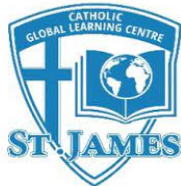




ST. JAMES



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>

March 2025

Catholic Trustees:

Luz del Rosario	Brea Corbet
Mario Pascucci	Stefano Pascucci
Bruno Iannicca	Herman Vilorio
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Anisha Thomas	Thomas Thomas
Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi	

Superintendent: D. Radic

Principal: M. Cloutier McCann

Secretary	School Council Co-Chairs
A. Litster	A. Patola N. Popova

School Parish: St. Mary Star of the Sea

Pastor: Father Michael Simoes

Virtue: March - Kindness

A person with *kindness*...

- Speaks nicely about others so they feel good about themselves.
- Sticks up for people who are picked on or need help.
- Refuses to join others who are insulting, intimidating, mean or hurtful.
- Looks for ways to help those in need.
- Relates to family members in a loving, compassionate manner.

God has given us the gifts of friends and companions to keep us company and to help us out along the way.

Every person in our lives carries the Spirit of God and so every person is our brother or sister through Jesus Christ. As brothers and sisters who share one Holy Spirit, we are all valuable to God. We all deserve to be shown concern for our welfare and our feelings. We have all been given the fruit of the Spirit called kindness. Kindness can only be seen through actions. It's not enough to say I will be kind or I am kind. We must show that we are kind by our words and our actions. Through prayer, we can get better at showing kindness to everyone we meet.

Ephesians 4:32: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God has forgiven you."

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday — officially known as the Day of Ashes — is a day of repentance, when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God. Ash Wednesday is important because it marks the start of the Lenten period leading up to Easter, when Jesus was resurrected. The ashes symbolize both death and repentance. The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Christians wear ashes on the first day of Lent in order to mourn and acknowledge the suffering that Jesus endured.

*Loving God,
During the sacred season of Lent,
bring me closer to you.
Prepare a place in my home and heart
for silence and solitude,
so that I may re-discover the grace
of a prayer-full life.
Help me to fast from those things that threaten
the well-being of body and soul
and remind me of the grace of simplicity.
Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in
need and, in so doing,
re-discover the grace of gratitude and
generosity.
May this season be a grace-filled time to
rekindle my love for and faith in you.
Amen.*

Principal's Message

The 2025 Jubilee's theme - *Pilgrims of Hope* *Our Catholic Identity*

As part of our yearlong focus on the Jubilee Year's theme of Pilgrims of Hope, we celebrate our Catholic identity and foster a renewed sense of hope in the world and those around us. The Church's Catholic Social Teachings guide how individuals and society should approach issues of justice, peace, human dignity and the common good. The principles of these teachings share many similarities to the mission of International Baccalaureate - 'to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect'. As Pilgrims of Hope, who have chosen a Catholic IB learning environment, we are called to contribute to the building of a just world amidst the challenges of modern society, making choices that promote justice, peace and human dignity, all of which are central to our pilgrimage of hope. As St. Teresa of Avila reminds us, "...Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours, Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world."



Community Building

A special thank you to our Catholic School Council for organizing a successful Carnival gathering on February 25 at Port Credit Memorial Park. Close to 30 families gathered, shared hot chocolate, snacks, and had a visit from Bonhomme Carnaval (AKA Mme. Stalony) and some took advantage of the skating path. MERCI!!

Parent Literacy Night

Our FDK to Grade 2 staff hosted a literacy night on January 30. Thank you to the 24 parents who joined us to learn more about the foundational skills of reading and how to support reading development at home in a fun and engaging way. A special thank you to Ms. Arruda for spearheading the event.

Extra-Curricular Activities

St James recesses continue to be jammed packed with extra-curricular activities led by staff: chess club with Mr. Cunanan; Eco team with Ms. Johnson and teacher candidate Ms. Matias; choir with Ms. Marchesan; student council with Ms. Thibault & Ms. DeMelo; study hall with Mr. Correia; PALS with Ms. Medeiros; Yearbook club with Ms. McCann & Ms. Litster. Our Junior Basketball season has now ended, thank you to Mme. Stecki & Ms. Orlando as well as our Dance team with Mme. Stalony & Mme. Stecki.

