

Divine Mercy Messenger

December Edition 2024



Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary 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:

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

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

MERCIFUL REDEEMER PARISH
2775 Erin Centre Boulevard, Mississauga, ON L5M 5W2
<https://www.mercifulredeemer.org>

Christmas Concert/Sunday, 1st December 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Advent Parish Reconciliation/ Wednesday 18 December 2024
7:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES/ Tuesday 24 December 2024
4:00 p.m./6:00 p.m./9:00 p.m./Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY/ Wednesday 25 December 2024
8:30 a.m./10:00 a.m./12:00 Noon
(There will be NO evening Mass)

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS/Tuesday 31 December 2024
7:00 p.m.*

***Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and
Benediction at Midnight**

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Day

Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, 1 January 2025

10:00 a.m. & 12 noon

(There will be NO 8:30 am Mass & NO Evening Mass)

Important Dates and Sacramental Information

First Confession (Parent and Child): Wednesday, February 26th from 4-6:30 pm

Rite of Confirmation: Wednesday, May 7th @ 7:00 p.m.

First Communion: Sunday, May 25th @ 3:00 p.m.

Trustees Brea Corbet, Luz del Rosario and Herman Vilorio

Community Information and School Updates

Thrive Newsletter: December Edition

Dear Divine Mercy Families,



As we welcome December, we also welcome the season of Advent. Advent is a time of great preparation as we anticipate the coming of Jesus into our hearts. The birth of Jesus brings great joy and a renewed sense of life.

On behalf of Divine Mercy Catholic School, we would like to extend warm Christmas blessings to you and your families. May the promise of Christmas help to show God's boundless love for you and your family, and may you be blessed with good health, prosperity, and happiness throughout the New Year as we strive to work with and for you in providing excellence in Catholic Education.

Be well this Christmas holiday season, take care of one another, and we will see you again in 2025 when we return to school on January 6th. May the peace of the season bring you great joy.

♥Divine Mercy Staff



Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations: I am a learner for life!

- I use my gifts and talents given to me by God
- I always do my best I build on my strengths and weaknesses
- I set goals
- I accept change
- I am proud of the good things I do
- I am thankful for the gifts of others

Because I am a learner for life, I can reach for my dreams, by living my life like Jesus.

Virtue of the month: Hope

The virtue of the month of December is HOPE.

God helps us to keep on working for a more peaceful world even when we feel discouraged. A hopeful person is ...

- inspired and inspires others
- always counts on God to help them in tough situations
- trusts that things will work out in God's way
- one who sees the good in the world



Virtue of **Hope** through Social Justice

God helps us to work for a more peaceful world even when we feel discouraged. Hope is the virtue of relying on God. It keeps us searching for true happiness and sustains us during hard times or discouragement. In *Open Wide Our Hearts*, Pope Francis told members of the U.S. Congress, “the effects of unjust structures and actions are all too apparent. Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples.”

The Season of Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. The four weeks of Advent lead up to the celebration of Christmas. Advent's familiar sights and sounds stir in us a readiness to receive our Saviour, while sharpening our sense of the world's need for redemption and of the great mystery of God becoming human for us. Advent is a Latin word meaning the coming. The season of Advent is a time to prepare to celebrate the three comings of Christ: his lowly birth in the past, his mysterious coming to the world in the present, and his promised return in Glory at the end of time. Advent is a special time of waiting. Since the latter half of the 6th century, Christians have set aside the four weeks before Christmas to remember and to celebrate that Jesus Christ is the one who comes. It is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness. Traditional symbols and customs help us to celebrate this special time of waiting

