



*Trustee, Luz del Rosario,
Mississauga Wards 6 & 11, Vice-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.

November 2022

This month's virtue of Conscience is a reminder to welcome Christ into our minds and our hearts through the decisions we make and the actions we take.

COVID-19 Reporting – Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) continues the practice of COVID-19 reporting to our school communities. Notification letters are sent when the school is advised by a parent or staff member that the staff or student has tested positive for COVID-19 or is presumed to be positive for COVID-19. In agreement with our local public health units, our schools report absences to public health. When the school absence rate exceeds 30%, public health contacts the school to determine if the reasons are related to presumed COVID-19 cases, other illnesses, or for other reasons.

COVID-19 Isolation Guidelines – A reminder that symptomatic individuals testing positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate until symptoms have been improving for **24 hours** (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms) and no fever present. **Asymptomatic individuals** with a positive test result **do not** need to self-isolate unless symptoms develop. If symptoms develop, they should self-isolate immediately.

Additional Precautions **after** Self-Isolation - For a total of 10 days after the date of the positive COVID-19 test or symptom onset (whichever is earlier/applicable), individuals should:

- **Continue to wear a well-fitted mask in all public settings** (including schools and childcare, unless under two years old) and avoid non-essential activities where mask removal is necessary (e.g., dining out, playing a wind instrument, high contact sports where masks cannot be safely worn).
- **Not visit anyone who is immunocompromised or at higher risk of illness** (e.g., seniors).
- **Avoid non-essential visits to highest risk settings** such as hospitals and long-term care homes.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan – Development and implementation of our *Multi-Year Strategic Plan* (MYSP) is one of the key functions of our DPCDSB Board of Trustees. The current MYSP's five values - Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, and Trust work to support our board's mission and vision. These five values express what DPCDSB strives to achieve for our students, staff, and Catholic school communities. We are entering the final year of our current MYSP (2019-2023). To date, our MYSP Committee has developed these five values guiding the work of the board, as well as a new vision and a renewed mission for the system.

The MYSP Committee has also received annual progress reviews for the *Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle* (CBILC), the operational plan that articulates the MYSP's goals and actions to help achieve them. As a result of the Municipal Elections held last month, a new Board of Trustees will be sworn in on November 22, 2022. The MYSP will require a transition to the new Board and will guide the development for the next MYSP 2023-2027, the implementation of which will influence various aspects across the system. This includes ensuring equity, implementing programs, facilities management, and careful stewardship of all resources. The September 27, 2022 - Regular Board Meeting [Agenda](#) contains a report (Item G1) that outlines more information

Audit Service Plan, 2022 – Our Board of Trustees approved the Audit Service Plan for the Year Ended August 31, 2022. BDO Canada is responsible for the audit, which involves forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements prepared by DPCDSB management, with oversight by those charged with governance, the Board of Trustees. The draft audited consolidated financial statements will be presented at the November 8 – Board of Trustees Audit Committee Meeting.

Free the Flow Initiative – Through the Ministry of Education's Menstrual Inequity Initiative, DPCDSB staff have been working to install dispensers and products in our school washrooms. DPCDSB was provided dispensers and menstrual products for both elementary and secondary schools by the Ministry. All secondary schools have had the installation of the dispensers completed in October, 2022 and the work continues with the dispenser installation in our elementary schools. Due to the critical need for these products to be made available in schools, if a school does not yet have the dispenser, a concerted effort will be made to have the supplies available for students.

Ontario's Plan to Catch Up – On October 20, the Ministry of Education released next steps in Ontario's Plan to Catch Up which includes supports for students, parents and school boards to support student achievement.

Families of students in publicly funded, private, First Nation/federally-operated or home-school settings will receive financial support. Families of students (up to 18 years old) can receive \$200 per child, while students with special education needs (up to 21 years old) can receive \$250. Families can apply for Catch Up Payments through a [secure website](#). This money can be used to help to offset costs, whether that be for educational supplies, additional tutoring supports or other items to help their children address learning needs resulting from the pandemic. Applications for Catch Up Payments are now open and will remain open until March 31, 2023.

The Ministry of Education will work directly with school boards through new Math Action Teams, including board and school-based math coaches. The Ministry is also considering options to strengthen *Policy/Program Memorandum 160: Protected Time for Daily Mathematics Instruction, Grades 1 to 8*, to promote the use of high-impact math teaching practices in Ontario classrooms.

