

March 2024

This month's virtue of **KINDNESS** reminds us of the gift of kindness Christ bestows upon us, so that we may share it with others.

Season of Lent – We are called to draw closer to Christ throughout the 40 days of Lent leading up to the joy of Easter. May we turn to God in prayer, remembering His mercy and reflecting on His forgiveness. As Catholic school communities, we are grateful for the continued partnership of our parish priests, who support our students' faith formation during this Holy time of our liturgical calendar.

Interim Financial Report (IFR) – The IFR reflects the expenses of the DPCDSB for the four (4) month period from September 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. As at December 31, 2023, the board had total actual operating expenses amounting to 29.2% of its annual budget. DPCDSB has projected a deficit of \$36.5 million for the 2023-2024 year, impacted primarily by its fully funded Long Term Disability (LTD) plan. More information is available in the February 13, 2024 - Administration and Finance Committee Meeting agenda

Budget Development Process – The Ministry of Education is expected to announce the 2024-2025 Grants for Student Needs (GSN by the end of March 2024, however, the budget planning starts well before the release of the GSN. The budget process has been difficult at DPCDSB over the last few years, as our board works with an accumulated deficit position and operates within a Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP) with the Ministry of Education. To ensure our stakeholders are well informed, a live budget information webcast will take place on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Enrolment Report - The Ministry of Education mandates the submission of October 31 and March 31 enrolment and staffing data for the purposes of determining and/or verifying eligibility for many grant categories under the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding model. DPCDSB continues to experience enrolment decline year over year, however the rate of decline is slowing. DPCDSB schools reported 41,446 elementary students and 29,996 secondary students, for a total enrolment of 71,442 students on October 31, 2023. This represents an enrolment decrease of 1,100 elementary students (-2.59 %) and an increase of 117 secondary students (0.39 %) since October 31, 2022. The overall board-wide enrolment decreased by 983 students (-1.36 %) from a year ago.

Midday Exam Busing for Secondary Students - During the current 2023-2024 school year, an operational decision was made to cancel midday exam busing for DPCDSB secondary students to align with our coterminous school board, the Peel District School Board (PDSB). Midday exam busing has been unique to DPCDSB as the PDSB has not offered this service to its students. For the 2022-2023 school year, DPCDSB incurred a cost of over \$129,000 for midday exam busing. Unfortunately, transportation funding provided by the Ministry of Education does not provide enough financial resources to support this additional cost.



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What does the
Lord require of you
but to do justice, and
to love *kindness*
and to walk humbly
with your God.

– Micah 6:8



Meetings and Agendas Board and Committee Meetings

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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2024 – 2025 Modified School Year Calendar - Ontario Regulation (O. Reg) 304, amended to O. Reg. 364/15 identifies that every school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days, seven Professional Activity (PA) days and a maximum of ten examination days. In keeping with a directive from the Ministry of Education, the following groups were consulted in developing DPCDSB's 2024-2025 school year calendar including our DPCDSB Board of Trustees, Elementary and Secondary Units of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, Elementary and Secondary Principals' and Vice-Principals' Associations, Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (through their elementary and secondary CCCSC representatives), board staff and our co-terminus school board(s). Cost savings through transportation efficiencies will be attained through alignment with the co-terminus board. As a result of the collaboration among all parties involved, six of the seven Elementary PA Days and seven of the seven Secondary PA days are aligned with the co-terminus board. A draft 2024-2025 Modified School Year Calendar has been submitted to the Ministry of Education for review and approval.

Remote Learning 2024-2025 School Year - The remote only learning option will continue for the 2024 – 2025 school year for both elementary and secondary students to align with the Ministry of Education's *Policy and Program Memorandum 164 (August 2020): Requirements for Remote Learning*. The elementary remote-only host school will continue to be Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Elementary School, and the secondary remote-only host school will continue to be St. Paul Catholic Secondary School. A *Community Information Bulletin* has been sent to all DPCDSB parents/guardians to seek expression of interest and provide instructions on how to register for remote learning at the respective schools.

Learners Early Access Program (LEAP) – DPCDSB has officially launched LEAP, an innovative new program in partnership with Algoma University that is designed to help students transition to university. This semester, 20 DPCDSB students from Grades 11 and 12 will be able to experience university life while earning two university credits and three credits toward their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). The program's orientation introduces students and their families to the university campus and welcomes them to this exciting new opportunity to LEAP ahead and experience post-secondary education.

Student Trustees – Our newly elected DPCDSB Student Trustees for the 2024-2025 school year are:

North: Jia Sharma – St. Marguerite d'Youville C.S.S

South: Raheem White – St. Marcellinus C.S.S

Indigenous: Bailey Clyne – Our Lady of Mount Carmel C.S.S

Congratulations to Jia, Raheem and Bailey! We look forward to working with you as you serve to elevate student voice and advocate for student achievement, in partnership with our DPCDSB Board of Trustees.

Distinguished Alumni – On an annual basis, DPCDSB selects alumni from our secondary schools and celebrates them through our *Distinguished Alumni* campaign. This campaign recognizes DPCDSB graduates who are making valuable and unique contributions in their respective careers, pathways, and communities. Our Distinguished Alumni are positive role models and represent the image of the Catholic learner as described by the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. The board is currently accepting nominations for its 2024 *Distinguished Alumni*. The due date is April 4, 2024. Nominations are reviewed by a committee comprised of trustees, staff, and students. [Learn more](#).

World Down Syndrome Day (WSDS) – On March 21, we raise awareness of the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down Syndrome. Please join our students, families, and staff in celebrating Rock Our Socks for WSDS!

Wishing our DPCDSB families and staff a safe and fun March Break (March 11 - 15, 2024).

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

Yours in learning, growing, and leading with Christ,

B. Corbet

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Vice Chair – Administration and Finance Committee
Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10

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Herman Vioria
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