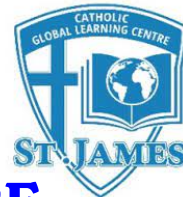




ST. JAMES



CATHOLIC GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE

98 Wanita Road, Mississauga, ON L5G 1B8
Phone - 905-891-7619 Fax - 905-278-6539

October 2024

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Secretary

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School Parish: St. Mary Star of the Sea

Pastor: Father Michael Simoes

*Thank you, Lord,
for the blessings you have bestowed on my
life.
You have provided me with more than I
could ever have imagined.
You have surrounded me with people who
always look out for me.
You have given me family and friends who
bless me every day with kind words and
actions.*

Amen

Virtue: October - Empathy

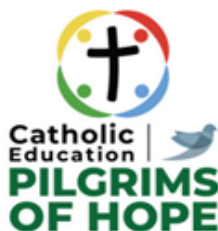
A person with *empathy*...

- Listens attentively
- Understands other's feelings and difficulties
- Notices and responds when someone is upset
- Able to share in the joy of others
- Can see a situation from another's point of view
- Knows that people may feel differently about the same thing

God has given us the ability to form connections with each other—to live together. Empathy helps us to connect and live together in a safe, caring, inclusive community. We understand empathy to mean the ability to identify with and feel other people's concerns. We believe that in a faith community we are nothing without relationships. Relationships that grow in a spirit of communion— and understanding that we share an identity based on being created in the image and likeness of God and being imbued with one Spirit. An empathetic person believes that we all share one Spirit; that we are many parts of one body because we are all created in the image and likeness of God.

Principal's Message

In September, we began Pope Francis' call to be pilgrims of hope through activities such as International Literacy Day Used Book Drive, and Truth & Reconciliation week activities. We will continue our social justice call to actions in October with the Thanksgiving Food Drive, Terry Fox Walk as well as our grade 8s community projects.



Thank you to our Catholic School Council parent volunteers – Kristen Zeljko, Nina Popovic, Amber Pronski, Adam Patola, Erick Mayen, Tina Cesario, Vishnuka Arulsundaram for organizing a very successful Open House BBQ – we had over 75% of our families attend. We look forward to forming the 2024-2025 Catholic School Council on October 3rd. All parents are welcome to attend either in person or virtually.

Our Jayhawk athletes are preparing for the upcoming Junior volleyball pod tournaments under the coaching efforts of Ms. DeMelo and Ms. Marchesan. Our cross-country runners are training for the Mississauga South meet at Erindale – thank you to Mme Stalony, Mr. Correia and Mr. Kelenc for their encouragement.

Our intermediate Wellness Leaders attended a conference and with Ms. Orlando's support are planning monthly activities. Ms. Thibault met with Student Council class representatives and they are planning a spirit filled year.

Our grade 8s broadcasters started our morning off in September with morning announcements and we look forward to the grade 7s taking over in October. Our grade 6 class ended the month of September by leading the virtue assembly. Students reminded us that reconciliation starts with each of us and Jesus calls us to bring hope, hear the voices of Indigenous people, shine God's light in dark corners and love unconditionally.

Thank you to our parents/guardians for helping to establish safe pick-up and drop-off practices in Kiss & Ride, FDK yard and at the entry/exit gates.

We look forward to celebrating our Thanksgiving Liturgy with Father Michael on October 17th, picture day on the 18th, Halloween activities and hot dog days.

M. Cloutier McCann
Principal

Sacramental Preparation 2024/25

St. Mary Star of the Sea Church will be hosting a mandatory Parents' Information Session at the parish for the sacrament of First Communion on **Saturday, October 5th at 11a.m.** Please see the parish website for registration requirement details.

Terry Fox Run/Walk

On Friday October 4th, the students of St. James will take part in the Terry Fox Run/Walk. Special thanks to Ms. Maier for organizing this event, and to the Community for your continued support for Cancer Research. Please donate online using our school fundraising page.

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/StJamesCatholicGlobalPortCredit>

Picture Day

We will be holding our picture day on Friday October 18th, 2024. If for any reason your child is unable to attend that day, we will be holding picture retakes on Tuesday November 12th, 2024.

