



Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School Newsletter, September 5, 2023

Principal:	Ms. Tara McEnery	Superintendent:	Ms. Carey Smith Dewey
Admin. Assistant:	Mrs. Martie Berthelot	Trustee:	Mr. Peter McEnery
School Council Co-Chairs:	J. Hudder & L. White	Pastors:	Fr. Casmir Muobike
School Council Treasurer:	A. Mountney		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 OLM Families:

2023-2024 STAFFING

Welcome back to school! We are so very excited to be back at school with your children.



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, and are 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, our new Gr. 7/8 teacher, Ms. Hare. I would like to also congratulate Mrs. Perkins who is now a permanent teacher in our school, who will be teaching French until Mme. Casey returns as well as some Kindergarten subjects throughout the year.

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

Classroom Teachers:

JK/SK	Mrs. Vicki O'Brien
JK/SK	Mrs. Lori Cannon
Grade 1/2	Ms. Patricia Raisenan
Grade 1/2	Ms. Rachel Smith
Grade 3	Ms. Alyssa Parking
Grade 3/4	Mrs. Sherry Meszaros
Grade 4/5	Ms. Sarah Doney
Grade 5/6	Ms. Ally Craig
Grade 7/8	Ms. Maureen Hare
SERT	Mrs. Shauna Rumleski
F.S.L. (Gr 4-8)	Mme. Janelle Perkins,
F.S.L. (Gr. 1/2)	Ms. Hali Letwin,
F.S.L. (Gr. 1/2 & 3)	Mrs. Shaloma Batchelor
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:	Mr. 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.




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

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS REGARDING STUDENT ABSENCES

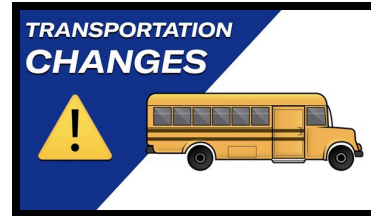
We are required to report all student absences (e.g. an illness, parental permission, bereavement, medical appointment, etc.).

Please download the Mobile APP, go to the SchoolMessenger Website or CALL 1-844-445-4383 to report your child(ren) absent. 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 has the bus stop in their bus planner.

IF PARENTS NEED TO PICK UP THEIR CHILD(REN) EARLY IN THE DAY, we ask that you plan ahead and provide a note in the morning. We will do our best to ensure that your child(ren) is/are waiting for you near the front entrance. As you can imagine our office is very busy at the end of the day getting students ready for the bus or pickup. If you need to make a last minute change, all calls **MUST be made before 2:00 pm.** It is very challenging to accommodate last minute changes at what is a very busy time of the day.

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 monthly Newsletter and Calendar. An electronic version will be emailed via School Messenger every month.



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 BE PATIENT FOR THE DOOR TO BE ANSWERED, PARTICULARLY AT LUNCH.

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 to the gate between the school and church.

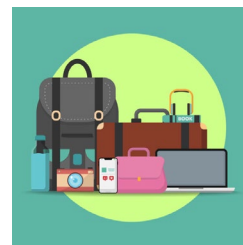
School Security Cameras – Early in the summer our Board IT department installed several video cameras to help us to monitor the grounds for the safety of students and staff. Please know that this installation is not unique to our school and there is no particular threat to safety at our school. Cameras have been installed in many schools with the support of the Ministry of Education and we have been fortunate to receive a set for OLM.



This year's run will be held at the school on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd**. Pledge forms are coming home with the students shortly. Please return your forms no later than Monday, Sept. 18th.



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! Please know that our IT department is currently working to revise our school website.



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 to or from anyone.**

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.



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 unless you are told by your child's teacher that it is a preferred method of communication. Educators have been counselled by the Ontario of College of Teachers and their Unions not to engage in electronic communication other than in particular circumstances. Thank you for your understanding!

MEET THE TEACHER BBQ EVENING



Our families are all invited to a BBQ and Meet the Teacher Night hosted by the School Council on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th**, 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.



