

BREA CORBET
TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10



“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.” – Micah 6:8

Our DPCDSB **Mission**: Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body and soul to the fullness of life.
Our DPCDSB **Vision**: Changing the world through Catholic education.

February 2021

This month, we are called to embrace the virtue of **RESPECT**. As we draw closer to Christ, may we see Him in the goodness of others and live out respect, one of the greatest expressions of love.

Black History Month – Build, Restore, Renew Together Beyond February - DPCDSB’s central programming offered for the 2021-2022 school year seeks to nurture an understanding of hope, to value and affirm the lived experiences of Black students, families, and communities and to reject the sin of racism. We call on all DPCDSB students, families, and staff to be united in a mission of compassion, solidarity, and love for one another and to commemorate the values of racial and social justice, and harmony encompassed by the mission of Christ and envisioned by our Holy Father Pope Francis.

Whether it be through anti-racism education or celebrating the history, joy, and resiliency of Black communities, we continue to elevate the voices of Black, Caribbean and African Peoples by creating safe and caring programming rooted in human dignity. In recognizing Black History Month, and in alignment with our Board of Trustees’ Multi-year Strategic Plan (MYSP), DPCDSB is ensuring that there are opportunities for students to learn, celebrate and embrace the past, present, and future contributions of Black communities in Canada, year-round from September to June. This work is imperative in supporting student achievement and well-being. The goal is to move beyond February for Black History Month education and build capacity within schools surrounding Black, Caribbean and African histories and narratives, anti-racism, and anti-oppression education, and addressing anti-Black racism.

1. **Funding to support Black history month initiatives and school year initiatives related to Black, African, and Caribbean history and narratives, anti-racism education, and addressing anti-Black racism.**
2. **Continued support of the Black Futures Speakers Series.**
3. **Black Voice Lab (BVL) – a student-centered resource which can assist schools in starting affinity groups.**
4. **Creation of DPCDSB Black Student Council for secondary students.**
5. **Virtual School presentations to support programming throughout the year.**
6. **Curriculum resources and continued curriculum support through Equitable & Inclusive Education for all administrators and educators.**

Indigenous Education – Prior to the January 18 Faith and Program Committee meeting, DPCDSB trustees participated in a professional development session with Nancy Rowe of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This event was an opportunity for trustees to learn about our Indigenous Education programming, the Land Acknowledgment, and the possibility of establishing an Indigenous student trustee position. This session was part of a series that serves to build awareness of:

1. Historical and ongoing impacts of colonialism in education
2. Understanding how upholding inherent, Indigenous, and human rights is imperative to the role of Trustee

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

3. Reconciliatory practices in DPCDSB

DPCDSB Student Enrolment – The Ministry of Education mandates the submission of October 31 and March 31 enrolment and staffing data for the purposes of determining compliance with class size regulation and/or verifying eligibility for most grant categories under the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) education funding model.

For October 2021, DPCDSB schools reported 43,626 elementary students and 30,153 secondary students, for a total enrolment of 73,779 students. This represents an enrolment decrease of 2,316 elementary students (-5 %) and a decrease of 499 secondary students (-1.6 %) when compared to October 2020 enrolment totals. The overall board-wide enrolment decreased by 2,815 students (-3.7 %) from a year ago.

COVID-19 Funding –To start the 2021-2022 school year, COVID-19 pandemic funding from the Ministry of Education was phased in at 50% of the total funds available. Access to only half of the expected funding was difficult for budgeting on a full-year basis, particularly for staffing purposes, as only certain positions can be ended mid-year. The remaining 50% of the COVID-19 funding was recently released to school boards to address supports required for the remainder of the year. In total, \$15.3 million of one-time COVID-19 funding has been made available to DPCDSB for the 2021-2022 year. Specific support areas include staffing, school operations and ventilation, transportation, special education and mental health, technology, and funds to support re-engagement and reading assessments for students. [An information report](#) was presented at the January Administration and Finance Committee meeting which can be accessed on the [DPCDSB website](#).

