

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.

February 2024

One of the greatest expressions of love is respect for others. This month, the virtue of **RESPECT** calls us to draw closer to Christ and to see Him in the goodness of others.

Winter Walk Day – Winter is here! February 1 is known as the annual Winter Walk Day across the province. Many of our DPCDSB schools in Mississauga will be supporting Winter Walk Day and hosting special activities this month. Families can stay active and healthy, by walking or wheeling to/from school and keeping active throughout the year. To learn more, please visit the [Ontario Active School website](#).

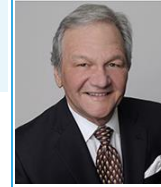
DPCDSB Schools Celebrate Black History Month - DPCDSB schools are hosting many engaging events and initiatives to celebrate Black History Month, including the Black Futures Speakers Series, author read-alouds and workshops. The Black Futures Speakers Series has expanded this year to include four new interviews with Black entrepreneurs in the areas of STEAM and Business. Through recorded interviews, educators and students will have the unique opportunity to learn about and celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians in their respective fields. This year's Black Futures Speakers Series includes:

- Brandon English, Founder of the Afro-Futures STEM Mentorship Program
- Nancy Falaise, Entrepreneur, Business Owner, Hair Stylist, Consultant and Writer
- Rachel Adjei, Entrepreneur and Culinary Chef
- Sophia Jackson, Interdisciplinary Creative Entrepreneur and Business Owner

DPCDSB is also hosting virtual author read-alouds and workshops for both elementary and secondary schools. These sessions will offer educators and students an opportunity to learn through imagination and information about the importance of underheard stories.

This year's author series features virtual workshops with:

- Yolanda T. Marshall, author of diverse, inclusive and festive children's literature
- Khodi Dill, author, anti-racist educator and spoken word artist
- Rachel Adjei, entrepreneur and chef
- Nia Centre for the Arts, a Toronto-based charitable organization that supports, showcases and promotes an appreciation of arts from across the Afro-Diaspora.



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*“All your children
shall be taught by the
Lord, and great shall be
the peace of your
children.”-*

Isaiah 54:13



AGENDA AND MINUTES [Board and Committee Meetings](#)

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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In addition to the Black History Month initiatives taking place this month, DPCDSB is encouraging all educators to commit to learning and teaching Black history, not just in February, but year-round.

Ministry of Education Updates – The Ministry of Education recently announced updates to kindergarten effective for 2025. This updated mandated curriculum is related to literacy, math and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with explicit instruction. These updates also reflect the Right to Read report. [Learn more.](#)

2022-2023 Director’s Annual Report – This report outlines the goals of the DPCDSB Board of Trustees’ Multi-Year Strategic Plan and how we, as a system, strived to meet the goals of that plan. Our profound gratitude goes out to our parents/guardians and our community partners for helping us to deliver a quality Catholic education to the thousands of students in our care. [Learn more.](#)

2024 – 2025 Extended French Program – Any student who is eligible to attend a Dufferin-Peel Catholic school and who is presently a Grade 4 student is invited to apply for the Extended French (EF) program for Grade 5 in September 2024.

The EF program starts in Grade 5 with 50% of the program taught in French at the elementary level. The subjects taught in French are French Language, Social Studies, Science, and one of the following subjects: Visual Art, Music, Drama or Physical Education. This program offers an excellent opportunity to become functionally bilingual in later years.

More information is provided during the virtual EF information sessions on Thursday February 8 at 7:00 p.m. for families living in Mississauga. EF application forms can be submitted online from Wednesday, February 14 at 9:00 a.m. until Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. [Learn more.](#)

Digital Delivery of Report Cards – In October 2023, our board’s pilot for the digital delivery of report cards proceeded according to plan. This included the demonstration of the solution to pilot schools, training sessions, and drop-in sessions. Throughout this period, valuable insights were obtained from participants, and the process was refined. The next stages of deployment include:

- Go live with all secondary schools for the mid-term assessment in April.
- Go live with both elementary and secondary panels for the finals in June.

This revised timeline will allow staff to navigate the challenges effectively and ensure a smooth implementation moving forward.

School Facility Condition Assessment Program – The Ministry of Education resumed the program in 2023 after a two-year pause due to COVID-19. Under this program, each DPCDSB school is inspected once every five years by assessors from an independent, third-party firm hired by the Ministry, with about 20% of all schools inspected in any year. Information collected from these inspections is used to estimate the overall facility condition or state of repair of each school, along with the school’s five and ten-year school renewal backlogs at the date of inspection. The data collected from the inspections inform the Ministry’s School Condition Improvement funding for major school renewal needs. All DPCDSB schools were inspected during previous assessment cycles between 2011-2015 and 2016-2020.

