



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School Newsletter, September 6, 2017

Principal:	Mrs. Patricia Flagler-Edwards	Vice-Principal:	Mr. Stephen Tod
Superintendent:	Ms. Theresa Kennedy	Trustee:	Mr. Brian Kerby
School Council Chair:	Mrs. Jenny Hudder	Pastors:	Fr. Scott Murray
School Council Treasurer:	Ms. Tracy Allan		Fr. Malacky Ekezie
School Council Secretary:	Mrs. Suzy Shalla		Fr. Ron Meyer
School Council email:	omercs@alcdsb.on.ca		
School Phone No.	613-332-3300	Custodian:	Miss Darlene Storey
School Fax No:	613-332-0523	Administrative Assistant:	Mrs. Lois Lalonde
School Website:	http://schools.alcdsb.on.ca/omer	Follow us on Twitter:	@alcdsb_omer

Please take a look at our Website, see above for information, and to sign up for the newsletter to be emailed directly to you.

Dear Parents and Students:

We welcome our returning students and families and extend a special greeting to the students and families who just joined the Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School community. We look forward to a year that is filled with expectations, opportunities and friendships. We welcome our new staff members: Mr. Stephen Tod (Vice Principal); Mrs. Sherry Meszaros (Grade 3/4 Teacher) and Mrs. Kelli Ronholm (Grade 6/7 Teacher).

As you may be aware, our sister school, St Martin of Tours has undergone some renovations this summer and we have entered into a space sharing agreement with Whitney Public School. This is a new and unique arrangement and we are looking forward with great excitement about our new partnership and new opportunities for our students, staff and parents. On that note, I wanted to let you know that I will be spending more time at St. Martin of Tours this year (at least initially) as we move forward with this new venture. My current plan is to be at St. Martin of Tours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. I will return to Our Lady of Mercy for the afternoon of those days and plan to be in Bancroft all other school days unless Board based meetings take me off site. Thank you for your **patience** and understanding.

*Mrs. Patricia Flagler Edwards,
Principal*

2017-2018 STAFFING



Classroom Teachers:

JK/SK	Ms. Vicki Cole
JK/SK	Mrs. Melissa McCormack
Grade 1	Mrs. Lori Cannon
Grade 2/3	Mrs. Shauna Rumleski
Grade 3/4	Mrs. Sherry Meszaros
Grade 4/5	Mr. Robert Lalonde
Grade 6/7	Mrs. Kelli Ronholm
Grade 7/8	Mr. Tony Fitzgerald
SERT	Ms. Tara McEnery

F.S.L.	Mme Tracy Peters
Itinerant Arts:	Ms. Hali Letwin

Early Childhood Educator:

Ms. Jennifer Knopp

<u>Youth Worker:</u>	Mrs. Joanne Prentice
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Educational Assistants:

Mrs. Debbie Bowers
Mrs. Joan Fitzgerald
Mrs. Paula Young

Library Resource

<u>Assistants:</u>	Mrs. Brenda Gabourie
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<u>Speech & Language:</u>	Mrs. Brenda Gabourie
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SCHOOL HOURS:

8:45	Entrance Bell
10:45 – 11:00	Morning Recess
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch Hour
3:00 – 3:10	Afternoon Recess
3:15	Dismissal Bell



Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board
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www.alcdsb.on.ca

PLEASE NOTE: There is NO STAFF SUPERVISION available on the yard before 8:25 a.m. (when the first bus arrives at the school). Therefore, we ask that if parents are driving their children to school that they **do not drop them off before 8:25 a.m.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS
REGARDING STUDENT ABSENCES**

We are required to report all student absences (e.g. an illness, parental permission, bereavement, medical appointment, etc.).

Parents are required to call the school and/or write a note to the school explaining the reason for the absence or lateness of your child. You need not reveal any personal facts, just the general reason for the absence.

For your convenience, an evening or early morning message may be left on the school's voice mail system.

LATE ARRIVALS: By making sure that your child arrives on time for school, you are helping your child to achieve his/her personal academic best. Parents should encourage arriving at school on time. If your child arrives late, the class may already be well into instruction.

All classes at OLM begin at 8:45 a.m., so if your child arrives at 9:00 or 9:10 a.m., precious minutes of learning may have been lost! Research shows that punctuality promotes a positive attitude toward school.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
FOR PARENTS**



THE SCHOOL PROTOCOL WITH RESPECT TO BUSING AND CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION IS PRINTED ON PINK PAPER. PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS: It is imperative that you inform the school immediately whenever a change occurs in your family information (e.g., change of address, telephone number, busing information, sitter information, etc.). Also, if applicable, the school must receive

copies of legal documents. **The school can only enforce child custody orders by following written court directives.**

VISITS TO THE SCHOOL

Visitors are always welcome to our school, but in light of the times in which we live, it is vital that we continue to ensure the safety of all persons in the building. Therefore, please be aware that the following safety procedures need to be adhered to:

PLEASE DO NOT PROCEED INTO THE SCHOOL OR TO A CLASSROOM. PLEASE REPORT TO THE OFFICE WHERE WE WILL TAKE LUNCHES, BOOKBAGS, & STUDENT MATERIALS. WE WILL ENSURE YOUR CHILD(REN) RECEIVE(S) THEM.

SCHOOL SECURITY SYSTEM

OUR SCHOOL HAS A SECURITY BUZZ-IN SYSTEM IN PLACE. THE DOORS TO THE SCHOOL WILL BE LOCKED DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME FROM 8:45 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. YOU WILL NEED TO BUZZ THE OFFICE TO GAIN ENTRY INTO THE SCHOOL. **ALL** PARENTS AND VISITORS MUST THEN SIGN IN AND REPORT TO THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY UPON ENTRY TO THE SCHOOL.