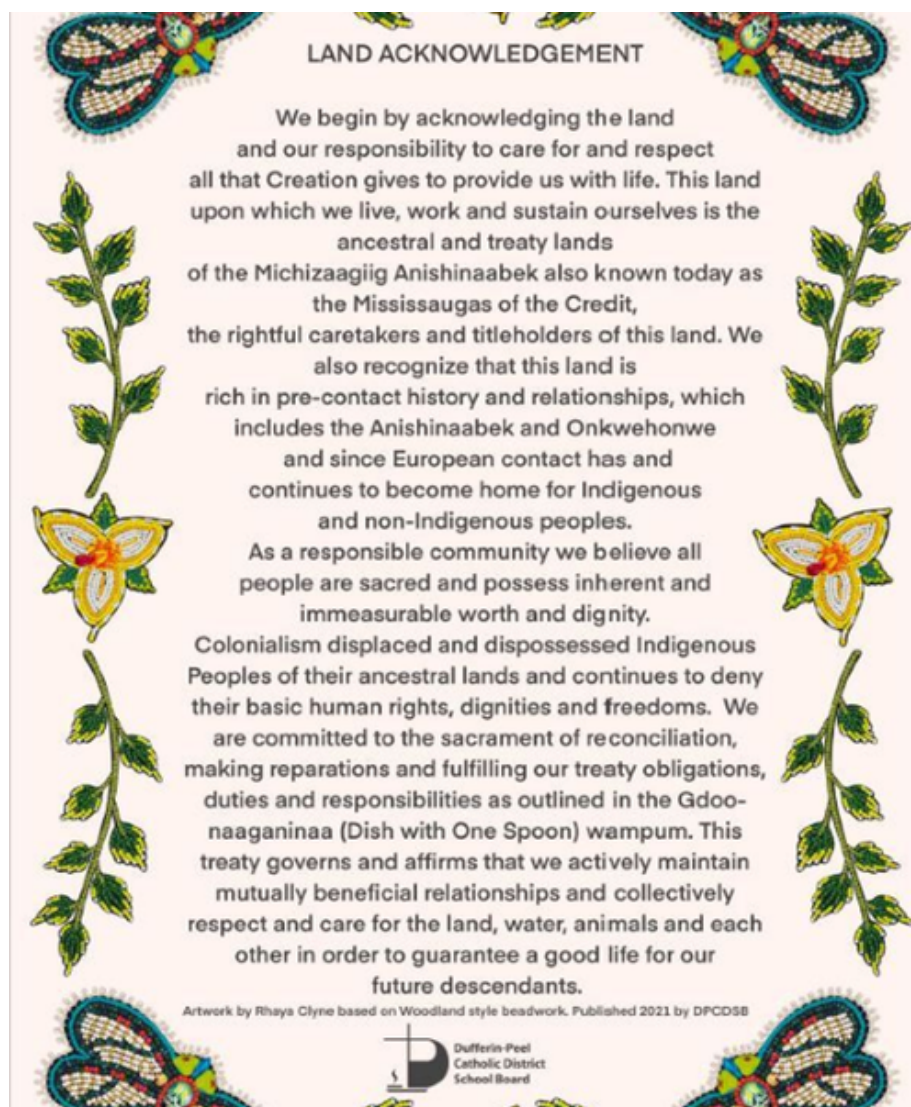


The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is used to help us prepare for Christ's coming. We use evergreen branches to make the Advent wreath. These stay green all year long. This reminds us that God and His love for us never changes. The circular shape reminds us of God Himself,

His eternity and endless mercy, his never ending love for us, which has no beginning or end. The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent or the four Gospels; unlit they represent the ages “sitting in darkness” awaiting the coming Christ; the growing circle of light represents the “approaching” light of the world. Three of the candles for the wreath are purple, as a sign of our need to repent and turn back to God in preparation for Jesus' coming. During Advent we try to say that we are sorry for not loving Jesus

enough and we promise to try hard to do better in our Christian walk. The fourth one, lit on the third Sunday of Advent, is rose or pink to express our joy that Christmas is so close. Some Advent wreaths have a large white candle in the center, the 'Christ Light', to be lit on Christmas Eve to herald the birth of Jesus. Each time we light a candle on the Advent wreath we are reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. His teachings are our guiding light. If we listen to what he wants us to do, we will be happy with him forever.