Inclement Weather Procedures

If school is cancelled due to poor weather conditions, this information will be posted on the Dufferin Peel Board website: dpedsb.org

It may also be announced by the following radio stations.

CFRB CBC CHUM CFTR CKFM CHWO
CHIN

This board decision is normally made by 7:00 a.m.

Safe School Mission Statement

St. James CGLC is a Catholic community that respects and promotes the uniqueness of all its members. By following the teachings of Jesus, we pledge to provide everyone with a safe, caring and peaceful environment, which ensures the respect and acceptance of all. All reported bullying is always addressed. Your child deserves a safe environment to work, learn and play in. Thank you for supporting us as we support your child.

Fire Drills

In accordance with Ministry regulations, we will have conducted all three of our fire drills this fall. While we hope that a real fire never occurs, this practice helps prepare students in the event of a real fire.

Duty to Report



Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
40 Matheson Boulevard West, Mississauga, ON L5R 1C5 | 905-890-1221

"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. For the one who asks, always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened" Luke: 11. 9-11.

Sept 1, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians;

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) is a faith-filled community in which every learner is sacred, created in the image of God. Respect for human dignity is the foundation of equitable and inclusive education. When the safety of a child or youth may be at risk, DPCDSB collaborates with the Peel Children's Aid Society in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, and Dufferin Child and Family Services in Dufferin County, including Orangeville. These organizations are mandated to help, support, and strengthen families, so children and youth are safe and well.

At times, school staff may become aware of students who are experiencing difficulties. It is not the school's responsibility to investigate, evaluate or assign blame. It is everyone's responsibility to help keep all children safe.

It is the law in Ontario that every person within the school board who suspects that a child may be experiencing abuse, neglect or risk of harm must report this directly to the appropriate Children's Aid Society ([Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017, amended 2021](#)). This includes reporting suspected or confirmed cases of human/sex trafficking ([Bill 251](#)).

Concerns must be shared with the appropriate Children's Aid Society so that a support plan is developed with families to ensure the safety of the child. When a report to Children's Aid is made, school and community-based resources may be offered to help resolve concerns or issues. The DPCDSB also continues to support students who are in the care of the Children's Aid societies.

It is the sacred trust of DPCDSB to ensure the safety and well-being of all learners, so that every student can thrive.

Sincerely,

Lucy Papaloni

L. Papaloni
Superintendent, Special Education and Learning Services

Pina Grosso

P. Grosso, MSW, RSW
Chief Social Worker

Sign In/Out

The office will be handling the signing in and signing out of students. If you need to pick up your child during the school day, please notify the classroom teacher or office in writing or through the safe arrival/school messenger system. Once you arrive, please ring the doorbell and we will arrange to have your child brought to you at the front door. If a student is leaving the school independently during the day, we must have a written note to release them, phone permission will not be accepted.

If by chance students are late, we ask that they stop outside the office door and report themselves present. This is an important part of our safe entry process. When a child is alerted to the office as absent, the secretary cross-references to students who have checked in late before sending out the safe arrival callout.

Visitors

Parents/visitors are reminded that they are not permitted entry to classrooms and are not to accompany their child down the hallway. Please report to the office. School personnel will assist with the entry of late students as well as the early release of students for appointments. All students leaving the school during the school day will only be released through the front office and we ask that parents please wait at the front door to receive their child safely.

Dogs on School Property

Please be aware that dogs should not be brought onto school property. We have students with severe allergies. If your dog is escorting you and your child to and from school please make arrangements to meet your child on the sidewalk in front of the school.

Special thank you to Mr. Black for picking up after the many dogs who are let loose in our schoolyard after hours.

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.

If you are unable to access the School Messenger system you may also send an email to the JAMEE mailbox to report your attendance
st.jamesinfo@dpcdsb.org

If you are having trouble accessing both systems, messages can also be left on the phone system at 905-891-7619

Attendance & Punctuality



We ask for your support in ensuring daily school attendance throughout the academic year. We know that when students attend daily and on time, they are more

likely to stay on track with their learning and maintain social connections for their mental health and well-being.

