

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.

## March 2025

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB)'s virtue of the month in March is **KINDNESS**. Kindness is transformed into action when we share the gift of kindness that Christ bestows upon us with others.

**Season of Lent** – Throughout the 40 days of Lent leading up to the joy of Easter, we are called as a people of hope to draw closer to Christ. May we turn to Him in prayer, remembering His mercy and reflecting on His love, grace and forgiveness. As Catholic school communities, we are grateful for the ongoing partnership of our parish priests and the Archdiocese of Toronto for providing pastoral leadership and support for student faith formation during this Holy time.

**International Women's Day** – *International Women's Day* seeks to recognize the contributions of women and girls to our society, and advocates for their rights so they can achieve their fullest potential. This day is celebrated annually on March 8. It is a significant day grounded in anti-discrimination and equality, originating over a century ago in response to political, economic and societal inequities endured by women. This day is also recognized by the United Nations and promoted across the globe.

Pope Francis remarked on *International Women's Day* in 2024: "Ours is a time seared by hatred in which our human family, which needs to feel the power of love, is instead frequently scarred by violence, war, and ideologies that stifle the noblest feelings of the human heart. Precisely in this context, the contribution of women is more necessary than ever."

DPCDSB will celebrate *International Women's Day* on March 6 with a student conference featuring a liturgy, keynote speaker and activities designed to further empower students in this equity work. The conference will recognize the contributions women make to society and elevate the Board of Trustees' - Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) values of *Excel*, *Thrive* and *Respect*. DPCDSB staff will provide resources that highlight the accomplishments of women and girls through the Government of Canada's toolkit, and other curated materials. In particular, accomplishments in leadership that have been made by Catholic women will also be shared across the system.



## Brea Corbet

Trustee, Mississauga  
Wards 9 & 10  
(905) 301-9373  
Brea.Corbet@dpcdsb.org  
[breacorbet.ca](http://breacorbet.ca)



“ Do justice,  
love  
*kindness*  
and walk humbly  
with your God. ”  
– Micah 6:8

## AGENDAS AND MINUTES

### BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Dufferin-Peel Catholic District  
School Board (DPCDSB)**  
40 Matheson Blvd. W.  
Mississauga, ON L5R 1C5  
905-890-1221  
[www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org)



**Audience Code of Conduct for Board/Committee Meetings** – In recent years, DPCDSB has experienced audience behavioural issues at public meetings, particularly at meetings where controversial or polarizing issues were on the agenda. DPCDSB has responded previously by initiating enhanced security measures and reducing public exposure/access to the meeting area. Two recent meetings, where the audience was divided in terms of support for, or interest in, a particular issue, saw disruptive behaviour from some audience members leading to concerns from others about feeling unsafe, disrespected, and intimidated. The disruptions further resulted in delays to conducting board business as the chair was compelled to pause the meeting to restore order.

As part of our ongoing security enhancements, an [Audience Code of Conduct](#) has been developed for DPCDSB Board and Committee Meetings that addresses issues including:

- Signage
- Personal recording devices
- Role and expectations of the audience

The Code is posted on the DPCDSB website's Board/Committee meeting page, displayed in the Catholic Education Centre's (CEC) foyer monitor), and referred to by the chair at the start of all meetings. It is also included in the delegation package.

**Interim Financial Report** – The DPCDSB's Interim Financial Report (IFR) reflects the board's expenses for the four (4) month period September 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 and results indicate that the board is progressing well against budget targets. Most categories of spend are within target levels. Classroom resources and school office expenditures are ahead of target due to proactive spend given supply chain lead times and annual expenses paid at the beginning of the year. Between the reporting dates of Estimates (June) and Revised Estimates (December), total projected enrolment decreased by 84 average daily enrolment (ADE) students (or about 0.1%). This reflects in-year enrolment comparison only. DPCDSB continues to experience enrolment decline year-over-year, however the rate of decline is slowing. DPCDSB's Financial Services department will continue to monitor all expenses against budget. For more information, please refer to the DPCDSB's Administration and Finance Committee Meeting - Tuesday February 4, 2025, on the board website: <https://www.dpcdsb.org/news/board-meetings>

**2025 - 2026 Budget Development Process** – The *Core Education* (Core Ed) Funding announcement for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year will be delayed until after the provincial election. The early call for an election has caused a delay for provincial decision making, which impacts Core Ed updates. Depending on the outcome of the election, the potential timing of an announcement could be anytime between early April and mid-May. Budget planning, however, starts well before the release of the Core Ed funding as the development process is a continuous cycle that involves stages of review, analysis, stakeholder meetings and calculations.