The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) is committed to supporting Indigenous (First Nation, Métis, and Inuit) students and families in our schools. If you are First Nation (Status or Non-Status Indian), Métis, or Inuit, you are invited to self-identify as Indigenous. No documentation or proof of ancestry is required. Self-identification is voluntary and confidential. Self-identification will provide access to cultural and language programs, as well as monthly programming for Indigenous students and families. Relevant information will be sent directly to families about upcoming cultural events and opportunities which help foster a sense of community and Indigenous pride within Dufferin-Peel. For more information about the self-identification process and opportunities available to Indigenous students and families, please visit our Indigenous Self-Identification webpage. If you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact DPCDSB's Indigenous Education Coordinator, Jodie Williams, at jodie.williams@dpcdsb.org

December Plan/ Christmas Spirit Weeks

December Plan of Events:

Sunday, December 1st: The beginning of Advent marks the integration of Advent themes/activities across various subjects with the focus always remaining on the values of hope, love, peace and generosity. We aim to strengthen student's understanding of Christmas, the true significance of Jesus' birth and as always, the goal of always deepening their faith and relationship with God and others.

Monday, December 9th: Advent Mass with Father John @ 9:00 am / **All parents/guardians welcome.** This will be followed by our Advent Retreat Day with participation of all students

December 9-13th: Spirit Week with an emphasis of Keeping Christ in Christmas (see attached flyer/ 1st poster).

December 13th/16th: Christmas Card making/ whole school -Ms. Viola will be delivering the cards on behalf of our community to Wellbrook East and West long-term care Seniors homes the week of the 16th.

December 16 and 17th: Students will be busy with dress rehearsals throughout these days prepping their spectacular performances. Practice makes perfect!

December 16-20th: Fun Christmas Spirit Week

December 18th: Christmas Event for English stream from 1:00-2:30 pm. (please bring an unwrapped gift and 1 item for food donation) **Welcome parents/guardians!**

December 19th: Christmas Event for FI stream from 1:30-2:30 pm. (please bring an unwrapped gift and 1 item for food donation) **Welcome parents/guardians!**

December 20th: LAST DAY before Christmas holidays. Ms. Viola will host Christmas Trivia throughout the day.

It will be an engaging month full of fun and Christmas cheer, while always keeping in our minds and hearts that:

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!!

Monday, December 9th	Tuesday, December 10th	Wednesday, December 11th	Thursday, December 12th	Friday, December 13th
"Angels Among Us" Day Wear WHITE or ANGEL WINGS and focus on being "messengers" of kindness and goodwill.	Nativity Character Day Dress as different characters from the nativity story - shepherds, wisemen, angels, or even animals!	Silent Night Day Wear DARK and COMFY clothes to encourage a quiet day of reflection and silent prayers.	"Jesus is the Light" Day Wear YELLOW/GOLD or other bright and glowing colours to represent Jesus as the Light of the World.	"Christmas Colours of Christ" Day Wear colours that symbolize the birth of Jesus - PURPLE (royalty), GOLD (the star), and WHITE (purity)



Council Corner

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



Our next Catholic School Council Meeting will be on Monday, January 13th @ 5:30 pm. Join us in person or virtually. A link will be sent closer to the meeting date.

Kindergarten Registration for 2025-2026 Open Now

It's Kindergarten Registration time!

Start the journey into learning with us!



Children born
in 2020 or 2021
can start
Kindergarten in
September 2025.

