

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 2025

This month, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's (DPCDSB) virtue of **LOVE** helps us grow in love for God and for one another. Love guides the practice of our Catholic faith and is embedded in the ethos of our Catholic education.

During this Holy season of Lent, we are reminded of Jesus' love in action. As we journey towards the celebration of Easter, we are reminded of our story of salvation and the tremendous sacrifices of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Beginning with Passion Sunday on April 13, Holy Week is an opportunity for all of us as Catholics to walk with Jesus from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem and through to His Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Digital Boulevard Signs Message – All DPCDSB schools with electronic boulevard signs have been directed to include the following Lenten message on their signage:

Ash Wednesday, March 5 to Holy Thursday, April 17 is the liturgical season of Lent; 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for the Solemnity of Easter, the Resurrection of the Lord.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) – The 2024–2025 school year is approximately the halfway point of the DPCDSB's 2023–2027 MYSP. DPCDSB began consultation work in the Fall of 2022. Staff provided MYSP Committee members (Trustees, Senior Management, representatives from the Principals and Vice Principals Association, central office staff, and local clergy representatives) with a number of resources and data to support development of the 2023-2027 MYSP. These resources included: an environmental scan of global, national, provincial, and local trends in education and employment; review of Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC) Fact Sheets data supporting goal attainment progress (e.g., faith, academic achievement, equity, mental health, school climate, etc.); preliminary student and staff census findings; and data from other initiatives to support students and families.

Recent Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessment data indicated strong achievement in elementary literacy, despite slight declines since 2021-2022. In mathematics, gains occurred in primary math in 2023-2024; however, junior math and Grade 9 math demonstrated a continued decline. In response to the data and recognizing the Ministry of Education's renewed focus on mathematics and literacy learning, DPCDSB has continued to support schools in both math and literacy. To date, priority schools receiving dedicated mathematics support have shown promising gains which will be



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Love

each other,
as I have loved
you.

– John 15:12-13

AGENDAS AND MINUTES

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB)

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reviewed as the 2024-2025 school year progresses. Principals and teachers have reported an increase in confidence in supporting math programs through the use of various resources that have been developed and provided. The most recent student survey has shown an increase in overall student confidence in math compared to last year.

To further support this work among all schools, DPCDSB's Director of Education has established four academic committees to guide DPCDSB's curricular focus. These committees are led by Family of Schools Superintendents who work collaboratively with school administrators and include, as appropriate to school grade configuration: Primary Literacy Committee; Junior Mathematics Committee; Grade 9 Mathematics Committee; and Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Committee (focusing on students who were not yet successful on the OSSLT).

DPCDSB staff in the Policy, Strategy, Research and Safe Schools Department are focusing on monitoring MYSP system progress and the co-ordination and publication of the 2025-2026 CBILC, Strategic Plan to Dismantle Anti-Black Racism, and Student Achievement Plan (SAP) required by the Ministry of Education. Progress monitoring of the CBILC goals in each MYSP value involves collection of a variety of data based on student and staff feedback tools. In addition to standardized and local achievement data, upcoming student and staff surveys anticipated for this spring are listed in the table below. Data from these tools, as well as from other sources, will serve to populate the annual CBILC Fact Sheets that DPCDSB publishes on its public website.

The values of the 2019-2023 MYSP have been maintained in the 2023-2027 MYSP for their resonance with DPCDSB's aspirations for Catholic education. This school year has seen increased focus on and support for mathematics and primary literacy, as well as ongoing prioritization of faith formation, equity and Indigenous education, and student mental health and well-being. Looking ahead to the latter half of 2024-2025, DPCDSB staff are planning to review and update the CBILC goals, action steps, and data sources to support progress monitoring.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) – *"The urgent need to orient the concept and use of artificial intelligence in a responsible way, so that it may be at the service of humanity and the protection of our common home, requires that ethical reflection be extended to the sphere of education and law."* - Pope Francis

In a rapidly changing technological landscape, with Artificial Intelligence (AI) leading the way, it is anticipated that AI will have a significant impact on education. DPCDSB is excited to engage with AI to enhance the educational experiences of our students. Taking a cautious and informed approach to integrating this novel technology is crucial to leverage its full potential and avoid misuse. The following is an overview of the Board's efforts in building capacity with AI:

- Created an infographic for students to begin conversation about AI.
- Developed guidelines to help staff and students navigate this emerging technology. These guidelines were updated during the summer of 2024 from the lens of post-secondary institutions and our current Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP).
- Provided professional development to build teacher understanding of what AI is, and the privacy and ethical issues of using it. An optional four-part series on AI has been launched on the use of AI for our teachers. With the launch of Microsoft CoPilot, the Microsoft AI tool, teachers will be provided with training on its use on the upcoming professional day.
- DPCDSB staff is also participating in a project developing an AI Persona Guide that will act as a thinking partner for teachers to individualize literacy support for students based on the Acadience screener used to assess literacy skills in early primary grades.

