

CATHOLIC GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE

98 Wanita Road, Mississauga, ON L5G 1B8 Phone - 905-891-7619 Fax - 905-278-6539 **School Website:** http://dpcdsb.org/jamee

May 2025

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School Parish: St. Mary Star of the Sea

Pastor: Father Michael Simoes

Generous and Eternal God, As He was dying, Jesus gave His mother, Mary, To all people everywhere to be our mother. We know that she loves us and hopes That we may find the true path to A worthy, vivid and beautiful Life. Her Son is that holy path to joy. With the help of Mary's prayers, May we step boldly and courageously Onto this Path of Life and place Ourselves in Your hands.

We ask this through, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Virtue: May - Acceptance

A person with acceptance...

- Are friendly and open to all God's people;
- Sense God's presence in people of all ages, beliefs, genders, cultures, and/or abilities;
- Avoid judging negatively or stereotype others;
- Look for the positive traits in others:
- Understand there may be more than one way of doing things;
- Stick up for the disadvantaged;
- Notice who is left out and include them.

One of the great wonders of the world we live in is that no two people are exactly alike. We may share biological families or national identity or cultural and ethnic identity, but we are all very unique and distinct creations. And that is a fantastic fact of life! The virtue of acceptance describes our ability to look at the attitudes and actions of those around us and then stop and consider without judging them. The virtue of acceptance means we look beyond what we see – a person's skin colour, ethnic background, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation and see a person created and loved by God. God teaches us to treat each other with dignity and respect.

Crowning of Mary

You are invited to The Crowning Of Mary Celebration On Wednesday May 7th, 2025 In The Gym

> 1:10 p.m. Grades 4 to 8 2:35 p.m. Grades FDK to 3

ALL ARE WELCOME

Principal's Message

As a faith community, we join in mourning the loss of **Pope Francis**. We give thanks for his extraordinary life - a life dedicated to serving others, advocating for peace, and living the values of the Gospel with faithfulness, courage and love. His legacy will continue to inspire and guide the faithful around the world. May he rest in eternal peace.

Catholic schools across Ontario will celebrate Catholic Education Week from May 4 to May 9, with this year's theme: Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope. Catholic parents, grandparents, students, teachers and support staff, trustees, parishioners and others in the Catholic community are invited to give thanks for the precious gift of publicly funded Catholic Education in our province.

Parishes provide the sacred space for clergy, families and staff in Catholic schools to sow and nurture the seeds of faith in the next generation. Catholic Education Week serves as a wonderful annual opportunity to celebrate and promote this valuable extension of the teaching Ministry of our Church – our Catholic schools.

During Catholic Education Week, supporters of Catholic education are invited to come together to bear witness to our faith as they share the Gospel message of sacrifice, love and forgiveness. A Catholic Education Week Mass is scheduled for Wednesday May 7th at 11:00 a.m., with Bishop Douglas Crosby presiding from the beautiful Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton. It will be live-streamed to the entire Catholic community. The link is available on the Diocese of Hamilton homepage. Here at St James, we will be hosting the Crowning of Mary liturgy on May 7th as part of our Catholic Education week activities. Please know that your shared commitment to protect and celebrate the gift of publicly funded Catholic education is appreciated.

Congratulations to our students and their families who have, or will be soon, receiving the sacraments of **Holy First Communion** or **Confirmation**. We wish them all God's blessings!

St James CGLC completed our **International Baccalaureate Review** with the three-day visits by the IB Evaluation Team on April 28-30. Staff, students and parents engaged in reflective

conversations with the IB evaluation team. Our preliminary conversations have been very affirming and we look forward to sharing the evaluation report with the school community once received.