International Baccalaureate Review

Schools authorized to teach International Baccalaureate programmes undergo a reflective process every five years. Programme evaluation is a key milestone in an IB programme's continuous improvement cycle. St. James CGLC is currently in a review year cycle. Staff have reviewed, updated and confirmed that all programme documentation and requirements are in place. Assessment of our implementation of the IB programme standards & practices is in progress. As parents offer a critical perspective on the school's communication, resources and implementation of the programmes, parents were invited to complete a short survey. We thank all parents who completed the survey sent out on February 26, 2025. If you have not yet had an opportunity to complete it, we hope you will take a few minutes before it closes on March 7th. An evaluation on-site visit from an IB evaluation team is scheduled for late April. The evaluation team engages the school in reflective conversations about the school's development of each IB standard and suggests areas of future programme development.



Academic Integrity Policy

As outlined in the Learner Profile Attributes, IB students are encouraged to be principled by acting with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people. Academic integrity is part of the teaching and learning process. Every IB World School is expected to have an academic integrity policy. This school-wide endeavour is more than a list of rules and penalties but rather a commitment to maintain an ethical culture. St James CGLC embeds academic integrity not only within our IB Learner Profile attributes and Approaches to Learning (ATL) but also within our Catholic Graduate Expectations.

From a young age, IB students are expected to be able to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong. In the context of academic integrity, one of the most important attributes is to be "principled" and all students participating in IB programmes are expected to act honestly, responsibly and ethically.

Why do we need academic integrity?

An understanding of academic integrity is fundamental in developing responsible & caring world citizens of the

future. The International Baccalaureate states the key educational reasons for a strong line on academic integrity are:

- to maintain fairness – all assessments need to provide an accurate reflection of a student's achievement.
- to maintain trust & credibility – assessments can only be trusted & recognized if they are a true and genuine reflection of a student's level of achievement
- to develop respect for others – it is acceptable to use the ideas, words or work of others; however these MUST be acknowledged

How can teachers support students:

- Academic Integrity Policy reviewed with students, including consequences
- Teaching time & lessons focused on referencing & bibliography format
- Consistent format for citing & bibliography across all MYP subjects

How can parents support students:

- Understand IB policies, procedures and guidelines in the completion of coursework & assessment by their children
- Support their children in managing workload and time management
- Support your children's independence by abstaining from giving undue assistance in the completion of their work
- Submit only genuine request for adverse circumstance considerations for their children

How students can avoid committing plagiarism:

- Read and understand the Academic Integrity Policy
- Maintain organized notes & sources during work periods & research
- Seek guidance when doubts arise about referencing
- Make sure that any information/material from others that is copied, paraphrased, adapted is acknowledged; giving credit for any words, ideas, images, maps, charts, musical compositions, films, etc.
- Information used is acknowledged in the body of the text using citation format and fully listed in the bibliography

Academic Integrity Policy (March 2023)

Recent technical advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools have sparked a need to review our policies and teaching to include learning how to correctly reference and ethically use information, opinions and AI tools.

IB students are encouraged to be effective communicators by expressing themselves confidently and creatively and principled in the choices they make. It is their responsibility to be academically honest in all aspects of their school work so that the marks they

receive are a true reflection of their own achievement. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence.

Students are supported with understanding academic integrity through teaching-learning activities that focus on prevention of academic misconduct incidents. The IB defines academic misconduct as deliberate or inadvertent behaviour that results in a student gaining an unfair advantage or disadvantaging another student. Depending on the circumstance, an appropriate consequence will be assigned which may include, but is not limited to:

- Redoing the assignment
- Redoing a section of the assignment
- Completing an alternative assignment
- Assigning a zero

Ultimately, 'the purpose of education is not only the attainment of high grades, but to acquire knowledge and develop skills for the future. The IB's mission statement is clear about the active role students have in their own learning. They are not just recipients of content, but are also expected to demonstrate authentic and genuine work that is a true reflection of their personal level of achievement.' (*IB Academic Integrity Policy, March 2023*)

Lent

Lent is traditionally described as lasting for 40 days, in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert during which he endured temptation by Satan.