Showing up on time every day is important to your child's success and learning from preschool forward. Missing 10% of school (1-2 days every few weeks) can:

- Make it harder to develop early reading skills
- Make it harder to develop numeracy skills
- Develop a poor pattern that's hard to break
- Absences can affect the whole class as time may be required to help children catch up
- Attending regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves

As per the Ontario Education Act, students who are enrolled in school are required to attend school daily by law until the age of 18 and/or until they obtain a diploma. Although at times absences cannot be avoided, it is recommended that whenever possible, students do not miss instructional time for extended vacations or extracurriculars. We ask that caregivers report all absences to the school as per the Safe Arrival program.

The staff at our school appreciate and value our partnership with families and ask for your continued support. Together, we can make school a memorable and positive experience for all students. You are also invited to refer to our Board's website to find well-being supports and the Safe & Accepting Schools Site

School Mental Health Ontario's Resource for Parents & Caregivers can also be accessed for additional resources to support well-being.

Medication

On occasion, the school is asked to store and/or give medication to students. **Medication of any kind** cannot be stored on school property without the proper medical forms on file.

1. A completed form must accompany each request for medication to be stored by the school. It is the prerogative of the Principal to decide whether or not medication will be stored or given out and may establish such conditions as are deemed necessary regarding any specific request.
2. School personnel will not assume responsibility for the administration of any medication.
3. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to monitor the quantity of medication stored by the school.
4. Please let the office know if you require Storage of Medication Forms so they can be forwarded to you.

Life Threatening Allergies

Parents/ guardians are discouraged from sending peanut butter substitute products to school with their child(ren). If a child with a life-threatening peanut allergy sees what looks like peanut butter, they may experience anxiety and/or a physical panic reaction. Such products can create significant challenges for staff, and especially students, to identify real peanut butter from the substitute. Please help us ensure all students feel safe by reading labels carefully and refrain from sending peanut products or substitutes to school.

Parents In The Yard

For your child's safety we request that he/she not be on school property until supervision begins at 8:45 a.m. Please do not drop your child off at the school prior to 8:45 a.m. If not using the Kiss and Ride at dismissal, parents are reminded to refrain from approaching the school building or class lines and allow your child to come to you.

Kiss & Ride

The safety of our students and parents is of great concern to us here at the school. Please drive **SLOWLY** through the Kiss and Ride lane as well as the drive through lane. Please wait to pick up your child in the four designated spots. Please do not block the Kiss and Ride zone and areas that would hinder the movement of cars. Cars cannot be left in the lanes at any time.

Parking Lot Safety Reminders

Parents and guardians are asked to please help make our driveways a safe place for our students. **Do not park in the accessible parking spots (unless you have a valid permit)**, the drop-off lanes or the fire route lane.

Please:

- Park only in designated parking spots
- Slow down while driving through our driveways
- Consider parking on the road and walking in
- Do not enter the driveway the wrong way

There is limited parking on school property and no parking on the south side of Wanita Road. Please be considerate of neighbours and refrain from blocking driveways. Consider parking on one of the neighborhood streets and walking your child(ren) to the school, parking at the strip mall at the east side of the school off of Lakeshore or drop off/pick-up in Kiss and Ride.

Lunch

Your child will need to bring a full lunch, personal water bottle and snacks every day. Water fountains are also available but we recommend the use of water bottles. We also have two water filling stations.

If your child forgets his/her lunch, school staff will contact you to provide a lunch. Students will only be allowed to leave school property at lunch if they **have a written note from a parent/guardian.**

Phone permission will not be accepted.

Change of Clothes/Shoes

Children are expected to participate in Daily Physical Activity/Physical Education activities and are reminded to dress for the weather. It is recommended the children of all grades have a change of clothing at school in the event that they get wet. Students are asked to ensure that they have a pair of indoor shoes at school. We ask that children change their footwear when they come inside in an effort to keep our classroom floors clean.

Gym Attire

It is important for students to have appropriate gym attire on their gym days. Running shoes, shorts, sweatpants, warm-up pants, t-shirts, or a hooded sweatshirt are necessary to participate in gym.

