

Hello St. Margaret Mary Community,

I would like to welcome Mr. Tony to our school staff. Mr. Tony is our new day custodian and we are very happy to have him here at our school. I would also like to send a huge thank you and shout out to Mr. Tony, Mr. Brandon & Mrs. Monica who are our amazing custodial team - especially in recognition of National Custodial Day on Sunday, October 2.

Today we had our first class photos since 2019!!!! I can't believe 3 years have passed since we've been able to do class photos. All students will receive a copy of their class picture very soon.

**NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION:** A reminder that students and staff are encouraged to wear an orange shirt on Friday, September 30. We will be starting on Friday with a liturgy to mark the importance of this day. Lots of great information to support our learning can be found at: <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

**SCHOOL SWEATERS:** Navy blue hoodies are available to order via School Cash Online until Friday, October 7. The cost is \$32 per sweater. The fit is true to size - there are youth and adult sizes and 5/6T (toddler) size is available (but it is quite small). The full order will be placed with our supplier (McCarthy's) on Tuesday, October 11, and hopefully, the sweaters will arrive quickly. We will hand them out to the students as soon as they arrive at the school.

**CHOCOLATES:** Thank you for your continued and amazing support of our chocolate fundraiser! If you need more cases please send a note in your child's agenda or send us an email to let us know. We have cases of almonds, assorted and assorted peanut and nut free still available.

**LOCKDOWN PRACTICE:** Each year we are mandated to have 2 lockdown practices. Our students and staff will be participating in our first lockdown drill on **Tuesday, October 4 at 9:00 a.m.** Our staff will be working with our students at a grade-appropriate level to help our students understand why we need to practice such a drill. During the drill students and staff will be in a quiet location of a classroom or other area of the school with the lights off, blinds closed and the doors locked. The drill will only last a few minutes. Our staff does a fantastic job of helping our students to feel safe and ensuring that the drill is as smooth as possible. During the lockdown drill we are unable to answer any of the school doors so if you are buzzing at the main door we are unable to answer until the drill is completed.

Did you know? If there was ever a reason to evacuate the school (such as a fire) we would go next door to our church if it is safe to do so. If we needed to move to a further location we would start to walk towards St. Jean de Brébeuf secondary school where we would call for buses along the way to pick up our students at a safe location to transport us the rest of the way to the high school and under any emergency circumstance parents and guardians would receive an email and/or phone from the school right away with all pertinent details.

Next week is National Catholic Health Care Week - THANK YOU to all our parents, grandparents, and guardians who are in health care! We truly appreciate your contributions to keeping our community, city and country healthy.

In closing this week I leave you with the closing prayer that we will recite during our liturgy this Friday: *"God of all nations, we thank you for the gift of all people. On this day, we especially thank you for the*

*gift of First Nations People. Help us to love our neighbour as ourself so that everyone at our school would know that they matter, that they are important and that they are loved by us and by you. Help us to always listen with our hearts, as well as our ears. Help us to see with our hearts, as well as our eyes. Help us to speak the truth, and listen for the truth and then we will be on the path to reconciliation. Amen."*

Wishing each of you a blessed week,

Mrs. Coletto