The following documents are required for registration:

- proof of age of the child (birth certificate or passport);
- original Roman Catholic baptismal certificate
 - an original Roman Catholic baptismal certificate (for child and/or parent/guardian), or;
 - an original baptismal certificate (for child and/or parent/guardian) from a church that is in full communion with the Holy See of Rome, or;
 - an original baptismal certificate (for child and/or parent/guardian) from an Eastern/Byzantine Rite of the Roman Catholic Church.
- proof of Canadian citizenship (birth certificate/passport) or permanent resident status;
- proof of home address (two of the following: property tax bill, current utility bill, real estate document or Government of Canada issued forms);
- emergency rural address numbers, if applicable;
- immunization - report your child's immunizations to Region of Peel Public Health or Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health online and give the reference number to your child's school when registering.
- proof of English Separate School Support (may be provided at the time of registration by completing an Application for the Direction of School Support and/or a Separate School Lease Agreement available at the school). *All documentation must be in English.

Register online for the 2025-2026 school year at dpcdsb.org



Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open

 **Region of Peel**
working with you



December 2024 School Health

E-Blast

from **Peel** Public Health



For Parents-Guardians - Peel Public Health December Eblast

Download

273.5 KB

November Highlights



Enjoying a day at the Winter Agricultural Fair!

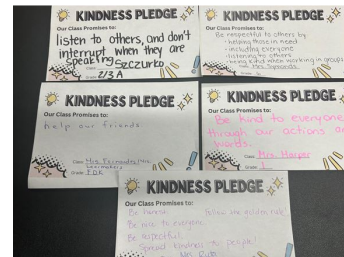
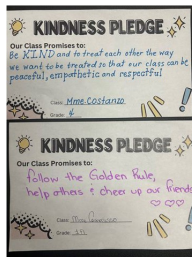
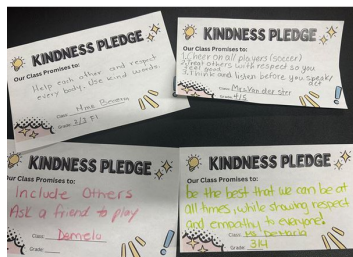


Grade 4 FI students visit OLOM



A fun time with new friends!

Spread kindness like confetti!!



Students were challenged to come up with a classroom pledge of how to spread kindness in our school community and everywhere they go!

BULLYING PREVENTION & AWARENESS SPIRIT WEEK



1

Monday: Spread Kindness Like Confetti



Today, think about one small act of kindness you can do that might brighten someone's day. How can you spread kindness like confetti?

2

Tuesday: Superhero Day



Every superhero stands up for others! Who will you stand up for today, and how can you be a hero to someone who needs it?

3

Wednesday: Day of Pink

Wearing pink shows that we care. Think about ways to make everyone feel included today.

How can you show others they belong?

4

Thursday: Give Bullying a Rest (PJ Day)



As we relax in our pajamas, let's think about ways to create a safe, peaceful environment for everyone. How can we help each other feel at ease?



5

Friday: PA Day

No school – reflect on a great week of kindness and unity!

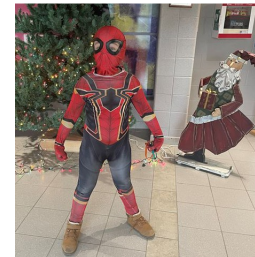
Join us each day to stand up, spread kindness, and make a difference!



Our brave superheroes
saying NO to bullying!



Stand up and be brave!



Dressed for success!

Free Choice at recess!



Reading a book in the 'chill zone'.



Friends use their skills to create a mini catapult.



Intrigued with bey blades!



Responsible hall monitors on the job.



We should be profesional soccer players!



Nothing better than playing soccer!

Grade 7 and 8's at Teen Ranch



Grade 5 and 6 Religious Retreat



Grade 7 and 8 Religious Retreat @ Merciful Redeemer Parish



Grade 8 visit to Gonzaga



Attendance and Punctuality

We ask that parents continue to support their children in their morning routines so that they can arrive to school on time. This ensures that your child learns an essential life skill, participates in the entire school day, and that disruptions to the learning environment are minimal.



Reporting Student Absences: Safe Arrival through School Messenger

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has implemented a new student absence reporting system that will make it easier for you to report your child's absence from school. This new system is called SafeArrival. With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of the following three convenient options:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home>)

- The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account.
- Select Attendance then Report an Absence

• 2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home> .

