



Mario Pascucci
Trustee - Wards One and Three
Mississauga

January 2022

A New Year brings renewed opportunities to reflect, to learn and to live more like Christ. May we open wide the doors of this New Year to Christ, to *nurture the future we hope for* in our schools, in our homes and in our hearts.

Remote Learning - On January 3, the Ministry of Education mandated that all schools transition to remote-only learning from January 5 until at least January 17, 2022. For more information and additional communications to the parents/guardians of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB), please visit the board website: www.dpcdsb.org and select "School Information and Updates".

Remote learning is provided for all students in alignment with [Policy/Program Memorandum \(PPM\) No.164: Requirements for Remote Learning](#). This PPM provides standards for synchronous learning so that parents/guardians and students know what to expect and there is a consistent approach across the province to ensure students are fully engaged in their learning.

Our board has distributed technology devices to students and staff to support remote learning, as required. Parents/guardians can contact their child(ren)'s school if a device is needed. Based on supply and demand, our board may not be able to provide a device for every student and this may be done on a per family basis.

As in previous shifts to remote learning, boards must ensure that plans are in place to support students with special education needs to learn remotely. DPCDSB is leveraging the capacity of our education workers and board professionals (e.g., behavioural experts, speech language pathologists etc.) to support remote learning. Parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate with their child(ren)'s teacher and school administrator if they have questions or concerns regarding their child(ren)'s learning needs.

Student Transportation – While elementary and secondary students are learning remotely, student transportation services are only being provided for special needs students who cannot be accommodated through remote learning based on student needs.

Mental Health - Students and families can access mental health resources, including Kids Help Phone, which offers 24/7 counselling and referral services across the province. To use this free resource, children can call 1-800-668-6868, or text CONNECT to 686868. School Mental Health Ontario also has resources available for students, parents and families on their website at www.smho-smso.ca.

Learning Resources – The Ministry of Education’s [TVO Learn](#) and [TFO IDÉLLO, apprendre à la maison](#) portals will continue to provide supports for students learning remotely by accessing additional educational resources developed by Ontario certified teachers. In addition, secondary students can continue to access TVO’s [Independent Learning Centre \(ILC\) Open House](#) and [Portes ouvertes pour les cours TVO ILC in French-language](#), which provide access to 144 Grade 9 to 12 courses. These ILC resources are designed to provide flexible learning opportunities to help students keep up with their learning or deepen their understanding of a specific subject.

[TVO Mathify](#) provides free, one-on-one online support by Ontario Certified Teachers, to help students improve their math skills. [Eurêka](#) is a service available to French-language students and families that provides resources and supports for all subjects, Grades 1-12.

Childcare Centres – The childcare centers in DPCDSB schools continue to operate for children 0-4 years, with strong health and safety protocols in place. The ministry is working with the Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social Service Administration Boards to provide Emergency Child Care (ECC) programs for school-aged children for health care and other frontline workers, free of charge for parents.

COVID-19 Vaccination – Vaccination continues to be the most effective strategy to prevent COVID-19 transmission during this pandemic. The Region of Peel is seeing vaccination rates improving for residents, school staff and eligible students. For more information please visit: [COVID-19 vaccine - Region of Peel \(peelregion.ca\)](#)

2020-2021 Director’s Annual Report – The 2020-2021 Director’s Annual Report outlines the goals of the Board of Trustees’ Multi-Year Strategic Plan and how we, as a system, have strived to meet the goals of that plan. This past year was the second year of implementation for the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in 2019. This plan, around which much of this report is focused, directs all we do as a Catholic school board. It was shared publicly at our Board of Trustees meeting on December 14, 2021, and is [available on the DPCBSB website](#).

ROPSSAA – With the decision by the Ministry of Education and provincial government to pivot to virtual learning for at least two weeks among other restrictions, the Region of Peel Secondary School Athletics Association (ROPSSAA), in discussion with both DPCDSB and PDSB, has postponed all events scheduled during January. Further postponements or cancellations may occur because of government restrictions. When a return to play is possible, relevant league structures will need to be altered in accordance with OFSAA entry deadlines. Non-OFSAA leagues and events structures may need to be adjusted as well. The possibility exists that advancement to OFSAA will not occur based on government restrictions and public health guidance.