Chaplaincy and Core Education Funding – The Catholic identity of DPCDSB is the cornerstone of our board’s mission and vision for a great Catholic Education. Chaplaincy services are important to ensure all students and staff have opportunities for spiritual growth and guidance. As a publicly funded school board in Ontario, these essential services are not specifically identified or funded within the Ministry of Education’s Core Education Funding Model. In order to continue to provide these services, which the DPCDSB recognizes as professional support services, the overall budget reflects underspending in other categories of expense as an offset. This would be a similar approach for all Catholic school boards.

Effective September 1, 2025, DPCDSB is making significant enhancements to our Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation Department, through the restructuring of chaplaincy services across all schools. These positions will no longer be represented by the secondary teachers’ union, which limits them to servicing secondary students. As a result of the changes, while our chaplains will continue to be physically based at a secondary school (as is currently the case and where they will spend most of their time), they will now be able to support adult faith formation and other faith initiatives at their secondary school. Additionally, our chaplains will now be able to support their feeder elementary schools by organizing occasional retreats for Grades 7 and 8 students and providing a level of pastoral support that is not available under the current model. Through this revised service delivery model, each secondary school will continue to have dedicated full-time chaplaincy support and there is no chaplaincy job loss in this revisioning of the role of chaplain. The upcoming changes will continue to benefit our secondary school communities, as well as provide access to chaplaincy services that are not currently available for our elementary schools. These service enhancements will foster an even more vibrant and united community of our Catholic faith which is the hallmark of DPCDSB.

Elmer Safety Recognition Awards – Peel Children’s Safety Village is celebrating the 31st Annual Elmer Safety Recognition Awards. Nominations are open to students in JK – Grade 8 who live in the Region of Peel and have shown heroic behaviour or extraordinary acts of citizenship. Nominations close on April 25, 2025. [Learn more.](#)

April 29 – EQAO LIVE free webinar series for parents/guardians. EQAO staff will discuss math questions that Ontario students encounter when they participate in Ontario’s large-scale assessments. These assessments are taken by all Ontario students in Grades 3, 6 and 9. During the webinar, EQAO staff will show how these math questions help assess the skills students are learning in their math classes. Staff will also share valuable insights from the past three years of assessment results, which can help parents and guardians support their children’s math learning. To register for the session please [click here](#).

Student Trustee Election 2025-2026 – On February 28, the election of Student Trustees for the 2025-2026 school year took place. Student Trustee candidates and the Student Council Prime Ministers or their voting representatives attended this meeting. Candidates were given the opportunity to express their suitability for the position of Student Trustee, representing the interests of students of the DPCDSB in their three-minute speeches. Each candidate was invited to read *Renewing the Promise: A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education* by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. It speaks to “the great promise of Catholic education and how our Catholic Schools offer an extraordinary contribution to the social and environmental fabric of our society and world.” The voting members elected two candidates in accordance with Board-approved procedures. The names of the two elected Student Trustees will be provided to the Ministry within 30 days of the election, as per the guideline.

Mayo Martins-Donus – St. Marguerite d’Youville CSS will represent DPCDSB North schools and Kenneth Yanto – St. Paul CSS will represent DPCDSB South schools for the 2025-2026 school year. The acclaimed Indigenous Student Trustee for the 2025-2026 school year will be Alessandra Greene.

Spirit Wear Orders – At the Regular Board Meeting on March 25, a statement was made regarding the number of available spirit wear vendors and pricing. School administrators have access to the list of the current available vendors. DPCDSB and the Supply Chain Management department follow all approved policies and procedures that align with the *Broader Public Sector (BPS) Procurement Directive*, when contracting vendors for goods and services. The BPS Procurement Directive was intended to provide consistent procurement practices for PBS organizations to improve accountability and transparency for procurement decisions and processes, and to maximize the value that BPS organizations receive from the use of public funds. The procurement process ensures all quality, performance, warranty, safety, liability, delivery requirements and fair labour practices are met. It is for these reasons and requirements that schools/departments are not able to just hand pick a vendor they wish to deal with in isolation.

IMPORTANT DATES

Month of April

Sikh Heritage Month (National)

Parkinson Awareness Month (National)

World Autism Month (National)

April 2 – International Children's Book Day

April 2 – World Autism Day

April 7 – World Health Day

April 9 – International Day of Pink

April 18 – Good Friday (Schools Closed)

April 20-27 – Easter Octave

April 20 – Pascha (Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Churches)

April 21 – Easter Monday (Schools Closed)

April 22 – Earth Day

April 24 – International Girls in ICT Day (International)

April 24 – Public Budget Information Webcast

April 25 – Feast of St. Mark

[April 29 - DPCDSB Board Meeting](#)

This most blessed time of Easter, in the life of the Church, and in our lives, gives us an opportunity for prayer and reflection on our faith, and allows us to share in the community of Catholic believers.

Wishing our DPCDSB students, families, and staff a Happy Easter! Many blessings to you.

Thank you for choosing a Catholic education.

Yours in learning, growing, and leading with Christ,



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