



*From Your Catholic School Trustee Sharon Hobin, BA, Bed.
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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

“Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.”
Hebrews: 13:18

A **virtue** is a habit or established capacity to perform good actions according to a moral standard. When we practice these virtues, we strengthen them and thereby make the presence of God more and more visible in the world around us.

This month’s Virtue of the Month is the Virtue of Conscience. God helps us to choose to be good people. His voice is within us. A conscience helps us make decisions that support truly loving relationships. We are able to make decisions according to gospel values and accept accountability for one’s own actions.

Goodbye and thank you. It is with mixed emotions that I retire from the Board of Trustees on November 21, 2022. To all of our parents, members of Catholic School councils, ratepayers, parish priests and parish staff, administrators, support staff and of course our students, thank you for sixteen years of fun, challenges, growth, and accomplishments. As I retire, I ask God to bless all of you; keep you safe and to bring you opportunities of joy. Thank you to my colleagues for your steadfast support of Catholic Education. Congratulations on moving forward for four more years. We have outstanding staff. Our senior staff, superintendents and administrative staff have been a huge support to me as trustee and as Chair. I am grateful. My family have been my steadfast cheerleaders over all these years. I love them very much. I welcome Mr. Herman Vilorio as your new Catholic Trustee for Wards 2 & 8. To my colleagues who are also retiring, Trustees Anna DaSilva and Frank Di Cosola, I wish you many blessings. To you all.... *May the road rise up to meet you, the wind be at your back and may the good Lord always hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Congratulations to our newly elected Chairs and Co-Chairs of our Catholic School Councils. And to all parents and staff who stepped forward to be members and to support the initiatives of the school, it is your children who benefit. You are heroes. Please support your Catholic School Councils!!! Our parent communities continue to provide help to our local food banks and other charities which in turn benefits members of our school communities. Times are tough for many and so your efforts to help those in your own neighbourhoods and schools is a blessing.

Math. I feel like we have been talking and worried about math for years. When one of my sons was in elementary school a new approach to math was introduced that confused both parents and students. Now my youngest son is 34. And we are still talking about math. Now the Ministry has introduced steps to help with math. They 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. A new Curriculum Review Guide will be developed and released that informs students, families and educators on curriculum, including a regular curriculum review cycle that ensures curriculum is up to date and relevant to important job and life skills. **I share this information with you with great hope.**

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.

EQAO – EQAO is mandated by the Ministry of Education. 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. The results are used by DPCDSB so that we can develop board wide and local school initiatives to address the needs of our students.

DPCDSB Secondary School Open Houses – Everyone welcome!!!!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 Catholic 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.

Catholic Secondary Schools - Mississauga Wards 2 & 8

- Ward 2, Mississauga – Iona Catholic Secondary School - November 9 @ 7:00 pm
- Ward 8, Mississauga – Loyola Catholic Secondary School - November 9 @ 6:00 pm

DPCDSB Secondary Schools – Regional Programs

- St Joseph (AP Program) - October 19 @ 6:00 pm
- Holy Name of Mary (All girls) - October 26 @ 6:30 pm
- St Francis Xavier (IB Program) - November 2 @ 6:00 pm
- St Martin (Regional Sports) - November 9 @ 6:00 pm
- Iona (Regional Arts) - November 9 @ 7:00 pm
- Loyola (French Immersion) - November 9 @ 6:00 pm

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.

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, is feeling the impact of staff and product price increases. 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. We are happy that some form of cafeteria services have returned to our schools.

ShareLife – Our DPCDSB community as ever, has been so generous once again 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. 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." These funds help so many who need support.

Free the Flow Initiative – 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.

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

A. A. Milne