



# Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School Newsletter, December 1, 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:	<a href="mailto:omerc@alcdsb.on.ca">omerc@alcdsb.on.ca</a>	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:	<a href="http://schools.alcdsb.on.ca/omer">http://schools.alcdsb.on.ca/omer</a>	General School Email:	flhpomer@alcdsb.on.ca

## MERIT AWARD WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER



Dear OLM Families,

This year the Faith Life Committee is spearheading a Christmas Food Drive during the Advent Season. Individual food hampers will be placed in classrooms to collect non-perishable food items from **December 1 - 15**. Students from each class are encouraged to bring in a food item to help fill their hamper. The food items collected then will be sorted and divided to be distributed to our local food banks. Let's continue to spread KINDNESS and help spread Christmas joy during this Season of Advent.



## Parent Survey- Transition to School from Remote and Vice Versa



## RAFFLE TICKETS

Tickets are due *December 1<sup>st</sup>*. Daily draws for the Twelve Days of Christmas Raffle begins on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be called on the phone and will be posted on the school website and in the newsletter too. Good luck to everyone! **School Council thanks you for your co-operation with this fundraiser!**

Yesterday you were sent a message via School Messenger about the next date of changing between the two learning models being Monday, January 4, 2020. The Board will be accepting requests to change starting on Monday, November 30 and if you wish to transition between the two learning models, please complete the survey by midnight Friday, December 11. Please see your



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email for more details on the process and you will find the link to the survey as well as to apply for busing through TriBoard should your child be coming back to face-to-face learning.

Please note that this is a request for movement and not a guaranteed placement in a new classroom. Depending on the number of requests received, ALCDSB may establish a waiting list, similar to other Boards in Ontario. If you are considering movement between the two learning models, please consider the following:

- Due to many changes required at the school level and considerations for student wellness and achievement, we do not encourage families to go back and forth between Remote Learning and In-Person Learning.
- Changing between learning models does have an impact on staffing, physical distancing and space allocation. Please be patient with us as we take the week of December 14-18 to place students in classrooms. Once you complete the survey, updated information (i.e., who your teacher is) will not be immediate.
- Similar to your child changing schools, the curriculum is not connected and taught in the same order at every school. The units of study will not necessarily match up so there may be gaps or overlap in a student's programming if they move between the two modes of learning.

We remain committed to the health and safety of all our students. We continue to provide families with updates from our local public health units and the Ministry of Education as they become available. We look forward to welcoming students back into our Catholic learning communities and are pleased to offer Remote Learning for families who require this option. If you have any additional questions, please contact Mrs. Flagler Edwards. [Please click here to access the survey.](#)

## A New Way to Report Your Child's Absence is Here!

Parents/Guardians can report their child's absences using the School Messenger APP, Safe Arrival Website or by calling the Toll Free number. Please visit our School's website for Parent FAQ's.





### Report your Child's Absence

**3 WAYS**  
TO REPORT  
YOUR CHILD'S  
ABSENCE

**Beginning  
December 7, 2020**



SCHOOLMESSENGER®

<p><b>SchoolMessenger Mobile App</b></p>  <p><b>SchoolMessenger</b></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><b>SchoolMessenger Website</b></p>  <p><b>go.schoolmessenger.ca</b></p> <p>Sign up to create your account.</p> <p>To report an absence, select Attendance, then Report an Absence.</p>	<p><b>Call toll-free</b></p>  <p><b>1-844-445-4383</b></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 your phone number that you have registered with the school.</p> <p>Follow the prompts to report your child's absence.</p>
<p><b>New Safe Arrivals Program</b></p> <p>The Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board is excited to launch the <b>Safe Arrivals Program</b> which will allow parents/guardians to report their child's absence in a new, more convenient way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive alerts from your school via text, email or phone</li> <li>• Send and receive attendance information in a more timely way</li> <li>• Enter in attendance in advance for student absences via mobile app, website or by automatic telephone system</li> <li>• Choose who will receive attendance notifications including who will be able to enter in attendance information for the student</li> <li>• Monitor your child's attendance through the website or mobile app</li> <li>• Receive push notifications with the mobile app</li> </ul> <p>We recommend that parents/guardians create an account and verify contact information</p> <p>Creating an account is simple and easy</p> <p>Use the email and phone number the school has on file</p> <p>To learn how to use these tools review our online user guides on your school website</p> 		



Our next virtual School Council Meeting will be on December 7 at 6:30 p.m.

