



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School Newsletter, September 15, 2020

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:	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 navigate the uncharted waters of schools being open during Covid-19. We have had to make changes with respect to how we do so many things and we continue to adapt as changes are announced. 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 Ms. Tara McEnery back to her position of Vice-Principal of our two schools. We welcome our new staff members Ms. Sarah Doney who will be with us this year while Mrs. Kelli Ronholm is on Maternity Leave as well as Mrs. Jennifer Madill (Youth Worker) who is also on Maternity Leave (her replacement for the 2020-2021 school year will be announced soon).

Mrs. Flagler Edwards, Principal

As outlined if your child does not pass the Covid Screening Tool, your child is NOT to attend school. Please call the school to inform us of the reason for your child’s absence AND **your child should be tested for COVID-19** and isolate until a negative result is received and if symptom free for 24 hours or 48 hours if symptoms include vomiting or diarrhea. If you have questions about your child’s medical and underlying conditions, please reach out to your health care provider.

If you choose to NOT to have your child tested for COVID-19 your child must remain at home in isolation for a minimum of 14 days from the onset of the symptoms.

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

For your convenience we have attached a copy of both tools to this Newsletter.

Important Information
Daily Screening Practices & Tools

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

As you know you, as parents / guardians / caregivers, are to use the Covid Screening Tool before sending your child(ren) to school each day. As was communicated in his letter of September 14, 2020 which was sent home via School Messenger, our Director outlined that our Health Units have also developed a My Child Did Not Pass Covid Screening tool for your use.

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.**

2020-2021 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	Ms. Sarah Doney
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: Mrs. Jennifer Madill

Educational Assistants:

Mrs. Debbie Bowers
Mrs. Anna Paula Young

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.).

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.

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 and was also sent home with Student Forms. Please take note with special attention being paid to the school protocols about methods of communication.

WE ASK THAT ALL CHANGES FOR TRANSPORTATION (TO OTHER ASSIGNED STOPS) BE MADE IN WRITING. 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, of course will miss seeing you in the school and at our Meet the Teacher BBQ. 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) have brought 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. Due: September 15th

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CONSENT FORM (PINK). These need to be filled out and submitted at the beginning of each school year. Due September 15th.

PLEASE NOTE that the 2020-2021 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>

TERRY FOX RUN



Our 40th Annual Terry Fox Run is scheduled on Wednesday, September 30, 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions our school run cannot be a whole school event; therefore, each class will participate with their classmates. Also, due to COVID-19 restrictions pledge forms cannot be sent home but are available at the website listed below.

On Wednesday, September 30, 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 40th Anniversary of 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. In the past we used FRESHGRADE and D2L to communicate with you. But now we are using only D2L / BrightSpace as the communication tool. Teachers are becoming more familiar with its use and we ask for your patience as we become more accustomed with this tool. 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.

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 are working 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.

*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.**



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.**



Hello Polar Bear Families,

With the colder weather fast approaching our system of Ziploc baggies with ring may need to look a little different moving forward. We are encouraging parents to purchase a fanny pack/pouch so that your child can put his/her mask in a secure place and not have to remove mittens, gloves, etc. to clip their ring to the fence. The fanny pack/pouch is a great idea as the child wears

it at all day and does not have to remember their Ziploc baggie.



We are looking for parents to join our School Council for the 2020-2021 school year. Nomination forms have been sent home.

Please consider attending the first virtual meeting on **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd at 6:30 p.m.** School Council Elections will be held at this first meeting Please return all nomination forms by **SEPTEMBER 18th.**

OPPORTUNITIES: Please read the green coloured notice regarding opportunities for volunteering at our school. Please complete *the* form and return on or before **SEPTEMBER 21st** Thank you.

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:

For full Class Code and Free Mini Book details visit: scholastic.ca/clubhome

GET A SNEAK PEEK OF DAV PILKEY'S New Series!

With an order of \$30 or more
USE CODE: CATKID
AT CHECKOUT TO
GET YOUR COPY!
While quantities last.

48 PAGES FULL-COLOUR MINI BOOK

COVID-19

Screening Tool

Parents and caregivers should review the following checklist with their child before sending them to school each day.

Does your child have any of the following:

**Fever
37.8°C or higher**



**New or
worsening cough**



**Shortness
of breath**



**Sore throat,
trouble swallowing**



Runny nose



**Loss of taste
or smell**



Not feeling well



**Nausea, vomiting,
diarrhea**



Not related to seasonal allergies or other known conditions

E.g., chills, fatigue, pink eye, lack of appetite



In the past 14 days, has the child had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?

Yes
 No



Have you or your child returned from travel outside of Canada in the past 14 days?

Yes
 No



If you answered **yes** to any of these questions, stay home and self-isolate right away. Call your health care provider or go to an assessment centre to find out if you need a COVID-19 test.

My Student Did Not Pass COVID-19 Screening

Please see covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment for details on symptoms and screening.

Does your student have a chronic medical condition?

Yes

No

Are your student's symptoms worse/different than normal?

No

Yes

Students with stable symptoms of a known chronic medical condition may attend school. If there are concerns, consult your Health Care Provider and follow their guidance.

Call the school and inform them of your student's illness and absence.

Your student must not attend school AND

- **Should be tested for COVID-19** and isolate until a negative test result is received and symptom free for 24 hours or 48 hours if symptoms include vomiting or diarrhea.
- If you have questions, your health care provider, with knowledge of your child's medical and underlying conditions, can help determine if your symptomatic child needs to be tested for COVID-19.
- **If the student is not tested for COVID-19**, your student and all household members (family and roommates who live with the ill person) must remain home in isolation for a minimum of 14 days from the onset of symptoms.

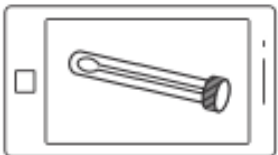
Please note:

- If a disagreement between the school and a parent/guardian exists, it is recommended that the most cautious approach be taken to protect the health and safety of all those who attend the school.
- HPEPH is unable to provide clinical assessment or determine the suitability of a child returning to school.
- **If the ill student is waiting for test results**, household members (family and roommates who live with the ill person) should monitor for symptoms and be tested if symptoms develop. They are not required to isolate at this time.



How do I get my child tested for COVID-19?

Visit hpePublicHealth.ca/getting-tested-for-covid-19/ for information on locations and hours of operation for assessment centres in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties.



How do I access my child's COVID-19 test results?

Test results are available online at covid-19.ontario.ca.

How do I isolate my child?



Stay home



Wash hands frequently



Avoid contact with others



Cover coughs and sneezes



Keep your distance



Wear a face covering, if possible

For detailed isolation instructions, please visit hpePublicHealth.ca.