

NOVEMBER 2024

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB)'s virtue of the month for November is **CONSCIENCE**. It is a reminder for us to welcome Christ into our minds and our hearts through the decisions we make and the actions we choose to take.

Archdiocese of Toronto Update – Pope Francis has announced that Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto, the Most Rev. Francis Leo will be elevated to the College of Cardinals. The Holy Father will hold a Consistory for the creation of the new Cardinals on December 8 at the Vatican. Cardinals serve as close advisors to the Holy Father and participate as voting members whenever there is a conclave to select the next Pope. Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Thomas Collins of Toronto remains a cardinal elector until January, 2027.

Take Our Kids to Work Day (TOKTW) - DPCDSB supports opportunities for our Grade 9 students to spend a-day-in-the-life of working professionals. TOKTW Day is an annual event across Canada hosted by parents, friends, relatives, or volunteers at workplaces and in various sectors. This year, TOKTW Day is Wednesday, November 6. The program supports career development by helping students connect school and the world of work, and to help them make informed educational decisions for post-secondary success.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) – The 2023-2024 school year marked the implementation of the revised 2023-2027 MYSP by the DPCDSB. The Ministry requires that staff evaluate the MYSP semi-annually. The DPCDSB's MYSP evaluation used a combination of survey and focus group methodologies to gather both quantitative and qualitative data. The focus group and survey data revealed several important themes across the five MYSP values - Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, and Trust. DPCDSB assesses its MYSP on an annual basis through the operational plan and Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC).

The evaluation of the MYSP reveals a landscape where foundational Catholic values are well-integrated and respected, yet significant challenges persist in academic support, mental health, and equity. The decline in attitudes towards key academic areas such as mathematics and literacy suggests that, while strategic plans are thoughtfully crafted, their practical implementation requires more responsive measures. The feedback from focus groups and surveys underscores the importance of moving beyond strategic intentions to actionable, context-sensitive initiatives that address the diverse needs of our student populations.



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*Commit your
work to the Lord,
and your plans will
be established.*

– Proverbs 16:3

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The pervasive issue of bullying, both in-person and through electronic means (i.e., cyberbullying), highlights the need for anti-bullying strategies that evolve with technological advancements and changing social dynamics. Similarly, the identified gaps in mental health support call for a more integrated approach that leverages faith-based resources to create a supportive and healthy school environment. Trust and transparency issues, particularly concerning DPCDSB operations and communication, emphasize the necessity for enhanced stakeholder engagement and accountability mechanisms.

Next steps from this evaluation will inform and guide future action steps for the 2024-2025 CBILC:

- *Literacy* – Focus on professional development for teachers in reading (K-2) and mathematics. Educators will be trained on the Acadience Screening Tool and provided support for curriculum tools such as Heggerty, UFLI, and Bridging the Gap. To evaluate progress through analyzing survey and other data and adjust the plan accordingly.
- *Mathematics* – Ensure curriculum fidelity by using proven instructional and assessment practices, including distributing math lessons and weekly programs for Grade 3 and 6. Support student understanding through relevant tasks and digital tools, while promoting ongoing educator professional development.
- *Equity and Indigenous Education* – Focus on teaching social justice strategies and addressing injustices through Catholic Social Teachings. Efforts include promoting racial literacy, dismantling systemic barriers, and creating opportunities for marginalized voices. Provide direct supports for Indigenous students in Grades 7-12 that include early intervention supports to ensure academic success and social/emotional/cultural supports to increase students sense of belonging that leads to increased engagement, participation and attendance.
- *Mental Health and Well-Being* – Collaboration to develop a K-12 educational resource on cyberbullying and launch a Mental Health curriculum in Grades 7, 8, and 10, including our Student Mental Health Champions. Prioritizing strategies for students to access mental health support and strengthening connections between schools and community services.
- *Special Education* – Support for families navigating Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and sacraments, as well as transitional support for students with differing abilities. Professional development for staff, focusing on students with moderate to severe needs and providing employment resources for students transitioning from school to employment or post-secondary education.
- *Safe Schools* – Continue educating school administrators surrounding the updated PPM 128 and its implications within schools. Scheduled de-escalation training for staff, with verbal intervention training for teachers.

Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Assessments – The 2023-2024 school year was the third year of EQAO assessments and Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) administered after being paused during the pandemic. DPCDSB staff use student achievement data on these assessments to assess progress towards the CBILC goals related to the MYSP value of Excel. The 2023-2024 EQAO data indicate that DPCDSB students continue to have high achievement in all literacy assessments and have outperformed students in the province in all literacy assessments. While DPCDSB students outperformed the province in primary mathematics, math continues to be a challenge for DPCDSB

students in Grades 6 and 9. As such, proportionately fewer DPCDSB students achieved or exceeded the provincial standard in Grades 6 and 9 mathematics compared to their peers provincially.

Mathematics Achievement Action Plan – In September 2023, the Ministry launched the *Mathematics Action Achievement Plan*, a strategy to boost math confidence and competence. Provincial math priorities are focused on helping students improve math achievement, as demonstrated through (EQAO) scores and preparing students for future success. The Ministry has identified 35 priority elementary schools and three priority secondary schools in Dufferin-Peel, based on an analysis of EQAO mathematics achievement data. At the elementary level, 10 schools have an identified Grade 3 focus, 17 schools have an identified Grade 6 focus, and 8 schools have an identified focus for both Grades 3 and 6. Three secondary schools have an identified focus for Grade 9. DPCDSB has eight elementary math facilitators and one secondary math facilitator working in our schools.

The Ontario Ministry of Education has developed *Taking Action in Mathematics*, a framework to guide improvement efforts. The Math Achievement Plan focuses on the following priority actions:

- **Curriculum Fidelity** – Ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation and use of instructional and assessment practices, with a proven track record of enhancing student achievement.
- **Math Content Knowledge for Teaching** – Engaging in ongoing learning to strengthen mathematics content knowledge for teaching.
- **Knowing The Learner** – Knowing the mathematics learner and ensuring mathematical tasks, interventions, and supports are relevant and responsive.
- **Measurable Results: Improvements in Math Achievement** – Use and analyze various forms of data (report card data, EQAO, educator, student, and parent/guardian surveys, etc.).

The DPCDSB's Program and Learning Services Department is leveraging a variety of resources to support our educators in enhancing students' mathematics learning experiences and responding to their strengths and needs. Program staff will continue to support administrators, educators, students, and families with a comprehensive plan that is responsive to the needs and priorities of the system, focused on establishing a culture of excellence in the teaching and learning of mathematics. Our educators are building their capacity in a deeper understanding of curriculum expectations and high-impact instructional practices in mathematics to support student learning and enhance their academic success.

Extended French (EF) Registration – DPCDSB provides students with the opportunity to explore a wide variety of regional programs of choice, including elementary access to enhanced French language learning. Extended French (EF) and French Immersion (FI) programming offer students the opportunity to be successful in both of Canada's official languages. In the EF program students receive 50% of their daily instruction in the French language, beginning in Grade 5. EF provides a minimum of 1,900 hours of French language instruction to the end of Grade 8 and an additional 7 credits in secondary grades. DPCDSB recommends careful discernment on the part of students, teachers, and parents/guardians to ensure that candidates are prepared to enter the program. School location and transportation decisions are subject to annual review and possible changes.

EF is a regional program of choice with limited enrollment, and admission is by application. Where interest exceeds available space at a school, a randomized lottery process shall be held to assign applicants to available spaces.

Parents/guardians are invited to complete EF applications for interested students in the Fall of their Grade 4 year. Board staff have transitioned the EF application to a centralized online process similar to that used for FI. As such, the board has updated GAP 411.00 - *Extended French* to reflect this application process. GAP 416.00 - *Extended French* and Policy 24.00 - *Access to Elementary Programs of Choice* were also reviewed and revised to ensure consistent content and format. More information will be shared with parents/guardians from their local DPCDSB Catholic elementary school.

