



Anna Da Silva TRUSTEE - BRAMPTON WARDS 1,3 & 4

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"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Hello everyone,

In May, we practice the virtue of **ACCEPTANCE** which reminds us of the importance of living our Catholic social teachings to support others in a safe, caring and inclusive way. Through acceptance, we foster a community of equality, democracy and solidarity for a more compassionate world. Acceptance is particularly important for us these days as we practice social distancing and deal with restrictions to our freedoms due to the Corona virus.

In our new reality of being apart, we have, in so many ways, never been more together. Thank you to our communities of families within the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) as well as our educators, staff and priests, for your care, commitment and resilience through this difficult time.

Catholic Education Week May 3-8

While this initiative is an integral part of the faith life of our school board throughout the entire school year, during this special week, we highlight what Catholic Education means. As Trustees, we are stewards and advocates of Catholic education for our students. This year's theme, *"Igniting Hope"* reminds us that publicly funded Catholic education is a call to service. We come together as 29 Ontario Catholic school boards and 500 publicly funded Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Toronto. We are thankful our Catholic schools foster an environment rooted in our call to love and serve, inspired by our Catholic faith. All Catholic Education Week resources are available on the website: www.goodnewsforall.ca

Continuity of Catholic Learning - We are working together to provide the best Catholic education possible for the thousands of students entrusted in our care. Distance Learning opportunities continue to be provided for all students. The relationship between school and home is as important, as ever before. We have created a [Parent/Guardian Guide for the Continuity of Catholic Learning](#) phase. This document provides clarification and context regarding teacher-led distance learning. It has already been sent to DPCDSB parents and guardians through our board wide School Messenger email system. It is also available on the DPCDSB website.

Contact Your School - We encourage you to continue to communicate with your school's teachers and administrators to ensure your child(ren) have what they need to be successful. School offices have established an email address for parents/guardians to contact, if you have any questions. Please check the DPCDSB website www.dpcdsb.org and select "Contact Your School" for your school information. School email addresses and phone numbers can also be found on the top section of each school's website. You can still call your school and leave a phone message. School secretaries continue to monitor both email and phone messages on a regular basis. If you have been provided with an alternative contact method for your child's teacher (i.e. Google Classroom), you can send curriculum related inquiries directly to your child(ren)'s teacher.

Technology Deployment - We successfully deployed over 7,000 electronic devices for families who required them, in response to the Students Needs Assessment Survey that was communicated to all DPCDSB families. The identified technology needs across the system has enabled students to engage in Continuity of Catholic Learning at home during this health emergency. With a tight timeline of just four days, collaborative efforts between ICT, Maintenance/Custodial, Research, Legal and Instructional departments, including all school administrators and educators made this significant board-wide endeavor possible. My thanks extend to everyone involved who, in true Dufferin-Peel spirit, helped us navigate this important learning journey together.

2020-2021 Budget - The DPCDSB continues to work on 2020-2021 Budget Development. The first report was presented to Trustees at the April 14 Administration and Finance Committee meeting. We are still waiting for the release of the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) documents from the Ministry of Education.

Our Public Budget Consultation for the 2020-2021 Budget is different this year. We recognize that live webcasts have provided an opportunity for Catholic School Councils to gather and provide input. It continues to be imperative that DPCDSB staff and community members adhere to recommendations from Public Health Authorities around social distancing and staying home. Therefore, during the school closure, the live Public Budget Consultation Webcast has been cancelled. We are also aware that the most immediate concerns and issues for parents/guardians are around COVID-19 and the continuity of their child(ren) learning. In that regard and, in place of a live webcast, a recorded presentation is posted to our website and has been widely circulated. The presentation provides relevant 2020-2021 information and invites input from parents/guardians and community stakeholders via a short survey that is attached. This presentation was released on April 24, the original date for the consultation. Visit DPCDSB website to access video.

Enrolment Data - The DPCDSB Long-term Facilities Master Plan (LTFMP) was presented at our Administration and Finance Committee Meeting on April 14. Overall, we are expecting a net enrolment decline of approximately -2.1% over the next ten years. The anticipated growth over the ten years for the elementary panel is approximately 1.2% and the expected decline for the secondary panel is -7.43%. The City of Mississauga continues to see an overall enrolment decline. The LTFMP will reflect the enrolment changes through the recommendation of new pupil places, either through new schools or additions to schools, through the realignment of school boundaries, program changes and pupil accommodation reviews once new Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines are released by the Ministry of Education. Read the [complete report](#).

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Secondary - On April 3, the Government of Ontario updated the list of essential businesses that can remain open in order to further reduce contact between people and stop the spread of COVID-19. As construction of new schools has not been deemed an essential service, these projects have been placed on hold indefinitely. As a result of this direction, the DPCDSB has been advised by the general contractor of the Holy Name of Mary CSS project, that construction is suspended until further notice. The contractor has shut down all construction activities and secured the site. DPCDSB has arranged for ongoing security for the site during the suspension of activities. We anticipate that all timelines associated with new construction projects will be impacted by the provincial emergency orders and we will communicate contingency plans when we have further information with respect to those timelines.

The Archdiocese of Toronto - Our Catholic faith continues to be a source of strength and hope during challenging and uncertain times. Raising children in the Catholic faith can be especially difficult during difficult times. While our churches remain closed, connectivity to our parish communities feels different for everyone. We are grateful that many of our local priests are streaming their mass celebrations online. I want especially call out Father Liborio and Father Patrick of St Mary's, who have been providing our community with daily mass and talks which has helped myself as well as many parishioners stay connected to our Catholic community. The Archdiocese of Toronto www.archtoronto.org is livestreaming daily masses with His Eminence Cardinal Collins from St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica at 7:30 a.m. These masses are archived and accessible on the Archdiocese of Toronto YouTube page for the faithful to view later. For more information please visit: <https://www.archtoronto.org/covid19>

Essential Services - We extend heartfelt thanks to all healthcare professionals and those working in essential services during COVID-19. We know many of you are parents and caregivers and are working hard to keep our community safe and healthy. You are our community health heroes and we express our gratitude to you. DPCDSB is proud to have contributed 125,550 pairs of gloves and 330 face shields from our school inventory of personal protective equipment. These items have been donated to the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to distribute to the healthcare and essential social services sectors across Ontario during COVID-19.

Wishing a very Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, godmothers, grandmothers and guardians. Many blessings to you as you glorify God, in the special role He chose for you. May God continue to bless you today, and always.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I also invite you to follow on my social media platforms. If you are a DPCDSB parent/guardian, please ensure that you have provided your child(ren)'s school with your email address, in order to receive Community Information Bulletins and other important communications directly from the DPCDSB.

Yours in learning, growing and leading with Christ,

Anna Da Silva, B.A. M.A.

Trustee - Brampton, Wards 1,3 and 4

Chair – Audit Committee and Strategic Planning Committee

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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