



*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.

## February 2023

This month, we are called to embrace the virtue of **RESPECT**. As we draw closer to Christ, may we see Him in the goodness of others and live out respect, one of the greatest expressions of love.

**Black History Month** – February is Black History Month. Both Federal and Provincial governments recognize the importance of Black History Month. As Canadians and, more importantly, as a Catholic Community, we are called to live in solidarity. Solidarity requires that we learn from, and about our families in Christ. Black History is Canadian history and is a conversation we must all engage in, as it is everyone’s history.

Our theme this year builds on the theme for Catholic Education week is **We are Many, We are One - Connected Through Stories**.

During February, and beyond, we will be uplifting stories of Black excellence and joy in our learning spaces. Highlighting the knowledge systems, accomplishments and stories of peoples who are traditionally underrepresented is one of the many ways we can prioritize the success of all students.

**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 hosting special activities this month. Families can stay active and healthy, by walking or wheeling to/from school and being active throughout the year. To learn more please visit the [Ontario Active School website](#).

**Enrolment Report** – Student enrolments are reported to the Board of Trustees for September, October 31 and March 31. The Ministry of Education mandates the submission of October 31 and March 31 enrolment and staffing data to determine and/or verify eligibility for many grant categories under the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding model. DPCDSB schools reported 42,546 elementary students and 29,879 secondary students, for a total enrolment of 72,425 students on October 31, 2022. This represents an enrolment decrease of 1080 elementary students (-2.48 %) and a decrease of 274 secondary students (-0.91 %) since October 29, 2021. The overall board-wide enrolment decreased by 1,354 students (-1.84 %) from a year ago. For more information, please refer to the Enrolment Report in the January 24, 2023 Administration & Finance Committee [meeting agenda](#).

**Feminine Hygiene Products** – In 2021, the Ministry of Education announced an initiative to increase student access to free menstrual products in Ontario schools. This initiative included the one-time distribution of feminine hygiene dispensers and a three-year allocation of menstrual products. In order to expand upon the Ministry’s announcement and ensure that every DPCDSB school could have access to free menstrual products, DPCDSB

purchased and installed additional dispensers (over and above the Ministry's allocation) in school washrooms across all DPCDSB schools. All schools have received a shipment of menstrual products.

**Graduation Coach Program** – The DPCDSB strives to create inclusive spaces that address and work to dismantle systemic barriers, identify and eliminate disparities, and close the achievement gap for Black students. These efforts require system-level intervention and supports to enable student success and well-being. To promote systemic changes and help remove barriers within classrooms and school communities so that all students succeed, the *Ministry of Education* is working with several school districts to deliver the *Graduation Coach Program for Black Students*. This program provides comprehensive, culturally responsive support to Black students to help improve their academic achievement and well-being. A fulsome report that summarizes core aspects of this program was presented to our Board of Trustees at the January 24, 2023 Faith and Program Committee Meeting. Check out the full report in the [meeting agenda](#).

**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 for the safety, well-being, learning and leading of all within our community. All school excursions follow the board policies established by the Board of Trustees and the Extended Excursions Committee. There are two international travel excursions planned for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel CSS to the Yukon in May, 2023 and France/Italy in March, 2024. A report was presented to our Board of Trustees at the January 24, 2023 Faith and Program Committee Meeting. The report can be found in the [meeting agenda](#).

**OCSTA Resolutions** – The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) requested Catholic school boards draft resolutions to be considered at the OCSTA's Annual General Meeting. 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 13, 2022, DPCDSB Regular Board Meeting, our trustees reviewed and provided final approval for two resolutions (Municipal Voting, Technology Funding) to be submitted to OCSTA. Additionally, a third resolution (Tutoring Funding) has been developed and submitted for review. These resolutions are appended to a report presented to our Board of Trustees at the January 24, 2023 Faith and Program Committee Meeting. The report can be found in the [meeting agenda](#).

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

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have with regards to you child/ren's school.

***Take care and God bless.***

Your Trustees,

*Mario Pascucci*

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