Progressive Discipline – In response to recent direction from the DPCDSB Board of Trustees, staff reviewed and amended Policy 9.03 – Progressive Discipline at the October 22, 2024 DPCDSB Board of Trustees Meeting. The revision also included a name change to Policy 9.03 - Progressive Discipline Students.

Section 302 of the *Education Act* sets out requirements for school board policies on progressive discipline. Part IV of the *Education Act* R.S.O. 1990, c. E2 provides direction for how a Principal must carry out progressive discipline, if it is believed that an offence has occurred. *Ontario Regulation 472/07, Behaviour, Discipline and Safety of Pupils* also governs school board processes regarding student discipline. Policy/Program Memoranda 145: *Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour* provides direction to school boards on policies and guidelines concerning progressive discipline. The *Ontario Human Rights Code*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H. 19, has primacy over provincial legislation, DPCDSB policies and other administrative documents.

Progressive discipline in DPCDSB acknowledges the God-given dignity of each person and provides a consistent process of differentiated discipline that responds to the unique needs and identities of each student and situation. The goal of this Policy is to support a safe, inclusive, healthy, and accepting learning and teaching environment, rooted in anti-oppression, in which every student can reach their full potential. This approach reflects the model of Christian discipleship in its implementation of *Policy 9.01: Catholic Code of Conduct*, in all DPCDSB school communities. DPCDSB recognizes that pervasive injustice negatively impacts school climate and contributes to harmful behaviour. All efforts shall be made in DPCDSB schools to combat and address the lasting impacts of injustices, thereby making schools inclusive spaces for all students. DPCDSB uses a whole-school approach that makes use of a continuum of prevention programs, interventions, supports and consequences, building upon strategies that build skills for healthy relationships and promote positive behaviours. The range of progressive discipline interventions, supports, and consequences must be clear and developmentally appropriate, and include learning opportunities for students that serve to reinforce positive behaviours and help them make good choices.

Catholic School Support Designation – Policy 6.90 Tax Support was revised including a name change to Policy 6.90 – Catholic School Support Designation. DPCDSB acknowledges that support for the Catholic education system is important and a requirement for student registration in our elementary schools. Directing School Support Designation to the Catholic school system shows support for Catholic education, ensures children are eligible to attend DPCDSB elementary schools and allows eligible parents/guardians to vote for Catholic school trustees in municipal elections.

Trustees serve as system leaders of publicly funded education in their communities and province and advocate for excellence in education. They work collaboratively with their community to shape a vision for the school board that is reflective of the input of parents, students and community members. When Catholic ratepayers direct their school support designation to the Catholic school system, they help ensure the health and vitality of Catholic education.

DPCDSB encourages eligible Catholic ratepayers to check their municipal tax forms, on a regular basis and after they move, to ensure that it supports the English Separate (Catholic) school system. DPCDSB shares an ongoing school support designation public awareness campaign called *Are you Ticked?* For more information, please visit the DPCDSB's [Direction of School Support webpage](#) and watch the video.

Secondary School Information Nights - DPCDSB operates 26 Catholic secondary schools in Mississauga, Brampton, Bolton, and Caledon. Our secondary schools continue to be recognized among the top performing schools in the province each year. With over 50 Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Programs, three Regional Arts Programs, one Regional Sports Program, three International Baccalaureate (IB) Programs, two regional Advanced Placement (AP) Programs, Extended French (EF) and French Immersion (FI) Programs, and the only publicly funded Regional All-Girls Catholic Secondary School, DPCDSB schools offer students a variety of learning options to meet our students' educational and career goals.

Secondary School Information Sessions are offered for Grade 8 students and their parents/guardians who are interested in enrolling in a DPCDSB secondary school for the 2025-2026 school year. An overview of the DPCDSB programs and services offered is provided with an opportunity to tour the school and hear from current students about the transition into secondary school. A schedule of all sessions is available on the [DPCDSB website](#).

