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**Anna da Silva, Trustee:  
Brampton Wards 1, 3 & 4  
Vice Chair, Dufferin-Peel CDSB**

September 4, 2018

**Welcome to the 2018-19 School Year**

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is my pleasure, as your Catholic School Trustee for Brampton Wards 1, 3 & 4 and Vice Chair of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB), to welcome you to the start of the 2018-19 school year.

It is my sincere hope that all our children will have a smooth start to the year. The faculty and staff at DPCDSB schools work hard to provide all of our students with a nurturing, kind and loving learning environment that is Christ-centered. It is our goal that each child be provided with an excellent academic experience - one that enables them to grow in knowledge, wisdom, faith and love in imitation of Jesus Christ.

As we begin the new school year I would like to share some information that may be of interest to you.

Catholic education continues to flourish and grow in our community. Today, I am proud to say that St. Jacinta Marto Catholic Elementary School opened at 40 Fallowfield Road in Brampton. This new school includes child care spaces for toddlers and preschoolers.

School maintenance is an important priority for the DPCDSB. Over the summer, we spent over \$89M in capital repair works. We have conducted renewal work on both the interior and exterior of many of our schools. I hope that you will notice some positive changes to your school.

The Ontario Ministry of Education recently announced direction to school boards regarding teaching of the *Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1 to 8: Health and Physical Education*. As per Ministry direction, **the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) will be teaching [The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Health and Physical Education, Interim Edition \(re-issued 2018\)](#)** in a way that conveys, respects and models Catholic principles to our students.

In order to help parents/guardians be better informed about the program, the Board of Trustees has requested that a letter go out to all parents at the beginning of this school year to explain the program and, in this regard, you should receive a Community Information Bulletin from the Director of Education today. This Bulletin is also posted on the DPCDSB website at [www.dpccsb.org](http://www.dpccsb.org). Please contact me directly if you have any questions regarding the curriculum. Alternatively, if you wish to review the curriculum yourselves, you can access the full program, by going to the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) website at [www.iceont.ca](http://www.iceont.ca).

In order, to enhance communication, between parents/guardians and teachers, at the August 28 meeting of the Board of Trustees, I requested that the DPCDSB develop a policy to standardize communication methods at the elementary level. If you have any suggestions about what you might want to see in the policy, please send me an email at [anna.dasilva@dpcdsb.org](mailto:anna.dasilva@dpcdsb.org).

This school year, students will be acknowledging International Women's Day by learning about the accomplishments of strong Catholic female leaders. I brought this motion (which was approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees) forward in May, 2018, as a way to counteract views of women reflected in today's secular culture and to enhance the perception of the value of women in our society.

This fall, the municipal election will be held on October 22. Like many Catholics, you may be surprised to find that you are not registered as a Separate (Catholic) School supporter. In order, to be eligible to vote for your Catholic School Trustee and to show your support for the Catholic School System, you must be designated as an *English Separate School Supporter*. Please check your tax form and, if you are not designated correctly, contact our Admissions Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24512 or email [admissions@dpcdsb.org](mailto:admissions@dpcdsb.org) to make the change. Alternately, you may contact Admissions if you are unsure of how to check your designation and they will check and, if necessary, make the change for you.

Communication with parents/guardians is very important to me. I am always available to speak with you directly on any matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns by email at [anna.dasilva@dpcdsb.org](mailto:anna.dasilva@dpcdsb.org) or cell phone/text at 416 706-5679.

I wish you all a blessed start to the school year.

Sincerely,

Anna da Silva, M.A.  
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Vice Chair DPCDSB  
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