



*From Your Catholic School Trustee Sharon Hobin, BA, Bed.
Wards 2 & 8, Chair of the Board of Trustees*

Mobile: (905) 301-1210 | Email: Sharon.Hobin@dpcdsb.org

Website: www.dpcdsb.org | Twitter: @DPCDSBSchools | @TrusteeHobin

| YouTube: DPCDSBVideos

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.

October 2022

Virtue of the Month. This month's virtue of EMPATHY reminds us of the dignity of all persons, and the ability to recognize it in others. As a Catholic community, and as part of our Catholic identity, we believe that empathy for ourselves and each other is integral to supporting our students, as we continue to learn, develop, and grow together in Christ.

Catholic Education Week (CEW) - "We are Many, We are One". The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) continues to celebrate the good work of Catholic education. A First Week of School Resource Kit, which included prayers and scriptures, was sent to all our elementary and secondary schools to support, and plan upcoming Catholic liturgies and Eucharistic celebrations. Throughout the school year, the CEW theme will be embedded into the faith life of our board. The anchor theme ties into our Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan Value: Believe - Built on Faith, as we continue to look to Scripture and Catholic Social Teachings for inspiration and to prioritize the faith formation of our students and staff.

All resources and educational materials can be found online at the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) website: www.goodnewsforall.ca.

Municipal Election. The election takes place October 24, 2022. You may elect your Mayor, City Councilor, and Catholic School Trustee. Your Catholic School Trustee represents the Catholic ratepayers at the DPCDSB board table. Your trustee should visit your schools, know your community, and understand the roles and responsibilities of both the trustee and the Ministry of Education. As I mentioned in September, I will be retiring and so my name will not be on the ballot. I will speak to my retirement in the near future. Make sure that your taxes are being dedicated as a Catholic School Supporter. When you get to the polling station to vote make sure you are being handed a Catholic School Supporter ballot! I do believe there is a form you can sign in order to receive this ballot. Here is more information....

To attend a Catholic elementary school in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board you MUST be registered as an English Separate (Catholic) School Supporter on your municipal property tax designation.

By directing your tax support to the separate (Catholic) school system:

- you may vote for Catholic school trustees in municipal elections

- your children may attend Catholic elementary schools
- you show your support for the Catholic school system

To verify that you are registered as an English Separate (Catholic) school supporter:

- Check the assessment section of your Tax Bill or Property Assessment Notice
- Check your Voter Information Card received during an election year (2022)

Have you moved?

Even if you have been an English Separate (Catholic) School Supporter in the past, the designation DOES NOT follow you when you relocate. By default, your property taxes support your municipality's English public school board. Every time you move or if there is a change of ownership, it is essential that you register yourself as an English Separate (Catholic) school supporter.

All Catholics are eligible to support Catholic education!

Catholic ratepayers who don't currently have children in the Catholic school system are also important to the continuation of our Catholic education system. School support direction should be made even if you don't have children currently attending school. It is an investment in our Catholic education system and all Catholic ratepayers are partners with Catholic educators in this investment.

To register as an English Separate (Catholic) School Supporter or change your Direction of School Support, please contact the DPCDSB Admissions Department by phone at 905-890-0708 ext. 24512 or by email at admissions@dpcdsb.org.

Election of Catholic School Council – Thank you to those parents and staff who have stepped up to be elected to your Catholic School Council and in some cases take on important duties as officers. You are fulfilling a crucial role in the school! Congratulations.

Student Transportation – Full student bus transportation services provided by STOPR (Student Transportation of Peel Region) have resumed for the 2022-2023 school year, in compliance with the latest health and safety protocols. Our school bus operators have indicated that they have a driver assigned for every route. STOPR will continue to work with bus operators throughout the year to ensure that any challenges with driver retention and training can be mitigated, as quickly as possible.