Secondary Schools (CSS) Information Sessions - Mississauga West & South Family of Schools:

- Our Lady of Mount Carmel CSS – November 7, 2024
- St. Joan of Arc CSS – November 7, 2024
- St. Aloysius Gonzaga CSS (Extended French) – November 13, 2024
- Iona CSS (Regional Arts) – November 14, 2024
- Loyola CSS (French Immersion) – November 14, 2024

Distinguished Alumni – DPCDSB has released its 11th Annual Distinguished Alumni Series featuring profiles of graduates who are making valuable and unique contributions in their respective careers, pathways, and communities. Our DPCDSB Distinguished Alumni also represent the image of the Catholic learner as described by the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. This year features six alumni including a physician, actress/singer, artist/muralist, entrepreneur, chef and public service executive. Congratulations to the Distinguished Alumni from our Mississauga West Family of Schools, **Julia Pulo**, an Actress, Singer, Dancer from *St. Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School*. Full profiles for each of our Distinguished Alumni are featured on the [Distinguished Alumni webpage](#) on the DPCDSB's website.

Wilde Wood Award – The City of Mississauga's School Traffic Safety Action Committee (MSTSAC) promotes student safety to and from school. Through the Wilde Wood School Zone Safety Award, MSTSAC recognizes elementary schools in Mississauga that have demonstrated outstanding leadership in active transportation. This year up to two (2) elementary schools from each school board (Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and the Peel District School Board) may be awarded \$500 to benefit the students in their school community. The schools selected as finalists will have an on-site evaluation review conducted by members of the MSTSAC. The Wilde Wood Awards will be presented before Members of City Council in January 2025.

Chipmunk School Bus Tracking App – Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) began testing a school bus tracking application called Chipmunk and ran the pilot program from April 2023 through to June 2024 with a total of 75 participating

schools. The application gave parents/guardians of selected pilot schools the ability to track their child(ren)'s school bus location through GPS in real time. Information gathered from the pilot has determined that the Chipmunk application does not yet meet STOPR standards for a successful rollout across all schools. The pilot program was paused in September 2024 and STOPR will continue working with the vendor to support progression of the application.

DPCDSB Share Life Campaign – Our Dufferin-Peel community once again distinguished itself among all school boards within the Archdiocese of Toronto as the leading board in the GTA for the 2023 – 2024 ShareLife Campaign in both our employee and school campaigns. Thank you for your continued support and generosity! Our employee campaign raised \$29,160.36 while our school campaign raised \$140,461.60 for ShareLife! One hundred percent of our schools were able to contribute, support, and participate in various ShareLife activities. Thank you to our ShareLife representatives in our schools and departments throughout the board. As the 2024-2025 ShareLife campaign gets underway, we encourage our schools to continue finding innovative and creative ways to contribute to this worthy cause. Thank you to our DPCDSB students, families, and staff for your ongoing commitment to be *“Pilgrims of Hope”*.

As your elected DPCDSB Catholic School Board Trustees for the Mississauga West Family of Schools, we are proud to serve our Catholic schools and communities. Parents and guardians are always welcome to contact their elected School Board Trustee regarding any system-level concerns or questions about publicly funded Catholic education. You can also follow the DPCDSB's website and social media platforms for important school board information.

Trustee Herman Vioria

Mississauga - Ward 2 & 8

NOVEMBER DATES

November 1 – Solemnity of All Saints

November 2 – The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

November 3 – Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time

November 4 – Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo

November 5 & 7 – DPCDSB's 2025-2026 Extended French Program Information Sessions

November 5-11 – Treaty Recognition Week

November 5-11 – Veterans' Week (National)

November 6 – Take Our Kids to Work Day

November 6 - 2024 Black Excellence Professionals Expo

November 7 – International Inuit Day

November 8 – Indigenous Veterans Day

November 9 – Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

November 10 – Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 11 – Remembrance Day, Memorial of St. Martin of Tours

November 12 – Memorial of St. Josaphat

November 17 – Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - World Day of the Poor

November 18-22 – Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week (Provincial), Canada History Week (National)

November 18 - December 2 – French Immersion Registration

November 21 – Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

November 22 – Memorial of St. Cecilia

November 22 – PA Day (Elementary & Secondary)

November 23 – Holodomor Memorial Day (National)

November 24 – Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - World Day of Youth

November 25 – International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (International)

November 30 – Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle