



THE DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
2014-15 Director's Annual Report
Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education



Dufferin-Peel
Catholic District
School Board

Catholic Education is alive and vibrant in Dufferin-Peel

It is a statutory requirement that Directors of Education produce an annual report to the community on their board's year in review. In Dufferin-Peel, our communication takes place in many forms and at many different times, so this report serves as a high level summary of events of which you may already be aware.



Our accomplishments and successes are well documented, whether it be student achievement and well-being data from our EQAO results, our graduation rates or credit completion rates, or our 100% participation in the EcoSchool program, where we seek to reduce our carbon footprint as well as provide curriculum instruction and innovation for our students to be better citizens and stewards of our environment. If one looks at extra-curricular activities in our schools and our school climate survey, there are many indicators that this past year was a successful one.

In 2014-15, the Board approved its eighth consecutive balanced budget, despite the reality of economic challenges. At the same time, we were able to expand and offer new programs and services to our students.

The Strategic System Plan set by the Board of Trustees continues to be the roadmap that we seek to follow each day in all that we do. We have completed the first year of our new plan (2014-2019) and, while some of the highlights of how we met our strategic goals are included in this document, our full report to the community will be released in January 2016.

The success of this past year does not belong with any one group or individual. This document reflects the hard work and commitment of our trustees, administrators, teachers, support workers, secretaries, custodians, my senior management team and my executive team. It also reflects the commitment that parents have in sending their children to our Dufferin-Peel schools and that of ratepayers, who often do not have children in our schools, yet continue to support our Catholic schools as schools of choice.

Our continued commitment to enhancing and delving deeper in presenting the Catholic faith and using that faith as a lens for all that we do and see, remains a challenge that we work towards each and every day. Catholic schools are not just called to be successful, they are called to be faithful.

This will be my last report to the community as I will be retiring in January. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as Director and to work on behalf of the students, parents and community of Dufferin-Peel. In January, Marianne Mazzorato will assume the role of Director. She inherits a strong, vibrant, faithful board. I wish the Board of Trustees, the new Director and all who work here continued success and God's richest blessing. Catholic education is alive and vibrant in our community. This report is but one reflection of that vibrancy.

John B. Kostoff
Director of Education

Board Update for 2015-16

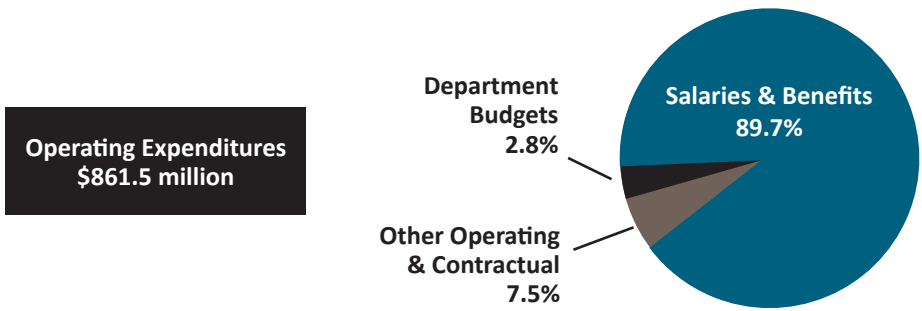
- Unveiled 25 enhanced outdoor learning environments for Kindergarten students as part of a multi-year initiative that adheres to the principles of early learning pedagogy being implemented in our elementary schools. The playgrounds include several different areas and elements that stimulate creative and active learning.



- Opened new child care centres at St. Peter School in Orangeville and St. Raphael School in Mississauga. The child care centres are operated by YMCA of Greater Ontario (St. Peter) and PLASP Child Care Services (St. Raphael). Each site serves 31 toddlers and preschool aged children.
- Initiated 72 facility renewal projects over the summer of 2015. Projects included roof repairs, painting, plumbing, electrical, accessibility enhancements and flooring. Also, completed 76 projects related to outdoor space, including new signage, fencing, landscaping projects and upgrades to existing playfields.
- In 2015, parishes within the Archdiocese of Toronto began offering preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation for students in Grade 7. Traditionally, the sacrament had been received in Grade 8; students now have a year of elementary school to reflect on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how best they can use them in the service of others. To assist teachers, a resource program was developed and implemented by the Board this fall. The program is used in conjunction with the current Religious Education resource, *Stand by Me*.
- In August 2014, the Board honoured outgoing Mississauga Mayor, Hazel McCallion for her longtime support of Catholic education. She was presented with the award and a commemorative framed print.