The minimum qualifying distance criteria for home-to-school STOPR bus transportation are: • 1.0 KM – Kindergarten and Grade 1 students • 1.6 KM – Grades 2 to 4 students • 2.0 KM – Grades 5 to 8 students • 3.8 KM – Grades 9 to 12 students. **Eligibility status for bus transportation for students who have started Grade 2, Grade 5, or Grade 9 this school year, may have changed compared to last school year due to the above distance criteria.**

Families with students taking the school bus this year can register on the STOPR website to receive information about route changes, time changes, delays, and cancellations. <https://stopr.ca>

Courtesy Transportation – For parents/guardians who have applied for courtesy ridership for student transportation, please note that decisions on courtesy seating requests are not typically made until early October. However, new for the 2022-2023 school year, STOPR has launched a pilot program across the board to offer courtesy transportation one week earlier than in previous years prior to the pandemic. As

a result, schools were able to identify students for courtesy seating during the week of September 19. STOPR staff started assigning these courtesy students to buses for the week of September 26.

DPCDSB Multi-Year Strategic Plan – September 2022 represents the start of the final year of Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board’s (DPCDSB’s) Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) 2019-2023. To date, DPCDSB’s MYSP committee has developed the five values guiding the work of DPCDSB, as well as a new vision and a renewed mission for the system. The committee has also received annual progress reviews for the Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC), the operational plan which articulates the MYSP’s goals and actions to help achieve them. Recognizing that there will be a new Board of Trustees after the October 2022 election, the MYSP will require transition to the new Board, to guide development of the next MYSP for 2023-2027. The current MYSP’s five values of Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, and Trust support DPCDSB’s mission “Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body and soul to the fullness of life” and vision “Changing the world through Catholic education”. As it begins to enter its final year, the 2019-2023 MYSP, will act as a template to help to develop the new MYSP. The incoming Board of Trustees will be tasked with one of its most important duties: the development and implementation of a new MYSP. The current MYSP, which is entering its final year, will provide a template for the development of the new MYSP commencing January 2023.

Summer Programs – Amazing! I want to highlight to you the number of programs available for students over the summer. While the list seems long, I know that staff are working hard to provide more programs to bridge the time before the return to school. Thank you to all our staff, students and in some cases parents for being involved in these programs.

Student, Adult and Educator Summer Education. This summer, learners engaged in a variety of summer programs. These programs supported elementary, secondary, and adult students and/or built capacity for staff. The following is an overview of the learning initiatives offered through the DPCDSB during the summer of 2022.

Camp Discovery. There were 75 students in Kindergarten Year Two through Grade 5 who attended DPCDSB’s full day, in person, Camp Discovery program, supported through the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE). Instructional teams of teachers delivered this program, face-to-face, at St. John Fisher Catholic Elementary School. Camp Discovery combined morning sessions for literacy and numeracy skills with afternoon opportunities focused on Indigenous learning, character development and advocacy skills, science, social responsibility, and well-being activities.

Summer Literacy Camp. Grades K to 5 Summer Literacy Camp (the Camp) offered students from kindergarten to grade 5 additional literacy support and, new to the program this year, numeracy support. DPCDSB took advantage of the Ministry of Education tutoring supports funding to reduce class sizes and create a personalized learning experience. Approximately 1,050 students, led by 90 teachers and ERWs, received literacy and numeracy reinforcement and enhancement.

The Elementary Summer School Literacy/Numeracy Program is designed for students in Grades 6, 7, and 8, including students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) who may benefit from additional support. Approximately 290 students and 26 teachers were involved in this program.

Gwayakochigaye: Leading Change for Youth and the Environment. This summer experience was a collaboration between Riverwood Conservation, University of Toronto (Mississauga Campus), Upper Grand DSB and the DPCDSB. Students were immersed in learning while on the land and through the provision of many perspectives about the importance of their roles and responsibilities with the environment. Students were shown how Indigenous knowledge systems can work in tandem with western knowledge to critically explore possible solutions to colonialism and the climate crisis. This program was facilitated by several Anishinaabek Elders as well as special guests from New Zealand (Māori) and the Navajo Nation (USA).

Ready, Set, Read! Summer Reading Club. This summer reading program was offered jointly through DPCDSB and the Public Library system in Brampton, Orangeville, and Caledon. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 were invited to attend weekly read-aloud sessions where DPCDSB teachers modelled a variety of reading comprehension strategies to support and sustain reading development over the summer months. During each one-hour session, students participated in engaging activities that fostered a love of reading in a fun, safe, and inclusive environment. Over 200 families registered to participate in the six-week program which was also offered in French at one of the 10 participating locations.

iFUN is an event for Newcomer Secondary Students. The settlement workers in the DPCDSB organized and facilitated the iFUN event that took place on August 31, 2022, at six secondary school locations. With the assistance of 72 student volunteers (peer leaders) and 6 ESL/ELD teachers, the event hosted 122 student participants.