PLEASE REMEMBER ONLY STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED ON THE YARD. PLEASE DO NOT JOIN US ON THE YARD. IF YOU ARE PICKING UP YOUR CHILD OR VISITING A STAFF MEMBER THEY WILL MEET YOU AT THE OFFICE.

PARISH SUPPER



The annual **Our Lady of Mercy Parish Supper** will be served in the Our Lady of Mercy School gymnasium on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th** from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The meal will feature ham and roast beef, home made salads, home made baked beans and home made pies. The cost is \$13.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under (children 5 and under are free). There will also be a Silent Auction, Raffle, and Curiosity Shoppe. All are welcome – please come and join us.

TERRY FOX RUN



This year's run will be held at the school on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th**. Pledge forms will be coming home with the students very shortly.

CODE OF CONDUCT: A copy of our Code of Conduct - Practices & Procedures for Our Lady of Mercy School is available on our school website (under About Us) at www.alcidsb.on.ca/school/omer. Please review behaviour expectations with your child(ren). Our classrooms and playground are places of peace and safety when everyone acts with kindness, respect and forethought. Thank you for your support!

Bringing of Personal Items to School

As stated in our Code of Conduct Students should only bring to school items that are related to instruction and/or appropriate recreation at recess. Should students choose to bring their own devices to school for instructional purposes they will assume the risk of loss, damage, and/or possible theft. Classroom teachers, in consultation with the Principal and their students, will develop classroom protocols regarding the use of personal devices. Items not approved by the Principal or classroom teacher will be taken and parents will be contacted.

FAMILY BBQ



Our families are all invited to a BBQ and Literacy Celebration hosted by the School Council on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th**, beginning at 5:00 p.m. This is an informal evening to give parents an opportunity to meet the Teachers and the current School Council Members and to visit their child's classroom. If anyone would be interested in helping, please fill in the School Council volunteer form or contact the school office at 613-332-3300. We hope that everyone will be able to attend. Additional information will follow.

ALLERGY ALERTS!

Please be advised that we currently have students with severe peanut/nut and latex allergies. As a school community, it is our responsibility to ensure the health and safety of all our students.

Therefore, the entire school including both portables are designated as "peanut free" zones and "latex free" zones.

MILK & JUICE SALES



White milk, chocolate milk and juice will be available on a daily basis starting next week **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th**. Milk cards can be purchased weekly at a cost of **\$5.00** or monthly at a cost of **\$20.00**. The cards are valid for 5 weekly purchases or 20 monthly purchases and have no expiry date. We have found that this is the best way to handle milk sales, as the cards eliminate cash handling during the busy noon hour.

INDOOR SHOES



A reminder, that all students must have indoor shoes at school to put on when they come in from the yard. Outdoor shoes/boots are taken off when they enter the school. If there is a fire drill or a real emergency situation that requires students to evacuate, there is not time for students to put on their shoes before exiting the school.

MEDICATION PROTOCOL: All medication to be taken by students during the school day must be kept in the office and administered under the supervision of an adult (usually an educational assistant, principal or secretary). **At the beginning of each school year**, parents must fill out an “Administration of Medication” consent form (available on school website under Parent Info – Important Information), which indicates the reason for the medication, name of drug, routine of administration, and parent’s authorization for designated staff to supervise or administer medication. **All medication is to be stored in the original packaging and carefully labelled.** A log of all administered doses is kept in the office. **Medication cannot be administered until forms are completed.**



We are looking for parents to join our School Council for the 2017-2018 school year. Nomination forms (green) are coming home today.

OPPORTUNITIES: Please read the salmon coloured notice coming home today regarding opportunities for volunteering at our school. Please complete the form and return on or before **Sept. 22nd**. Thank you.



NO CHILD WITHOUT

This program provides students, from age 4 to 14, with 24 hour protection of MedicAlert emergency information services at no cost. Some conditions emergency responders need to know are: **Anaphylaxis, diabetes, food allergies, asthma, needs Epipen, Autism, ADHD.** Please contact the school for the brochure that will allow you to order a MedicAlert bracelet/necklace.

STUDENT HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS: Parents/guardians should inform the school immediately of any health issues that we should be aware of (e.g., severe allergies, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, physical limitations, etc.).

PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE) CONTROL: Spring and fall are the seasons when **HEAD LICE** commonly infest school children. Head lice feed on blood and cement their eggs, commonly called nits, to strands of hair at the scalp. The nits take approximately 7-10 days to hatch. The bite of a louse causes itching which can be aggravated and infected by scratching. Please check your child’s head on a regular basis. If you find evidence of head lice or nits, information about how to remove them is available from your **family doctor, health unit and most pharmacies.** Our trained volunteers will be conducting pediculosis checks throughout the school year.

BREAKFAST CLUB

We are hoping to get enough volunteer chefs to begin the breakfast programme as soon as possible. If you are interested in helping out in the OLM kitchen, from 8 – 9 am on Tuesdays or Thursdays, please see the volunteer form coming home today, (salmon) or let the office know so that we can draw up our first month of shifts. Merci,

Mme. Peters

SCHOOL FORMS: Today, your child will be bringing home the following forms and information:

1. **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE FORMS:** This insurance coverage is **strongly recommended**, however, it is completely optional. This insurance covers your child even if an injury occurs out-of-school (e.g. at sports events, etc.). If you are interested in purchasing this coverage, please look at our board web-site, under Parents/Community and scroll down to Student Accident Insurance.
2. **SYSTEM CALENDAR:** A copy of the system calendar is coming home today to all families. (Yellow)
3. **O.L.M. SCHOOL EVENT CALENDAR** for September. (Blue)