

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School



39 Sunset Blvd.,
Brampton, ON
L6X 1X1

www.dpcdsb.org/OLFAT

Phone 905-459-4737

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Principal:

A. Fiore

Head Secretary:

M. Francia

School Council Chair:

H. 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 a.m.

Lunch: 11:32-12:32

Recess:

Morning: 9:54-10:09 a.m.

Afternoon: 1:55-2:10 p.m.

End of Day: 3:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 2024

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father,
We are thankful for all Your blessings,
goodness and mercy on us.
We are thankful for all the people in
our lives who make our life meaningful
and beautiful. Thank You for watching
over us and getting us all here safely.
Let Your blessings be upon everyone
here today. May we be protected and
all our prayers be answered.

In Jesus mighty name.

Amen

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER

Mark Your Calendar...

Oct. 8 Opening Mass @ 10:30 a.m.

Oct. 11 PA Day - No school

Oct. 14 Thanksgiving No School

Oct. 18 Rosary Apostolate

Oct. 25 Picture Retake

Oct. 25 Dress Purple Day

Oct. 31 Halloween Dance

October 2024

Our Faith



The Virtue for the month of October is EMPATHY

God has given us the ability to form connections with each other – to live together.

An empathetic person...

- Listens attentively when someone speaks.
- Notices and responds when someone is upset.
- Can name their feelings.
- Can see a situation from another person's point of view.
- Accepts that people may feel differently about the same thing

Empathy helps us to connect and live together in safe, caring, inclusive communities. Empathy refers to the ability to identify with and feel other people's concerns.

ACCIDENTS, INJURIES, OR ILLNESSES

In accordance with DPCDSB policy, St. Maria Goretti shall prioritize the health and safety of all students. Any accidents, injuries, or illnesses occurring on school premises or during school-sponsored excursions shall be managed promptly, and parents/guardians shall be informed of any incidents requiring first aid. In the event of a serious accident, injury, or illness, emergency services shall be contacted immediately, and parents/guardians shall be notified without delay. All incidents shall be reported following board procedures.

OPENING MASS

Our first mass of the school year took place on October 8th, at 10:30 in the school's large gym. Thank you to Father Suresh for joining us.

OCTOBER 5 -WORLD TEACHER'S DAY

A Prayer for World Teacher Day: Giver of all wisdom and greatest of all teachers. Look upon our teachers with love. Grant them the resolve to nurture our eager minds and to never give up on us who fall behind. Bless their hearts for they rejoice when we succeed and encourage us when we fail. And bless them with gentle patience for the path of

learning is never easy. Kindle a spirit and passion in them it is the flame that ignites the love of learning in us. Help them see the potential in each student. Their belief in us means much more than the grade we make. Instill in them a commitment to keep on learning. It shows us to not fear new knowledge and experiences. Inspire them to touch the future. They influence how big a dream we dream for ourselves. Bless our teachers who have come before. For their work endures to this day. Let the light of your example shine upon all teachers. To build up with their words. To love with their mind. To share with their heart. Amen

TERRY FOX WALK/RUN

Our Lady of Fatima students participated in the Terry Fox walk on Thursday October 10th. The school as a whole went on a walk around the school and neighbourhood. This year families are asked to donate directly online to the Terry Fox Foundation.

<http://www.terryfox.ca/OurLadyofFatimaCESBrampton>

Individual classes did a variety of activities prior to the walk to help students understand who Terry Fox was and his contributions to the Canadian Cancer Society. We are very proud to be associated with the Terry Fox Foundation and believe that our involvement will launch a successful, positive and meaningful school year and help to reinforce our Catholic values. For more information about Terry Fox – here is a link to a 14 min video “Anything is Possible”: <https://youtu.be/3BzyHYZgMz8>. So far, we have raised \$1245.00 AMAZING.

Thank you to Ms. Tatarski and Ms. Stipanac for organizing this year's event.

HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY

We will be having the Halloween Dance Party on October 31. Further information regarding dance time and details will follow. Students are invited to come dressed in Halloween costume or colors; however, masks and props are not permitted.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Halloween is just around the corner. All students from kindergarten to Grade 8 are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to school on Thursday October 31st. Please read this memo carefully to have a fun, inclusive and appropriate Halloween Day at school. Students will also have the chance to dance in the gym for 40 minutes with grade level peers. Expectations for all students are outlined below.

