

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School



39 Sunset Blvd.,
Brampton, On
L6X 1X1

www.dpcdsb.org/OLFAT

Phone 905-459-4737

Fax 905-459-6088

Principal:

A. Fiore

Head Secretary:

M. Francia

School Chair

Heather Coelho

Superintendent:

V. Varano

Trustee:

Wards 1, 3 & 4: Anisha
Thomas

Parish:

St. Anne's

Fr. Suresh Xavier -
Pastor

Rev. Jobin Thomas

Associate Pastor

905-453-1303

School Hours:

Entry: 8:30

Lunch: 11:32-12:32

Recess:

Morning: 9:54-10:09

Afternoon: 1:55-2:10

End of Day: 3:00

Principal's Message

As we approach the festive season, I am filled with a sense of anticipation and gratitude for the blessings that surround us. The season of Advent marks a time of reflection, hope, and preparation for the celebration of Christmas, a time when we come together as a community to cherish the joy of the holiday season.

Advent, derived from the Latin word 'adventus,' meaning 'coming,' invites us to pause and contemplate the true meaning of Christmas. It is a season of hope, a time to reflect on the profound significance of the birth of Jesus Christ and the message of love and compassion He brought into the world.

During this season, let us strive to embody the values of Advent in our daily lives—hope, peace, joy, and love. As a school community, we have the unique opportunity to foster a sense of togetherness and kindness that extends beyond our classrooms and resonates in the wider world.

In the spirit of giving, I encourage each of us to consider ways in which we can make a positive impact on the lives of others. Whether through acts of kindness, generosity, or supporting those in need, let our actions reflect the true spirit of Christmas. Together, we can create a ripple effect of goodwill that transforms our school community and beyond.

As we gather with our loved ones to celebrate Christmas, let us remember the importance of gratitude and appreciation for the blessings in our lives. May the warmth of the season fill our hearts with love, and may the joy of Christmas inspire us to spread kindness to all.

On behalf of the staff of Our Lady of Fatima, wishing you and your families a blessed Advent season and a joyous Christmas filled with love, peace, and happiness.

A. Fiore



December 2024

Goodbye

It is with a mix of gratitude and sadness that I announce the retirement of our beloved custodian, Krystyna Tracewicz, effective November 28th, 2024. Krystyna has been an integral part of our school community for 5 years, dedicating her time, care, and effort to ensure that our school is always a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for students, staff, and families.

Beyond keeping our school in excellent shape, Krystyna has also been a kind and friendly presence in our hallways, always ready with a smile, a helping hand, or a quick word of encouragement. Her hard work, dedication, and positive attitude have left an indelible mark on our school.

Thank you, Krystyna, for everything you've done for us. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you a wonderful retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and new adventures.

Congratulations

I am writing to share some bittersweet news: Mr. Saieva has accepted a Vice Principal position with York Catholic District School Board and will be leaving Our Lady of Fatima at the end of December 20th, 2024.

While we will greatly miss Mr. Saieva's dedication, expertise, and the warmth he brings to our school, we are thrilled for him as he steps into this well-deserved leadership role. Throughout his time with us, Mr. Saieva has made an immeasurable impact on our students, families, and staff.

This transition is a testament to Mr. Saieva's passion for education and his ability to inspire those around them. We know he will bring the same energy, vision, and care to his new role, and York Catholic District School Board is incredibly fortunate to have him.

Thank you, Mr. Saieva, for your years of service, your passion for education, and your unwavering commitment to our school community. We will miss you, but we are so proud of your next step.

Welcome

I am thrilled to announce that Mrs. DaSilva will be joining Our Lady of Fatima as our new SERT/SERC starting January 3rd, 2025. We are excited to have her become part of our team and look forward to the expertise, energy, and passion she will bring to our school.

We are so fortunate to have Mrs. DaSilva join us, and I know she is eager to meet all of you and begin building strong connections with students, staff, and families.

