

**MARIO PASCUCCI**  
TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 1 & 3



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.

## October 2022

This month's virtue of EMPATHY reminds us of the dignity of all persons, and the ability to recognize it in others. As a Catholic community, and as part of our Catholic identity, we believe the cross is the ultimate sign of compassion and forgiveness. Empathy for ourselves and each other is integral to supporting our learners, as we continue to learn, develop, and grow together in Christ.

**Catholic Education Week (CEW)** - "*We are Many, We are One*". The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) continues to celebrate the good work of Catholic education. A First Week of School Resource Kit, which included prayers and scriptures, was sent to all of our elementary and secondary schools to support and plan upcoming Catholic liturgies and Eucharistic celebrations. Throughout the school year, the CEW theme will be embedded into the faith life of our board. The anchor theme ties into our Board of Trustees' *Multi-Year Strategic Plan Value: Believe - Built on Faith*, as we continue to look to Scripture and Catholic Social Teachings for inspiration and to prioritize the faith formation of our students and staff. All resources and educational materials can be found online at the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) website: [www.goodnewsforall.ca](http://www.goodnewsforall.ca)

**Student Transportation** – Full student bus transportation services provided by STOPR (Student Transportation of Peel Region) have resumed for the 2022-2023 school year, in compliance with the latest health and safety protocols. There will be a continued focus on regular communication with all stakeholders and ensuring safe, efficient, and on-time service. Our school bus operators have indicated that they have a driver assigned for every route. STOPR will continue to work with bus operators throughout the year to ensure that any challenges with driver retention and training can be mitigated, as quickly as possible.

The minimum qualifying distance criteria for home-to-school STOPR bus transportation are:

- 1.0 KM – Kindergarten and Grade 1 students
- 1.6 KM – Grades 2 to 4 students
- 2.0 KM – Grades 5 to 8 students
- 3.8 KM – Grades 9 to 12 students

Eligibility status for bus transportation for students who have started Grade 2, Grade 5, or Grade 9 this school year, may have changed compared to last school year due to the above distance criteria.

Families with students taking the school bus this year can register on the STOPR website to receive information about route changes, time changes, delays, and cancellations. <https://stopr.ca>

**Courtesy Transportation** - For parents/guardians who have applied for courtesy ridership for student transportation, please note that decisions on courtesy seating requests are not typically made until early October. However, new for the 2022-2023 school year, STOPR has launched a pilot program across the board to implement courtesy transportation one week earlier than in previous years prior to the pandemic. As a result, schools were able to identify students for courtesy seating during the week of September 19. STOPR staff started assigning these courtesy students to buses for the week of September 26.

**Tutoring Supports Grant** – DPCDSB has received a total of \$6.6M in funding from the Ministry of Education to support our students’ learning recovery and renewal in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, prioritizing literacy, math, and other foundational learning skills. 50% of the funding was provided in the 2021-2022 year and was utilized by implementing a variety of in-school and after-school opportunities from April to August 2022. Existing programs were enhanced by providing additional support for vulnerable students and resources to respond to learning recovery. New opportunities were created, both within our schools and through community partnerships. The remaining 50% of the funding has been provided in this school year for the period September to December 2022. Many of the same initiatives will continue during this time period, including a Monday to Thursday evening support program in various subject areas for students in grades 9 to 12. A report summarizing this initiative is available on the board website. Please refer to September 20, 2022 – Dufferin-Peel Board of Trustees - [Faith and Program Committee Meeting](#)

**Equity and Inclusive Education Initiatives** – Culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy books and resources have been purchased for each of our 125 elementary schools from a list of 40 titles. These resources will be supported by the creation of lessons and online resources to support culturally responsive teaching.

**Childcare Centre Update** – The scope of work for the new Childcare Centre project at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Elementary School in Mississauga, Ward 9 includes the conversion of six existing classrooms and one seminar room into childcare spaces (one infant room, one toddler room and two pre-school rooms). The construction tender for this project was submitted to the Ministry of Education in March, 2022. Recent communication received from the Ministry of Education indicated that approval has been granted. The design of the project is nearing completion, at 90%, with the anticipated date of completion by September, 2023.

**ErinOakKids Centre for Treatment and Development** - Our schools are supported by visits from ErinOakKids Occupational Therapists (OT). OTs are health care providers who use their skills to help students participate in their school and learning activities. The OTs may visit the classroom, gym or playground to work with the school team and to support classroom needs. The OTs can assist students with class activities like printing, crafts and with following classroom routines. Parents/guardians can find out more about OT workshops and resources at: <https://erinoakkids.ca> or can contact ErinOakKids at 905-855-2690 ext. 1.

**Flu Prevention** – Flu Prevention Week is held during the month of October. Some of the symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to the flu and it may be difficult to tell the difference based on symptoms alone. You may need a COVID-19 test to help confirm a diagnosis. Together, we can help protect the health of our children and ensure healthier school environments. To prevent getting and/or spreading the flu, please remember:

- Flu shot vaccination is the best defense against the influenza virus.
- Keep children home when they are sick or showing flu-like symptoms (e.g., fever, vomiting or diarrhea).
- Wash hands frequently. Cover your cough or sneeze. The flu can also spread up to six feet away.

For more information, please visit: [www.peelregion.ca/flu](http://www.peelregion.ca/flu) or call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700, or you can call Telehealth at 1-866-797-0000 to speak with a Registered Nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

I am blessed to serve as your DPCDSB Catholic School Trustee for Mississauga Wards 1 & 3.  
I am here to serve. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Wishing our students, families, staff and communities a wonderful time of worship and thanksgiving with your loved ones.

Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your family.

---

*May God Bless you and keep you safe.*

***Mario Pascucci***

DPCDSB Trustee - Mississauga, Wards 1 & 3

Mobile: (905) 302-3096 | Email: [mario.pascucci@dpcdsb.org](mailto:mario.pascucci@dpcdsb.org)

Website: [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org) | YouTube: DPCDSBVideos