



*Trustee, Luz del Rosario,
Mississauga Wards 6 & 11, Chair of the Board*



*Trustee, Stefano Pascucci
Mississauga Ward 4*

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.

December 2022

As we begin the season of Advent, the virtue of **hope** this month guides our 2022-2023 school year. Advent marks a new liturgical calendar, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Through the eyes of our children at Christmas, we are inspired by the miracle of the baby Jesus. Christ's message of hope is a reminder of the presence of Jesus in our schools, homes and in our hearts.

New Board of Trustees – The DPCDSB Board of Trustees' official inauguration was held on November 22, 2022 at our Catholic Education Centre in Mississauga. Our new Board of Trustees elected Trustee Luz del Rosario, Mississauga Wards 6 & 11, as Chair of the Board and Trustee Thomas Thomas, Mississauga Ward 5 was elected Vice Chair. We congratulate re-elected Catholic School Trustees, and welcome three new board members – Herman Vilorio, Trustee for Mississauga Wards 2 & 8, Anisha Thomas, Trustee for Brampton Wards 1, 3 & 4 and Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi, Trustee for Caledon/Dufferin.

Ministry Curriculum Update – The Ministry of Education recently announced the introduction of mandatory Holocaust education in Ontario's Grade 6 curriculum. DPCDSB understands the power of education to address injustices in the world. The proposed Ministry reforms to the Social Studies curriculum tie closely to ongoing work within our board, which aims to identify, name, address and dismantle Antisemitism. Mandatory Holocaust learning, when delivered in an age-appropriate manner, provides students with the historical context and present-day information which is important in learning how to be responsible citizens and to ensure the dignity of all.
[For more information.](#)

EQAO – The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) elementary assessment results for DPCDSB continue to indicate high performance in terms of proportions of students meeting or exceeding the provincial standards (Levels 3 or 4) on Grades 3 and 6 assessments of reading and writing. Reading results show 79% of students in Grade 3 met or exceeded the standard, while 87% of students in Grade 6 achieved Level 3 or 4. In writing, 72% of Grade 3 students and 87% of Grade 6 students met or exceeded the provincial standard. Success rates on the 2021–2022 OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) for DPCDSB students continue to be very high, with 83% of students successfully writing the Grade 10 OSSLT. Additionally, 87% of students writing for the first time in Grades 11 and 12 in 2021-2022 were successful.

Elementary mathematics has declined in terms of the proportions of both Grade 3 and Grade 6 students meeting or exceeding the provincial standard compared to the previous assessment year. At the secondary level, the 2021-2022 EQAO assessment results for Grade 9 mathematics reflect the change to a single assessment of de-streamed mathematics. However, data was not available for all eligible Grade 9 students (as most DPCDSB schools did not participate in the 2021-2022 Grade 9 mathematics assessment). As a result, the observation of 55% meeting or exceeding the provincial standard may not accurately represent the Grade 9 mathematics learning in DPCDSB. [For more information.](#)

Equity, Diversity and Inclusive (EDI) Practices – As part of our Board of Trustees' Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC), the DPCDSB works to eliminate disproportionalities and disparities in achievement, programming, and discipline, by dismantling the impacts of colonialism, white supremacy, anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, ableism, and other oppressions. Our Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) recognizes that the *"human dignity of each person, created in the image of God, forms the foundation of equity and inclusive education in DPCDSB.*

- DPCDSB, in collaboration and consultation with the Black Community Advisory Council (BCAC) developed the Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism (SPDABR). DPCDSB recognizes the existence of anti-Black racism within educational institutions and is committed to addressing and eliminating it. The creation of the SPDABR is in response to the evidence of incidents of anti-Black racism within DPCDSB's educational spaces. This plan 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.
- Each of our schools has a designated Catholic Equity Lead(s). The school year focus is anti-Black racism and building Racial Literacy. Catholic Equity Leads support the work of Equity within our school communities by disseminating information learned through system-wide professional development opportunities and supporting student achievement.
- Our Equitable and Inclusive Education Department has worked to ensure access to student learning resources and texts that affirm and uplift identities. Professional Development sessions were delivered for educators, and Literacy Leads with the goal of developing capacity to select culturally responsive texts and understand the importance of affirming identities. This department is also working in collaboration with our Program Department to update the inventory of books offered to Secondary students in FSL programs. Our board presented this initiative to the Ministry of Education in May 2022. System-wide professional development is offered on an ongoing basis to unpack pedagogies that are culturally relevant and responsive. Staff is currently working to develop lesson plans that support a wide range of identity-affirming books that will be distributed to all elementary schools.
- Indigenous Education offers opportunities for our students and educators to learn about the perspectives, histories and contributions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals and communities.
- The Visiting Elders Program invites classrooms to learn from an Elder or Knowledge Keeper to support curriculum expectations in Science and Technology, Social Studies, and the Arts. The

Visiting Elders Program invites students to learn from an Elder or Knowledge Keeper and is connected to curriculum expectations from Grades Kindergarten through to Grade 12. As part of this program, an Elder or Knowledge Keeper spends time with students to share their own understanding, knowledge, and perspectives, as well as personal experiences. During these educational sessions, students may engage in learning on the land and spend time outside.

Report Cards – We continue to transition to a new student information system which features electronic report card distribution. This will be fully implemented in the 2023-2024 school year. In the meantime, report cards will be sent to parents/guardians in print.

Agendas – Elementary schools have the option of providing paper agendas to their students from Kindergarten to Grade 6. Virtual agendas are generally used in the intermediate grades, as all students have been provided with a Chromebook to access the Edwin app, the technology by which students access textbooks. This assists in the transition to the secondary school environment where agendas are primarily virtual, as most students use their personal devices to manage schedules and homework. Schools have the option of providing paper copies of the agenda to intermediate grades as well. Where a parent/guardian requests a paper agenda, schools will support the request.

It is a season of hope, of peaceful preparation and of joyful expectation. *Wishing our students, families, and staff in our school communities a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

The DPCDSB Christmas Break is **Friday, December 23, 2022 to Friday, January 6, 2023.**

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have with regards to you child/ren's school.

Take care and God bless.

Your Trustees,

Luz del Rosario

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