



*Trustee, Luz del Rosario,
Mississauga Wards 6 & 11,
Vice-Chair of the Board*



*Trustee, Bruno Iannicca
Mississauga, Ward 7*

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.

April 2022

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

Prayer for Peace – As Catholics, we offer each other a sign of peace at the celebration of each mass. Our DPCDSB Students will continue to be reminded of the significance of this part of the sacrament and encouraged to participate in acts of kindness towards each other. Many of our schools are involved in acts of charity to support the victims of war and the Program and Learning Services Department are collecting a record of these efforts. This focus on peace follows Pope Francis' appeal to pray for peace that he requested of us at the beginning of Lent.

Resumption of Full Capacity Bussing on Elementary Runs - The Ministry of Education released new guidelines on March 9, 2022, supporting a return to a more normal learning experience for students. Within the guidelines was the lifting of cohorting and physical distancing for students in the school and on the school bus. STOPR has begun the process of resuming full capacity on all elementary runs. This process will be completed by April 29, 2022. Communication will go out to all elementary schools the week of April 25 indicating that schools can offer courtesy students, based on seating availability, starting Monday, May 2, 2022.

School Raffles/Lotteries – Many of our schools and Catholic School Councils (CSC) are excited to be co-planning and running fundraising activities again. In response to numerous inquiries about having raffles and/or lotteries as part of fundraising events, it is important to note that legislation requires that a license must be obtained in order for a school or a CSC to run a raffle, lottery, bingo or any such gaming event. In discussion with the Charity Gaming Department of the City of Mississauga, it was determined that each individual school would be required to apply, if interested in getting a license. Financial services staff have worked with our board's legal counsel to provide the steps that a school would need to take to obtain a license, however it is a complex process with numerous administrative responsibilities, including financial obligations and

reporting requirements, that have to be adhered to. This information has already been shared with school administrators. We know that many schools like the idea of running a raffle or lottery, however the additional obligations involved make the process unmanageable for most. An alternative approach is to have a silent auction, which is allowed. Conducting or allowing a raffle at a school, without a license, would be unlawful under the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

Masking Mandates – With the recent lifting of health protocols by the province, boards do not have the authority to impose restrictions or their own health measures that the Ministry has directed school boards to revoke. Further, school boards must revoke any current health measures that extended government direction, such as mandatory masking for kindergarten. Our board staff have consulted with our Regional Public Health Units who have advised that they will not be issuing any recommendations/mandates that are more restrictive than what the province has directed Boards of Education to adhere to. Throughout the pandemic, health measures put in place were either directed by the province or our Regional Medical Officers of Health. Many staff and students continue to choose to wear masks while indoors at school and our board respects the choices of everyone. The DPCDSB has and will continue to follow their direction.

Revised Curriculum – The Ministry of Education is introducing a new science and technology curriculum and de-streaming the Grade 9 science course for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. Ontario's elementary science and technology curriculum was last updated in 2007 and the Grade 9 course was last updated in 2008. The new curriculum will be implemented in September 2022. More information: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001722/ontario-modernizing-school-science-curriculum>

PPM 81 – On October 29, 2021 the provincial government announced that it would be revising Policy/Program Memorandum 81: Provision of health support services in school settings (PPM 81). The Ontario Catholic Schools' Trustees Association (OCSTA) continues to represent the voices of the 29 Catholic school boards including the DPCDSB Board of Trustees in the Ministry's roundtable discussion, on the key objectives of the review including: Strengthening evidence-based practices; Improving access to health, rehabilitation and other community-based clinical services for students with special needs in schools; and Clarifying roles and responsibilities to address gaps in services.

OCSTA believes the adequate and equitable provision of health support services for our students is of critical importance, especially in the unprecedented context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The DPCDSB strives to ensure that each of our students requiring health support services are done so in a timely, fair and consistent manner.

Child Care Agreement – On March 28, 2022, the provincial and federal governments signed a \$13.2 billion agreement to lower childcare costs in Ontario to an average of \$10 per day by September 2025. Please check the link below for more information:

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/1001867/ontarios-child-care-action-plan-puts-families-first>

Community Use of Schools - Consistent with other changes across DPCDSB in response to improving public health conditions, DPCDSB will resume issuing permits to some community user groups effective Monday, April 4th. The current plan is to issue permits initially only to youth not-for-profit groups, such as the Scouts etc. Only one permit group will be allowed to use a specific school on any day and permits will only be issued on weekday evenings. Staff will monitor the situation to ensure that community use of our school facilities does not interfere with the primary objective of keeping our facilities safe for our students and staff to use on a daily basis. Further decisions to allow additional community user groups will be made in response to the evolving pandemic situation.

Provincial Election – A provincial election is scheduled to take place on Thursday, June 2, 2022, which is a regular school day for all DPCDSB students. Similar to past elections, Elections Canada has requested the use of DPCDSB schools as polling stations. At the DPCDSB Board of Trustees Faith and Program Committee Meeting on March 8, 2022, our Board of Trustees approved a revision to the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar for submission to the Ministry of Education. Therefore, the Elementary PA Day scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2022 will be moved to Thursday, June 2, 2022 and for those secondary schools in DPCDSB which are identified as polling stations, they will revert to online learning for all students on Thursday, June 2, 2022.

Let's Move, Mississauga - The goal of the “Let’s Move, Mississauga” campaign, which will run April 1-30, is to encourage residents to get outside and move, while following the rules of the road. For school families, the School Walking Routes program promotes active travel, such as walking or travelling by bike, wheelchair or other mobility devices, to and from school. It is now part of the [Vision Zero Action Plan](#) as an approved action (action 91), and it helps the City reach its goal of zero fatal and serious collisions on the road. For more information: <https://mississauga.ca/schoolroutes> .

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Easter with your families. Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your child(ren).

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. And, as always, thank you for choosing Catholic education for your child(ren).

Take care and may God bless you always.

Your Trustees,

Luz del Rosario

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