



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School

Newsletter, September 6, 2022

Principal:	Ms. Tara McEnery	Superintendent:	Mr. Darcey French
Admin. Assistant:	Mrs. Martie Berthelot	Trustee:	Mr. Peter McEnery
School Council Co-Chairs:	J. Hudder & L. Hetu	Pastors:	Fr. Casimir Muobike
School Council Treasurer:	L. White		Fr. Malachy Ekezie
School Council Secretary:	S. Sinclair		Fr. Vic Valles
School Council email:	omersc@alcdsb.on.ca	Custodian:	Jeff Grimson
School Phone No.	613-332-3300	Follow us on Twitter:	@alcdsb_omer
School Fax No:	613-332-0523	General School Email:	flhpomer@alcdsb.on.ca
School Website:	http://schools.alcdsb.on.ca/omer		

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome back to school Our Lady of Mercy School families! We are so very excited to be back at school with your children and are delighted to have our teaching back to a much more 'normal' state this year.

For those of you who do not already know me, I would like to let you know that I am a lifelong member of the Our Lady of Mercy Parish and attended Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School myself from Kindergarten to Grade 8. My children have, are, and will be attending this school as well. I am very devoted to the school and Parish community and will do my best, together with our very enthusiastic and dedicated staff to help our students and school to thrive. I am looking forward to a wonderful year and want to make the most of the time we have together!

I would like to welcome our new staff to the school including Ms. Smith, our new Kindergarten teacher, Miss. Ladouceur, our new Kindergarten ECE, Ms. Perkins who will be teaching Gr. 5/6, Mr. Mulvihill who will be teaching Gr. 8, and Mr. Grimson, our custodian who will be filling in for Miss. Storey during her absence. I would like to also congratulate Ms. Parking who is now a permanent teacher in our school and Mrs. O'Brien, formerly Ms. Cole, who was married over the summer.

I also wanted to let you know that though I will spend the majority of my time here at Our Lady of Mercy School, I will also continue to spend some time at St. Martin of Tours this year as I am Principal of both schools. My current plan is to head to St. Martin of Tours 1 to 2 mornings each week once the day has begun at Our Lady of Mercy School. 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.

Please know that my door is always open and I welcome your feedback and encourage you to come forward with any questions or concerns you may have at any time.

Looking forward to a wonderful year with your children and yourselves,
God Bless!

Tara McEnery

2022-2023 STAFFING



Classroom Teachers:

JK/SK	Mrs. Vicki O'Brien
JK/SK	Ms. Rachel Smith
Grade 1/2	Ms. Patricia Raisenan
Grade 2	Mrs. Sherry Meszaros
Grade 3	Ms. Alyssa Parking
Grade 4	Ms. Ally Craig
Grade 5/6	Mrs. Janelle Perkins
Grade 6/7	Ms. Sarah Doney
Grade 8	Mr. Liam Mulvihill
SERT	Mrs. Shauna Rumleski
F.S.L.	Mme. Casey O'Shea
Itinerant Arts:	Ms. Hali Letwin
Early Childhood Educator:	Ms. Jennifer Knopp
	Ms. Rachel Ladouceur
Youth Worker:	Mrs. Shaloma Batchelor
Educational Assistants:	Mrs. Anna Paula Young
	Mrs. Kailee Copland
Custodian:	Jeff Grimson








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 download the Mobile APP, go to the SchoolMessenger Website or CALL 1-844-445-4383 to report your child(ren) absence. Please DO NOT call the school with your child's absence.

<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.



ALL REQUESTS FOR ALTERNATE BUSING must be submitted to Tri-Board. Bus passes will only be issued if the child(ren) has the bus stop in their bus planner.

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.**



We no longer print a hard copy of the Newsletter and Calendar, except for the first addition this school year. If would like to be added to our electronic version of the Newsletter and Calendar, please fill out our form online or contact the office and we will add your name to our email list.

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 |



VISITS TO THE SCHOOL

Visitors are always welcome to our school, but in light of the times in which we are currently living in, 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.

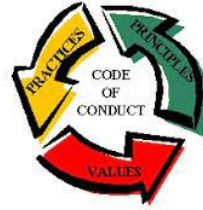
SCHOOL SECURITY SYSTEM

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.

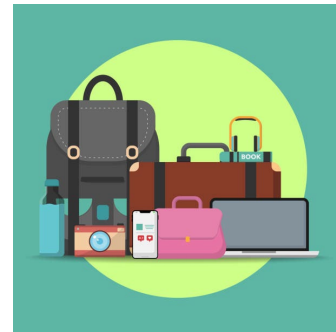
PLEASE REMEMBER ONLY STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED ON THE YARD. PLEASE DO NOT JOIN US ON THE YARD. IF YOU ARE PICKING UP YOUR CHILD OR VISITING A STAFF MEMBER THEY WILL MEET YOU AT THE OFFICE. At the end of the day children being picked up will be brought outside.



This year's run will be held at the school on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd**. Pledge forms are coming home with the students shortly. Please return your forms no later than Monday, Sept. 19th.



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. 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 the 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.

Milk/Juice 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".

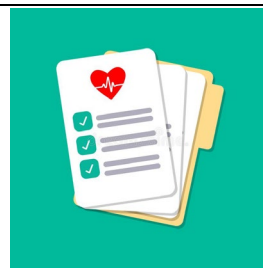
INDOOR SHOES



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.



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 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 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.**



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.



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 9th:

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

INCLEMENT WEATHER / WALKING EXCURSION 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.

CANADIAN ANTI-SPAM CONSENT FORM (BLUE). This form gives consent for the school to send you

important information via SchoolMessenger. Your consent is required every year.



VOLUNTEER SUPPORT FORM (GREEN).

We are looking for parents to join our School Council for the 2022-2023 school year.

Please fill out the form if you are interested in Volunteering at Our Lady of Mercy. Our school runs smoothly because of our many volunteers! Thank you in advance for your support!

Please note that our **STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS** will be forthcoming. Our hope is that our Board Office will have them ready to send out shortly.



PLEASE NOTE that the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar can be found on the Board Website at the link below:
[https://www.alcddb.on.ca/Documents/School%20Year%20Calendar%20Feb%2001,%202022%20\(22-23\).pdf](https://www.alcddb.on.ca/Documents/School%20Year%20Calendar%20Feb%2001,%202022%20(22-23).pdf)



**Formed
in the Faith**

2022/2023

The vision of the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board is that we imagine a world where every person is empowered to reach their full potential through faith and service. communities where each member is loved, inspired, and successful. Our mission is the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board builds faith-filled learning The new annual pastoral themes for the ALCDSB call us to express our faith through our vision and mission statements. Through last year's theme we focused on being valued as "***Beloved Children of God***", called to celebrate the inherent dignity of each person who is created in the image and likeness of God. We then respond to God's invitation to be "***Formed in the Faith***", seeking God, growing deeper in our relationship with God, and accompanying each other along our faith journey.