DPCDSB is entering the fifth year of budget development while operating under a Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP). DPCDSB continues to meet and work with the Ministry of Education to resolve a significant accumulated deficit position and find a path forward for financial stability. To ensure that our partners in Catholic Education are well informed, DPCDSB will host a public budget information session on April 24, 2025. As well, updates will be posted to the DPCDSB website and information will be distributed through school newsletters and school messenger and at Catholic School

Council (CSC) meetings. A detailed overview of the budget development process is included in the DPCDSB's [February 4, 2025 Administration and Finance Committee agenda](#).

**Youth Poet Laureate** - The City of Mississauga will recognize its fifth Youth Poet Laureate in 2025. The role of the Youth Poet Laureate is to serve as a literary ambassador for youth in the City of Mississauga and to elevate the status of poetry, literary arts and young writers within their communities. This honorary position recognizes a young poet who writes excellent poetry or spoken word and has written on themes that are relevant to the citizens of Mississauga. Candidates must be current Mississauga residents. The Youth Poet Laureate will serve a 24 month term beginning in April 2025 and will receive a \$3,000 honorarium paid in six instalments throughout the term. Additional project funding of \$1000 is available to support the execution of a Youth Poet Laureate event or project. Submissions will be accepted until March 9, 2025. [Learn more](#).

**EQAO Parent/Guardian Webinar** – EQAO staff will discuss math questions that Ontario students encounter when they participate in Ontario's large-scale assessments 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. EQAO 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.

The webinar is offered on two dates, March 6, and March 26. To register, click on the links below. \*Note that this is an EQAO event, not a DPCDSB event.

- [Thursday, March 6, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, March 26, 2025 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.](#)

**Remote Learning Options** – DPCDSB is committed to providing remote-only learning options for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. The elementary program for students in Grades 1-8 will operate in the same way as the current 2024-2025 school year and will be based on sufficient interest and the DPCDSB's ability to make classes viable. Students will be aligned to a host school which will likely not be the elementary school they would normally attend in person. DPCDSB is unable to offer remote-only • French Immersion • Extended French • Gifted Program • St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre. Students in remote-only learning will not have access to in-person extra-curricular clubs and/or teams.

For secondary students who choose courses that cannot be offered as a remote-only option, e-Learning options may be available. The Regional Remote-Only Secondary Program will be offered through St. Paul Catholic Secondary School (CSS) in Mississauga and all remote-only students will be registered at St. Paul CSS for the entire school year. Course selection will be limited to core/essential courses. DPCDSB is unable to offer • French Immersion • Extended French • International Baccalaureate • Advanced Placement • Regional Arts or Regional Sports • Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) • Courses with an experiential or physical component, i.e., woodworking, shop, electrical, hospitality, cosmetology, physical education, etc. Students in the Regional Remote-Only Learning Program will not have access to in-person extracurricular clubs and/or teams. Students will have the opportunity to participate in virtual faith formation activities and retreats. Students in their graduating year will graduate from St. Paul CSS. Secondary students who are currently enrolled in the St.

Paul CSS Regional Remote-Only Program will automatically be re-registered in virtual learning for the 2025-2026 school. No action is required to continue in the Regional Remote-Only Program.

Commitment to remote-only learning is for the entire 2025-2026 school year. Unfortunately, there will be no opportunities to switch between remote-only and in-person throughout the school year. Students are only able to access their school accounts inclusive of email, Google Classroom and D2L from within Canada. As such, students travelling internationally will not be able to access their email, Google Classroom and D2L until their return to Canada. If parents/guardians are interested in the remote-only learning option for your child(ren) for 2025-2026, please contact your home school (the school which your child(ren) would normally attend in person) and confirm your interest with an administrator (principal or vice-principal) by Friday, March 7, 2025.

