



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School Newsletter, September 15, 2021

Principal:	Mrs. Patricia Flagler-Edwards	Vice-Principal:	Ms. Tara McEnery
Superintendent:	Mr. Darcey French	Trustee:	Mr. Peter McEnery
School Council Chair: J. Hudder	Vice- Chair: L. Hetu	Pastors:	Fr. Casmir Muobike
School Council Treasurer:	L. White		Fr. Malachy Ekezie
School Council Secretary:	M. Hicks		Fr. Vic Valles
School Council email:	omersc@alcdsb.on.ca	Custodian:	Miss Darlene Storey
School Phone No.	613-332-3300	Admin. Assistant:	Mrs. Martie Berthelot
School Fax No:	613-332-0523	Follow us on Twitter:	@alcdsb_omer
School Website:	http://schools.alcdsb.on.ca/omer	General School Email:	flhpomer@alcdsb.on.ca

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Thank you once again for your patience as we continue to navigate the waters of schools being open during COVID 19. We are so thrilled to see our students again and we extend a special greeting to the students and families who have 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 Ms. Lyss Parking who will be with us this year while Ms. Patricia Raisanen is on a year leave, as well as Mr. Aaron Parcher who will be with us for the year while Ms. Chrissy Balemba continues in her role at the School Board. We also welcome Ms. Ally Craig and Ms. Sarah Doney as permanent teachers to Our Lady of Mercy and Mrs. Shaloma Batchelor as she begins her role as Youth Worker at Our Lady of Mercy, as well as St. Martin of Tours. Sadly we bid adieu to Mrs. Kelli Ronholm as she starts a new position with the Renfrew Catholic Board as well as Mrs. Debbie Bowers as she begins her retirement.

Mrs. Flagler Edwards, Principal

If your child does not pass the COVID Screening Tool, please follow the instructions provided in the screener as your next steps. You may also wish to visit the [Hastings and Prince Edward Health Unit](#) for more information about Return to School Protocols etc... As you know information and protocols regarding COVID 19 continue to change / be updated so please consult the Health Unit for the latest updates.

Thank you for your understanding and adherence to these Public Health Protocols.

**PLEASE READ - IMPORTANT
INFORMATION ABOUT NEWSLETTERS /
CALENDARS**

We are doing our best to avoid sending items home to you (unless we need a hard copy for our records). **In response, we ask that ALL Parents / Guardians sign up to receive the Newsletter and Calendar via email by the end of September. Please visit Our Lady of Mercy's website and add your name to our Email list. This will be our last hard copy of the newsletter until further notice and we will also be moving to sending out only one newsletter a month until further notice.**

Important Information
Daily Screening Practices & Tools

As you know you, as parents / guardians / caregivers, are to use the [COVID Screening Tool](#) before sending your child(ren) to school each day.

2021-2022 STAFFING



Classroom Teachers:

JK/SK	Ms. Vicki Cole
SK/Grade 1	Mrs. Melissa McCormack
Grade 1/2	Mrs. Lori Cannon
Grade 2/3	Mrs. Sherry Meszaros
Grade 3/4	Ms. Lyss Parking
Grade 4/5	Ms. Ally Craig
Grade 6/7	Ms. Sarah Doney
Grade 7/8	Mr. Aaron Parcher
SERT	Mrs. Shauna Rumleski

F.S.L.	Mme. Casey O'Shea
Itinerant Arts:	Ms. Hali Letwin

Early Childhood Educator:

Ms. Jennifer Knopp

Youth Worker: Ms. Shaloma Batchelor

Educational Assistants:

Mrs. Anna Paula Young
Mrs. Laura Hetu / Mrs. Shaloma Batchelor
(Will share a position until further notice)

Library Resource

Assistant: Mrs. Brenda Gabourie

Speech & Language: Mrs. Brenda Gabourie

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




YARD DUTY

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/guardians are driving their children to school that they **do not drop them off before 8:25 a.m.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS REGARDING STUDENT **ABSENCES**

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

Please use 1 of the 3 ways to notify of your child(s) absence before 8:45 AM

 <p>SchoolMessenger Mobile App</p> <p>SchoolMessenger</p> <p>Download the app from the Apple App store or Google Play store.</p> <p>Sign up to create your account.</p> <p>To report an absence, select Attendance, then Report an Absence.</p>	 <p>SchoolMessenger Website</p> <p>go.schoolmessenger.ca</p> <p>Sign Up to create your account.</p> <p>To report an absence, select Attendance, then Report an Absence.</p>	 <p>Call toll-free</p> <p>1-844-445-4383</p> <p>Call the toll-free number at 1-844-445-4383 to report your child's absence.</p> <p>You will be asked to enter the phone number that you have registered with the school.</p> <p>Follow the prompts to report your child's absence.</p>
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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/Guardians 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/GUARDIANS REGARDING BUSING



PLEASE NOTE: Students can only be dropped off or picked up from a stop assigned in their bus planner. Please contact Tri-Board with any changes or questions you may have. If there are changes we would strongly prefer that a note be sent to the school (e.g. weekly/monthly schedule).