Catholic School Council (CSC) Funds – The underlying philosophy of CSC funds, similar to School Generated Funds (SGF), is that funds raised by students/parents in a given year should be spent on students within the same year. However, there may be times when funds raised in one year will need to be carried forward into future years, due to potential timing differences and savings for longer-term projects. All funds raised should have a specific purpose, as defined and approved by the CSC and be accurately reflected in the CSC meeting minutes. Any expenditure disbursement from the CSC account requires the approval of the CSC Chair and/or Treasurer as well as the Principal. There should be no expenditures from CSC accounts unless the appropriate form is completed with Chair and/or Treasurer approval.

Change of Learning Mode for Term 2 – Prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year, parents/guardians of elementary students were provided an opportunity to select a preferred learning mode (i.e., in-person or remote only) for their child(ren) with an opportunity to change this learning mode in February 2022. A Community Information Bulletin was sent to all DPCDSB elementary families via School Messenger on December 6, 2021, informing parents/guardians they would be provided with direction as to how to inform their school should they wish to change learning modes. This change will take effect on February 22, 2022, for elementary students and February 3 for secondary students. As a result, schools **may be required to reorganize classes** and this may result in elementary students having a different teacher for the remainder of the school year, even if their learning mode remains unchanged. If parents/guardians have any questions, they can contact their school principal.

Portable Air Scrubbers – DPCDSB has deployed portable HEPA filter units (scrubbers) in all secondary school portables. In total, over 1,800 scrubbers have been deployed across DPCDSB schools with the federal/provincial ventilation and air quality funding. The units have mainly been deployed in classrooms of schools based on the degree of fresh air intake coming through the school’s mechanical ventilation systems. This includes schools with no or minimal amounts of air conditioning in classrooms. In addition, scrubbers have been deployed in many self-contained special education classrooms and in all portable classrooms (elementary and secondary). In August 2021, the Ministry of Education required all schools with mechanical ventilation systems, which includes all DPCDSB schools, to also have a unit placed in each full-day kindergarten classroom. The Ministry of Education recently announced that DPCDSB would receive an additional 84 scrubbers, which are anticipated to arrive in January.

Staff COVID-19 Vaccinations – DPCDSB follows all Ministry of Education reporting requirements for vaccination attestations for staff. For information on staff vaccination status, visit the [DPCDSB COVID-19 Vaccination Disclosure webpage](#).

Kindergarten Registration – Kindergarten registration for the 2022-2023 school year at all DPCDSB schools will take place January 10-14. DPCDSB offers Kindergarten programming in 125 Catholic elementary schools in Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Bolton and Orangeville. Parents/guardians can register online at dpcdsb.org. Registration is open to Catholic children and children of Catholic parents. Kindergarten students must be at least four (4) years of age by December 31, 2022. Please refer to the DPCDSB [Register for School webpage](#) for accepted forms of documentation and submission process. Inquiries about home school locations/boundary areas should be directed to the DPCDSB Planning Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24440.

Virtual Information Session to Support the Transition of Children with Differing Abilities: January 27 - The DPCDSB’s Special Education and Learning Services Department will host a Virtual Information Session to Support the Transition of Children with Differing Abilities into a DPCDSB school in September 2022. This meeting is for families of children with differing abilities, such as vision, hearing, speech, autism, physical/medical and/or developmental delays in the cognitive and/or motor areas. The meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. For more information, parents/guardians should contact their local Catholic school, or visit the [DPCDSB website](#).

I enjoy visiting your School council meetings throughout the year. I am pleased that schools invite their area Trustee(s) to these meetings. It is at these meetings that I listen and learn the concerns of parents/guardians of our children. I also answer questions that parents/guardians have at these meetings. I will provide the most recent information as it relates to (DPCDSB) and the area that I have proudly represented for over 39 years.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. And, as always, thank you for choosing Catholic education for your child(ren). God bless.

My contact information is Cell 905 302 3096 and email mario.pascucci@dpdsb.org. The information is also available from the school administration staff.

Mario Pascucci
Trustee – Wards One and Ward Three
Mississauga