Get Ready! This program is funded by the Ministry of Education. And is a first opportunity for students to begin to build relationships with and make connections among the incoming grade nine students at DPCDSB secondary schools. Staff and students were excited to return to an in-person experience and roughly 262 teachers and 4,544 students took part. Understanding the importance of student well-being and in effort to ease the uncertainty that comes with beginning secondary school, students were engaged in preparatory activities that included faith orientation, familiarizing students with day-to-day life in a secondary school (homeroom, lockers, etc.), and practical tips for early success in literacy and numeracy.

Dual Credit Summer Programs. In conjunction with local college partners, DPCDSB once again offered summer dual credit college programs to students who met one or more of the following target groups: • Identified with at-risk factors and credit-deficient, but with the potential to succeed in a college environment; • Enrolled in Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program and is college, workplace or apprenticeship bound; • Enrolled in Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). The following six college programs were offered to the secondary students: • Introduction to Construction Trades at Sheridan College; • Profiles in Crime at Sheridan College; • Canadian Criminal Justice System at Humber College; • Social Psychology at Humber College; • Applied Psychology of Learning and Careers at Seneca College; • What in the World is Going On? at Seneca College. This summer, 26 students enrolled in dual credit programs at Sheridan, Humber, or Seneca College with 25 completing the program.

Focus on Youth Supported by the Focus on Youth (FOY.) With a Ministry of Education grant and the tutoring grant, the DPCDSB collaborated with a not-for-profit organization to provide a unique identity affirming summer camp opportunity for youth. The Focus on Youth camp celebrated their 10th anniversary this past summer with an expansion of this program that extended to three host schools including Loyola Catholic Secondary School (CSS), Notre Dame CSS, and St. Thomas Aquinas CSS. The camps welcomed over 300 participants and employed 125 secondary students from across DPCDSB as youth leaders. The FOY camp supported the cognitive, emotional, social, and physical domains of youth development.

Faculty of Education Summer Institute (FESI). Close to 40 staff members joined the Faculty of Education Summer Institute (FESI) at York University. This learning centered on principles for social change and transformation, such as raising collective consciousness, understanding power imbalances, disrupting oppressive forces, and cultivating individual and collective agency. It entailed “positioning students to be the leaders of their own learning by helping them increase their ability to actively improve their cognition” (Hammond, 2020).

Summer Literacy Symposium for Educators and Educational Support Staff. The DPCDSB Literacy Symposium was an opportunity for elementary educators and support staff to explore a variety of topics related to literacy in English and French. While the focus was to explore aspects of the science of reading, many learning options were presented to participants around reading, writing and oral communication. The Symposium was offered to all elementary teachers, and support staff in the system and our community partners such as Before and After School Providers, Settlement Workers, and Childcare Providers connected to our board. The event attracted over 320 educators from DPCDSB and 20 community partners.

Summer Writing Team. As part of DPCDSB's commitment for all students to believe, excel, respect, thrive, and trust, DPCDSB educators gathered to create resources, and a guide for delivering the English with a Focus on Black Voices courses. This resource provides supports, contextual information, and practical lessons as a support for educators who are delivering this culturally responsive curriculum.

Secondary Summer Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Co-operative Education. From April 20 to August 4, 2022, 378 students participated in a combination of distance learning and in person to achieve two Summer SHSM co-operative education credits to help meet the requirements of the OSSD SHSM Red Seal Diploma. Working with community partners, many rich and meaningful centralized placements were established for our students including Apple, Brampton Performing Arts, Brampton Recreation, Living Arts Centre, Visual Arts Mississauga, and others.

Secondary Summer School. From July 4 to July 29, 2022, approximately 5,012 students participated in the first in-person summer school in three years. An additional 1,098 students enrolled in the online platform formerly known as eLearning. A significant number of students received accommodations as outlined in their IEPs. Approximately 220 teachers were involved in these summer classes, through eight sites.

