



LOYOLA CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

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February 28th, 2025

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

Please see the information below for some updates and reminders:

Chaplaincy

The beginning of a new semester is an opportunity for students and staff to "reset" in many ways, one of which is through faith. Throughout February, we have reflected on the importance of celebrating Black voices and learning Black history, deepened our awareness of world issues through the context of Scripture and Catholic Social Teachings, explored the virtue of respect and how we can live this daily, and prayed for all those in our world who are sick or suffering, including our Holy Father, Pope Francis. These practices are important in strengthening our prayer life, especially as we prepare for the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. On this day, we will gather by grade level, joined by Deacon John Brown, as we receive ashes and reflect on the Lenten pillars of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer.

Grade 10 retreats to Canadian Food for Children have begun, and our Grade 11 retreats to Silvercreek are also underway. Grade 12s will be receiving information about their retreat and Graduation Mass after the March Break.

Students who might be interested in learning more about religious vocations are invited to the annual Youth Ordinandi Event on March 18. This day includes networking with students across the GTA, hearing witness talks from priests and nuns, an address from His Eminence, Cardinal Leo, and sharing in a meal together. Students can pick up a permission form from Ms. Cernjul if they are interested in attending (limited seats available).

Student Council

While it has only been a month of Semester 2, Student Council has been busy! We had a successful "Roses For All" Valentine's sale where students could purchase a rose for anyone in the building, "Toonie Tuesday" popcorn sales have returned, and Culture Fest planning is underway! Students who would like to participate in Culture Fest 2025 can reach out to the staff advisor(s) of the pavilions they wish to join. We are excited to celebrate our diversity on May 7 from 5pm to 8pm! Any families who are able to donate items to support this event can do so through a specific pavilion or may contact Ms. Cernjul for more information and/or to receive an official donation letter.

Sports

Basketball

The Jr. Boys Basketball team played in the quarter finals of the playoffs this past Tuesday against Clarkson. The Warriors were down by 1 at half. It was a very close game, but they managed to keep the lead and win the game 61-57. Their playoff run continues as the boys play in the semi-finals on Monday March 3rd against St. Joseph. Go Warriors!

DPCDSB Skills Competition 2025

The DPCDSB Skilled Trades and Technological Competition was held on February 26th at St. Augustine in Brampton. The competition's mission is to enable and empower all youth to consider a career in the skilled trades and technologies.

Loyola students competed in a variety of categories including geographic information systems, coding, web design and IT office applications. Thank you to all our student participants for representing our community so well!

Congratulations to Sebastian Canadinho-DeLima for winning gold in the Web Design Development category! He now advances to the Ontario Skills Competition in May 2025. Good luck to Sebastian!

Chromebook Distribution

Our grade 9 students will be assigned a Board Chromebook on Monday, March 3rd that will be theirs to use for educational purposes while they are a student in the DPCDSB. Students are to present their Chromebook agreement (signed by a parent) and their Loyola student card on Monday in order to receive their device.

Wellness Warriors

Our Wellness Warriors invite all students to participate in their annual "Tea 4 Me" event which will take place on Wednesday, March 5th during all three lunches in room 110. Students will have the opportunity to have some tea while learning about the health benefits associated with tea. The Loyola Baking Club is also helping with this event, and the first 50 students who bring their own mug will get a free cookie.

French Café

The French club will be hosting a French Café on Tuesday, March 4th during all three lunches with croissants, macarons and other delicious French treats for students to purchase and enjoy. There will also be bracelet making and games for students. We look forward to sharing this with our school community. Merci!

From the Math Department

After School Math Help is available every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 -3:15 in room 122. Students in grade 9,10 and 11 math this semester who would like some extra help or just a quiet space to do homework are welcome to attend.

Grade 9 Math Support

For students currently enrolled in Grade 9 mathematics, Loyola is offering an optional after-school numeracy support program on Mondays and Wednesdays starting March 5th. Students have been provided registration forms to bring home to be signed and returned to the school. Please contact your child's Grade 9 math teacher or Vice Principal Heydorn for more information.

The Waterloo Mathematics contest for students in Grade 12 will be written on Wednesday, April 2, 2025 during period 1 and 2.

The Euclid contest's mix of short-answer and full-solution questions gives senior level secondary school students the opportunity to practice their communication skills, and the challenging final questions encourage perseverance, an important tool to add to students' problem-solving toolkits.

Cost: \$18.00

Please see Mrs. Ribkoff to sign up. The deadline is Thursday, March 6th, 2025.

Loyola's Zen Zone

This week we launched the new Loyola Zen Zone, which is a classroom safe space at school where students can go if they are feeling overwhelmed, sad, tired or need a place to "just be" for a few moments. It is a cozy room with comfortable seating, dimmer lighting and soft music. The Zen Zone also hosts groups that cover topics such as anxiety and peer issues as well as providing some sensory experiences. During the scheduled "open" times, students are welcome to join on their lunch, spare or a 10-minute drop-in as long as their teacher has approved. The Zen Zone is staffed by Loyola's amazing support team: Ms. Solomon, Ms. Carmino and Ms. Laing.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent-teacher interviews for semester two will take place on Wednesday, March 26th. Details for the online booking link will be sent out after March Break.

Loyola Catholic School Council

Our next Catholic School Council meeting will take place on Monday, March 3rd in our library. All parents / guardians are welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend in person, please contact me for a virtual link.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me or send me an email.
Have a wonderful weekend!

Gina Renda

Gina Renda

Principal

c.c: Herman Vilorio, Trustee, Mississauga Wards 2 and 8