The Ministry is also working to modernize curriculum to ensure learning is current, evidence-informed and prepares students for the job and life skills they need to thrive. This includes a focus on math, science, computer studies, business studies, technological education and pathways for the skilled trades, in addition to the new mandatory Indigenous-focused learning to be added to the Social Studies (Grades 1-3) curriculum for implementation in September 2023.

EQAO – The Education Quality Assessment Office (EQAO) has released provincial highlights from the 2021-2022 school year Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics, and the Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary and Junior Divisions. While the results revealed stable performance in the OSSLT and relative stability in Grade 6 reading and writing results, weaker performance was identified in math across all grades, and reading and writing in Grade 3. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is being observed in reading and math achievement across the province and the Ministry of Education has reported that these results are in line with other jurisdictions across Canada and internationally. EQAO released embargoed board results by October 26 and will be made available to the public on November 3.

Cafeteria Services – The DPCDSB is working to protect cafeteria services for all students. Our goal in working with our third-party cafeteria service provider is to ensure that some level of cafeteria services would be in place in every secondary school this year. Our cafeteria provider, Aramark, welcomes students and families back to the cafeterias following a lengthy closure period during the pandemic. Costs remained status quo during the last school year in schools where cafeteria services were opened, however, inflationary pressures and cost increases in the food service industry has resulted in some increases in cafeteria food options this school year. DPCDSB has worked with the provider to ensure price increases are limited to 10% overall.

DPCDSB Secondary School Open Houses – The DPCDSB operates 26 Catholic secondary schools in Mississauga, Brampton, Bolton and Caledon. These schools continue to be recognized among the top-performing schools in the province each year. With over [47 Specialist High Skills Major programs](#), [three regional Arts programs](#), [one regional Sports program](#), [three International Baccalaureate programs](#), [two regional Advanced Placement programs](#), [Extended French](#) and [French Immersion](#) programs, and the only publicly funded [All-Girls secondary school](#) in the region, DPCDSB schools offer students a variety of learning options to suit their individual education goals. Information sessions are planned for Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians interested in enrolling in a DPCDSB secondary school for the 2023 - 2024 school year. [For more information.](#)

School Crossing Guards – In the City of Mississauga, the Municipal Traffic Safety Council plays an important part in assigning crossing guards for schools with students in Kindergarten to Grade 5. They make recommendations based on relevant safety audits, location, and gap studies. Gap studies are conducted in five-minute increments, 30 minutes before school begins and 30 minutes following dismissal time to assess traffic conditions and the need for a crossing guard to be deployed at a specific location.

ShareLife – Our DPCDSB community once again distinguished itself among school boards within the Archdiocese of Toronto, leading in the 2021-2022 ShareLife campaign in both our employee and school campaigns. Our employee campaign raised \$40,171 and our school campaign raised \$159,139. Despite the shutdown of schools during the pandemic, one hundred percent of our schools were able to contribute, support, and participate in various ShareLife activities. A very special thank you and recognition of leadership goes out to the ShareLife representatives in all schools and departments throughout the DPCDSB.

As the 2022-2023 ShareLife campaign gets underway, all DPCDSB schools are encouraged to continue finding creative and innovative ways to contribute to this very worthy cause. Thank you to our students, families, and staff for your ongoing commitment in responding to the call, and for recognizing that *“We are many, We are one, for individually we are members, one of another”*. The need to support our local

charities is greater than ever. As shared by Cardinal Collins, “Every year ShareLife gives us the opportunity to reach out with the hands of Christ to care for those who are most in need. This is what we’re called to do as His disciples: to be with those at the side of the road who are suffering, just as the Good Samaritan did.”

Thank You For Your Support – We are pleased to announce our re-election as your Catholic School Trustees for Mississauga Ward 4 and Mississauga Wards 6 and 11! We are proud to continue working on behalf of our students, families and our school communities for 2022 – 2026. Thank you for your ongoing support!

We also extend our sincere congratulations and appreciation to our retiring trustees – Chair Sharon Hobin (Mississauga - Wards 2 and 8), Trustee Anna da Silva (Brampton - Wards 1, 3 and 4) and Trustee Frank Di Cosola (Caledon/Dufferin) for their dedication, expertise, and excellence for their many years of service in Catholic education.

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,

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