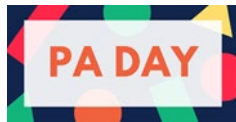




Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School Newsletter, February 2024

Principal:	Ms. Tara McEnery	Superintendent:	Ms. Carey Smith Dewey
Admin. Assistant:	Mrs. Martie Berthelot	Trustee:	Mr. Peter McEnery
School Council Co-Chairs:	L. White & B. Bodden	Pastors:	Fr. Casmir Muobike
School Council Treasurer:	A. Mounthey		Fr. Malachy Ekezie
School Council Secretary:	S. Sinclair		Fr. Vic Valles
School Council email:	omersc@alcdsb.on.ca	Custodian:	Wayne Augustine
School Phone No.	613-332-3300	Follow us on X:	@alcdsb_omer
School Fax No:	613-332-0523	General School Email:	flhpomer@alcdsb.on.ca
School Website:	http://schools.alcdsb.on.ca/omer		



Our Subway day will be Wednesday, February 28th

February 2, 2024 will be a PA Day. Students will not come to school.



Will he see his shadow?

Pita Pit is available through CASHOnline (Lunch Box) every Friday. Please order before Sunday, the week before.



Friday, February 2, 2024 is Ground Hog Day. You can follow here:

<https://groundhogdayroundup.ca/>

LUNCH DAYS!!!!

PLEASE PAY through CASHOnline for ALL of your food orders by February 5th. Sorry but NO orders will be accepted after this date. Please note: If payment isn't made the form will be returned.



Our Pizza Day will be on Thursday, February 8th



Our Board's Outdoor Education Staff will be guiding our Grades 3 to 8 classes snowshoeing at Vance Farm Park on Tuesday, February 6th and Wednesday, February 7th. (originally booked Jan 25/26th but there was a bus cancellation) Please be sure that your children are dressed warmly and in layers for the day as they will be spending a large portion of the day outdoors.



Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board
151 Dairy Avenue, Napanee, Ontario K7R 4B2 (613) 354-2255 / 1-800-581-1116 Fax: (613) 354-4772

www.alcdsb.on.ca



Our next School Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7th @ 6:30 in the Learning Commons. All are welcome!



Candy-Gram Fundraiser

February focuses on "love and kindness." Students are invited to spread love and kindness by purchasing Candy Kabob-Grams for friends and teachers. If your child would like to purchase a Candy-Gram they can fill out a message to go with it and it will be delivered to their chosen recipient. You can purchase as many candy-grams as you want to. Candy-grams can be purchased through CashOnline or Cash (\$4.00 ea) February 5th to February 9th from Faith Life Committee Members in each child's classroom. They will be delivered February 13th. Monies raised will support the Faith Life Committee.

Free Pancake Breakfast



Pancake Breakfast will be held in our gym on the morning of February 13th for Shrove Tuesday. Thank you to our many School Council members and volunteers for preparing some yummy pancakes!



In order to observe Ash Wednesday, we will be having our Valentine's Dance on Tuesday, February 13th.



Ash Wednesday is the first day of [Lent](#). Lent is the forty days (excluding Sundays) leading up to [Easter](#). The number forty is significant as it refers to Jesus' forty days in the desert prior to beginning his ministry of teaching.

On Ash Wednesday, Catholics receive ashes in the shape of a cross on their forehead or sprinkled on top of their head. These ashes are created from the palms used during the previous year's [Palm Sunday](#) Mass. They symbolize penance, which is appropriate as Lent is a season of penance, and remind us of our own mortality. During the Mass, as the priest or lay minister applies the ashes, he says "Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return." Or "Repent and believe in the Gospel". Anyone who attends a Mass can receive ashes, not just practicing Catholics.

There is a School Mass tentatively scheduled for this day at 9:00 am at Our Lady of Mercy Church. All are welcome!



By spreading love and positivity, we can create a more compassionate and caring society. Take this opportunity on February 17th to perform random acts of kindness and inspire others to do the same.

Here are some Random Acts of Kindness Ideas:

1. Smile at or say hello to a stranger.

2. Compliment a friend.
3. Hold the door open for somebody.
4. Pay for the next person in line's coffee or snack.
5. Donate your time to volunteer efforts.
6. Help out an elderly neighbor or relative with their groceries.
7. Call a friend to check in.
8. Donate clothing, canned food, or toys to those in need.
9. Give up your seat to someone who might need it more.
10. Show your appreciation more. For all the good things you do for others on this day, in the week, or even throughout the whole year, it's also important to say "thank you" when we are on the receiving end.



Family Day holiday is Monday, February 19th. Enjoy the day with your families!



Report Cards & IEPs go home electronically on Tuesday, February 20th.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

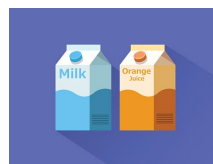


Our Public Speaking Contest will be on Wednesday, February 21st in our gym.



On February 22, 2007, the Canadian House of Commons passed a motion condemning the trafficking of persons and proclaiming February 22nd as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. This day was designated to help bring awareness to the magnitude of modern-day slavery in Canada and abroad, and to encourage Canadians to take steps to combat human trafficking.

Human trafficking (sex, labour, and organ trafficking) involves recruiting, transporting, harbouring, or receiving a person, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of exploitation. In the case of minors, any commercial sex act is trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion is involved. Exploitation can occur without trafficking.



White milk, chocolate milk and juice will be available on a daily basis beginning each month. White or Chocolate Milk, Apple or Orange Juice can be purchased **monthly** online using **CASHONLINE**. **March's deadline to order milk is on February 22nd**. The monthly fee will change depending upon how many days are in each month. Due to the rising costs of items, we need to accurately account for the exact numbers of milk or juice purchased.



Parent-Teacher Interviews will be on Tuesday, February 27th. Teachers will be reaching out to Parents for a time-slot, after report cards go home.



Pink Shirt Day falls on the last Wednesday of February every year; join us next Pink Shirt Day on **February 28th, 2024** in our mission to create a more kind, inclusive world by raising awareness for anti-bullying initiatives.

Please join us in wearing Pink to support this day!



February 29th

Adding an extra day every four years keeps our calendar aligned correctly with the astronomical seasons, since a year according to the Gregorian calendar (365 days) and a year according to Earth's orbit around the Sun (approximately 365.25 days) are not the same length of time. Without this extra day, our calendar and the seasons would gradually get out of sync. (Keep reading for a longer explanation.)

Because of this extra day, a leap year has 366 days instead of 365. Additionally, a leap year does not end and begins on the same day of the week as a non-leap year does.

SPAGHETTI DAY

Thank you to ALL the Staff and School Council Volunteers for making our Spaghetti Day extra special!



EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

LATENESS = LOST LEARNING

Figures below are calculated over the school year

5 minutes late each day	=	3 days lost
10 minutes late each day	=	6.5 days lost
15 minutes late each day	=	10 days lost
20 minutes late each day	=	13 days lost
30 minutes late each day	=	19 days lost

Please be on time for school!

MERIT AWARD WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER



Congratulations!!!

KINDERGARTEN & NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



Kindergarten and new student registration is now open! Register today if you are interested in enrolling your child in Kindergarten for September 2024! Details: <http://bit.ly/3wasNrb>



MYSP - [MYSP Year 4](#)

The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board is committed to focusing on our new mission, vision and values to use our many blessings and resources to be more than just a great Catholic education system.