In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, as well as giving up certain luxuries in order to replicate the account of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert; this is known as one's Lenten sacrifice. Many Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional, to draw themselves nearer to God. The Stations of the Cross, a devotional commemoration of Christ's carrying the Cross and of his crucifixion, are often observed. Many Roman Catholic churches remove flowers from their altars, while crucifixes, religious statues, and other elaborate religious symbols are veiled in violet fabrics in solemn observance of the event.

Throughout Christendom, some adherents mark the season with the traditional abstention from the consumption of meat.



Book Fair

The book fair was a big success! Thank you Ms. Maier for organizing the book fair for the students. We would like to thank the community for your continued support.

Peel Immunization

Peel Health will be reviewing student immunization records. Children whose records are not complete will receive a notice from Peel Health requesting that immunizations be completed. Suspension from school as required by Peel Health can result if student immunization is not up to date. **If you receive a notice from Peel Health please take the time to reply to their request.**

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.

2025 Annual Offence Declaration (AOD) for Volunteers

For those that have a Vulnerable Sector Police Records Search on file at the school we are now in need of a copy of the “**2025 Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteer**”. The 2025 AOD for Volunteers **is to be kept with the copy of the Vulnerable Sector Police Records Search the school has on file.** This is a procedure that is to be undertaken **every year** that keeps your Vulnerable Sector Police Records Search valid for another year. Please inform any family members that have a Vulnerable Sector Police Records Search on file with us that they must also sign a declaration. For any one that does not submit a declaration your police record search will expire as of June 2025. Copies can be found on our school website under Permission Forms. **The deadline for the 2025 AOD is March 31st, 2025.** Thank you.

Catholic School Council

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.

Thursday April 3rd

Thursday April 24, 6:30-7:30 pm Public Budget Information Webcast

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!

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

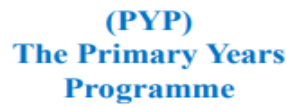
www.kidssentials.com

Stay In Touch:

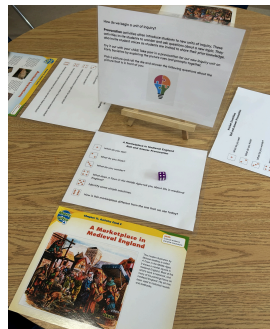
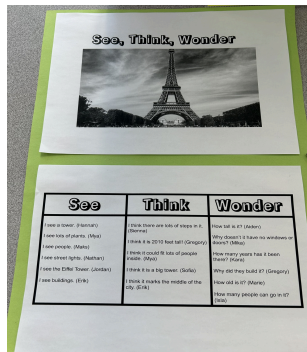
For meeting minutes and other council information, visit us at www.dpcdsb.org/JAMEE/Parents/

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

jameecscinfo@educ.dpcdsb.org



A big thank you to everyone for supporting our student-led conferences! Each year, this experience provides our students with the opportunity to exercise their voice, as they reflect on their growth throughout Term 1.



Practice Inquiry Learning at Home:

- **Ask open ended questions**
Try asking questions that prompt further questions, or may require additional research or exploration.
- **Encourage the use of hands on activities**
Consider encouraging your child to show their thinking in a variety of ways, like through the use of a drawing or model.
- **Investigate areas of interest, together**
If your child expresses new interest in a topic they learned about in class, take time to explore it more at home. This exploration might lead to nature walks, or trips to the local library.
- **Encourage trial and error**
Challenge your child to exercise their problem solving skills in new ways. Consider activities like letting them grow a vegetable this spring, or creating a plan to organize their toys differently; then, let students try the new experience and reflect on what worked and what didn't.
- **Encourage self reflection**
Ask prompting questions like, "What would you change", or "what do you want to explore next?", etc.

