



*Trustee, Mario Pascucci*  
*Mississauga, Wards 1 & 3*



*Trustee, Stefano Pascucci*  
*Mississauga, Ward 4*

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.

## May 2022

This month, the virtue of **ACCEPTANCE** applies to our Catholic social teachings at the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) to create school environments that are safe, caring, and inclusive. Throughout the pandemic, we have witnessed how our school communities have united in faith and come together to promote equality, democracy, and solidarity for a more compassionate world.

The month of May is also dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary. We celebrate the gift of her maternal tenderness, inviting us to love others as children of God. *“Mary is not only the bridge joining us to God; she is much more. She is the road God travelled in order to reach us, and the road that we must travel in order to reach him.”* – Pope Francis

**Catholic Education Week, May 1-6:** Catholic Education Week (CEW) provides unique opportunities to highlight what Catholic Education means as well as to celebrate the identity and distinctive nature of our Catholic schools. Catholic Trustees are stewards and advocates of Catholic education and for the students entrusted to our care. In Ontario, we come together as 29 Catholic school boards and locally and as 500 publicly funded Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Toronto. We are grateful that our Catholic schools foster a learning environment rooted in our call to love and serve, inspired by our Catholic faith. This year’s Catholic Education Week theme is, *“Catholic Education: Rebuild. Restore, Renew Together”* and will be celebrated during the week of May 1 – May 6. All Catholic Education Week resources are available on the website: [www.goodnewsforall.ca](http://www.goodnewsforall.ca).

**Province-Wide Mass:** His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins will celebrate the Catholic Education Week Mass on **Wednesday May 4, at 10:00 a.m. EST**. All DPCDSB students, families, staff, trustees, and our Catholic communities are invited to participate together "virtually" in the celebration of the Eucharist. We are thankful for the support from Cardinal Collins and the Archdiocese of Toronto for making this provincial event possible. The link to view the Provincial Mass live-streamed from St. Michael’s Cathedral is: <https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live/>

**May 2 - DPCDSB Staff Appreciation Day:** We express our gratitude to all staff at the DPCDSB for the important work they do in the service of publicly funded Catholic education for the children and youth entrusted to our care.

**Long-Term Facilities Master Plan (LTFMP):** Student enrolment trends in the DPCDSB over the 20-year period from 2011 to 2031 are being used to inform the development of DPCDSB’s Long-Term Facilities Master Plan (LTFMP) and the development of the Capital Priorities submission requested by the Ministry of Education. Overall, DPCDSB is expected to experience a net enrolment decline of approximately -13.70% over the next ten years, which is

**Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.**

comprised of a projected decline of approximately -8.6% in the elementary panel and a projected decline of -21.08% in the secondary panel.

Most recently, over the twelve-month period from October 2020 to October 2021, DPCDSB's actual enrolment change was a decline of over 2,814 students. This decline can be attributed to many factors, including admission and demission of students year over year, families emigrating from the jurisdiction of DPCDSB, and the COVID-19 pandemic. All grade levels experienced a decline in enrolment from the previous school year.

Across Ontario, all school boards have experienced varying enrolment trends since the beginning of the pandemic. It has been widely reported that families are moving from areas, such as the Region of Peel, to other communities where housing costs are not as limiting. In Mississauga specifically, new residential development continues to decrease as there are fewer large developments anticipated. Only 37% of new development units in the Region of Peel are allocated to the City of Mississauga: 75% of the new units will be high density, which historically has not yielded a large number of Catholic students. For the City of Mississauga specifically, DPCDSB's enrolment is expected to decline approximately 15.03% at the elementary panel and 25.81% at the secondary panel over the next ten years.

The LTFMP will reflect the enrolment changes through the recommendation of new pupil places either through new schools or additions to schools, through the realignment of school boundaries, program changes and pupil accommodation reviews once new Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) Guidelines are released by the Ministry of Education. More information is available in the April 5, 2022 - Administration and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/news/board-meetings>

**Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR):** Student transportation services provided by STOPR continue to experience temporary route cancellations, primarily due to driver absences related to COVID-19, as there were not enough spare drivers available to cover some routes. With the lifting of public health and safety protocols and the provincial mask mandate as of March 21st and students returning from March Break, the number of cancelled routes increased once again. STOPR is continuing to closely monitor daily operations and adjust service levels accordingly. STOPR continues to work with all bus operators on plans to mitigate service interruptions to the extent possible.

The removal of the cohorting and physical distancing restrictions for students in schools and on school buses has allowed STOPR to begin the process of resuming courtesy seating for elementary students, subject to availability. Schools will be able to offer courtesy seats to students starting on Monday, May 2. Information on courtesy seating can be obtained from your school office.