- The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account.
- Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

• 3. Call the toll-free number 1.844.435.3440 to report an absence using the automated phone system. For Student Being Late to School or Early Departure from School.

- The automated message will prompt you to enter ABSENCE for student, and will ask if the student be ABSENT today, tomorrow etc.
- To this question, please say 'yes' to absent as the next question will be to enter the type of absence and will give you options of full day, late, early departure leave and return.
- The above 3 options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week.
- Future absences can be reported at any time

- NOTE: For absences greater than five consecutive days, please call your child's school directly.

- ***Remember to: Please report absences in advance using SafeArrival instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.***

Safe Arrival

Appropriate Dress: Cold weather

The days are getting colder and pretty soon winter will arrive. It is important for students to come prepared to participate in all activities, including outdoor recess. We ask that students dress appropriately for colder weather by having coats, hats, scarves, boots and mittens or gloves. For health reasons, and to keep the school clean, we ask all students to have indoor shoes. Please note that in the event of an emergency evacuation, students will not have the opportunity to put boots on. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

The students should have a pair of indoor shoes to wear at school in class and for gym. Outdoor shoes/ boots will be kept for outdoor use only and out of the classrooms in order to reduce the amount of dirt and mud brought indoors. This will assist our custodial staff in keeping the school clean and safe. Thank you for your co-operation.

STOPR Fall/Winter Newsletter



Fall and Winter Newsletter.pdf

[Download](#)
214.8 KB

STOPR Inclement Weather Page

Winter is fast approaching and it's important that everyone riding a school bus is familiar with STOPR's inclement weather and cancellation procedures.

As part of these procedures, the Region of Peel has been divided into three weather zones as weather conditions may require cancellation in a specific zone or zones. STOPR will monitor weather and road conditions and when it is necessary to cancel transportation due to inclement weather, STOPR will cancel by "weather zone." (i.e., Zone 1, Zone 2 and/or Zone 3).



How do I find out what weather zone my school is in?

It is important that all families know what weather zone their school is assigned to. You can find a weather zone map and weather zone descriptions on this page.

A complete list of schools and assigned weather zones can be found on our [Weather Cancellations](#) page.

Parents can also log into our [Parent/Student Portal](#) to access their children's' busing and weather zone information.

How are Weather Cancellations Communicated?

School bus cancellations will be communicated by the appropriate weather zone number prior to 06:00am each morning through the following:

1. STOPR X account [@STOPRinfo](#)
2. On the STOPR [Delayed Buses](#) webpage
3. On school board websites – [dpcdsb.org](#) and [peelschools.org](#)

What if I live in a different weather zone than my school?

Most families live within their school's weather zone.

For families who happen to live outside of their school's weather zone, they should review the STOPR weather zone map and confirm what zone their home address is located within.

On inclement weather mornings, these families will need to monitor the [STOPR website](#) for both their "school weather zone" and "home weather zone" for cancellations.

For families who live outside their "school weather zone," their transportation will be cancelled if either their "school weather zone" cancels or their "home weather zone cancels."

Zone #1: The City of Mississauga
Zone #2: The City of Brampton **South of Old School/Healey Road
Zone #3: The Town of Caledon **North of Old School/Healey Road

Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR)

Website www.stopr.ca X [@STOPRinfo](#) Phone (905) 890-6000 or 1-800-668-1140

School bus winter safety tips to help keep your children safe:

- ✓ Make sure children are dressed appropriately for cold weather as unexpected mechanical problems with a school bus can occur.
- ✓ Know your bus pickup time in the morning and always arrive at your bus stop at least 5 minutes early. Allow extra time to get to your school bus stop during the winter months.
- ✓ Parents/Guardians are responsible for the safe conveyance of their children to and from the bus stop location.
- ✓ Kindergarten and grade one students must always be accompanied to/from their bus stop location.
- ✓ Kindergarten and grade one students must always be met at the bus stop at the end of the day by a parent/guardian or caregiver.