Please be advised that we currently have students with severe peanut/nut allergies. 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. We also request that you not send nut substitutes as it is difficult for lunch monitors to determine whether it is "real" or not.

MILK & JUICE SALES



White milk, chocolate milk and juice will be available on a daily basis starting **TUESDAY, October 3rd**. White or Chocolate Milk, Apple or

Orange Juice can be purchased **monthly** online using **CASHONLINE**. 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. Milk/Juice cards will no longer be used. Regarding the leftover cards from last year, milk will be given to your child starting September 19th. Going forward, if your child(ren) are away they can bring home the extra milk or juice missed. Thank you for your understanding!



Milk/Juice will be available on-line, as well as pizza orders and other school-related student fees. ALL monies should come through School Cash Online and cash should not be sent to the school except for certain circumstances. To register for online purchases, please see our website, and scroll down to School News to "Register Now".



Picture day is Monday, October 2nd.

INDOOR SHOES

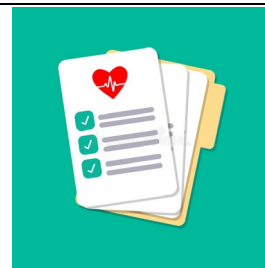


A reminder, that **all** students must have indoor shoes at school to put on when they come in from the yard. Outdoor shoes/boots are taken off when they enter the school. If there is a fire drill or a real emergency situation that requires students to evacuate, there is not time for

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 Plans 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). FOR EACH STUDENT. These need to be filled out and submitted at the beginning of each school year;

INCLEMENT WEATHER / WALKING EXCURSION FORM (YELLOW). FOR EACH STUDENT. 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 walking excursions.



VOLUNTEER SUPPORT FORM (GREEN). We are looking for parents to join our School Council for the 2023-2024 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!*

SCHOOL COUNCIL PARENT NOMINATION FORM (BLUE)
Please fill out if you are interested being in an elected position for School Council.

STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS (WHITE)

Please fill out with any corrections in address or contact information. If everything is correct, please sign or initial the form and return it to the office with the other forms. *Thank you!*



PLEASE NOTE that the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar can be found on the Board Website at the link below:
<http://www.alcddb.on.ca/community/Documents/ALCDSB%20School%20Year%20Calendar%202023-2024.pdf>

2023-2024 BLESSED BEYOND BELIEF



The fourth of five pastoral themes, “Blessed Beyond Belief”, calls us to open our eyes and our hearts to see all of God’s goodness that surrounds us. Recognizing that faith is a gift from God, we are thankful for all of the gifts and blessings that we receive, which all come from God. In response to all of God’s blessings, we offer our worship. We

are blessed and chosen and that means God’s arms will always be open to us with mercy, grace, guidance and unwavering strength and love. God walks with us and knows our true heart. God is our lighthouse in the storm and casts away darkness and despair.

Although there are many mysteries, Jesus has never hidden his blessings from us. He is always there. We celebrate the gift of ourselves, each other and the earth all around us. We also need to take the time to celebrate the joy we encounter in the Gospels and the Eucharist. We praise the Lord who gives life and love to all things, making each day new. In our Catholic school communities, we are called to worship and praise as Joyful Disciples. How will we raise an alleluia with everything that we have? How will we find a song of joy in the middle of a storm that is stronger than any other sound of doubt or darkness? How will we model joy in our imperfect world? How will we live out each day reminding ourselves that we are completely loved and accepted by God? How will we be a guiding light to help others see their blessings and to live more fully in Christ?

OLM Church Supper



Our Lady of Mercy Parish Supper

Sunday, September 10, 2023

From 11:30 am—6:00 pm

Silent Auction, Raffle Tickets

\$15/Ticket and \$6.00/12 yrs & under

—Take-out available!

We welcome volunteers to join us in the Church basement on Saturday morning to help prepare vegetables for salads beginning at 9 am. Please call the school to let us know if you are able to help.