**Tutoring Support:** The DPCDSB has received funding from the Ministry of Education to support students' learning recovery and renewal in response to the COVID19 pandemic prioritizing literacy, math, and other foundational learning skills. The programs are intended to support the learning of students demonstrating achievement below the provincial standard in reading or number sense. This funding is directed towards a variety of in-school and after-school opportunities offered to students in FDK through grade 12+ from now until the end of August, 2022. These opportunities include in-school direct instruction support, after-school tutoring, small group intervention during summer programs and educator professional development in the summer. It also includes work through the Equity department to address learning recovery and renewal in racialized and Indigenous populations specifically. Embedded within the program are also opportunities to work in collaboration with community partners to enrich the learning in a trusted environment grounded in the culture and community norms for students. A more fulsome report will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the Faith and Program Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 17. For more information please visit: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/news/board-meetings>

**Childcare Renovations:** The scope of an upcoming childcare project in Mississauga North Family of Schools at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Elementary School includes the conversion of six existing classrooms and one seminar room into childcare spaces (one infant room, one toddler room and two pre-school rooms). A request for an Approval to

Proceed (ATP) to award the construction tender for this project was submitted to the Ministry of Education in March 2022. Anticipated completion date of the project is December 2022, which is dependent on receiving an ATP from the Ministry in a timely manner.

**Students with Differing Abilities:** DPCDSB incorporates the *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE)* into all placements and programs. The transition process for students with differing abilities is aligned with the Ministry of Education policies found in *Special Education in Ontario (2017) K-12, Program and Policy Memorandum (PPM) 140, and PPM 156 Supporting Transitions for Students with Special Education Needs*. Students with differing abilities can encounter many routines and significant transitions throughout their educational journey. At every significant transition, our Family of Schools Special Education Consultants oversee and facilitate the transition from elementary to secondary school, including coordinating the necessary resources and support to ensure a seamless process.

Commencing in 2021, in alignment with the online registration process, the [Entry Planning Form for Students with Differing Abilities](#) was made available electronically on the DPCDSB website for parents/guardians to complete. The DPCDSB, together with families and our parishes, hope to offer students opportunities to demonstrate their true potential. By providing them with care, individualized support and necessary guidance, students can accomplish their individual goals and aspirations. More information was presented at the April 19, 2022 - Faith and Program Committee Meeting: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/news/board-meetings>

**Specialty Pathway Programs:** The Ministry of Education's 2013 *Creating Pathways to Success: An Education and Career/Life Planning Program for Ontario Schools* student education and career development document policy specifies that: *"To promote success in school and life, it is essential for Ontario schools to provide opportunities and support for all students to plan their individual pathways through school and for each to make a successful transition to his or her initial postsecondary destination."* (Page 3). Honouring the initial postsecondary destinations of apprenticeship, college, university, and the workplace, Student Success programs include:

1. Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)
2. Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)
3. Dual Credit

By having learners connect their in-class curriculum to real-world experiences, reflect on their education and career-life choices, and explore the varied opportunities provided by long-standing Student Success programs like SHSM, OYAP and Dual Credits, our DPCDSB students can become *collaborative contributors who find meaning, dignity, fulfillment and vocation in work which contributes to the common good*. More information was presented at the April 19, 2022 - Faith and Program Committee Meeting: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/news/board-meetings>

**Parent Engagement:** In preparation of our upcoming spring DPCDSB Family of Schools parent engagement sessions, representatives of the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC) have had the opportunity to survey and receive feedback regarding presentations and/or discussions of interest that Catholic School Councils would like to have with board staff. After reviewing the survey results, three areas have been requested by our parents: Equity/Inclusive/Indigenous Education, Mental Health and Well-Being Supports for our students, and Faith Formation/Faith Curriculum.

As these were the three main topics requested, any other areas of interest will be provided for parents at a future session. DPCDSB Staff will move forward and provide presentations on these specific requested topics with the opportunity for parents to ask questions. All parent engagement events will be held on Zoom. The Mississauga North Family of Schools event is scheduled on **Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** More information will be forthcoming from your local school.

**Regional Schools Organics Program:** In February 2020, the Region of Peel approved a School Organic Waste Collection Pilot Program, a green bin program to reduce food waste and promote environmental stewardship. Under this program, the Region committed to working with a sample of DPCDSB schools to collect organic waste.

**Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board**

Pilot schools will receive green bins, weekly collection of organic waste, signage and program information. Schools will also receive information about the importance of correct waste sorting practices and will be completing data tracking sheets that will register the amount of organic waste produced at each school. The pilot program was scheduled to begin effective September 2020, however, due to the pandemic, the start date was pushed back to January 2022, and then once again to March 21, 2022. Approximately, 35 schools from the DPCDSB's Facility Operations Department's Area 1 (mostly Brampton schools) are taking part in this initial pilot.

Wishing a very Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, guardians, grandmothers, and female mentors, as you glorify God in your vocation. May you be richly blessed with the love of children in the special role He has chosen for you. May God continue to uphold you today, and always, Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us.

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 God bless.***

Your Trustees,

***Mario Pascucci***

Trustee – Mississauga Wards 1 & 3

Mobile: 905-302-3096

[mario.pascucci@dpcdsb.org](mailto:mario.pascucci@dpcdsb.org)

***Stefano Pascucci***

Trustee – Mississauga Ward 4

Mobile: 416-508-5543

[stefano.pascucci@dpcdsb.org](mailto:stefano.pascucci@dpcdsb.org)