



Stefano Pascucci
TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARD 4

April 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we are now into Holy Week, we find ourselves looking to Jesus' teachings and how his love and sacrifice has given us eternal life. With what is going on around us today we find ourselves looking to Him and asking for his love and compassion to get us through these unprecedented times.

With that in mind, I pray that you and your family are keeping safe and healthy during this period of great uncertainty and change.

As Education Minister Lecce took the extraordinary step of issuing a school closure order on March 12, we may have been unaware of the seriousness of the evolving events around us. Now, as we are now into our third week of school closure, we must look to the future and adapt to our new reality.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) has been working intensely over the past few weeks to provide all staff and educators with the tools needed to move to a distance learning environment. We want to ensure this is as smooth transition as possible, understanding that not all families have access to technology, or even access to adequate Wi-Fi. This poses additional challenges but please be assured that we are looking at a range of ways to engage all students in distance learning. Be assured, also, that for both me and the DPCDSB, your child's education needs, and mental health remain priorities.

As teacher-directed Continuous Learning with students began to roll out this week, we recognize that the situation is complex and multifaceted. We are doing our best to address issues as they arise. It is important that our families receive timely information throughout the closure period and communication between families and educators will be necessary to navigate through this extraordinary time.

In this regard, much activity has been taking place at the board and individual school levels including:

- Creation of a general school email mailbox for each school to streamline parent/guardian/student-teacher contact. This information has been shared centrally through School Messenger email and phone messages, posting on the DPCDSB website, as well as sharing through DPCDSB social media platforms.
- Communication to all educators regarding instructional expectations and supports available to them so that your children can continue with their education.
- Development of online learning resources for students with diverse learning needs including a *Continuous Learning Plan* to include the direct support of (Social Workers, Child and Youth Workers, SLPs, Psych).
- Connection with publishers for accessible and free online textbooks for students and educators.
- Completion of a needs assessment survey of parents/guardians including a technology needs component to help address student access to technology.

Please remember that we all must do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19. This includes practicing social distancing and adhering to the advice and direction of Peel Public Health. We at DPCDSB want our schools to

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be meeting places for the community, but during these times, please note that our facilities and property are closed to the public until further notice. This includes playing fields and kindergarten play areas, as well as playground equipment (basketball nets, etc.). For more information, please visit the [DPCDSB Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information webpage](#).

Also, please reference the following community letters from the Board of Trustees and the DPCDSB Director of Education, as well as the letter issued by the Minister of Education to Ontario families.

- [Letter from the Board of Trustees](#) - March 24, 2020
- [Letter from the Director of Education](#) - March 25, 2020
- [Letter from the Minister of Education](#) - March 22, 2020

Before I end this letter, I want to thank our educators, and school administrators for the work they have done over the past weeks to ensure that our students succeed with their studies. I also want to thank our parents/guardians for their support during these trying times. Together we will ensure that our students succeed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your child's Catholic education. I can be reached by email at stefano.pascucci@dpcdsb.org or by phone at 416-508-5543.

May God bless you and your family.

Stefano Pascucci

Trustee, Ward 4 (Mississauga)

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