2014-15 Budget: Good news for students and the community



The 2014-15 budget was the Board's eighth consecutive balanced budget. The budget (operating and capital) was \$967.4 million. Highlights included new allocations to the base budget:

- \$1.0 million to increase per-pupil budget allocations to elementary schools to support the increased costs of operating and maintaining Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) classrooms.
- \$0.25 million to centrally support the professional development needs of our FDK instructional staff and resource needs of the FDK programming in our schools.
- \$0.9 million increase in Special Education equipment/technology and digital learning resources to support students with diverse learning needs, including special education needs.
- \$1.0 million in Special Education staffing and resources to support students with diverse special education needs.
- \$1.0 million increase to utilities allocation due to increases in electricity costs.
- \$0.75 million increase to student transportation to reduce secondary distance eligibility from 4.8 km to 3.8 km.

Are you registered as a Separate School Supporter?



The fact is that, unless the municipality is notified, the school support designation, for assessment purposes, automatically defaults to public school support when an individual or family moves to a new address. This may have an impact on students' eligibility to attend Catholic elementary schools, trustee representation on school boards, and on government perception of support for Catholic education. For more information, call 905-890-0708 ext. 24512.

Reinvestment of \$6 million accumulated surplus in learning, technology and infrastructure

In December 2014, the Board approved a multi-year strategy for the deployment of accumulated surplus, including a reinvestment of \$6 million in learning, technology and infrastructure to support student achievement and well-being.

The \$6 million will be reinvested in alignment with the trustees' budget priorities which are demonstrated through the Board's Strategic Plan and Catholic Board Learning Plan as follows:

- \$0.6 million for textbooks, French Immersion and library resources;
- \$0.3 million for 21st Century Learning;
- \$0.2 million to build on Parish-Home-School relationships;
- \$0.3 million for renovation requests related to SHSM initiatives;
- \$0.1 million to support expansion of the IB Pathway with a Brampton Global Institute site;
- \$0.2 million to support elementary athletics;
- \$0.2 million for Community Relations and Equity & Diversity;
- \$0.4 million to address licensing requirements for information technology;
- \$1.5 million to investigate and implement an online payment system for schools and implement an integrated Financial/Human Resource ERP system;
- \$0.5 million for a fire suppression solution for archives;
- \$0.2 million to address emerging issues related to Health & Safety, Audit Committee recommendations and modular professional development;
- \$1.0 million to address maintenance and repairs to the CEC/Keaton buildings;
- \$0.5 million to be added to contingency funds to address unforeseen expenses.

In addition to the reinvestments above, trustees also redirected \$20,000 from previously committed and approved accumulated surplus to review and update the Board's community studies resource, *Our Story, Our Tradition, Our Journey*.

Mission

The mission of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board, in partnership with the family and church, is to provide, in a responsible manner, a Catholic education which develops spiritual, intellectual, aesthetic, emotional, social and physical capabilities of each individual to live fully today and to meet the challenges of the future, thus enriching the community.

ShareLife/United Way Fundraising Campaigns

Dufferin-Peel continued to demonstrate faith in action by assisting those in need within our communities. The 2014-15 school year began with the 26th Annual Wilf Hartzberg Walk/Run/Roll fundraiser for the United Way, where employees, family and friends kicked off their commitment to ensuring that those in need in our community are supported.



Our traditional and concerted ShareLife/United Way employee and student fundraising initiatives, including the winter staff skating event, Sk8 to Don8, resulted in contributions of close to \$275,000 to support various community groups and charities. This tradition of turning concern into action has led to Dufferin-Peel being recognized as one of the top Catholic boards within the Greater Toronto Area for charitable fundraising. On top of this, students and staff raised funds for numerous global charitable causes as part of our commitment to social justice.

Shaping Our Future: 2014-19 Strategic System Plan

In August 2014, following a comprehensive Strategic System Review, the Board approved a series of system goals that frame the essence of the work we do as a system, as faculty and staff, and as a Catholic educational community over the five year period from 2014-19.

The Strategic System Plan reflects our promise to each and every student and family of rigorous academic standards, safe, clean, healthy, caring and inclusive schools, a vigorous and diverse curriculum, a faithful, engaged, technologically focused community and a wide-range of extra-curriculars infused with Gospel values in the Catholic faith tradition.