Head Injuries

The school continues to follow the school board's head incident procedure. Please be aware you will receive a call from the school informing you of ANY incident involving your child's head. If we do not speak to you directly, a message will be left for you advising of the incident. In the case of a more serious incident you will be asked to call the school back and we will continue to try to reach you.

Catholic School Council

Congratulations to the parents/guardians who submitted nomination forms. All submitted names have been acclaimed and no election is necessary. Nominated and acclaimed parents must be in attendance at the first meeting to hold a position on council.

Our first meeting will be held Thursday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m.. The meeting is open to all parents. The link to the Meeting will be sent to parent/guardians' email on October 3rd.

All parents are encouraged to participate in council meetings. You do not have to be an executive member of the council to participate.

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

Confidentiality

We live in an age where most parents/guardians and many students have cell phones and other Personal Electronic Equipment (PEDs) that have photo, recording and videotaping features. The temptation to take photos, video-tape friends, teachers at school and other events is high, especially when parent/family members are unable to attend the event. The accessibility of these advanced technologies make it easy and immediate.

The concerns that schools have is how can the school maintain and protect the confidentiality of our students and staff when acts that seem so innocent can potentially have serious/harmful consequences. If photos, video clips are placed on Facebook pages, YouTube and other websites, control is lost on who can view it. In addition, written consent from the participants must be secured to post such information.

Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board adheres to strict policies and guidelines on maintaining the confidentiality of students and staff. At the beginning of each year, parents/guardians sign forms granting/disallowing photos of their child(ren) to be taken for school use (i.e., in classrooms, hallway bulletin boards and assembly video presentations). Schools should not post personal information on their websites. Personal information is defined in Section 2 of the *MFIPPA* Act, as '*recorded information about an identifiable individual*'.

Personal information should only be posted where informed consents have been obtained from all affected individuals or from persons who are legally authorized to consent on their behalf. *Informed consent* requires that the person consenting understands the exact nature of the information for which consent is sought, the potential consequences of signing the consent form, and be given the right to revoke the consent at any time.

As such, we require parents/guardians/students to respect and adhere to Dufferin Peel's policy on Confidentiality of Student & Staff Information.

Personal Electronic Devices on Board Premises and/or Board Sanctioned Events for Educational Purposes

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board acknowledges the value of the use of technology for learning. Students are permitted to register and use personal electronic devices (PEDs) on board premises and/or board sanctioned events for educational purposes, under the direction of staff and only with parent/guardian permission (GF 066- Network User Application and Agreement, completed at initial registration). Students may register their PED for the purpose of connecting to the board wireless network. Students are required to adhere to the student “Personal Electronic Device Used with WI-FI Network Student Agreement” and the “Network User Application and Agreement.” The student agreement GF 337 will need to be signed before students can use the Wi-Fi network.

Please be advised that the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board will not be responsible for any cost incurred through the use of personal data plans.

Ministry of Education Policy/Program Memoranda 128 Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct were updated and came into effect September 2024. The update and direction includes **cell phone usage**. Cell Phones must now be kept turned off or set to silent mode and be out of sight for the school day. Contravention of the Ministry of Education expectations will be addressed according to the procedures outlined within our Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board’s Catholic Code of Conduct.

Students are responsible for the safety and security of PEDs at all times and the Board assumes no responsibility for lost, damaged or stolen devices.

Should parents/guardians need to communicate with their children during the school day, please contact the school office.



(PYP) The Primary Years Programme

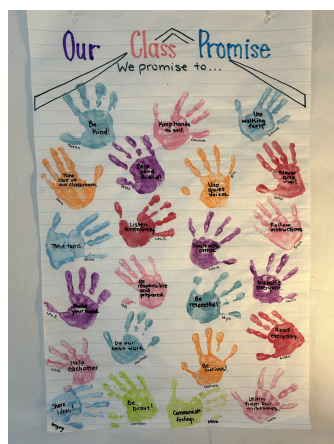
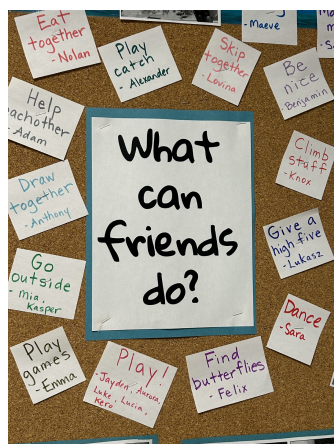
Creating Inclusive Learning Communities