**2025 - 2026 School Year Calendar** – *Ontario Regulation (O. Reg) 304*, amended to O. Reg. 364/15 identifies that every school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days, seven Professional Activity (PA) days and a maximum of ten examination days. The DPCDSB School Year Calendar Committee was consulted on January 7, 2025, and January 20, 2025, to review the proposed 2025-2026 school year calendar for Board of Trustee approval. In keeping with a directive from the Ministry, the following groups were consulted in developing the proposed calendar:

- DPCDSB Board of Trustees
- Elementary and Secondary Units of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
- Elementary and Secondary Principals' and Vice-Principals' Associations
- Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC) -through their elementary and secondary representatives
- Board staff including Program and Learning Services, Employee Relations, Human Resources
- Financial Services, Transportation Department and Senior Management Council
- Co-terminus Board(s)

As a result of the collaboration among all parties involved, six of the seven Elementary and Secondary PA days are aligned with DPCDSB's co-terminus boards. Following approval by the DPCDSB Board of Trustees, a draft of the 2025-2026 school year calendar will be submitted to the Ministry of Education (Ministry). For more information, please refer to DPCDSB's Administration and Finance Committee Meeting agenda - Tuesday February 4, 2025 on the board website:

**World Down Syndrome Day (WDSB)** – Annually on March 21, the DPCDSB raises awareness of the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome which causes Down Syndrome. Please join our students, families, and staff in celebrating Rock Our Socks Day for WDSB!

**Distinguished Alumni** – On an annual basis, DPCDSB selects alumni from our secondary schools and celebrates them through our *Distinguished Alumni* campaign. This campaign recognizes DPCDSB graduates who are making valuable and unique contributions in their respective careers, pathways, and communities. Our Distinguished Alumni are positive role models and represent the image of the Catholic learner as described by the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. To be eligible for this recognition, the nominee must be a graduate of the DPCDSB, has distinguished themselves through service, accomplishments, or career and reflects the characteristics of the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. The board is currently accepting nominations for its 2025 Distinguished Alumni using the [DPCDSB](#)

[Distinguished Alumni Nomination Form](#) until April 4, 2025. Nominations are reviewed by a committee comprised of trustees, staff, and students. [Link to past Distinguished Alumni](#)

**Eden Food for Change** – Did you know March is also Nutrition Month? Eden Food for Change is committed to increasing access to good food, developing food skills to encourage healthy eating and empowering the community through education, outreach and advocacy. In 2024, Eden Food for Change served an average of 1200 households every month and distributed a total of 1.6 million lbs of food, 50% of which was fresh food. They serve families living in western Mississauga who have a postal code that starts with L5L, L5M or L5N. Residents can use the food bank once a month to receive up to 7-10 days of nutritionally balanced food, the amount of food depends on the size of each family. Their goal is to provide residents with food in a dignified and respectful manner. On your first visit, please let the greeter know that you are new to the food bank. Two locations are 1) Battleford Location - 3051 Battleford Rd, Mississauga ON, L5N 5Z9 and 2) Unity Location – 3185 Unity Drive, Mississauga ON, L5L 4L5. Learn more: <https://edenffc.org/get-food/>

**Making Prom Happen** – The non-profit organization *Making Prom Happen* provides free prom and graduation wear to students (Grade 8 - 12) in the Region of Peel, ensuring that each young adult can step into their future with confidence and pride. Prom and graduation are milestones filled with joy, celebration, and reflection. The *Making Prom Happen* event helps to ensure the financial burden of purchasing attire for these occasions does not overshadow the positive experience. The event this year is scheduled for April 10, 2025 at Turner Fenton Secondary School - 7935 Kennedy Road South Brampton from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm. For more information and to register online for a timeslot please visit: <http://makingpromhappen.ca>

## IMPORTANT DATES

### Month of March

#### National Social Work Month

#### Irish Heritage Month

#### Persian Heritage Month

#### Hellenic Heritage Month

**March 3-9** – Black Mental Health Week

**March 3-9** – Social Work Week

**March 5** – Ash Wednesday

**March 6** – DPCDSB International Women’s Day Conference

**March 6** – DPCDSB International Women’s Day Conference

**March 7** – World Day of Prayer

**March 8** – International Women’s Day

**March 10 – 14** – March Break (No School)

**March 17** – St. Patrick’s Day (Memorial)

**March 19** – Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Principal Patron of Canada and declared Patron of the Universal Church in 1870

**March 21** – International Day for the Elimination of Discrimination

**March 21** – World Down Syndrome Day

#### [March 25 – Board Meeting](#)

**March 26** – Parent Reaching Out Event: Community Supports and Services Information Session

**March 27** – DPCDSB Elementary Skills Competition

---

Wishing our DPCDSB students, families, and staff a happy March Break (March 10 - 14, 2025)!

Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your family.

*Yours in learning, growing, and leading with Christ,*



#### **Trustee Brea Corbet**

Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10

Vice Chair – Faith and Program Committee

Mobile: (905) 301-9373

Email: [Brea.Corbet@dpcdsb.org](mailto:Brea.Corbet@dpcdsb.org)

X | Facebook | Instagram: @breacorbet

<https://breacorbet.ca>