- For Health and safety reasons, students may not bring or wear masks to school. Toy replica weapons of any kind are not permitted.
- Costumes with long capes should be avoided. They can be damaged during outdoor breaks and are also a tripping hazard. The school will not be responsible for costumes damaged outside.
- Costumes cannot:

- Represent historically oppressed people and cultures or negatively portray other cultures' clothing.
- Represent people of physical differences, gender differences or cross gender dressing such as boys dressing as girls.
- Mock or condescend religions or religious beliefs or use sacred images and clothing (such as dressing up in costumes of religion)
- Include face painting in the portrayal of another race.
- Include excessively graphic or frightening imagery such as symbols of death, violence and even.

Finally, please do not send food of any kind for the class to share (cupcakes, assorted candies, etc. Unfortunately, all food products will be returned with the student.

Here are some suggestions to keep the children of our school safe.

- Choose brightly coloured costumes.
- Use face paint instead of masks.
- Plan a safe route with your child.
- Remind your child of road safety rules.
- Accompany your children.
- Remind children not to enter homes.
- Check the treats before allowing your children to eat them.

DROPPING OFF LUNCHES

If you are bringing a lunch to the school for your child, please follow our procedure:

- Students eat between 11:32-11:52
- Place the lunch on table outside of the main office,
- Ensure your child's name is on the lunch.
- Ensure your child knows, before school, that a lunch will be coming to school for him/her.
- **Please note: the office will not be calling the students down to pick up their lunches as this interrupts the class while the teacher is teaching. The student will be called down at lunch time if the lunch is not picked up from the lunch table. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.**

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

A great big thank you goes out to everyone who supported our Fall Book Fair. The turnout was great! Thank you to all of the families and students who joined us at the Open House night! Our library is now open and in full operation. Students have the opportunity to sign out books on a weekly basis. Students JK to Grade 3 will be allowed to

sign out 1 book per week. Students in Grades 4 and 8 may sign out two books per week. Students are encouraged to return their book(s) each week but may renew their book(s) if they have not finished reading them. We are looking forward to a great year of reading and learning.

OCTOBER 25 - DRESS PURPLE DAY (OCTOBER IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH)

Every October, Children's Aid Societies across Ontario raise awareness about the important role that individuals and communities play in supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families through the provincial Dress Purple Day campaign. link: <http://www.oacas.org/dresspurpleday/>

HOT LUNCHES - PRE-ORDERED LUNCHES WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE TO BE PURCHASED THROUGH SCHOOL CASH ON-LINE SYSTEM ON MONTHLY BASIS

PEDS POLICY

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board acknowledges the value and use of technology to support learning. The revisions to the Personal Electronic Devices Policy (PEDS) on school property permits students to register and use PEDS on board property and/or at sanctioned events for educational purposes under the direction of school staff. Students shall use technology in accordance with the expectations of behaviour outlined in the Catholic Code of Conduct and other board policies. PEDS Forms and Network User Agreements must be signed for each student wishing to bring in and use a personal device at school. While cell phones are permissible, they are not to be used during the school day. If you need to reach your child, please contact the office and the message will be relayed.

HOMEWORK

Please be advised that teachers at Our Lady of Fatima School will adhere to the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board policy on *Homework – Kindergarten to Grade 12*. In particular, the policy states that homework shall not be assigned to students in kindergarten. Homework in the early grades (Grades 1-3) shall more often take the form of reading, playing, discussing, listening, viewing, and interactive activities such as building and cooking with the family. In later grades (Grades 4 to 6) homework may take the form of independent work, with a maximum of 40 minutes per day, and a maximum of 60 minutes per day on average for intermediate students.

A summary of the policy can be found in your child's agenda (Grades 1 to 8).

We continue to ask for your support as we promote good work habits at home for our students and ask that you help in the following ways:

- monitoring daily homework and ensuring that your child(ren) complete all tasks to the best of their ability.
- providing a consistent time and location for daily homework.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

All parents and visitors entering the school are expected to stop at the office, sign in and receive an identification tag. We respectfully ask that you do not accompany your child or go unannounced to the door of his/her class. All doorways are clearly marked with signs indicating that **ALL** visitors must report to the office. Staff and students are expected to report any visitors without identification tags to the office immediately.

