

February 24, 2025

Each person possesses a basic dignity that comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment, and it is something that cannot be taken away. We are all part of God's plan and everyone is worthy of reverence and protection.

Catholic Social Teaching states that each and every person has value, is worthy of great respect and fairness because every human is created in the image and likeness of God and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect. The dignity of the human person must be defended at all times.

On February 26, the DPCDSB community will observe Pink Shirt Day, a day dedicated to standing up against bullying in all its forms, raising awareness about bullying prevention, uplifting kindness and inclusion. Pink Shirt Day originated in 2007, when two students in Nova Scotia took a stand after witnessing a fellow student being bullied for wearing pink. In response, they encouraged others to wear pink in solidarity, sparking a powerful movement to promote kindness, inclusion, and respect.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists Kindness as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: "charity, joy, peace, patience, Kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity" (CCC 1832).

Kindness allows us to see the good in others and thus becoming more accepting. This helps us deepen our relationship with God and grow compassionate communities of faith.

To recognize Pink Shirt Day, DPCDSB schools have been invited to join the board's Well-Being Department in a Kindness Challenge. On February 26, we encourage students and staff to recognize the day by wearing pink and demonstrating acts of kindness.

Schools have been asked to post their Pink Shirt Day Kindness Challenge activities on social media, by using hashtags #DPkind or #DPPinkshirtday.

Staff have been provided with resources and lessons for Grades K-12. These lessons can be used year-round. Staff have also been invited to download and share the Pink Shirt Day posters that have been created by DPCDSB's Student Mental Health and Well-Being Champions.

We also want to emphasize the importance of fostering a culture where if you see something, say something. Everyone has a role in supporting their peers and ensuring that bullying does not go unchecked. In this regard, we are reminding students that on the [student dashboard](#), there is an [online reporting tool](#). This tool allows students to anonymously report incidents of bullying, offering a way to engage in our collective efforts to maintain schools that are inclusive, safe, and welcoming for everyone. Our collective goal is to foster school communities where We All Belong!

Moving forward, we will look to engage and consult with Student Voice to rebrand the online reporting tool in a way that is better reflective of the DPCDSB student perspective.

Together, let's continue to build a supportive environment where every child of God feels respected, valued, and safe.