We welcome the month of October by reflecting on a very successful September here at St. James! Our Open House BBQ gave parents and families the chance to see how busy our teachers and students have been! In the PYP hallway, the first month of school has been dedicated to creating inclusive, student-centred classrooms. Our PYP classes represent many elements foundational to an IB education.

They:

- are inclusive spaces that value diversity.
 - foster relationship building and encourage cooperation.
 - provide a space where our learners grow to feel confident taking risks.
 - allow for inquiry-based learning to unfold.
- More on this below!

From essential agreements to self-portraits, our PYP classes have been busy as many begin to explore their first transdisciplinary theme, “Who We Are”.



What does Inquiry-based learning look like in the classroom?

The International Baccalaureate promotes an inquiry-approach to learning within the classroom, and beyond. This approach fosters curiosity, exploration and encourages a growth mindset. So what exactly does inquiry look like in the classroom? Well...

Inquiry includes:

- Flexible learning spaces
- The exploration of open ended questions or prompts
- Connections to real-world applications
- Hands on, engaging learning experiences
- The use of prior knowledge as a launch point
- Making meaningful connections between subject areas.

To read more, check out the link below for the IB's approach to inquiry-based learning in the classroom:
[IB Primary Years Program - Learning and Teaching](#)

Truth and Reconciliation Week in the Library

To honour Truth and Reconciliation week, grade K-3 classes explored what the word *truth* means, and why it is important for maintaining healthy relationships with others. We also unpacked the meaning of the word *reconciliation* by talking about why repair is important after conflict. Students volunteered ideas to our paper chain creation by sharing ways they can resolve a problem or promote repair.





(MYP) The Middle Years Programme

October Feature: Truth and Reconciliation



Image Courtesy DPCDSB SharePoint

As DPCDSB recognized Truth and Reconciliation Week and Orange Shirt Day, our MYP students have been exploring Indigenous cultures and participating in various activities. They are also developing the IB Learner Profile attribute of Knowledgeable, engaging with issues and ideas of local and global significance, as they work through this inquiry.

Through Language and Literature, the MYP students have been participating in daily learning activities with the focus on understanding the history, ongoing impacts and current events of Indigenous peoples.

Year 1 (Grade 6) Activities:

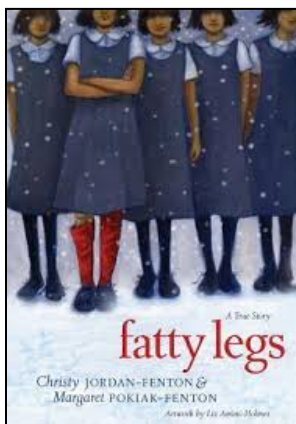


Image Courtesy Google Images

Students are reading the story, “Fatty Legs” by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton. Students will discuss and reflect on experiences depicted in the book and reflect about what they learned about residential schools.

Year 2 (Grades 7) Activities:

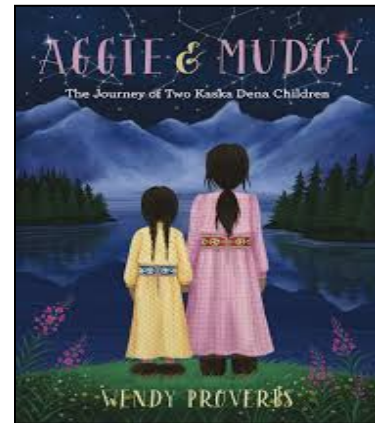


Image Courtesy Google Images

Students are reading the story, “Aggie and Mudgy” by Wendy Proverbs. In this novel students will read about the true story of the author's biological mother and aunt, who were taken from their home to attend a residential school.