(MYP) The Middle Years Programme



Welcome to MYP!

Greetings! My name is Andrea Thibault, and I am excited to join the MYP team as the Programme Coordinator. With 22 years of experience in education, I have had the privilege of teaching at St. James CGLC for the past 9 years, where I have taught the International Baccalaureate program as a PYP teacher. I am passionate about supporting students through inquiry, and I look forward to collaborating with the MYP team to help our students grow into global thinkers who understand the impact they can have on the world. Alongside my role as MYP coordinator, I will also teach the IB Design course and support students as a Special Education Resource Teacher. Please contact me at the school if you have any questions about IB or services to help your child on their learning journey.

I would also like to warmly welcome Mr. Arin Cunanan to the MYP team as our new teacher for Language, Visual Arts, Music, and Drama. With his wealth of experience working with intermediate students, Mr. Cunanan quickly got our students engaged on day one. We are excited to have him at St. James and are looking forward to the learning that lies ahead.

As we embrace the opportunities of term 2, let's take a moment to reflect on the IB Mission: "To develop internationally minded people, who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world." - ibo.org

~ A. Thibault

March Feature: Approaches to Learning

Approaches to Learning (ATL) are skills designed to enable students in the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) to *learn how to learn*. ATL's are "a unifying thread throughout all MYP subject groups and are skills which help students manage

their own learning. They provide a foundation for success in further education and the world beyond the classroom." - ibo.org

Approaches to Learning (ATL) are divided into five skill categories:

- Social Skills
- Thinking Skills
- Self-Management Skills
- Research Skills
- Communication Skills

These skills are taught, referenced, and developed throughout the Middle Years Programme.

The goal is to equip students with skills to:

- Learn efficiently and effectively
- Foster a lifetime of learning
- Become positive and caring individuals

Through unit planning, teachers identify ATL's (both general and subject-specific) that students will need to develop, through their participation in learning experiences, to meet the unit's objectives. The selected skills support both horizontal and vertical planning of ATL skill development and aim to meet the MYP requirements. Over the next several months, this MYP section of the newsletter will highlight one or two of the specific skill categories beginning with Social Skills.

Social Skills

The **Social Skills** skill cluster focuses on Collaborative Skills, which are essential for working effectively with peers and adults. The IB's Social Skills ATL encourages empathy, acceptance, collaboration, sharing responsibility, and taking responsibility for one's actions, all aimed at building friendships and positive relationships. Teachers model and refer to these skills in daily interactions, integrating them into the student portfolio. These skills also align with DPCDSB virtues: empathy and acceptance.

Additionally, students develop social skills for behavior and communication, such as using social

media appropriately, listening actively, giving and receiving feedback, and helping others succeed. These skills are interconnected in collaborative tasks, where students work together towards common goals, contributing to individual and group success. Being a contributing classroom member requires commitment and effort to grow as a learner, impacting both self and others.

“ATL skills focus on the process of learning, helping students to become confident, independent, self-managed learners for life.”

-MYP: From Principles Into Practice (2014)

In the April newsletter feature, ATL's will continue to be the focus with a spotlight on Thinking and Self-Management Skills.

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.”

Upcoming Dates

Mar 4 - Shrove/Pancake Tuesday
Mar 4 - Virtue Assembly- Respect - 10:45am
Mar 5 - Ash Wednesday, 11am Liturgy in gym
Mar 10 to 14 - March Break, No School
Mar 19 - Rosary Apostolate Visit
Mar 19 - Gr. 6/7/8 Art Gallery Trip
Mar 21 - Samantha Youth Ministry Visits Gr. 4-8
Mar 24 - Gr. 1 Scientists In School Workshop
Mar 28 - Virtue Assembly - Kindness - 1:40pm
Mar 29 - First Communion Retreat at the Parish

MARCH BREAK

**There will be no school from Monday
March 10th to Friday March 14th, 2025.**

**The students will return on Monday
March 17th, 2025.**