Our students and staff continued to be involved in a multitude of extra-curricular activities. Congratulations to our Primary, Junior and Intermediate Chess teams who competed in the Mississauga South Chess tournament. Thank you to Mr. Cunanan and our Year 3 MYP students for mentoring and supporting our teams. Both Intermediate **Basketball** teams, with the coaching efforts of Mme. Stecki and Ms. Orlando participated in pod tournaments. Congratulations to both teams who were recognized by referee officials and other coaches for modelling positive sports conduct. Our Yearbook Club is hard at work coordinating, organizing and editing the yearbook. We look forward to seeing the finished, published copy in June. Our Playground Activity Leaders continue to be available on Wednesday to engage interested students in co-operative games. Thank you to Ms. Medeiros for her lead on this opportunity. Our Wellness Champions, under the direction of Ms. Orlando are focusing on the virtue of acceptance for the month of May. This virtue encourages us to be open to the differences that may exist between ourselves and others. It is also important to practice acceptance of "self." When we are open to accepting our full selves, we can reduce feelings of despair and increase feelings of mental wellness. Our Student **Council** under the assistance of Ms. Thibault and Ms. DeMelo are focusing on our Crowning of Mary celebration and Catholic Education week activities. The ECO Team continues to encourage and remind us of our responsible care of our planet through our green bin and recycling programmes. They have also undertaken a clean up of the front pollinator garden. We look forward to seeing the native plants sprout up. The Junior Choir was exceptional during our recent Easter Mass. Father Michael, Samantha & Adrienne were especially impressed by their performance of "Rising Up". Thank you to Ms. Marchesan for helping our students share their musical talents. Soccer fever continues at St. James. Mr. Correia & Mr. Cunanan are preparing our Intermediates for their indoor soccer tournament on May 12th. Our soccer co-ed team will begin try-puts and practices soon in anticipation of their indoor tournament on June 5th

We look forward to an even busier June!

Prolonged Planned Absence

The Ministry of Education sets the number of instructional days for the year. Withdrawing a student from school on instructional days means that the student will miss course material, which may affect their academic progress and achievement.

The Ministry of Education *Enrolment Register Instructions*, also requires that schools remove students from the enrolment register when a prolonged absence of 15 or more consecutive days occurs. As St. James CGLC is a regional site with waitlists, when a student is removed from the school's register, the waitlist is accessed and the next applicant is admitted. Upon return, the removed from the register student can re-register at their home school, as a spot at St James will not be available.

Attendance Reporting

Please use the School Messenger - Safe Arrival reporting system to inform the school of late, early dismissal or absent students. This is the preferred method of reporting. We must hear from a PARENT or AUTHORIZED GUARDIAN.

Are You Moving?

We are in the process of planning staffing and organizing classes for the 2025-2026 school year. If you are planning on leaving St. James School, please email the office at St.JamesInfo@dpcdsb.org to make arrangements for a student transfer form to be prepared. The transfer form will serve as an introduction to your new school and will enable the receiving school to request student records from us.

Refillable Water Bottles

As the warmer weather is now upon us, we would like to remind all students to bring their refillable water bottles. It is important to stay hydrated during your daily activities.

Journey Into Learning - New JK Students

St. James Staff welcomes incoming JK students and their families to an information session Thursday May 8th at 6:30 p.m.

EQAO Grade 3 & Grade 6

The **Primary EQAO** assessment involving our **Grade 3** students will take place **June 2-4, 2025**.

The Junior EQAO assessment involving our Grade 6 students will take place May 26-28, 2025.

Please <u>avoid booking vacations or appointments</u> during this period to ensure your child is in school during this time.

Eco Team

The ECO team endeavoured to raise awareness that eating eco-friendly foods (e.g. apples instead of granola bars) is a high-impact opportunity to tackle climate change, support the environment and wellbeing.

The St. James ECO Team is on track to have another Platinum year this year thanks to the help of Ms. Roy, Mrs. Johnson, and Ms. Matias, one of our York teacher candidates. The team continues to advocate for proper waste sorting and decreasing our overall waste production at school. Our new composting program is consistently diverting at least one curbside green bin's worth of food waste from the dump each week. We look forward to finishing the year strong with end of year community projects, Exhibition actions, field trips and more. Thank you for caring about our Earth Jayhawks, keep up the great work!

Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week 2025 will be held May 4th to May 9th, 2025. The Theme for this year's Catholic Education Week is:

"Pilgrims of Hope"

"We must fan the flame of HOPE that has been given to us"
- Pope Francis -

The five sub-themes for Catholic Education Week...

Monday: By honouring human dignity

Tuesday: By caring for creation

Wednesday: By responding to the poverties in our

world

Thursday: By serving in solidarity Friday: By living as peacemakers



"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us."

Mental Health & Well-being



This month, the School Mental Health Ontario (SMH-ON) encourages parents and caregivers to practice self-compassion and self-care.

Please see the links below for a SMH-ON's Video - 'Caring for Yourself While Caring for Others: A Parent's Guide to Self-Care' and tip sheet.

- Video Caring for Yourself While Caring for Others – A Parent's Guide to Self-Care -School Mental Health Ontario
- Take Care of Yourself

Catholic School Council

Thank You! We would like to extend a thank-you to the school community for supporting the 2024-25 Catholic School Council.

A new CSC will be formed in September for the 2025-26 school year. Volunteers are needed! Please consider putting your name forward at that time and making this important contribution to our community. The CSC is vital to the school experience of all our children as we support the school in many ways both inside and outside the classroom. Details of the nomination and election process will be forwarded upon our return in September.

Mark Your Calendars

Please join us for the Catholic School Council meetings. All parents are encouraged to participate in council meetings. You do not have to be an executive member of the council to attend.

Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. in the library and can be attended in person or virtually. The link to the Google Meet meeting will be emailed to the community on the day of the meeting.

Ongoing Fundraisers:

Mabel's Labels

Step 1 - Visit campaigns.mabelslabels.com

Step 2 - Search for **St. James (Mississauga)** & select our school. **Always** select our school so we earn 20% back to raise funds for our students!

Step 3 - Order labels & Mabel's Labels mails them directly to you!

KIDSSENTIALS is pleased to be catering lunches fresh at St. James School. Ordering deadline for the week of service is the WEDNESDAY PRIOR.

www.kidssentials.com

Stay In Touch:

For meeting minutes and other council information, visit us at www.dpcdsb.org/JAMEE/Parents/

**All council information will be communicated with the school community through the newly created council email address

jameecscinfo@educ.dpcdsb.org



(PYP) The Primary Years Programme

Approaches to Teaching in the PYP

What has learning looked like down our PYP hallway, lately? We love a good question! Check out what our youngest learners have been up to lately:

Inquiry Based Learning

One of the most important trademarks of IB's Primary Years Programme is its dedication to inquiry based learning. Through this approach, teachers guide students to draw their own conclusions by asking meaningful questions or investigating.

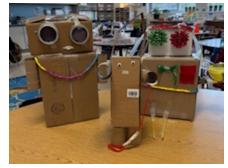
This month, FDK A and B are inquiring into the science of colour. This colour mixing experiment is currently taking place in Ms. Galea and Ms. Johnson's room - students are invited to share their observations and predictions.



Differentiated tasks to meet the needs of all learners

When planning classroom experiences, teachers take into account the wide variety of learning styles and needs within a classroom.

As part of the transdisciplinary unit, How the World Works, students in Mrs. Arruda's class read The Wild Robot and have been learning about how different materials can be used to build various structures. Students were recently tasked with creating robot that can help someone or make the community a better place. This type of hands-on learning opportunity invites students to demonstrate their understanding through the use of loose materials.





Focus on Conceptual Understandings

Instead of focusing on the recall of facts, students are encouraged to look for key concepts, or big ideas, that come up throughout a unit of inquiry.

Ms. Marchesan and Ms. Galea's Gr. 3 class has done an awesome job of showcasing the key concepts that have come up throughout their unit. Students observed how big ideas related to Form (*what something is like*) and Function (*how it works*) continued to show up in their investigation into how forces impact the ways people build, design and create.