**Virtual Book Fairs**  
Safe • Easy • Essential



The **Virtual Scholastic Book Fair** is now open. The dates for the book fair are Monday, November 30 to Monday, December 7. To access our Book

Fair go to: <https://bookfairs-canada.myshopify.com/pages/5151908>

All proceeds of the Scholastic Book Fair will purchase new resources for the students and staff of OLM.

Thank you for your continue support of our Learning Commons. Mrs. Gabourie LRA

## OLM Christmas Candy Kebobs



**Christmas Candy Kebobs** are usually purchased at our annual Christmas concert, however this year with things being so different, we wanted to send home some Christmas cheer! Candy Kebobs will be available to purchase until December 8th and you will be able to pick up your order on December 16th at SheNanagans (across from Millennium Park on Hastings St. N.). They are \$3.50 ea.



Advent Wreath Making 2020 (1st time virtually) on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Beautiful wreaths are now ready for the 1st Sunday of Advent (Nov.

29). Thanks to L. Cannon for organizing, T. McEnery for showing us how & to School Council for sponsoring. Come, thou Long Expected Jesus. @alcdsb #alcdsbwelcome

# SPIRIT DAYS

**DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**UGLY SWEATER PARTY**



**Or Peppermint Day**

(do not fret if you do not have an ugly sweater, you may chew peppermint gum today)

**DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**Christmas Festive Attire Day**



(antlers, Santa hats, green, red and/or white)

**DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**PJ or Comfy Day**








December 21<sup>st</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup>  
 First Day back to School is January 4<sup>th</sup>






We recycled our first two pails of batteries. *That is 45.34 kg. of batteries kept out of landfills!* Our next goal is to earn our 25% Recycled Badge. Thanks for helping us meet our goals! As the Christmas/holiday season approaches remember to bring in your dead batteries to the school to be recycled ! This includes batteries out of Christmas lights or decorations or batteries from your smoke detectors or toys! Miss Carrigan



## Christmas Cards

Sold Only as a Box Set of 5  
 for  
**\$15.00**

A fundraiser for: 

<p>Inside Left:</p> <p>© Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining        in the night of our dear Savior's birth.</p> <p>Inside Right:</p> <p>May the love of Christ fill your heart        with the Spirit of        the Christmas Season and throughout the year.</p>		<p>Inside Top:</p> <p>She shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus,        for He shall save His people from their sins.</p> <p>Inside Bottom:</p> <p>© Come, Let Us Adore Him: For unto You is Born this        Day in the City of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.</p>
<p>Inside Left:</p> <p>Silent Night, Holy Night,        All is calm, all is bright!</p> <p>Inside Right:</p> <p>Out of the Silence, MUSIC;        Out of the Darkness, LIGHT;        Out of Unknowing, PRODIGE;        HOPE was born that faithful Angel to us all.</p>		
<p>Inside Top:</p> <p>Awake in a manger, one child for His Lord,        the little Lord Jesus, lay down His sweetest head.</p> <p>Inside Bottom:</p> <p>May you be blessed with the Spirit of the Season, which is PEACE,        the Season of the Season, which is JOY,        and the Heart of the Season, which is LOVE.</p>		<p>Inside Top:</p> <p>They came in to find the Child with His Mother Mary;        and they fell to the ground to worship him.        Then, opening their treasures, they presented to        Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrror.</p> <p>Inside Bottom:</p> <p>The Greatest Gift of all was never placed beneath a Tree,        He lay within a manger for the entire World to see.        Merry Christmas</p>
		

For More Information Call: Peter Penlington 613-318-8686

BRRRRR!



Winter is here! Please be reminded that outdoor recess during the lunch period is 40 minutes and there can also be a lengthy wait at the end of the day for individual buses to arrive. **Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor play at school; snow pants; warm, water-proof gloves/mittens, warm scarves & hats; and of course, boots. It is also a good idea to send in extra pairs of dry mittens and socks.**

## INCLEMENT WEATHER BUS DELAYS & CANCELLATIONS



Parents of bussed students are reminded to review/update their emergency contact information with the school and listen to local radio stations for bus delays/cancellations. Parents can also log onto the Transportation Department's website at [www.triboard.on.ca](http://www.triboard.on.ca), look at "Is My Bus Running" at the top left side of the webpage. Select a school and view the status of all routes into that school OR type in a bus number and view the status of that individual bus route. Click on the "sign up" area on our home page (upper right area of home page) to receive an email/text notification of cancellations/delays affecting the bus you sign up for.