The Strategic System Plan encompasses seven areas of focus:

- Catholicity
- Catholic Learning Environment
- Catholic Community Engagement
- Parish-Home-School Relationships
- Stewardship of Our Physical Environment
- Technology
- Sacredness of Our Environment

Some examples of how we met our Strategic Plan goals in 2014-15 included the following based on the plan's seven areas of focus. This is covered in greater detail in our Annual Report: Meeting the Goals of our Strategic System Plan 2014-15, which will be posted on the Board website www.dpcdsb.org in January 2016.

Catholicity

We are called to affirm our Catholic Faith in word and action and in all that we do.

- Secondary schools participated in the second annual Board-wide student Mass on May 8.
- Celebrated Catholic Education Week with events and activities in every Dufferin-Peel school.
- Students and staff supported ShareLife and United Way through fundraising campaigns to support local community service agencies, and other appeals in response to global issues.
- Graduate exit survey conducted to gauge levels of satisfaction and of understanding of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations.



Celebrating Catholic Education Week

Schools and parishes across Dufferin-Peel hosted many special events and activities during the week of May 3-8, as students, staff and the community celebrated Catholic Education Week. The highlight of the celebration was the second annual Board-wide student Mass presided by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins. The Mass celebrated youth leadership and demonstrated Catholic students' message of pride, as well as the strength and unity of Catholic students across the Board.



Catholic Learning Environment

We foster the continuous development of all through a caring, safe and inclusive environment.

- Achieved continued positive results in EQAO and OSSLT assessments, indicating that strategies and system commitment to student well-being and achievement are working.
- Our strong active Student Voice Committee was consulted on many issues related to student choice.
- Held our 20th annual Summer Institute for educators. Over 1,600 teachers and support staff attended the professional development sessions in August.
- Approved strategic system reinvestments with accumulated surplus.
- Promoted Bullying Awareness and Prevention throughout the year, highlighted during Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week with school events and activities including student-produced anti-bullying posters and videos.

2014-15 EQAO Results

Results from the 2014-2015 Education Quality and Accountability Office's (EQAO) Grade 9 assessments of mathematics indicate that Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board students continue to demonstrate high levels of performance at both the academic and applied levels of study. Results from the 2014-2015 mathematics assessments were relatively consistent with last year's high achievement levels among students in both the academic and applied mathematics programs.

Grade 9 Mathematics

Grade 9 Academic Math	88%
Grade 9 Applied Math	60%

Due to provincial labour issues, there are no 2014-2015 Grades 3, 6 or 9 EQAO data available for the province. Additionally, the elementary EQAO data for participating boards was not publicly available when this report was published. This information will be posted on the Board website www.dpcdsb.org when released.

Results from the 2014-2015 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) indicate that Dufferin-Peel students exceeded the provincial success rates by between 3% and 5%. The percentage of Dufferin-Peel students passing the OSSLT on their first attempt continues to exceed provincial performance and highlights the ongoing excellence of Dufferin-Peel students in terms of literacy skills.

OSSLT

	DP	ON
First-Time Eligible Students	85%	82%
Previously Eligible Students	54%	49%

Catholic Community Engagement

We value involvement of community through partnerships and collaboration.

- Provided ongoing parent engagement opportunities through Catholic School Councils, Special Education Advisory Committee and Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grants.
- Issued report to the community on Board activities and accomplishments over the past year.
- Enhanced community communication through increased use of social media, broadcast of upcoming Board and school-based events/issues and posting of media releases and advisories.
- Engaged stakeholders for budget input via our annual public budget consultation process.

Parish|Home|School Relationships

We believe that strong partnerships between Parish, Home and School are based on mutual respect rooted in our lived Catholic faith.

- Renewed baptismal kit program at all affiliated Catholic parishes to promote Catholic education in Dufferin-Peel.
- Received strong support from our pastors through participation in our Strategic System Review process.
- Distributed *Board-Parish Connection* newsletter to all parish clergy.
- Attended annual meetings with the Cardinal and local Bishop and monthly zone meetings with local parishes.

Sir John A. Macdonald Contest

In honour of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald, Dufferin-Peel held a Board-wide multimedia contest. The challenge invited students from Grades 9-12 to produce a reflective piece showcasing their knowledge and understanding of the life and times of Sir John A. Macdonald. *Winners of the Sir John A. Macdonald Multi-Media Contest shared their entries at the May 26 Board meeting.*



Technology

We are committed to a responsible approach in addressing the technology needs of our learners in a global context.