ECO NEWS

To help support our ECO team, we are asking all parents to please remember to send cutlery such as forks and spoons to school for their child's lunch. We are hoping that this will eliminate the amount of single use of plastic, we as a school, use on a daily basis. Thanks for your help in protecting our planet.

KISS & RIDE PROGRAM



We thank those parents who use our Kiss N Ride daily in the proper manner. Please remember that the Kiss N Ride Lane is **not a parking lane. Please do not park and exit your car while accessing the Kiss N Ride program.**

Kiss & Ride lanes are for the purpose of quick disembarking of students. Within all Region of Peel schools, children who are capable of safely opening and closing car doors by themselves, should access the Kiss & Ride Lane. It is understood that parents of younger children feel it necessary to get out of their cars and escort their children safely onto school property. If this is your situation, please access the school parking lot or park along Sunset Blvd. within the designated areas. Kiss & Ride is a convenience provided to parents with the intention of adults remaining in their cars and exiting the area quickly once their children have safely left the vehicle and are independently moving toward the school entry door assigned to their class. Please be aware that the City of Brampton Parking Control may be monitoring our Kiss and Ride program in the near future to ensure the safety of all of our students. Once again, we appreciate your cooperation and support in bringing our students to and from Our Lady of Fatima School safely each day.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The school's expectations will be reviewed with students by school administration during announcements on a daily basis. Please review the Catholic Code of Conduct with your child. It can be found in your child's agenda.

ATTENDANCE: SAFE ARRIVAL/SCHOOL MESSENGER

You are asked to report your child's absence using Safe Arrival. LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS AND STUDENT SIGN-IN, SIGN-OUT POLICY students are not permitted to leave school property without written permission from parents or guardians.

HEAD INJURIES PROCEDURE CHANGE

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board has a Concussion Protocol in place. All students sent to the office who experience a head injury will receive a **Concussions Are Serious** pamphlet to take home. Parents and Guardians are encouraged to review the pamphlet. All head injuries are logged and reported to parents and guardians directly. We ask that all parents and guardians please notify the school as soon as possible if and when your child sustains a concussion as a result of a school incident or as a result of an activity outside of the school day. Parents and guardians are encouraged to direct any concerns and questions to the Main Office.

FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In accordance with Ministry regulations, three fire drills and one lockdown drill will be conducted in the Fall and in the Spring of every school year.

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

Emergency response procedures in the event of a fire, bomb threat, serious accident/injury or an intruder have been established and are revised on an ongoing basis. All students and staff will participate in practicing emergency procedures. In the event that it is necessary to evacuate the school, our site for relocation is Glendale Public School and St. Maria Goretti is our alternative.

We have a detailed fire/emergency evacuation policy. We will be practicing evacuation and lockdown procedures in September and throughout the school year. **Reminder: Students must wear shoes in the school building at all times. If the fire alarm goes off, students will not be permitted to stop to put on shoes, coats, hats, etc.** Their safety is our first priority. Please ensure that your child has an extra pair of indoor shoes at school at all times.

SCHOOL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

As required by the Education Act and the Ministry of Education, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board annually provides parents with information about cost effective student accident insurance coverage via student courier. Although enrollment is voluntary, the Board encourages parents to take advantage of the inexpensive insurance coverage especially if your child participates in sports, excursions/field trips, or if parents do not have dental insurance coverage. Enrollment in writing is required. There are two options for enrollment:

1) Complete the traditional form and mail it in

2) Apply online to Reliable Life at <https://insuremykids.com/>

All students in FDK to Grade 8 must return the signed OPHEA form to participate in the Physical Education Program.

VALUABLE PROPERTY AT SCHOOL

Students should not bring toys, valuables or items of importance to school. The school cannot assume responsibility for valuables brought to school. If your child rides their bike to school, please remind them to lock it up.

ADULTS IN THE PLAYGROUND

Thank you to all who support our efforts to provide a safe learning environment for our students by cooperating with school policies related to safety and security. **Unfamiliar or unidentified adults are not permitted on school property!** It is our policy that all visitors (parents, guardians, guests etc.) **MUST** report to the office. **Only Our Lady of Fatima staff, students, and supervisors are allowed in the playground!** It is not possible for our supervisors to recognize all parents, so we ask for your support in following this policy. We ask all parents who do accompany their children in the morning to please remain on the perimeter of the pavement area.

VOLUNTEERS

We greatly appreciate volunteers in our schools and often encourage parents to volunteer of their time. Please ensure that you have a Vulnerable Sector/Criminal Reference Check on file in the office.



