



# Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School Newsletter, September 3, 2019

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

## Dear Parents/Guardians 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 Ms. Tara McEnery back to her position of Vice-Principal of our two schools. We welcome our new staff members: Miss Patricia Raisanen (Grade 1/2 Teacher); Ms. Amber Carrigan (Grade 4/5 Teacher); Mrs. Anna Paula Young (Educational Assistant); Mrs. Laura Hetu (Educational Assistant); and Ms. Felicity Allcorn (Youth Worker).

Please know that I will continue to spend time at St. Martin of Tours this year as Ms. Tara McEnery transitions into her role as Vice-Principal. 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.

*Mrs. Flagler-Edwards, Principal*

## 2019-2020 STAFFING



### Classroom Teachers:

JK/SK	Ms. Vicki Cole
SK/Grade 1	Mrs. Melissa McCormack
Grade 1/2	Miss Patricia Raisanen
Grade 2/3	Mrs. Sherry Meszaros
Grade 3/4	Mrs. Shauna Rumleski
Grade 4/5	Ms. Amber Carrigan
Grade 6/7	Mrs. Kelli Ronholm
Grade 7/8	Ms. Chrissy Balemba
SERT	Mrs. Lori Cannon

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

### Early Childhood Educator:

Ms. Jennifer Knopp

Youth Worker: Ms. Felicity Allcorn

### Educational Assistants:

Mrs. Debbie Bowers  
Mrs. Laura Hetu  
Mrs. Anna Paula Young

### Library Resource

Assistants: 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



If you are currently receiving the Newsletter and Calendar in hard copy form and would like to be added to our electronic version of the Newsletter and Calendar, please contact the office and we will add your name to our Email list.



**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](http://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/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.).

Parents/Guardians 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/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**



**The School Protocol with respect to busing and changes in transportation is attached. Please take note with special attention being paid to the school protocols about methods of communication.**

**ALL REQUESTS FOR ALTERNATE BUSING** [other than pre-authorized daily changes (i.e., day care arrangements)] must be submitted to the office in writing **FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.** Please know

that requests for changes to transportation that are sent by text and/or email will not be accepted. The letter must contain the full name of the student, the full name of the person receiving the student at the destination address, the full drop-off location including the full 911 address, and an explanation of a valid reason for the requested change.

**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**

**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/GUARDIANS 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 8th** from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The meal will feature roast beef, home made salads, home made baked beans and home made pies. The cost is \$15.00 for adults (Advanced dinner tickets available for \$13.00) 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



A single dream. A world of hope.  
**The Terry Fox Foundation**  
COPYRIGHT © TERRY FOX FOUNDATION

This year's run will be held at the school on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>**. Pledge forms are coming home with the students this week. Please return your forms no later than Monday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**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.alcddb.on.ca/school/omer](http://www.alcddb.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 would like to encourage parents/guardians to write notes to communicate between your child's teacher and yourself. Please also know that you can call the office and be re-directed to the teacher's personal voicemail box. Please refrain from using email as communication. Any emails that come through directly to teachers will not be responded to. Our educators have been counselled by the Ontario of College of Teachers and their Unions not to engage in electronic communication. Thank you for your understanding!

## FAMILY BBQ



Our families are all invited to a BBQ and Meet the Teacher Night hosted by the School Council on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>**, 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. 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.**

## MILK & JUICE SALES



White milk, chocolate milk and juice will be available on a daily basis starting next week **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

SchoolCashOnline  
KEVGROUP

Milk cards will be available on-line, as well as pizza orders and other school-related student fees. To register for online purchases, please see our website, and scroll down to School News to “Register Now”.

## 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.

*Lori Cannon  
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.**

 **MedicAlert**  
**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.** Our trained volunteers will be conducting pediculosis checks periodically throughout the school year.



We are looking for parents to join our School Council for the 2019-2020 school year. Nomination forms are coming home today.

Please consider attending the first meeting on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** School Council Elections will be held at this first meeting. Please return all nomination forms by **SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**OPPORTUNITIES:** Please read the green coloured notice coming home today regarding opportunities for volunteering at our school. Please complete the form and return on or before **SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you.

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

We are hoping to get enough volunteer chefs to begin the breakfast programme during the last week of September. 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, (green) or let the office know so that we can draw up our first month of shifts.

Ms. Storey

## **IMPORTANT**



**Your child(ren) will be bringing home the following forms that will require your immediate attention. These forms must be returned to the school no later than FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>:**

**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.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CONSENT FORM (PINK).** These need to be filled out and submitted at the beginning of each school year;

**FRESH GRADE (GRADES K-6) (GOLDENROD).** These need to be filled out for JK and NEW students ONLY.

**HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION FORM (YELLOW).** This form is required for all school excursions. We ask that this form be submitted now to eliminate parents/guardians having to submit the form multiple times for various school excursions.

**PLEASE NOTE** that the 2019-2020 School Year Calendar can be found on the Board Website at the link below:  
<http://www.alcdsb.on.ca/community/Documents/2019-2020%20ALCDSB%20%20School%20Year%20Calendar%20.pdf>