

LUZ del ROSARIO | HERMAN VILORIA | BREA CORBET
MISSISSAUGA NORTH TRUSTEES

“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” - Mark 10: 12-17



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.

April, 2023

This month, the virtue of **LOVE** helps us grow in love for God and love for one another. During the holy season of Lent and the celebration of Easter, we are reminded of Jesus' love in action. Love guides the practice of our Catholic faith and is embedded throughout our Catholic education. May you leave footprints of love, wherever you go.

Student Mental Health and Well-Being – Launched in 2022, the DPCDSB *Mental Health and Well-Being Guiding Framework 2022-2025* is an extension of the *Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)*. The Guiding Framework is built on FAITH and inspired by Catholic social teachings and scripture. It centres on RESPECT for the dignity of each learner as the basis for mental health and well-being. It identifies mentally healthy learning spaces and caring relationships as key prerequisites for students to EXCEL. It commits to system accountability and TRUST through understanding, uplifting, and reflecting on student data and voice.

The purpose of this Guiding Framework is to identify the system priorities and objectives to help students, staff and families THRIVE. For 2022-2025, the priorities are *Dignity through Equity and Inclusion; Listening and Amplifying Student Voice; Responding through Teaching and Doing and Reflecting*.

This Guiding Framework incorporates the recommendations of the *2022 Ontario Learning Recovery Action Plan* and student voice captured by School Mental Health Ontario in the *2021HearNowON Report*. In 2021, School Mental Health Ontario partnered with Wisdom2Action (W2A) to relaunch #HearNowON to gather input from secondary school students across Ontario about their priorities for mental health learning and programming in their school communities. Through an online survey and virtual forums, they gathered input from more than 2,400 secondary school students across the province.

The report had five key recommendations:

- Students want their teachers, and their parents/caregivers and families to learn more about mental health.
- Students want to learn about mental health at school and prefer this learning to be frequent, early, and varied.
- Students want greater access to tools and resources to support their mental health, cope with stress and navigate peer support safely.
- Students want strong equity-based and culturally responsive mental health resources and support.
- Students want leadership opportunities to be more accessible to every student and to create space for different leadership styles.

As part of a post-pandemic response, the DPCDSB Student Mental Health and Well-Being Champions program continued this year. Students received training in mental health and equity issues and have been hard at work creating resources for their peers. These resources include strategies for help-seeking, stress and exam preparation, and social justice awareness. Supports have been well received by students across the Board. For more information on the initiatives highlighted in the 2022-2023 school year, please refer to the March 21, 2023 - Faith and Program Committee Meeting agenda.

Board and Committee Meetings

To find referenced reports in DPCDSB Board and Committee agendas, please visit the [Board and Committee Meeting webpage](#).

COVID-19 Notification Letters – As we continue to transition away from the COVID-19 operating environment and, in conjunction with the removal of COVID-related signage, etc., our board will be discontinuing the practice of sending community letters notifying of a suspected COVID-19 case in the class/school. The decision to discontinue was informed by the ongoing decline in COVID-19 cases reported by Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health on January 26, 2023 and there is no mandated requirement to report COVID-19 cases, from the province and or from our local public health authorities. Peel Public Health will continue to notify the public when 30% absenteeism at a school is a result of contracting COVID-19.

Technological Education Graduation Requirement – The Ontario government recently announced new actions that will help ensure that students have early exposure and access to learning opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, including in the skilled trades. On December 12, 2022, the Minister of Education announced that Ontario is continuing to modernize the curriculum with a focus on STEM, including learning related to the skilled trades, through upcoming revisions to the Technological Education curriculum.

Ontario is introducing a new Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) graduation requirement for students to earn a Grade 9 or 10 Technological Education credit, starting with the cohort of students entering Grade 9 in September 2024. Students will be required to earn at least one credit from the Grade 9 or 10 courses in the Technological Education curriculum, which covers a broad range of sectors, including construction, transportation, manufacturing, computer technology, and communication. A compulsory credit in Technological Education is intended to give students hands-on experience and early exposure to skilled trades and build on the learning in the recently revised elementary Science and Technology curriculum.

Family Life Education – The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) is seeking feedback to the process of the renewal taking place in Family Life Education. ICE is looking to engage parent groups across 29 Catholic School boards regarding Family Life Education. The purpose is for school boards to engage parents in a reflection on their hopes for their children’s Family Life Education during their elementary years. This initiative is also supported by the Ontario Association of Parents for Catholic Education (OAPCE). A PowerPoint and guiding questions were provided by ICE and presented at our March 9, 2023 Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC) meeting.

Revised Policy 5.25: Student Trustees – DPCDSB currently supports student engagement on its Board of Trustees through two Student Trustee positions. DPCDSB Trustees recently directed staff to explore the addition of one Indigenous Student Trustee position. The report in the March 21, 2023 - Faith and Program Committee Meeting agenda summarizes the rationale and proposed related changes to *Policy 5.25: Student Trustees*. This policy revision was subsequently approved by the Board at its March 28 meeting.

School Shuttering Program – On an annual basis, the DPCDSB Planning and Operations staff review the utilization of each school and assess the need to shutter classrooms that are not required to provide the necessary programs at the school. The objective of shuttering classrooms is to improve efficiencies and reduce the costs associated with heating, lighting, and maintaining surplus space throughout the system.

The shuttering program was paused in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. However, with the resumption of normal operations in schools and further declining enrolment board wide, DPCDSB will be reinstating the shuttering program effective September 2023.

The following factors are considered when determining which schools have rooms to be shuttered:

- 2023-2024 projected enrolment
- School capacity
- Staffing plans
- Previous shuttering plans

Any other uses at the site, such as occupancy by community partners, space for itinerant staff and other Program Department and/or board uses, are also taken into consideration. For operational efficiency, the classrooms proposed for shuttering have been grouped and confined to one section or floor of the school where possible. Even with the shuttering of classrooms, most schools are still left with 3 or 4 'flex' classrooms that would still be available for other uses.

Community Engagement Procurement – A Community Engagement Evening was held on March 30, 2023 with a focus on our school board procurement process. Information was presented by DPCDSB Financial Services and Supply Chain Management staff.

Tik Tok – The board's ICT Department began to block TikTok web access in late 2019. While on the DPCDSB Wi-Fi network, TikTok content is not accessible, even if the app has been downloaded. This does not prevent students or staff from accessing TikTok content while using cellular data or on a private Wi-Fi network. Efforts are currently underway to prevent the downloading of the TikTok app and/or removal of the app from all DPCDSB issued devices/iPhones. While testing is still ongoing, we anticipate this to occur in the coming weeks.

DPCDSB Library Circulation – Library Support Services provides access to knowledge through print and digital resources for students and staff and maintain just under 1.5 million print books that include: Fiction novels, non-fiction books, picture books, graphic novels, beginning chapter books, easy readers, and teacher resources. Digital resources including Streaming video platforms (e.g., Learn360, Curio, Criterion, ACF, National Film Board, Digital Theatre), electronic books, newspapers/magazines titles (e.g., Gale), reference/encyclopedia eResources (e.g., Britannica Online), music eResources (e.g., Naxos Music Library) etc.

Library Supports Services plays an integral part in the operational effectiveness and efficiency of our school libraries and learning resource management. More information was presented at the March 21, 2023 - Faith and Program Committee Meeting.

Community Connection

Sign up for e-updates from our Mississauga City Councillors:

Ward 8 Matt Mahoney – <https://mattmahoney.ca/>

Ward 9 Martin Reid – <https://ward9.ca/>

Ward 10 Sue McFadden – <https://www.mississaugaward10.ca/>

The 29th Annual Elmer Safety Awards – The Region of Peel - Peel Children's Safety Village, in partnership with Peel Regional Police is currently accepting nominations for the award with the following criteria:

- Children who reside in the Region of Peel (Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon).
- Children in junior kindergarten through grade eight are eligible.
- Children who showed heroic behaviour or performed extraordinary acts of citizenship.

The awards ceremony will be held at the Peel Children’s Safety Village on Wednesday June 7, 2023. All winners will receive a trophy and a certificate from Peel Regional Police. **The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 21st, 2023.** Learn more: www.peelpolice.ca/safetyvillage or by contacting Christie Hallett at (905) 453-2121, ext. 4071 or by email at safetyvillage@peelpolice.ca.

Let’s Move, Mississauga - The “Let’s Move, Mississauga” campaign, runs April 1-30, encourages Mississauga residents to get outside and move to support a healthier community. For our DPCDSB school families, the School Walking Routes Program promotes active travel, such as walking, cycling or travelling by wheelchair or other mobility devices to and from school. It is not part of Vision Zero Action Plan, as approved by Action 91 and helps the City reach its goal of zero fatal and serious collisions on the roads. [Learn more](#).

Community Clean up – The Lisgar Residents’ Association (LRA) in Ward 10, Mississauga, has organized a second Annual Community Park Clean Up on Saturday April 29, 2023. This year’s event will start at various locations and finish at the Doug Leavens Tennis Courts. This is a great opportunity for families to contribute to taking care of our community. DPCDSB secondary students can also earn volunteer hours towards fulfilling their graduation requirement of community service. For more information, please visit: <https://www.lisgar.com/> or email: lisgar.residents@gmail.com

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Easter with your families. Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your child(ren). May God bless you.

Yours in learning, growing and leading with Christ,

Trustees Luz del Rosario, Herman Viloría and Brea Corbet

Luz del Rosario

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