Adult Education Programs. Over 197 adult learners from St. Gabriel Adult Learning Centre and St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Learning Centre continued into the month of July to complete their credit

programming. This summer, Adult & Continuing Education served the educational needs of over 12,675 learners.

Summer Transition Program. The Summer Transition Program was funded from the Ministry of Education for a third consecutive year and offered in secondary schools to support students with high special education needs by providing programs and/or supports prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year. This program supported grade nine students with differing abilities to participate with the school community and their cohort peers and/or orientation and transition into specific special education class or programs based the students' transition plan. The entire program continues to promote and address issues that impact the well-being, equity, and diversity of learners

Summer Mental Health Services and Access Line. A combination of twenty Social Workers and Mental Health Support Workers worked part-time during July and August 2022 to support elementary and secondary students with ongoing and significant mental health needs. In total, approximately 150 students received continuous supports over the summer, with 55% from elementary schools. Students and families received between four and fourteen hours of individualized mental health intervention to address a variety of needs: stress, anxiety and depression, peer and family relationship difficulties, grief, and other mental health challenges.

To address emerging mental health and well-being challenges, DPCDSB re-opened the summer mental health support line first implemented in 2020. Students and families accessed mental health support via telephone, text, or email from across Peel Region and Dufferin County. Callers were connected with a summer mental health professional within one business day. Staff provided mental health support and consultation, as well as referrals to community-based agencies. Care for the students who received summer mental health support was transitioned to DPCDSB's regular Support Services Personnel for the 2022-2023 school year.

Every Summer Has a Story – Camp for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). With grants from the Ministry of Education for tutoring and after school skills development, the Special Education and Learning Services Department once again offered a summer camp for students with ASD, co-facilitated by ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment Development. Two locations were offered this year: St. Matthew and Lester B. Pearson Catholic Elementary Schools.

DPCDSB special education teachers and Student Mental Health and Well-Being Champions Summer Programs. The Student Mental Health and Well-Being Champions Program was first offered in the summer of 2021. Funded by a grant from the Ministry of Education for supporting student mental health, DPCDSB staff facilitated a one-week summer program to engage senior students in mental health learning, advocacy, and resource development. Given the positive feedback, and the reach and impact of the youth-friendly resources created by students, the program was once again implemented this summer. This paid employment opportunity for 56 secondary students was inspired by student feedback about the need to reduce mental health stigma, raise awareness of supports in schools, and use social media more optimally to reach youth. The Champions will collaborate with administrators, key school staff, and student groups to identify opportunities to promote resources, build awareness, share knowledge, and encourage help-seeking behaviours by students.

Summer Special Education Assessments. Psychological and speech-language assessments are helpful tools for learners with differing abilities, their families, and educators to understand learner profiles and guide programs, placements, and services for students. Across the province, school closures and staffing shortages have created barriers for families to access professional assessments. In response, the Special Education and Learning Services Department offered professional assessments to 156 students from across the system during July and August with funding from the Ministry of Education. DPCDSB psychology staff and/or external providers completed assessments. In the hands of educators, the results, recommendations, and strategies from the assessments will help the students to excel and thrive in school and in the community.

Eden Food for Change – Serving families in western Mississauga, Eden Food for Change is committed to increasing access to good food in a dignified manner, developing food skills to encourage healthy eating and empowering our community through education, outreach, and advocacy. The need for food donations continues in our community. Many of our local schools have upcoming Thanksgiving Food Drive events. If you are able to donate non-perishable foods and other essential items, please visit edenffc.org for most needed items or Mississauga.

The Compass Food Bank – If you live in L5E, L5H, L5G or L5J in Mississauga you can register to use The Compass by calling 905-274-9309 during the hours above. You will be able to book your first visit during the call to pick up a weekly custom hamper with food and household goods like laundry detergent, shampoo and more. Once your visit is scheduled, please fill in the custom order form at www.TheCompass.ca

Wishing you and your families a blessed Thanksgiving as we for the most part, have much for which to be thankful. Please keep those who are struggling in your prayers.

“I am extremely grateful for all your blessings in my life, Lord. I pray that you remind me of just how blessed I am and that you never allow me to forget to show my gratitude in prayer and returned acts of kindness.” Thank you, Lord.