



December 2018 Newsletter
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Anna da Silva

Hello everyone:

First of all, I want to thank you all very much for your support during the past election and for re-electing me to the Board of Trustees. I feel very honored and privileged to represent the families of Wards 1,3 & 4 on the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB). Thank you all very much for such a strong vote of confidence. I am glad to say that both Darryl D'Souza and Shawn Xaviour are also back

on the board this term. We all look forward to working together for the Catholic ratepayers in the City of Brampton.

Two long-time Mississauga trustees are retiring from the DPCDSB this year. We honour and thank Esther O'Toole for her 27 years of service. Her contributions over the years in Mississauga's Wards 2, 4, 9 and 10 have made a difference in the lives of the children in her schools. We wish Esther the very best as she moves on to new adventures with work and family. We also say farewell and thank you to Anna Abbruscato, who has represented Mississauga Ward 4 for 24 years. We thank Anna for her years of dedication.

We welcome Brea Corbet, representing Mississauga Wards 9 & 10 and Stefano Pascucci, representing Mississauga Ward 4. Both new trustees were sworn in as part of the 2018-2022 Board of Trustees on December 4.

As you may be aware, there have been some changes to Brampton City Council as a result of the recent election. While the incumbents for Wards 3 & 4 were re-elected, we have a new mayor and two new councilors in Ward 1. I have been reaching out to these newly-elected individuals and I am glad to say that I was able to meet with Mayor-elect, Patrick Brown, as well as with Councilors Rowena Santos and Paul Vincenti. These meetings have been very positive, and I am pleased to say that all of them support Catholic education in our city. I look forward to working closely with them, on behalf of the DPCDSB, during the upcoming term.

One of the items that I have been advocating for with the City is reduced transit fares for students. When I was elected last term, I advocated with City Council and supported parents on a proposal to allow students to ride on the city transit with the student card for a dollar. The proposal went for a vote to council but the motion was defeated by a single vote. I have been asking for council to consider this proposal. The same group that brought this proposal to council four years ago would like to bring it forward again. We would like more parents to come

out and support the reduced fares for students. Please free to contact me via email if you would like to support this initiative.

The new Provincial Conservative government is seeking to make changes to education. As many of you are aware, the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants are still on hold and the government has been having many consultations with parents via tele-conference about items such as the STEM, Sex Ed and Parental Bill of Rights. The government is now looking for input to change how they fund all services, including education. Trustees have been asked to provide input on reduced spending. Dufferin-Peel has run a very lean ship for many years. The Ministry of Education manages the spending for school boards, centrally, through the Grant for Student Needs (GSN) which means that 98% of the budget is earmarked to be spent as the Ministry of Education directs. School boards monitor and administer the spending and manage the day to day operations. The funding formula used today is the same funding formula that was brought in by the Harris government in 1998. It is an inefficient model. It will be interesting to see what the new provincial government will do going forward. I will report more as we receive further information.

This is the best time of year to be a Catholic Trustee. We are invited to attend Advent Masses, Christmas concerts, Virtues assemblies, and so much more. Thank you to our Catholic school councils, whose members often budget to support Christmas events in our schools, and also a big thanks to our teachers, who work long hours to prepare the students for many of these events.

As we move through the Advent season and into Christmas, we are reminded that all of us carry heavy burdens sometimes and more so for some, especially at Christmas. Thank you to all of our schools that do so much to support those in need at this time of the year and always. We are a community of faith and love.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

Wishing each of you the joy and peace of this Advent and Christmas season. We hope that you have an opportunity for rest and to be with your family. May God bless you and keep you safe in the hollow of His hands.

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