Coming up this month...Exhibition!

As a programme requirement for their final year in PYP, our Grade 5 students have been working *very* hard on their inquiry projects for Exhibition (May 29th)!

April was dedicated to the research phase of the inquiry cycles. Students used guiding questions to gather research on their personal lines of inquiry. With the help of their mentor teachers and family, students have been bus consulting a variety of sources to collect information that help them formulate their central idea and findings.

Check back next month as we showcase all their hard work!

A BIG thank you...

The beginning of May marked the conclusion of our IB evaluation cycle - hooray! As required by the International Baccalaureate, both our PYP and MYP programmes are reviewed on a 5 year cycle, to ensure that our practices are in alignment with the IB's standards and vision. As a staff, we have spent the past year reflecting on our efforts under 4 key frameworks: Purpose, Environment, Culture and Learning. As we encourage with our students, self-reflection is an integral part of growth and our small (but mighty!) school continues to set new goals each year.

From April 28th-30th, St. James hosted a panel of 4 IB educators from Canada, the United States, and Brazil. They left us with glowing reviews of how special our school community is - particularly, how happy our students are! A big thank you to our staff, students, and parent community - all of your efforts made this integral IB requirement a memorable and meaningful experience! Way to go, St. James!

(MYP) The Middle Years Programme



May Feature: Approaches to Learning

Research and Communication Skills

In this third and final look into Approaches to Learning (ATL), **Research** and **Communication Skills** will be highlighted.

Research Skills

"The development of research skills is given a central place in the MYP, as can be seen, for example, through the importance placed on the community project and personal project." -Approaches to learning and approaches to teaching in the Middle Years Programme, 2022

APPROACHES TO LEARNING: RESEARCH					
INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS Finding, Interpreting, Judging, and Creating Information					
Collect, record, and verify data	Access Information	Make connections between sources	Develop Long-term Memory	Collect, use & analyze data	Access, process & recall information
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Evaluate and select information sources and digital tools	Present information in a variety of formats and platforms	Analyse & interpret media	Understand & implement intellectual property rights	Create references and citations	Identify primary and secondary sources
				6677	99
MEDIA LITERACY SKILLS Interacting with media to use and create ideas and information					
Locate, organize, analyse, evaluate, synthesize information	Be aware of media interpretation	Choose personal viewing wisely	Seek multiple perspectives	Communicate using a variety of media & format	Connect (multi) media resources
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ATL Workshop Slides - TMS School (Dec. 2023)

In this category of ATL, the focus is on developing "the skills required for successful information and media literacy, and understanding the difference between fact and fiction".

- ATL Workshop Slides (TMS School: December 2023)

The skill clusters related to **Research Skills** are:

- Information Literacy skills
- Media Literacy skills

Information literacy skills involve the ability to locate, interpret, evaluate, and produce information. In today's world of easy access and information overload, many students face challenges in navigating the sheer volume of content available. To effectively manage this, students must be able to analyze material, distinguish credible and relevant sources, and make informed choices—skills that demand discernment, critical thinking, and a willingness to consider diverse viewpoints.

Media Literacy is not independent of information literacy, as they are interconnected in how we receive information. Media literacy skills involve *interacting* with media to use and create ideas and information.

Some of the **information** and **media literacy** skills that students will be developing throughout the MYP programme include:

Information Literacy

- Collect, record and verify data
- Collect and analyze data to identify solutions and/or make informed decisions
- Evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on their appropriateness for specific tasks

Media Literacy

- Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media
- Make informed choices about personal viewing experiences
- Seek a range of perspectives from multiple and varied sources
- Demonstrate awareness of media interpretations of events and ideas (including digital social media)

"Research skills are also at the heart of inquiry-based pedagogy, which heavily influences all IB programmes." - Approaches to learning and approaches to teaching in the Middle Years Programme, 2022