Fatima Christmas Food Drive and Sock Drive

This Christmas our school will be donating to our local church, St. Anne. Please find a list below of recommended contributions. Our collection will begin December 3rd. Items are due by December 18th. We greatly appreciate your support and generosity at this very special time of the year. *Christmas Blessings to all.*

Non-perishable food items that are needed: (no pasta and beans; as they have a 2 year supply at this point)

- instant coffee
- tuna
- oil
- canned vegetables
- rice
- pasta sauce
- canned luncheon meat
- canned fruit
- carnation or powdered milk
- pancake/muffin mix
- flour

- sugar/salt
- tea
- vinegar
- ketchup
- mustard
- mayonnaise

Kids Items:

- formula (not jar food)
- juice boxes
- peanut free snacks
- diapers (Large sizes 4+)

Personal Items:

- toilet paper
- tooth paste/brushes
- body soap/dish soap
- shampoo/conditioner
- body wash
- laundry soap
- razors

Dental Screening

Oral health is an important part of a child's overall health. Peel Public Health is providing free dental screening, as required by the Ontario Ministry of Health, for students in grades JK, SK, 2, 4, 7 on December 13, 16, 2024. Please note that dental screening may be completed earlier than the expected end date. A dental screening is a quick assessment by a registered dental hygienist who will take a look inside your child's mouth. A separate, sterilized mouth mirror is used for each child. It identifies children who may be in need of dental care. After the dental screening, a form with the results will go home with every child screened. If a child is identified with a dental condition requiring immediate dental treatment, the parent may be contacted by a dental staff member. A re-screening may be required. Complete the form you received from the school to indicate whether you want your child to participate in the free dental screening.

Christmas Gingerbread Evening

Just a reminder of our upcoming Gingerbread House making and Grinch movie taking place on Wednesday December 11th at 5:30 - 7:30. We look forward to seeing you at this event. Thank you to the families who purchased gingerbread homes. We look forward to seeing you at this event.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: HOPE

This month, we will celebrate the virtue of **hope**. We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life. We understand that both the world and its people are from God and so are essentially good. Furthermore, God has given us this Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us. Year after year, we are reminded that God chose to send his Son to us because we are worth it. God knows how great we can be when we all come together **People of Hope...**

Keep up a positive attitude

Can bounce back from tough situations

Set and stick to their goals

See the good in others even when they make mistakes

Work to include others

SCHOOL BUS CANCELLATIONS AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

Student Transportation of Peel Region is responsible for deciding whether busses will be cancelled or not in each of the 3 zones in our school board on days of heavy snow or freezing rain. OUR LADY OF FATIMA SCHOOL belongs to ZONE 2. All parents should check the board website for the yellow banner when bad weather is anticipated. Decisions are made by 6:30 am. There are two possible scenarios. One, all

schools and offices are completely closed. Two, busses are cancelled but schools and offices are open. Please note, if busses are cancelled, it is for both morning and afternoon runs.

@STOPRinfo @DPCDSBSchools
www.dpcdsb.org www.stopr.ca

INDOOR SHOES

We would like to remind parents to send an extra pair of shoes to school with their child/ren. The muddy weather is upon us, and the extra pair of shoes would help to reduce the tracking of outdoor mud into the classrooms. Please be aware that students must have the proper indoor gym shoes to participate during gym time.

WINTER - EXPOSURE TO EXTREME COLD

At rest, an unprotected person can maintain their core body temperature until the temperature falls to or below minus 25 degrees Celsius. The main risk of exposure to extremely cold weather for relatively short periods (recess or lunch periods) is that of frostbite. Someone who is protected by clothing or is physically active may be able to withstand exposure to colder temperatures.

In the past, the temperature at which frostbite initially posed risk was based on a healthy adult. However, there are others who are at greater risk. For example, children, seniors, people with circulatory problems, people taking certain prescription medications, etc.

The amount of time outdoors **should be reduced** for children (grade 8 and under) when the temperature is -20 degrees Celsius or colder. When the temperature or equivalent wind chill temperature is minus 25 degrees Celsius or lower children **shall** be kept indoors.

