

## Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year

As we approach Christmas, it's a good time to reflect on the very busy, but very successful start to the school year here in Dufferin-Peel. Our schools enjoy strong relationships with our families, local parishes and the community at large, and continue to be safe, caring, healthy and inclusive places to learn and to work. Our graduation rates are among the highest in the province and we, your voice on the Board of Trustees, continue to work hard to make sure that each student has every opportunity to achieve success.

While we have just begun our term as a Board, we have hit the ground running and have much work to do over the coming months. We did, however, want to highlight a few recent items for you through this newsletter before we break for Christmas. As we celebrate this sacred season, we thank you for supporting Catholic education, and pray for a restful, peaceful, blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year for all parents/guardians, families and staff.

May God Bless you always.

### Board of Trustees



Back Row L-R, Darryl D'Souza, Mario Pascucci, Anna da Silva, Frank Di Cosola, Stefano Pascucci, Shawn Xaviour  
Front Row L-R, Brea Corbet, Luz del Rosario, Sharon Hobin (Chair), Thomas Thomas (Vice Chair), Bruno Iannicca

### Board of Trustees

**Sharon Hobin (Chair)**  
Mississauga Wards 2 & 8

**Thomas Thomas (Vice Chair)**  
Mississauga Ward 5

**Brea Corbet**  
Mississauga Wards 9 & 10

**Anna da Silva**  
Brampton Wards 1,3 & 4

**Luz del Rosario**  
Mississauga Wards 6 & 11

**Frank Di Cosola**  
Caledon/Dufferin

**Darryl D'Souza**  
Brampton Wards 2,5 & 6

**Bruno Iannicca**  
Mississauga Ward 7

**Mario Pascucci**  
Mississauga Wards 1 & 3

**Stefano Pascucci**  
Mississauga Ward 4

**Shawn Xaviour**  
Brampton Wards 7-10

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[www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org)

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### Election

As a result of the October 22 Municipal and Trustee election, we have two new members of the Board of Trustees. We welcome Brea Corbet, representing Mississauga Wards 9 & 10 and Stefano Pascucci, representing Mississauga Ward 4. We said farewell to longtime Mississauga trustees Esther O'Toole and Anna Abbruscato who decided to pursue other opportunities. Both were first elected to the Board in 1991.

### New Chair and Vice Chair

At the Board's Inaugural meeting, held on December 4, trustees elected Mississauga Wards 2 & 8 trustee, Sharon Hobin, as Chair and Mississauga Ward 5 trustee, Thomas Thomas, as Vice Chair. Both are for a one-year term. Thanks to Mario Pascucci and Anna da Silva, who served as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for the past year.

### Directors Annual Report

The Board received the Director's Annual Report at the December 11 Board meeting. This report outlines how the DPCDSB met the goals and objectives of its Multi-Year Strategic Plan over the past year (2017-18). It also outlines the work the DPCDSB has undertaken with respect to equity and inclusion over the past year. Both are requirements and priorities of the Ministry of Education. The Director's Annual Report will be available shortly on the DPCDSB website at [DPCDSB.org](http://DPCDSB.org).

### Multi-Year Strategic Plan

One of the first duties of the new Board of Trustees is to fully develop the 2019-2023 Multi-Year Strategic Plan for the DPCDSB. The previous Board of Trustees developed the 2014-2018 edition, which is referenced above in the Director's Annual report section of this newsletter, and laid the groundwork for the 2019-2023 plan. Watch for related community consultation opportunities in the new year.

### Online Community Bulletin Board

In alignment with the Board's strategic goal to reduce our environmental footprint, schools do not distribute advertising and promotional materials from external organizations directly to parents "through the backpack". Rather, these items are posted on the DPCDSB's online Community Bulletin Board webpage. Resources include local youth programs, such as summer camps, recreation and other non-board programs and services. Visit [dpcdsb.org](http://dpcdsb.org) and check out the [Community Bulletin Board](#) in the Parents section. Content is added on an ongoing basis.

### Opening of new Catholic elementary schools in Brampton and Caledon

In September, the DPCDSB opened a new elementary school in Brampton. St. Jacinta Marto Catholic Elementary School, is a 57,414 square foot facility that was built to accommodate up to 504 students. It includes a two-room child care centre for toddlers and preschoolers. In January, we will open our 151st school, St. Evan Catholic Elementary School, in Caledon. St. Evan is also a 504 pupil place elementary school with child care spaces for toddlers and preschoolers.

### **Support Catholic Education**

Like many Catholics, you may be surprised to find out that you are not registered as a Separate (Catholic) School Supporter, but rather, as a Public School Supporter. By directing your tax support to the Separate School System:

- You may vote for Separate School Trustees in Municipal elections;
- Your children may attend Catholic elementary schools, subject to eligibility requirements;
- You show your support for the Catholic school system.

To verify that you are an English Separate (Catholic) School Supporter, check the assessment section of your Tax Bill or Property Assessment Notice. To register as a Separate (Catholic) School Supporter or change your Direction of School Support, contact our Admissions Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24512 or [admissions@dpcdsb.org](mailto:admissions@dpcdsb.org).

### **Follow DPCDSB on Twitter**

The DPCDSB twitter account is a great way to receive important and timely information related to issues that impact schools, such as Hold and Secures, Lockdowns, bus cancellations due to weather conditions and other events. It is also a way to see examples of the many great things that take place in our schools each and every day and celebrate our Catholic education system. Follow us at [@DPCDSBSchools](https://twitter.com/DPCDSBSchools).

### **Legalization of Cannabis**

In conjunction with the legalization of cannabis in October, the DPCDSB issued a Community Information Bulletin which was distributed to all DPCDSB families through our schools. [Read the Community Information Bulletin: Cannabis Legalization](#) on the DPCDSB website. For additional information, please check the [Government of Ontario website](#).

### **50th Anniversary Celebration**

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the amalgamation of eight small local school boards to form what was then called the Dufferin Peel County Roman Catholic Separate School Board. From our inception with 27 schools, 8,000 students, approximately 500 employees and a \$5 million budget, we have grown into an organization of, soon to be, 151 schools, approximately 81,000 students, 11,000 employees (with another approximately 40,000 Adult and Continuing Education learners) and an annual budget of \$1 billion.

We look forward to celebrating 50 years of excellence in Catholic education throughout the year with the Dufferin-Peel community.

## ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE

Dufferin-Peel's Catholic schools are overseen by a board of 11 elected trustees. Trustees serve as system leaders of publically funded education in their communities and province. They work collaboratively with their community to shape a vision for DPCDSB that is reflective of the input of parents, students and community members. Trustees advocate for excellence in education and act as role models to engender confidence in publically funded education. In addition, Catholic school trustees have a clearly defined role as stewards and guardians of Catholic education. Two student trustee representatives, elected by their peers, also sit with the Board of Trustees in a non-voting capacity.

Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre located at 40 Matheson Boulevard West in Mississauga. Check out the [Trustees section](#) of our school board website.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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