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PARENTS / GUARDIANS: 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

As you know we are unable to allow anyone in the school other than Staff, Students and Essential Visitors. We appreciate your understanding of these changes. Please know that our doors are locked at all times except during the entry of students at the beginning of the day. We will keep you informed, of course, if there are any changes to this protocol.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER ONLY STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED ON THE YARD. PLEASE DO NOT JOIN US ON THE YARD.



Your child(ren) will be bringing home the following forms that will require your immediate attention.

STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS (WHITE). Please fill in any missing information, make changes as appropriate and be sure to fill out **BOTH** sides of the form. *(These are forthcoming)*

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CONSENT FORM (PINK). These need to be filled out and submitted at the beginning of each school year. Due September 23rd *(see attached)*

PLEASE NOTE that the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar can be found on the Board Website at the link below:

<http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/community/Documents/School%20Year%20Calendar%202021-2022.pdf>

TERRY FOX RUN



Our 40th Annual Terry Fox Run is scheduled on Wednesday, September 29, 2021. Please ensure your child(ren) is/are prepared to be outside to participate in the run. Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School is proud to take part in this year's Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope. Please help show your support by donating to: <http://www.terryfox.ca/OurLadyofMercyCSBancroft>

Students can even get involved by creating their own fundraising page under our school name: <https://terryfox.org/schoolrun/students/>

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.alcdsb.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!

Use of Personal Items at 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. Please know that there is **NO** expectation for your children to bring a personal device to school for instructional purposes.

Some teachers have developed Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Contracts in consultation with Principal. If students and their parents decide to bring devices to school as per the conditions

outlined in the BYOD contracts they assume the risk of loss, damage and/or possible theft.

The BYOD contracts clearly outline that personal devices are only to be used during instructional times specified by the teacher and at all other times devices are to be stored in backpacks with all ringers off. Students are NOT permitted to send and/or respond to text messages. Please also know that NO personal devices are to be used at lunch, recesses and/or at dismissal. Should students choose to use them at those times, the device will be taken to the office for the parents/guardians to pick up. Further consequences for use at unauthorized times are outlined in the BYOD contracts.

Communication with our School

We, of course, encourage communication between parents / guardians and the school. Currently our Staff are using different means of communicating with you. Our teachers have been using D2L since last school year and some are currently investigating the use of School Messenger as a means of communication as well. Please also know that you can call the office and be re-directed to the teacher's personal voicemail box. Thank you for your understanding!

ALLERGY ALERTS!

Please be advised that we currently have students with severe peanut/nut. 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. (That includes no "WOW Butter" as well).

MILK & JUICE SALES



Our Milk & Juice sales are post-poned due to COVID-19. We will be re-evaluating the possibility of having our milk program in the future.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS

As with a lot of our usual practices, how we will provide Breakfast Club, Friday Snack Trays and Snack Bins are also being rethought and adjusted. We are not at present able to offer these programs but we continue to work toward solutions. We therefore ask that you be sure to send all that your child needs to eat each day.

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.

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 imitations, etc.).

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION MEDICAL CARE PLAN – PPM 161 REMINDER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

In the next few days, teachers will be drafting and/or updating a Medical Care Plan according to PPM161 to promote the safety and well being of those students, who have been diagnosed with ASTHMA, DIABETES, and/or EPILEPSY and/or are at risk for ANAPHYLAXIS. If you have any questions regarding PPM 161 please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher or myself.

*Shauna Rumleski
Special Education Resource Teacher*

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/guardians 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.**



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.

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.**



We are looking for parents to join our School Council for the 2021-2022 school year. Nomination forms have been sent home.

Please consider attending the first virtual meeting on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th at 6:30 p.m.** School Council Elections will be held at this first meeting. Please return all nomination forms by **SEPTEMBER 22nd.**

OPPORTUNITIES: Please read the (attached) green coloured notice regarding opportunities for volunteering at our school. Please complete *the* form and return on or before **SEPTEMBER 22nd.** Thank you.



Registration is open for the 1st Bancroft Sparks/Brownies/Guides

Guiding is a safe space where girls can have fun, try new things, meet new friends and make a difference in the world. If you'd like to register a Spark (girls in SK to grade 1), Brownie (girls in grade 2-3) or Guide (girls in grade 4-6), on Tuesdays from 6-7:30pm in Bancroft, go to www.girlguides.ca/join_us or email bancroftguiding@gmail.com with questions.

With thanks,
Cara
613-733-3132
[Bancroftguiding@gmail.com](mailto:bancroftguiding@gmail.com)



Dear Parents/Guardians,

This year our class will be participating in the **Scholastic Reading Club program**. Reading every day is the best way for children to become independent readers.

NEW this year, your order will now **ship to your home** and you can order online whenever you want at scholastic.ca/clubshop.

When you checkout, please enter my **Class Code**. When you use my Class Code our class earns **20%** of the value of the order in rewards and you get **Free Shipping** on your order of \$35 or more*. The rewards earned can be put towards books, digital teacher resources, and more!

*Orders below \$35 will be charged \$3.50

Here's to a great year of reading!

Your Teacher

MY CLASS CODE:

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