What is the Wind Chill Factor?

On a windy day, it feels much colder outdoors compared to a day without wind. This apparent coldness is due to a rapid cooling effect produced by the wind. The wind chill factor is a measure of

the combined chilling effect of temperature and the wind and represents the real rate of how fast an object (or person) cools.

For determining the present outside temperature and wind chill factor, log on to the following website and search by city.

http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/on-24_metric_e.html

Cold Weather Guidelines for Schools

Peel Health has made the following recommendations regarding the steps to be taken to prevent cold injuries:

1. Establish both a policy and plan to deal with extreme temperatures and winter storms.
2. Reduce the amount of time children (grade 8 and under) spend outdoors when the temperature is -20 degrees Celsius or colder, with or without wind chill. Keep children indoors when the temperature is -25 degrees Celsius or colder, with or without wind chill. Some medical conditions may increase sensitivity to cold, parents should consult their physician (Source: Environment Canada);
3. Allow indoor breaks if children say they are feeling cold or during extreme temperatures.
4. Ensure children are dressed warmly, covering exposed skin: insulated boots, winter weight coats, mittens, hats, and neck warmers;
5. Change wet clothing or footwear immediately;
6. Although these conditions are unlikely to occur during the school day, ensure that all staff are able to recognize and treat symptoms of frostbite and hypothermia. Give plenty of warm fluids to prevent dehydration;

7. When children are outside, be watchful for shivering or signs of numbness in faces, ears, hands or feet;
8. Educate children in dealing with cold weather: drinking plenty of fluids, dressing warmly, and recognizing signs of cold injury, etc.

Cold Weather Guidelines for schools are also available at the following link:

<http://www.peelregion.ca/health/cold/extreme-cold/schools.htm>



DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER - CHANGE OF CLOTHING



With the cold and wet weather come wet socks, pants, etc. We encourage parents to send an extra pair of socks, pants, etc. especially for the younger children. If they do get wet, they will have a change of clothing, and we will not need to interrupt your work schedule.

CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Christmas Break shall be from Monday December 23rd to January 3rd inclusive.

It's Kindergarten Registration time!

Start the journey into learning with us!



Children born in 2020 or 2021 can start Kindergarten in September 2025.

The following documents are required for registration:

- proof of age of the child (birth certificate or passport);
- original Roman Catholic baptismal certificate
 - an original Roman Catholic baptismal certificate (for child and/or parent/guardian), or;
 - an original baptismal certificate (for child and/or parent/guardian) from a church that is in full communion with the Holy See of Rome, or;
 - an original baptismal certificate (for child and/or parent/guardian) from an Eastern/Byzantine Rite of the Roman Catholic Church.
- proof of Canadian citizenship (birth certificate/passport) or permanent resident status;
- proof of home address (two of the following: property tax bill, current utility bill, real estate document or Government of Canada issued forms);
- emergency rural address numbers, if applicable;
- immunization - report your child's immunizations to Region of Peel Public Health or Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health online and give the reference number to your child's school when registering.
- proof of English Separate School Support (may be provided at the time of registration by completing an Application for the Direction of School Support and/or a Separate School Lease Agreement available at the school). *All documentation must be in English.

Register online for the 2025-2026 school year at dpcdsb.org



Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

Mark Your Calendar...

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|-----------------------|--|
| Dec 4 | Immunization for Gr. 7 and 8 |
| Dec 5 | Leger visits Gr. 8's |
| Dec 6..... | Rosary Apostolate |
| Dec 9..... | Cookie order pickup @ 3:00 - 5:30 |
| Dec 11..... | Christmas Gingerbread/Movie night 5:30 - 7:30 pm |
| Dec 13, 16 | Dental Screening (JK,SK, 2, 4, 7) |
| Dec 18..... | Advent Mass @ 10:30 a.m. |
| Dec. 20..... | Last day of School |
| Dec. 23 to Jan 3..... | Christmas Break (inclusive) |