NO DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

In the interest of student safety, we remind you that dogs are not permitted on school property. A dog's behaviour and response around strangers can be unpredictable. Although dogs can be good pets for some people, they can be scary to some and pose an allergic risk to others. Dog droppings can pose not only a nuisance, but a health and safety hazard for all as well. Therefore, dogs must not be exercised on school property or brought to school when dropping off or picking up students.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Your participation in your child's school life is fundamental to his or her educational success. Effective and on-going communication between home and school takes a variety of forms and operates on a variety of levels. Should you have any concerns regarding your child's progress or issues in the classroom, please do not hesitate to call and leave a message for your child's teacher with some times that are convenient to reach you. A quick phone call, or a note in your child's agenda asking the teacher to call you can help put your mind at ease.

PHONE MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS

In order to minimize disruptions in the classroom, we do not relay phone messages to students, except in case of an emergency, in which case the student is brought to the

office and given the message. *Please communicate, at home, with your child/ren any special arrangements made after school.* We trust you will understand the need for this policy.

VULNERABLE SECTOR POLICE RECORDS FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

CRIMINAL REFERENCE CHECKS

Parents are reminded of the Ministry and Board Policy that requires all volunteers to provide the school with a **Criminal Reference Check (dated within the last six months)** before they begin volunteering for a school trip with students. All parents volunteering for field trips will also need to provide a criminal reference check.

Parents who have previously volunteered at Our Lady of Fatima School are required to complete an **"Annual Offence Declaration"** form at the office each new school year. **For more information or forms, please contact the school.**

DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE OF MEDICATION (IMPORTANT INFORMATION)

Some of our students require medication during the school day. All medication is to be stored in the office except where directed by a physician (i.e. epi-pens and puffers). **Board Policy requires that we have signed request/authorization forms from parents and the supervising physician in the office.** These forms are available in the office. We encourage you to follow up on this practice as soon as possible. If you have not received these forms, especially for epi-pens and puffers, please contact the office a.s.a.p.

Please note that there is a **new Asthma policy** and protocol in accordance with Ryan's Law. Please contact the office to ensure that all the proper documentation has been updated for this school year.

When medication is approved for storage, it must be labeled with the student's name, name of medication, prescription information and dosage. The medication is to be brought to the school in the packaging that was provided by the pharmacist. Please do not have students deliver medication to the office; it should be brought in by an adult (please call the school to make an appointment). Medication that is sent to school without the proper documentation will not be stored or dispensed by school personnel. **This also applies to over-the counter medications such as, Tylenol, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, cough medicine, Benadryl, and allergy medications.**

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

All money collected for the school will be done using school cash online. If you haven't registered already, please take an opportunity to sign-up for School Cash Online. It's an easy way to pay and participate. Go to <https://dpcdsb.schoolcashionline.com/> to sign up.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Sabrina's Law is an Act to protect anaphylactic pupils in publicly funded schools in Ontario. Named "Sabrina's Law" in honour of an Ontario student who died following an anaphylactic reaction in 2003, this law requires that every school board establish and maintain an anaphylaxis policy.

If your child has a severe allergic reaction to peanuts, peanut by-products, bee/wasp stings etc., please let the school know as soon as possible. It is essential that the information you provide us with is accurate and up to date. There are various forms which need to be completed by you and your family doctor if it is necessary to store and dispense an EPI-pen or any other medication at school.

As we continue to have students with severe, life threatening allergies to certain foods, such as peanuts and nuts. This is a medical condition that may cause severe and life-threatening reactions to certain allergens within minutes. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we require your continued cooperation in sending foods to school with your child that **are free from peanuts, nuts or their by-products.**

In April 2012, the Dufferin Peel Catholic School Board consulted with the Anaphylactic Society and Peel Health Department on **WOWBUTTER**, a soy product that simulates peanut butter and has been recently brought to schools by students as a peanut butter alternative.

Peel Health and the Anaphylactic Society has identified that one of the foods that can cause an anaphylactic allergy is **soy**. Therefore, the **WOWBUTTER** product would not only present a risk to students with a soy anaphylactic allergy, but a concern for staff and for students who have a peanut allergy.