Year 3 (Grades 8) Activities:

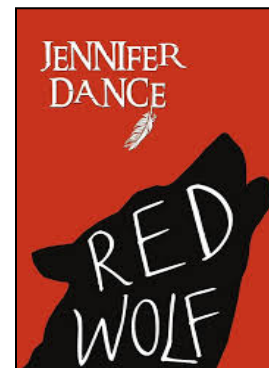


Image Courtesy Google Images

Students are reading the story, “Red Wolf” by Jennifer Dance. Through this novel students will learn about how the Indian Act of 1876 and the residential schools system affected Indigenous cultures.

Further to reading the novels, students participated in a variety of engaging activities. The Year 1 students, in connection to the Virtue assembly, initiated a school-wide activity to recognize Truth and Reconciliation week. All students were provided with a feather and on the feathers they could write how students should feel or an action they could take towards reconciliation.



The Year 1 students also took the lead for the Faith Virtue assembly in which the focus was on how, through our faith, we can reconcile and examine the truth around residential schools and indigenous experiences.

In Year 2 and 3, the grade 7 students researched ways they could reconcile with Indigenous people. They demonstrated their learning through the creation of informative posters. The grade 8 students created their own land acknowledgement videos to support our DPCDSB approved land acknowledgement. In the videos, students highlighted words they felt were important and wanted to stand out.



Through the National Truth and Reconciliation Centre conference, students also had an opportunity to listen to Phyllis Webstad, whose bravery inspired Orange Shirt Day, read her orange shirt day book and learned how to take action towards reconciliation.

Wellness Leaders



September has been a busy month and with the intent of starting the year strong, there has been a continued focus on student well-being. Through DPCDSB's Well-Being Department, four students in grades 7 & 8 were invited to participate in a full day conference that taught students wellness promotion strategies that they could share with their schools. The students that will take the lead and represent St. James CGLC as Wellness Ambassadors are Lucas D., Amy N., Cole T., and Jessie A. Although these students will take the lead, other students are invited to join the wellness committee and support initiatives at school.

With their teacher mentor, Ms. Orlando, students will periodically develop videos and share strategies that promote Mental Health and Wellness throughout the year.

The grade 7 and 8 ambassadors will provide students with strategies that promote positive mental health and well-being. Some strategies that will be shared include:

- Mindful moments
- Vitamin C snacks
- Physical activity
- Listening to music
- Laughter

These helpful strategies can also be practised at home as a way to continue the learning happening at school.

Upcoming Dates

- Oct 3 - Catholic School Council Mtg 6:30 p.m.
- Oct 4 - FDK Classes Andrew's Scenic Trip
Terry Fox Walk/Run
- Oct 5 - 11:00 am First Communion parent meeting
St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish
- Oct 8 - Junior Girls' Volleyball pod tournament
- Oct 9 - Junior Boys' Volleyball pod tournament
Rosary Apostolate Visit
- Oct 11 - P.A. Day, No School for Students
Hot Dog/Veggie Dog order & payment due
- Oct 14 - Thanksgiving Monday, No School
- Oct 16 - Cross Country Meet Erindale
- Oct 17 - Thanksgiving Liturgy 11 a.m. in the gym
- 7to9 pm First Communion session #1 for
parents at St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish
- Oct 18 - Picture Day
- Hot Dog/Veggie Dog Lunch Day
- Oct 18 - Gr. 4 Riverwood Trip
- Oct 23 - PALS training
- Oct 24 - 7to9 pm First Communion session #2 for
parents at St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish
- Oct 25 - PALS training
- Oct 31 - Hot Dog/Veggie Dog Lunch Day

Be sure to visit our school website. All newsletters
and other pertinent information are always updated.
<http://dpcdsb.org/jamee>

P.A. DAY

**There will be no school for the students on
Friday October 11th, 2024.**

Staff will be participating in Provincial Priorities covering the
following topics: Student Well-Being, Literacy and
Mathematics, School Safety and Violence Prevention

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

**There will be no school on
Monday October 14th**

as we celebrate Thanksgiving Monday. The school will be
closed as we all give thanks for our blessings.