A friendly reminder to the families of students who are requiring the service of a wheelchair bus, your driveway must be kept cleared of snow and ice to avoid a disruption in the service.

What should you do if your bus is late or cancelled?

It is important to talk to your children about what to do if their school bus is delayed or cancelled on inclement weather mornings.

Do your children have a plan if their bus does not arrive?

Do your children have an emergency contact person?

(i.e., neighbour, friend, relative etc.) who they can call or go to if their bus is delayed or does not arrive to pick them up in the morning.

Bus Route Numbers:

All STOPR bus routes have an assigned route number. This number will be displayed in the side window of your bus.

It is important that you know your child's bus route number, not only to ensure your child is boarding the correct bus each morning, but you will also need the route number when you check for delay or cancellation info on our website.

For more information on STOPR's inclement weather procedures and weather zones, please visit our website at stopr.ca and click on "Inclement Weather."

STOPR encourages all parents to set up an account on stopr.ca to access their children's bus information and receive automatic delay and cancellation alerts. As a subscriber, you can receive alerts by email or SMS text message. For more information on how to subscribe to alerts, please visit our [Subscribe for Alerts](#) page.

Clubs and Activities

Thank you to all the staff that continue to dedicate their time and commitment to allow for many additional learning opportunities outside the classroom. Activities that are already underway or soon to be underway include:



- Junior and Intermediate basketball
- Well-being and health leaders/ representatives-Intermediates
- Primary skipping and basketball club
- Primary Lego club and Board Game club- grade 8 leader
- Girls club
- Choir (Advent Mass)
- Office helpers and washroom/hall monitors- grade 5, 6 and 8 leaders
- Library helpers
- Elementary Skills competitors
- Rugby club
- Junior and intermediate Girls and boys soccer

Press Pause Mondays

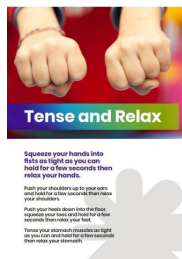


Students continue to be introduced to The School Mental Health Ontario's well-being strategies. The intended goal of these strategies is to support the emotional, mental and social development of all which ultimately impacts the ability to thrive in all aspects of life, especially academically and personally/socially. Week 1 & 2: The focus was on the muscle relaxation strategies of 'tense and relax' and 'let it go.'

Week 3: The focus was on gratitude moments and taking the time to acknowledge we have a lot to be thankful for.

Week 4: our latest strategy focuses on self-talk and four finger affirmations.

We've taken the time to practice these strategies and you can continue utilizing these at home also. You know best as parents what strategies might serve to benefit your child when overcoming challenging situations.



Tense and Relax



Let it Go



Gratitude Moment



Four Finger Affirmations

Select four words that make you feel calm and confident. It might be a sentence or just four words.

Examples: "I am loved today"
"I believe in me"
"Breathe, listen, smile, love"
"I can handle this"

Each word you have chosen will match a finger on your hand.

As you say your affirmation in your head, connect each finger with your thumb.

Keep In Mind

- The more you say this to yourself the more you will feel that what you say is true.

School Mental Health Ontario

2024-2025 Approved School year Calendar

Important Dates

Sunday, December 1st: 1st Sunday of Advent/ Light a candle of Hope

Sunday, December 8th: 2nd Sunday of Advent Mass/ Light a candle of Peace

Monday, December 9th: Whole school Advent Mass/ Advent Retreat Day

Sunday, December 15th: 3rd Sunday of Advent/ Light a candle of Joy

Wednesday, December 18th: Christmas Event for English stream

Thursday, December 19th: Christmas Event for French Immersion

Friday, December 20th: Last day of school before Xmas break

Sunday, December 22nd: 4th Sunday of Advent/ Light a candle of Love

Wednesday, December 25th: MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Wednesday, January 1st: Happy New Year!!
Monday, January 6th- First day back to school

S

Sandra Viola

Sandra is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