Based on the recommendations of the Board, the Anaphylactic Society, as well as the Peel Health Department, Our Lady of Fatima School is requesting the co-operation of the entire school community to **NOT** send any food products that contain soy-based products including, but not limited to, **WOWBUTTER**.

Please do not send food products to be shared in your child's classroom (including doughnuts and/or timbits, which are not nut-free). Due to Covid-19, students will not be able to share items with their classmates. We will find other ways to celebrate your child(ren)'s special day.

Students will eat lunch in their classes and are encouraged to bring water bottles to school. These water bottles can be refilled at our water bottle refill stations. Students should bring to school a packed lunch each day. In the event that a student forgets a lunch, a parent/guardian will be contacted. If you choose to have your child, go home for lunch, please send a note with child/ren allowing them to go home for lunch.

CHILD SAFETY

The Child and Family Services Act compels educators to report any issues that may compromise a child's welfare. If a staff member suspects any issue that may affect a child's safety, then Children's Aid Society (CAS) must be contacted. It is our **Legal Obligation** as employees of the school to report any suspicions directly to the Children's Aid Society. It is not the role of educators to investigate. That is CAS' role. CAS, not the school, informs parents directly of the issue.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

The distance criteria for transportation eligibility must be more than:

- 1.0 kilometre for Kindergarten and Grade 1
- 1.6 kilometres for Grades 2-4
- 2.0 kilometres for Grades 5-8

All Kindergarten and Grade 1 students who take the bus are required to be met by a parent or guardian when disembarking from the bus after school.

All bus information for the current school year is posted on the front windows of the school. Transportation eligibility is determined via the Board Bus policy. Information regarding this policy as well as current route information is available through the STOPR website:

<https://www.stopr.ca/>. You may also contact the Transportation Department via the following contact numbers: Transportation: 905-890-6000 Special Education Transportation: 905-890-636. To determine if your son or daughter is eligible for transportation, please visit <https://businfo.stopr.ca/Eligibility.aspx?Page=School> You can also receive up to date information by following StopPr on Twitter @STOPRinfo. To receive updates on whether your child's bus is running late, please subscribe to STOPPr at [https:// businfo.stopr.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx](https://businfo.stopr.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx)

privileges being suspended or removed. Please review these rules with your child. Taking the bus is a privilege, not a right.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first meeting of the Our Lady of Fatima School Council was held on Monday September 30th at 6:00p.m. Congratulations to the following members who are the new School Council Members for 2024-2025:

Chairperson: Heather Coelho

Teacher Reps: Mrs. Loiacono

Principal: Ms. Fiore

ST. ANNE'S PARISH

115 Vodden Street East
Brampton, Ontario L6V 1M4
(905) 453-1303

Pastor: Father Joel Pabilona Jr.
Sacramental Coordinator: Marilyn Maghanoy

Website: <https://stannesbr.archtoronto.org/>

NEW: SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

The school board has provided a spectator code of conduct to help guide the viewing of competitions in schools. Please read this carefully and follow the regulations when visiting any school where an athletic event is being convened.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) hopes and believes that the establishment of the principles outlined in this code of conduct will create appropriate Catholic conditions that will ensure a welcoming environment for parent spectators and ensure a safe and caring environment for all students, student athletes, coaches, and referees/officials.

- Spectators are present to enjoy the competition and to support and encourage their teams. Spectators attending games will be reminded of the expectations as outlined in the DPCDSB Catholic Code of Conduct and Athletic Virtues and Ethical Conduct Guidelines. Respect for players, officials and coaches will be emphasized.
- Spectators are expected to act in an appropriate manner, and respect all opposition, convenors,

coaches, managers, supervisors, officials, parents/guardians, and fellow spectators.

- Individuals who attend games and abuse the opposition and officials will be immediately asked to leave athletic events by the school/event supervisors.

VALUABLE WEBSITES

School Year Calendar

<https://www.3.dpcdsb.org/schools/school-year-calendar>

Mental Health and Well Being

<https://smho-smsso.ca>

Peel Children's Centre

<http://www.peelcc.org/>

Kids Help Phone

<https://kidshelpphone.ca/>

Tangerine

<http://www.tangerinewalkin.com>

ANTI-RACISM LINKS AND RESOURCES

Below you will find a link to some great resources from the WE ARE TEACHERS organization that parents and teachers can utilize to help start the discussions that are necessary.

<https://www.weareteachers.com/anti-racism-videos/#XuBUUPpacTo.twitter>