Daily Absence Reporting – The provincial government announced changes regarding the reporting of COVID-19 cases, with school boards no longer directed to provide communication to schools and their communities. Local public health units will no longer be performing case and contact management or providing communications as related to schools. Unfortunately, without direction from our local public health authorities, the board is unable to identify and report on confirmed COVID-19 cases and provide the same level of communication that school communities have received in the past. A number of challenges associated with boards attempting to collect and report on confirmed COVID-19 cases include:

- Students and staff in schools no longer qualify for a PCR test through local public health units.
- Parents/guardians are not required to confirm with the school if their child tests positive for COVID-19.
- Employees are not required to disclose to their employer if they have tested positive for COVID-19, unless for WSIB purposes.
- Public health units are no longer able to confirm positive COVID-19 cases, even if parents/guardians report a suspected case to schools.

All schools are now required by the Ministry of Education to report their daily absenteeism rate (combined student and staff absences) as a percentage. This information is posted on the Ministry of Education website, a link to which is provided on the [DPCDSB's Daily Absence Reporting webpage](#).

Additionally, in an attempt to keep our DPCDSB communities informed, to the best of our abilities, of presumed positive COVID-19 cases in schools, if a school receives notification from a member of the school community (i.e., staff, student, parent of a student) of a presumed COVID-19 positive case at the school, a letter will be sent notifying families in the class or cohort. An additional letter will be sent to the entire school community.

Peel Public Health and the Provincial Government no longer require the automatic dismissal of the entire class and/or cohort or staff and/or close contacts. The Ministry of Health has identified that individuals exposed at school with all public health measures in place are **not** considered high-risk or close contacts of the presumed case. The letters are provided for information and reference only.

In-School COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics – As per direction from the provincial government, both Peel Public Health (PPH) and Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) have contacted DPCDSB about planning for COVID-19 vaccine clinics during the school day, as soon as possible, to support greater uptake of vaccination for children aged 5 to 11 years-old. The pilot clinics in select schools will be scheduled to begin in the afternoon (during the school day) and continue into the evening to allow for community members to access vaccinations. In discussions with both public health units, DPCDSB has emphasized that any students who are vaccinated during regular school hours MUST be accompanied by a parent/guardian at the time of vaccination, and that no other visitors/members of the general public could attend the clinic during regular school hours. Both of our public health units are in agreement and align with this approach. For a listing of school-based vaccine clinics, visit our [School Information and Updates webpage](#).

Rapid Antigen Tests – To support the return to in-person learning, the provincial government directed all school boards to provide two rapid antigen test kits to all students learning in-person and school board staff who have contact with students. The Ministry of Education indicated that, due to worldwide supply chain issues with rapid antigen test kits, boards would be required to de-kit boxes in order to provide two rapid antigen tests per individual. DPCDSB staff have distributed these rapid antigen tests to all schools for students and staff. The Ministry of Education has indicated that all school boards should continue to expect ongoing shipments of rapid antigen tests for the time being.

Semester Two - Program and Learning Services staff have worked with individual secondary schools and principals to support a transition day for all Grade 9 to 12 students on February 3, the first day of the second semester. All schools continue to create individual plans based on local school context for their school communities.

Secondary Assessments for Secondary Schools - There has been no direction from the Ministry of Education to implement a change in practice regarding final assessments/CPTs for quadmester two. DPCDSB continues to align with the Ministry's policy on assessment and evaluation as outlined in *Growing Success*. Teachers in DPCDSB will continue to use all assessments and evaluation up until the final day of quadmester two, including achievement on the Culminating Performance Task (CPT). Teachers have been reminded to use their professional judgement to ensure that the final evaluation of the student on the report card reflects the students' achievement and is, as always, in the best interest of the student in achieving his/her goals. For more information, please see [COMMUNITY BULLETIN Secondary Assessment and Evaluation Jan 25 2022.pdf \(dpcdsb.org\)](#)

As always, I invite you to follow me on my social media platforms. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Wishing our students, families and staff a happy Family Day! Enjoy the day with your family and loved ones.

And, as always, thank you for choosing Catholic education for your child(ren). May God bless you.

Yours in learning, growing and leading with Christ,

Trustee Brea Corbet

DPCDSB Trustee - Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10

Chair - Bylaw & Policies Review Committee

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