

## What's New

- [Elementary and Secondary PA Day Descriptors for February 14, 2025](#)
- [PowerSchool Cybersecurity Incident](#)
- [DPCDSB Technology Device Refresh Plan](#)

## Board Highlights

The following items were received or approved by the Board at its January 28, 2025 meeting:

### Pastor's Remarks:

- Monsignor J. Shiels Video Presentation: The Jubilee - A Season of Hope

### Delegations:

- Refer to [Agenda](#) for list of speakers.

### Retirements

- B. Gillis, Principal
- J. Vieira, Principal

### Updates/Information/Reports:

- Motions Recommended by the Faith and Program Committee, January 14, 2025 and the Board By-Law/Policies Review Committee, January 21, 2025

[Link to Recording](#) / [Link to Agenda](#)

### Upcoming Board Meeting: February 25, 2025

For a complete calendar of Board and Committee meetings, agendas and minutes, visit the DPCDSB [Board Meetings webpage](#).

## February Virtue of the Month: Respect

Respect is seeing the goodness in others. It helps us to see others as God sees them, to accept them as they are, and to treat them with dignity.

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### Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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As a Catholic community, one of our main goals in life is to serve others and give back to our community. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board shares a belief that the school has a mission to help each learner fulfill their God given potential in all aspects of their person – physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually. Learners in the Adult and Continuing Education ESL/FSL program come from diverse backgrounds and they believe in the same common notion – Sharing is Caring. There is no delight in owning anything unshared. The more we share, the more we have. It was such a profound experience seeing our learners believing in the same values to serve humanity regardless of ethnicity. Sometimes it takes only one act of kindness and caring to change a person’s life. The ADCED staff from the ESL/ FSL program would like to thank our learners for their remarkable support for Food4Kids. Your contributions have made a real impact, and we could not have achieved this without your help and generosity. Your support and commitment to this cause demonstrates what amazing leaders you are. Your efforts truly made a difference.



Cardinal Ambrozic Catholic Secondary School is thrilled to share that Girls Leading Our World (GLOW), in collaboration with our Catholic school community successfully prepared 14 beautifully gift-filled boxes for the Shoebox Project Brampton. The Shoebox Project is a charitable initiative that collects and distributes shoeboxes filled with items valued at approximately \$50 to women impacted by homelessness or living in shelters. Each box includes thoughtful and practical items such as toiletries, warm accessories, and small luxuries to bring warmth, dignity, and joy during the holiday season. As a faith-based community, this initiative reflects our shared commitment to compassion, generosity, and serving those in need. The girls worked together to gather donations and carefully assemble the boxes, demonstrating the true spirit of giving. GLOW personally delivered the completed boxes. GLOW is deeply grateful to everyone who donated and helped bring this project to life. Your kindness and generosity will undoubtedly brighten the lives of women in our community embodying the values of our Catholic faith.



Raheem White DPCDSB Student Trustee from St. Marcellinus Catholic Secondary School, received the City of Mississauga Civic Award of Recognition in recognition of his outstanding dedication and contribution to the community. He contributed over 140 volunteer hours to civic activities, initiatives and events and often provides volunteer opportunities for his peers at St. Marcellinus. Raheem is also very involved in his school community in various capacities including Chaplaincy, BSA, MADE, Drumline. Raheem was celebrated on November 26 at the Mississauga City Hall and presented with his award by Mississauga Mayor Carolyn Parrish and councillor Alvin Tedjo.



The Youth Faith Ambassadors (YFAs) at Metropolitan Andrei Catholic Elementary School brought the gospel's teachings to life. They delivered 28 bags of donations, including clothing, toiletries, shoes, and accessories. The students diligently engaged in sorting food and other contributions at Dr. Simone's warehouse - Feed the Children. Their amazement was palpable as they witnessed the altruistic work being carried out in this warehouse for the underprivileged. Thank you, Ms. Sanelli-Barale, Ms. Urac and Ms. Lysyuk, for being models of virtues of kindness, love, and care for Metro YFAs to follow.



