access to the school beginning at 8:15 am each morning. Please note that there is no teacher supervision of students in the school yard prior to this time. Parents are not permitted to enter the school doors with their child(ren). Doors will be locked again after the bell. If students arrive late, they must go directly to the office for a late slip.



Dismissal:

We will be dismissing students at the conclusion of the school day, at 3:00pm. If you have a child in the primary grades, teachers will wait with them until they are directly given to an adult listed on his/ her pick up list. If you have an older child, please ensure that they know how they are getting home and with whom. Bus students will begin loading the bus right at the bell.

Make a plan!

It is so important for families to always establish a plan for how children are getting home and students are leaving school by 3:00 pm. Please be sure to share this plan with your child's teacher.

If the plan should change, please be sure to let the school know, so we are aware.

Lunch Drop off



Please ensure that your child arrives at school with all the items they need for the day. We realize that there will be occasions where students forget something at home. You can ring the doorbell outside for the office, and parents/guardians who are dropping off items/lunches for their children can leave at the front table upon entering the school. Please label the item clearly with your child's name and class.

Safety in the Schoolyard

Children need frequent reminders that name-calling, put-downs and violence are never appropriate responses to disagreements or arguments, regardless of the provocation. Parents are urged to rehearse assertiveness skills with their children such as saying firmly, — “Please Stop”, “I don’t like it when..” “Leave me alone”



Playground Safety Rules:

- * Respect each other by being polite, friendly and co-operative
- * Keep hands and feet to yourself
- * Allow others to join in your games
- * Play fairly and safely
- * Play with acceptable toys and equipment
- * Respect school property
- * Line up quietly when the bell rings
- * Avoid conflicts and injuries
- * NO standing in the middle or walking through active games
- * NO leaving school property
- * NO name-calling or making fun of others, using inappropriate language or gestures
- * NO fighting, pushing, tripping, lifting, grabbing, body-checking, scratching, pinching, spitting or biting
- * NO unsafe or rough games: wrestling, tackling, play fighting

Remember to: THINK before speaking— Is it Thoughtful, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary, Kind?

Clubs and Activities

Thank you to all the staff and grade 8 students that continue to dedicate their time and energy to allow for many additional learning opportunities outside the classroom. Activities that are already underway include:



- Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Well-being and health leaders/ representatives-Intermediates
- Primary Lego club and Board Game club- grade 8 leader
- Basketball club-- grade 8 leaders
- softball club-grade 8 leader
- Thanksgiving Food Drive Committee
- Girls club
- Choir
- Office helpers and washroom/hall monitors- grade 5, 6 and 8 leaders



Upcoming PD Day and Holiday

The school is closed to students on Friday, October 11th, 2024 for our PA Day, and on Monday, October 14th for Thanksgiving.



2024-2025 Approved School year Calendar

Important Dates

Tuesday, October 1st- PHOTO DAY!

Wednesday, October 2nd- Catholic School Council meeting @ 5:30 pm/Holy Communion meeting with parents @ 7:00 pm/ first pizza day

Wednesday, October 9th- Confirmation meeting for parents @ 7:00 pm



Thursday, October 10th- Family Cross Country Meet

Friday, October 11th- PA Day: Provincial priorities

Monday, October 14th- Thanksgiving/ No school

Wednesday, October 23rd- Bus Driver Appreciation Day

Tuesday, October 24th- Board Cross Country Meet

Monday, October 28-30th- CCAT testing

Thursday, October 31st-HALLOWEEN/ Dance-a-thon

World Teacher's Day: Saturday, October 5th



S

Sandra Viola

Sandra is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters