

April 2024

This month, the virtue of **LOVE** helps us grow in love for God and for one another. During the Holy season of Lent and the celebration of Easter, we are reminded of Jesus' love in action. Love guides the practice of our Catholic faith and is embedded in the ethos of our Catholic education. May you leave footprints of love, wherever you go.

DPCDSB PA Day – Monday April 8 is a Professional Activity (PA) Day for all schools in our board. There are no classes for students on that day.

New DPCDSB Graphic – The new graphic 'We All Belong' aligns with our DPCDSB Board of Trustees' 2023-2027 Multi-Year Strategic Plan. It represents an all-embracing community in our schools, classrooms, learning and work environments. Parents/guardians, students and staff can anticipate seeing this graphic displayed in all of our DPCDSB schools and facilities. [Learn more.](#)

DPERWA Strike Notice – A strike notice has been received from the Dufferin-Peel Education Resource Workers Association (DPERWA) bargaining unit indicating its intent to commence strike action the week of April 29. Under the School Board Collective Bargaining Act, bargaining units may strike locally, only on local items and not those being discussed at the central bargaining table. At this point, there has been no central agreement reached making it challenging to bargain locally. It is our board's commitment to continue to engage in meaningful collective bargaining with the goal of achieving a local memorandum of agreement. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

DPCDSB Public Budget Information – The 2024-2025 Public Budget Information Webcast is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The webcast offers an opportunity to share important financial information with our communities. Our DPCDSB schools have been advised to ensure Catholic School Council meetings are scheduled for this same evening to join the webcast together. More information will be posted on the DPCDSB website.

DPCDSB Math Achievement Action Plan – In September 2023, the Ministry of Education introduced the *Math Action Achievement Plan* which focused on supporting the following priority actions: 1) curriculum fidelity 2) math content knowledge for teaching 3) knowing the mathematics learner and 4) measurable results. The Ministry identified 35 priority elementary schools and three priority secondary schools in DPCDSB, based on an analysis of 2021-2022 EQAO mathematics achievement data. Supports for this plan for all classrooms across the board include access to digital tools, resources as created by the DPCDSB Math Team, and Math Professional Development opportunities. The Ministry of Education expects school boards to complete a *Math Achievement Action Report* to evaluate priority actions based on the areas of needs. An initial report was submitted to the Ministry of Education on November 15, 2023 with updates on progress sent on March



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“ A new
commandment I give
to you, that you **LOVE**
one another, just as I
have loved you.
- John 13:34 ”

Meetings and Agendas [Board and Committee Meetings](#)

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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28, 2024. More information is available online in the March 5, 2024 Faith and Program Committee Agenda.

Equity and Indigenous Education Updates – DPCDSB is committed to ensuring equitable and inclusive learning environments free from oppression and discrimination. Activities to support this commitment include various methods of gathering feedback and monitoring outcomes and experiences, most notably through the DPCDSB Student and Staff Censuses. Findings have indicated disproportionalities and disparities regarding education outcomes among some student groups. In response to these observations, DPCDSB’s Equity and Indigenous Education Department has provided a wide variety of professional learning opportunities for staff and supports for students including:

- **Anishinaabemowin Language Course program and Language Nest** for secondary students.
- **Indigenous Student and Family Community Events** - DPCDSB has partnered with the Peel District School Board (PDSB), Upper Grand DSB, and the Wellington Catholic DSB to provide events for students and families who identify as Indigenous.
- **Professional Development Webinars / Additional Qualification Courses** - Supports K-12 educators in a variety of topics such as treaty education, history, colonialism, Inuit, Métis, Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, and other courses pertaining to Indigenous education.
- **Indigenous Knowledge Systems and STEM** - DPCDSB implemented a new digital resource: *Lessons from Beyond* which included NASA scientists and Indigenous Elders.
- **Sweet Water (Maple Syrup) Program** - Grades 5 and 6 classes (selected based on Indigenous students in those classes) are currently participating in a month-long inquiry guided by a Cree Knowledge Keeper. This program takes place at DPCDSB’s outdoor education center at Silver Creek.
- **Supports for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies** - Secondary schools that offer these courses are supported throughout the year to ensure that curriculum delivery aligns with DPCDSB’s Indigenous Education policy.
- **Knowledge Keepers Visiting Program** – This highly specialized program allows for classes to connect virtually with members of the Indigenous community in-person cultural learning opportunities with Indigenous Elders and community members, artists, and authors. Informative sessions are provided on a variety of topics to support K-12 learning with over 60,000 students having participated last year.
- **Indigenous Student Council** – This is a successful initiative with a continued increase in the numbers of students who self-identify as Indigenous and family members who have become more engaged and active in DPCDSB. The Indigenous Student Council also has members who attend the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) and helps to educate students on their rights in education.
- **Indigenous Education Council** - The IEC meets throughout the year on a regular basis to offer parent/guardian and community input on the *Board Action Plan for Indigenous Education*, in addition to providing an advocacy role for parents/guardians and the community.

Supporting Recruitment and Retention – Diversity is celebrated in the DPCDSB and it is our goal to provide leadership in our schools that reflects the communities we serve. The inclusion of candidates with diverse experiences and backgrounds is a cornerstone of DPCDSB’s leadership process. DPCDSB continues to recruit and promote qualified diverse candidates purposefully and intentionally in various leadership positions. DPCDSB also works directly with the Black Excellence Success Team (BEST) to provide mentorship for Black identifying employees. Focused mentorship is available to all racialized employees to support and encourage leadership opportunities.

Online Learning - The Ministry of Education issued a Policy and Procedures Memorandum (PPM 167) on February 1, 2022 regarding the online learning graduation requirement for secondary students. Beginning with the cohort of Grade 9 students who entered secondary school during the 2020-2021 school year, all students must earn a minimum of two (2) online learning credits as part of the [requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma](#). However, students have the opportunity to **opt out** or be exempted from online learning. Parents/guardians and students can discuss any questions or concerns they have with their guidance counsellors for course selection in the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.

Let's Move, Mississauga - The “*Let’s Move, Mississauga*” campaign, runs annually for the month of April and encourages Mississauga residents to get outside and move to support a healthier community! For our DPCDSB school families, the School Walking Routes Program promotes active travel, such as walking, cycling or other mobility devices to and from school. This aligns with the city’s Vision Zero Action Plan. Families can keep track of the number of times they are walking or rolling during April and can download and/or print a digital certificate of achievement! [Learn more](#).

The Dam - The Dam has released its Mississauga Youth Survey which can be accessed here. Their goal is to survey 1000 youth by May 17, 2024 to understand their world and how they can support them in meaningful ways. Youth who complete the anonymous survey will help shape a brighter future for all Mississauga’s youth and will earn a \$5 Tim Hortons gift card. Access to the results will be open to all youth focused organizations to make informed decisions and champion youth causes with current and relevant data. [Survey link](#).

We wish our DPCDSB families and staff a blessed Easter celebrating the presence of the risen Christ Jesus and His love.

As always, we are pleased to help support the families entrusted to our care.

Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your child(ren). May God bless you.

Yours in learning, growing, and leading with Christ,



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