Communication Skills

"Communicators' is one of the IB Learner Attributes. It is defined in terms of expressing ourselves confidently and creatively in diverse ways, collaborating with others, and listening to diverse perspectives of other individuals and groups." https://thinkib.net/leadership/page/22809/ib-atl-communication-skills

Communication skills connect with other ATL groups and the IB Learner Profile attributes. The skills being developed are in two main areas: *Interaction and Language*. Highlighting these two areas are competencies focused on:

Gathering Information

- Reading, listening, and interpreting

Sharing Information

- Writing and speaking

Analysis

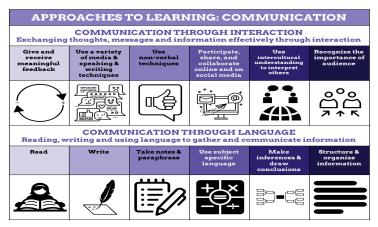
- Giving and receiving critical feedback

Non-verbal Communication

- Eye contact and body language (Adapted from - ATL Workshop Slides TMS School: December 2023)

According to the *Middle Years Programme Guide* on Approaches to Learning and Approaches to Teaching, several strategies can support the development of communication skills, including:

- Model a good conversation
- Encourage physical cues
- Ask open-ended questions
- Put thinking ahead of knowing
- Have informal conversations
- Make eve contact
- Encourage turn-taking



School Dress Code

As per *General Administrative Procedure 2010 Dress Code Expectations for Students*, "all schools within the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) shall adopt and communicate a consistent dress code."

Dress Code Guidelines stipulate, "a dress code refers to the standard of student dress which is respectful of the dignity of the human person and inclusive. In lieu of a prescriptive list, schools are to communicate guidelines that ensure students are dressed in a manner which ensures that the top of the shoulders to the mid-thigh are not exposed."

"The DPCDSB dress code excludes any garments with messages containing or portraying any offensive and/or inappropriate content. Members of the DPCDSB community will not be permitted to wear attire that promotes: a) hate, b) discrimination, c) illegal activity, d) profanity, e) violence, f) political language, g) threats to health and safety, h) or content that contravenes the Ontario Human Rights Code."

As outlined in the *General Administrative Procedure* 2012 Catholic Code of Conduct, student compliance with the school's dress code is mandatory."

Protecting the Skin

Overexposure to the sun can cause skin damage. We would like to remind students it is important to take precautions to protect their skin while outside during the Spring and Summer. The following are some suggestions to help protect the skin:

- · Wear protective clothing
- · Wear a hat
- · Wear sunblock

Parents are encouraged to reinforce these strategies with their children on a regular basis.



World No Tobacco Day 2025

May 31st marks World No Tobacco Day, a time to reflect on how the tobacco industry uses tactics to make their harmful products seem appealing - especially to youth.

- Media Exposure: Youth see smoking and vaping in movies, video games, and social media, where it's shown as "cool" and without any harmful consequences.
- Colourful Packaging and Flavours: Nicotine products like vapes come in bright colours and sweet flavours, such as fruit or candy. Tobacco companies insist that their products are made for adults, yet they are designed to attract young people.
- Health Effects: The industry has led people to believe that vaping is harmless, but it can lead to e-cigarette or vaping use-associated lung injury (EVALI), and the long-term effects of vaping are still being studied. It's not just harmless water vapour vape products still have thousands of chemicals. E-cigarettes or vapes containing nicotine are just as addictive as regular cigarettes.

You can support youth who are vaping or smoking to quit.

- There are tools that can help youth quit smoking and vaping. Check out some quit apps at NotAnExperiment.ca/Quitting.
- The Canadian Cancer Society offers tools to help those who want to quit. You can use their online quit program on their website, get phone help by calling 811, or text iQuit to 123456. Learn more at SmokersHelpline.ca.
- Recommend that youth who are vaping should not modify or add any substances to a vaping device.

Physical Activity and Brain Health Mental Health Awareness Week: May 5 – May 11

Promoting Brain Health Through Physical Activity

Regular physical activity is essential for all children and youth, not only for physical health

but also for improving cognition, brain function, and mental health.