From January 21-24, Georges Vanier Catholic Elementary School staff focused their energies on supporting positive mental health and well-being through various activities. Using resources from School Mental Health Ontario, each day of the week had a theme to support and uplift the entire school community. The activities were specific to classroom community needs and aligned with the theme of the day. On “Talk It Out Tuesday” staff and students were encouraged to speak up and speak out about mental health and listen to those who are struggling. On “Wisdom Wednesday” staff sported #BellLetsTalk toques and all community members were encouraged to wear a toque to reflect that they have wisdom to share. Further, students and staff engaged in wellness activities focused on mindfulness, positive self-talk and growth mindset. On “Thankful Thursday” our school community wore #VanierVikings spirit wear to show appreciation for our school. Finally, on “Feeling Fine Friday”, staff and students wore their favourite outfit celebrating the unique talents and gifts each member brings to our school community. The week provided a much-needed opportunity to further build the positive, safe and healthy school climate at Georges Vanier Catholic Elementary School.

## Upcoming Events

### February - National Inclusive Education Month

#### February - 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 brothers and sisters in Christ. Regardless of the demographics of your school community, Black History is a conversation we must all be present to as it is everyone's history.

#### February - Psychology Month

February is Psychology Month. Psychology staff at the DPCDSB help students thrive every day by supporting their learning, behaviour and mental health.

#### February is Winter Walk Month – Stay Active and Walk to School

February is Winter Walk Month. This month, we're encouraging students and their families to walk to school or their bus stop. If you're driving, consider parking your car five minutes from the school and walking the rest of the way. Walking to school has benefits like, boosting your mood, being good for your mental and physical health, helping to make school zones safer and reducing your carbon emissions. For more information, visit the [Region of Peel website](#).

#### February 2 – Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord

Commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the temple by His parents, Mary and Joseph, 40 days after His birth. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; on this day candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world.

#### February 2 – World Day for Consecrated Life

A day to recognize and appreciate the contributions and commitments that consecrated men and women make to the Church and society at-large. This day is *"a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervour which should inspire their offering themselves to the Lord"* (St. John Paul II, 1997).

#### February 2-8 - National Catholic Health Care Week

National Catholic Health Care Week seeks to build understanding and connection with the mission and contribution of the Catholic health community working with others to build a just and caring society where all are seen and heard. The 2025 theme "Caring for our Common Home" celebrates the interconnectedness of all creation and helps us to reflect on how our individual and collective actions and our systems—health, social, economic—can promote a healthy world where all can thrive. It emphasizes the integral connection between human health and the health of the planet, echoing Pope Francis' call to care for the earth as our common home and to embrace an integrated ecology that puts the love at the heart of our ministry into action. We work with many partners—in our Catholic community, our health system and beyond—to contribute to and help shape an ever-evolving health system, drawing on our Catholic values, and a legacy of innovation and ethical reflection. During National Catholic Health Care Week, we invite all to reflect on and share the story of the courageous gift of our shared Catholic health mission.

#### February 6 - National Sweater Day

National Sweater Day is a [WWF campaign](#) that raises awareness around energy conservation. Staff and students across DPCDSB are encouraged to engage in various energy awareness activities, including wearing sweaters as the indoor temperatures are lowered to conserve energy. Together, let's make a positive impact and continue leading the way in environmental stewardship.

### **February 11 – World Day of the Sick**

*“I was sick and you visited me.”* (Matthew 25:36) An observance started by St. Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses and for their caregivers. It is a day that highlights the healing ministry of the Church. This day coincides with the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes and as well as recognizes the great efforts of doctors, nurses, health care institutions and pastoral care givers to restore health to those afflicted with illness and disease.

### **February 11 - International Day of Women and Girls in Science**

### **February 14 – P.A. Day for Elementary & Secondary Schools**

### **February 17 - Family Day (No School)**

### **[February 25 – Board Meeting](#)**

### **February 26 - Pink Shirt Day**

### **February 26 - Loyola C.S.S. Annual Black History Month Showcase**

Join Loyola Catholic Secondary School’s Black Student Alliance for our Annual Black History Month Showcase - Black Excellence : Honoring Our Legacy, Celebrating Our Roots, Inspiring Our Future. Date: Wednesday February 26. Time: 7-9 p.m. Location: Loyola C.S.S., 4010 Sladeview Cres., Mississauga. Admission: \$5.00 at the door. Proceeds in support of Erin Mills Youth Centre.

### **February 26 - DPCDSB Secondary Skills Competition**

This year’s annual Secondary Skills Competition will be held at St. Augustine Catholic Secondary School. Successful secondary student competitors will move forward to represent DPCDSB at the [provincial event](#) on May 6 at the Toronto Congress Centre.

**For a complete schedule of events, visit the [DPCDSB Events webpage](#).**

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