As of 2020, DPCDSB’s five-year school renewal backlog was estimated to be about \$345 million. The Ministry has informed DPCDSB that a total of 27 schools will be inspected between December 4, 2023, and February 2024. Similar to previous inspections, there will be minimal disruption to regular school operations.

Family Life Education Curriculum – The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) works in close conjunction with the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops in developing curriculum for Ontario’s Catholic school boards. New Family Life Education

Curriculum and Support Resources are expected to be implemented in September 2024. DPCDSB will follow this curriculum as well as the resources developed by ICE, and in compliance with all expectations of the Ontario Ministry of Education with respect to the Catholic faith.

Draft Resolutions – The Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA) has requested draft resolutions for consideration at their Annual General Meeting to be held in Spring, 2024. The resolution process provides member boards with the opportunity to bring forward important issues, which have provincial implications, to the attention of all trustees in the province. At the December 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting, our Board of Trustees reviewed one resolution (Artificial Intelligence Funding) to be submitted to OCSTA.

Given the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) to students and educators in administrative tasks and personalized learning, all personnel from school boards in Ontario will benefit from its use. Therefore, implementing AI would be aligned with the mission statement to improve student learning while improving the livelihood of educators. DPCDSB will formally request that OCSTA petitions the Ministry of Education to ensure that ongoing and annual funding be provided to school boards so that AI be implemented into classroom settings to assist educators and help with student learning.

Dress Code Expectations – The DPCDSB is committed to supporting the dignity of the human person and ensuring schools are safe and welcoming environments. Dress code policies have been implicated in unfair sanctioning of female students, students identifying with a non-cisgender identity, Black students, and students who wear religious and/or cultural headwear. One way to support this commitment is the revision of DPCDSB’s policies and procedures related to student dress code expectations and uniforms. Next steps include:

- Presentation to Trustees at the February meeting of the By-Law/Policies Review Committee.
- Presentation to each of DPCDSB’s five community advisory groups for feedback: Black Community Advisory Council (BCAC), Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC), Indigenous Education Council (IEC), Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), and Student Senate.
- Distribution of a presentation school principals can share with members of their local Catholic School Council.
- Collection of parent and guardian feedback via online survey.

Finalization of the revised policy and its three GAPs for presentation to a spring meeting of the By-Law/Policies Review Committee, for recommendation for approval at the June Board Meeting.

Extended Excursions – DPCDSB has a rich tradition of offering students the opportunity to participate in extended excursions as an enhancement to their regular program of study. Local schools offer these through educational travel, social justice, and special programs. DPCDSB has the duty to provide Catholic conditions for the safety, well-being, learning and leading of all within our community. Staff will monitor the threats associated with international travel as we move forward with future extended excursion trips.

16th Annual ShareLife Poster Contest – We are proud of the beautiful artwork and creativity shown by DPCDSB students who submitted entries to the 16th Annual ShareLife Poster Contest. Congratulations to Olene, a Grade 6 student from Father C.W. Sullivan C.E.S., for placing first in the contest. Olene’s artwork will become the official elementary ShareLife poster to be distributed in schools and parishes across the Archdiocese. We also thank and congratulate all finalists from across the DPCDSB for putting forward their awesome artwork.

- 2nd place: Vittoria, St. Faustina C.E.S.
- 4th place: Cristiana, St. Cornelius C.E.S.
- 5th place: Jacqueline, St. Rose of Lima C.E.S.
- 7th place: Chris, St. Therese of the Child Jesus C.E.S.

- 9th place: Colby, St. Joseph C.E.S. (Brampton)
- 10th place: Dana, St. Joseph C.E.S. (Brampton)

Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) – The annual family-friendly CNOY walk will be held on February 24, 2024. This event helps raise funds for local charities, serving people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness in our community.

Register to donate or participate by starting a team or joining an existing team: www.cnoy.org.

PA Day Change – An important change has been made to our current 2023-2024 school year calendar regarding an upcoming Professional Activity (PA) Day. As per the Community Information Bulletin sent to all DPCDSB families, **the PA Day originally scheduled for Friday, May 17 has been rescheduled to Monday, April 8.**

This change has been made due to a total solar eclipse occurring on Monday, April 8. The eclipse is expected to begin at approximately 2:00 p.m. and end around 4:30 p.m., coinciding with student dismissal times. DPCDSB's decision to change the date of the PA Day was made to ensure students will not be outdoors during the total solar eclipse, as the health and safety of our students is our top priority.

Wishing our DPCDSB students, families, and staff a Happy Family Day! May you enjoy the day spent with your family, friends and loved ones.

Sincerely,

Mario Pascucci

Mario Pascucci

Trustee, Mississauga, Wards 1 & 3

Stefano Pascucci

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Trustee, Mississauga, Wards 1 & 3