- Continued investments in technology infrastructure, including increased bandwidth capacity and wireless connectivity in all schools.
- Deployed 800 iPads across a range of programs in support of learners with differing abilities.
- Continued maintenance of technology and on-going acquisition of computers, tablets, iPads, Smart technology and electronic media library resources.
- Piloted use of personal electronic devices in 16 schools, with full implementation in 2015-16.

Stewardship of Our Physical Environment

We are committed to healthy and safe school environments that enhance well-being, engagement and achievement.

- Completed renovation of St. Sofia Catholic School, which included an eight-classroom addition, gymnasium expansion and site improvements.
- Completed upgrades to all Kindergarten classrooms to provide purpose built Kindergarten facilities for students.
- Completed construction on 25 enhanced outdoor learning environments for Kindergarten students.
- Continued renewal and renovation of facilities to support new educational programs (77 interior and 59 exterior projects).
- Undertook further renovations at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Learning Centre to facilitate expansion of Continuing Education programs and professional learning opportunities.

Sacredness of Our Environment

We encourage the respectful and sustainable environmental practices of reducing, reusing and recycling in our facilities.

- All 149 schools received EcoSchool Certification.
- Distributed recycling posters to all schools and board sites to inform staff and students about recent changes to regional recycling programs.
- Forty-four schools participated in the *Waste-Free Lunch Challenge*, *Boomerang Lunches* and *Take Back the Trash Thursdays*, to promote waste reduction.
- Over 26,000 students participated in the Great Gulp, an annual event sponsored by the Region of Peel during Water Week to help create an awareness about the importance of drinking water in our lives.
- Students collected 5,111 kg of batteries as part of the *Call2Recycle* challenge which teaches students about reducing their carbon footprint.
- Schools also participated in many environmental-focused initiatives, including: *National Sweater Day*, *Earth Hour* and *International Walk to School Day*.

St. Joseph and St. Edmund Campion Secondary Schools receive the Premier's Award for Accepting Schools

St. Edmund Campion Secondary School and St. Joseph Secondary School received the Premier's Award for Accepting Schools. The awards are presented annually and recognize schools that have demonstrated initiative, creativity and leadership in promoting a safe, inclusive and accepting school climate.



Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week ran from November 16-22. A wide range of board-level initiatives and school events and activities took place to highlight greater awareness and promote a culture of care, respect and inclusion for all through efforts to eliminate bullying, including: a minute of silence in recognition of all victims of bullying, the launch of an Online Reporting Tool to report bullying incidents and negative behaviours impacting the school community, a series of "Stand Up! Against Bullying" posters created by students and a Bullying Prevention and Awareness Faith Resource Package for schools.



Board of Trustees (2014-15)



Anna da Silva
Brampton Wards 1, 3 & 4



Darryl D'Souza
Brampton Wards 2, 5 & 6



Shawn Xaviour
Brampton Wards 7-10



Frank Di Cosola
Dufferin/Caledon
(Vice Chair)



Mario Pascucci
Mississauga Wards 1 & 3
(Chair)



Sharon Hobin
Mississauga Wards 2 & 8



Anna Abbruscato
Mississauga Ward 4



Thomas Thomas
Mississauga Ward 5



Luz del Rosario
Mississauga Wards 6 & 11



Bruno Iannicca
Mississauga Ward 7



Esther O'Toole
Mississauga Wards 9 & 10

Senior Management



John B. Kostoff
Director of Education

Sheila McWatters - Associate Director, Instructional Services
John Hrajnik - Associate Director, Corporate Services, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer
Clara Pitoscia - Superintendent of Human Resources & Employee Relations
Julie Cherepacha - Superintendent of Financial Services
Daniel Del Bianco - Superintendent of Planning and Operations
Max Vecchiarino - Superintendent of Program/Adult & Continuing Education
Deb Finegan-Downey - Assistant Superintendent of Program
Marianne Mazzorato - Superintendent of Early Years, Community Relations & Partnerships
Shirley Kendrick - Superintendent of Special Education and Support Services
Eric Fischer - Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Support Services
Charles Blanchard - Superintendent of Special Projects, Strategic Planning & Policy

Family of Schools

Les Storey - Superintendent – Brampton East/Caledon/Dufferin/Malton
Sue Steer - Superintendent – Brampton West
Denise Oude-Reimerink - Superintendent – Brampton North East
Tim Lariviere - Superintendent – Mississauga East
Tilia Cruz - Superintendent – Mississauga North
David Amaral - Superintendent – Mississauga South
Lucy Papaloni - Superintendent – Mississauga/Brampton Central