Here are some additional benefits of physical activity:

- Reduction in symptoms of depression
- Decreased feelings of anxiety
- Improved stress response
- Enhanced self-esteem, self-concept and self-perception

Tips to Promote Brain Health:

- Encourage children and youth to meet the daily physical activity guidelines for their age and support them in their efforts.
- Promote age-appropriate outdoor play as a way of improving decision making, problem-solving and self-confidence.
- Encourage sport and physical activities to build skills and mastery.
- Play as a family. This encourages physical activity, togetherness, social support and connectedness, which are all important for good mental health.

AYSP and DPCDSB Parent Workshop Series on Promoting Positive Behaviour

Associated Youth Services Peel and DPCDSB invite parents/guardians of youth aged 12+ to virtual group sessions during the month of May. The purpose of the sessions is to promote positive behaviour in youth and prevent problematic behaviour such as substance use and internet overuse.

The three parent workshop topics include:

- Parenting in the Digital Age Balancing Screens and Social Media – Tuesday, May 13, 2025 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
 - Parenting in the Digital Age:
- 2. Building Resilience and Managing Stress in Youth

 Thursday, May 22, 2025 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

 Building Resilience and Managing Stress In Youth
- 3. Fostering Positive Parenting and Communication

 Wednesday, May 28, 2025 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

 Fostering Positive Parenting and Communication:

Click the link above for more details about the topic and the link for registration. Each session requires a separate registration. Parents/Caregivers can attend one or more sessions. Sessions will be broadcast via Zoom.

EQAO Webinar for Parents and Guardians of Elementary School Students:

Register for this free live webinar about EQAO's Primary and Junior Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Participants will learn about the purpose of Ontario's large-scale assessments. EQAO staff will explain the assessment format, highlight resources to support students, and answer questions from participants. The session is approximately 45 minutes, followed by a live Q & A with EQAO staff.

Registration Links:

• Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

https://eqao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN iRXhTHl aR5yYNcsZt5DH2g#/registration

REMINDER - Catholic Community, Culture, and Caring (CCCC) School Climate Survey

is available on the <u>DPCDSB Student Dashboard</u> for students in Grades 4 through 12. The link is at the top of the webpage beside a green button that says CCCC School Climate Survey. For your family's convenience, the link is available 24 hours a day, every day until May 13.

Parents and guardians are also encouraged to participate in their own CCCC School Climate Survey at

https://www3.dpcdsb.org/news/news-archives/school-climate-survey.



Upcoming Dates

May 4 to 9 - Catholic Education Week

May 6 - Parent engagement evening hosted by

DPCDSB Black Community Advisory Council

(BCAC) St Marguerite D'Youville SS

May 7 - Rosary Apostolate "Crowning of Mary"

May 8 - Journey Into Learning for incoming FDK's

May 9 - Samantha Youth Ministry Visits Gr. 4-8

- Yearbook Order/Payment Due

May 11 - Happy Mother's Day

May 12 - Intermediate Boys' Soccer Tournament

May 15 - Gr. 1 & 2 Willow Park Trip

May 16 - P.A. Day, No School

May 19 - Victoria Day, No School

May 20 - Gr. 7 & 8 Immunization Clinic Round 3

May 22 - Gr. 8 Blue Mountain Trip

May 26 to 28 - Gr. 6 EQAO

May 29 - Gr. 5 Exhibition

May 30 - Hot Dog/Veggie Dog Day (pre ordered)

May 30 - Gr. 7 & 8 Trip to St. Paul "Romeo & Juliet"

P.A. DAY

There will be no school for the students on Friday May 16th, 2025.

Staff will be participating in provincial priorities of literacy, curriculum implementation: artificial intelligence, mathematics and curriculum planning.

Victoria Day

There will be no school for the students on Monday May 19th. The school will be closed for the Victoria Day Holiday.