What’s New:

- Catholic Education Week - April 30-May 5, 2023
- Public Budget Consultation Session - April 26, 2023
- DPCDSB School Dress Codes - April 14, 2023

Board Highlights:

The following items were received or approved by the Board of Trustees at it’s April 25, 2023 meeting:

- Pastor’s Remarks: Video Presentation by Monsignor Shiels - Easter
- Proclamation - Staff Appreciation Day - May 1, 2023
- Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association Report Student Voice Report
- Minutes of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting - February 7, 2023
- Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting - March 22, 2023
- Minutes of the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils Meeting - February 16, 2023
- Minutes of the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils Meeting - March 9, 2023
- Retirements:
  - T. Coccimiglio, Principal
  - K. Dolan, Principal
  - T. Maiolo, Principal
  - L. Chopersis, Principal
  - C. Kline, Principal
- 2023-2024 Budget Update

Upcoming Board Meeting: May 23, 2023

For a complete calendar of Board and Committee meetings, agendas and minutes, visit the DPCDSB Board Meetings webpage.

Virtue of the Month: Acceptance

Acceptance is the ability to respect the dignity and rights of all persons, even those whose beliefs and behaviours differ from our own. Everyone should strive to love and respect their neighbour, as they love and respect themselves.
Since 2011, students from the Planning for Independence and Secondary Communication Programs have participated in the Ontario Skills Competition. This year was no different. DPCDSB has blazed the trail to ensure that diverse learners are included in this regional competition. This year’s competition was held at Father Michael Goetz Catholic Secondary School and students chose to compete in Coding, Job Demonstration or Job Interview. Focused and determined, competitors demonstrated their skills as they worked through the criteria of their chosen competition. Through teamwork, confidence and attention to detail, winners emerged in each competition, but all competitors should celebrate their accomplishment! Thanks to each school’s Skills Coaches for helping their students prepare for the competition. Thanks also goes out to the committee: Teresa Abbruscato, Jessica Damiani and Carol Jones for their work in organizing these competitions. Congratulations to all students who competed.

To kick off Poetry Month, Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary School was very excited to host Randell Adjei, Ontario’s first Poet Laureate. Mr. Adjei performed some of his spoken word poetry and shared his message about the power of words and the strength and beauty that lies in every human being. Some lucky students won signed copies of his book “I Am Not My Struggles”. Students asked him questions about the creative process, life experiences and how to unearth the unique potential within each of us.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic Education.
St. Dominic Catholic Elementary School is dedicated to protecting the environment and bringing awareness to taking care of our planet. St. Dominic’s Eco members took action to bring awareness to clean, healthy drinking water during World Water Week. These Eco Leads conducted a water tasting challenge presentation to each class. Their mission is to educate students and staff about the harmful environmental effects of single-use plastic water bottles, and instead, encourage everyone to adopt a more sustainable practice of using a reusable water bottle and fill it with fresh tap water. Eco members also conducted a school wide Waste Audit with the help of school custodian, Mr. Richie. Way to go Bulldogs!

For Autism Awareness Month, ERWs and students at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School worked together to create an information board of facts about children with autism.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic Education.
During the season of Lent, students in Ms. Mancini’s Grade 12 Theology class at Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School, led the school in collecting socks for the Good Shepherd Refuge in Toronto. More than 6,200 pairs of socks were donated. The Sock Drive was a wonderful witness of faith led by the senior students, and served to fulfill the school’s motto that invites all to “know, love and serve God.”

St. Leonard Catholic Elementary School students have continued their inquiry on “How can we re-use empty pizza boxes?” This month, the school’s Grade 7/8 classes, decided to use the boxes to create artistic representations of each Station of the Cross. The project launched at the beginning of the Lenten Season and was a great success. Following March Break, students and teachers participated in the live Stations of the Cross pilgrimage along Etobicoke Creek, from St. Rita Catholic Elementary School to the St. Leonard Church. The six-kilometre walk had 14 stops, with each Station featuring student-decorated artwork. Guided by the parish priest, students prayed and contemplated Jesus’ footsteps to his passion and death, through the eyes of Mother Mary. Upon arriving at their destination, the students participated in a “Humble Lunch” of soup and bread to remember those who go without. They prepared the delicious soup the day before with guidance from St. Leonard staff and administration.

On Holy Thursday, the colourful Stations artwork was placed centre stage as part of the superstructure Cross that became a focal point of a school liturgy and reflection. St. Leonard principal Ms. Ribeiro, washed the feet of a few staff and students and then helped recall the events of the First Eucharist. The intermediate students led a reflection on the Stations of the Cross, sharing photos and prayers from their journey the week before. The spirit of love and hope came one more time to bring light for the St. Leonard school community.
DPCDSB Secondary Skills Event – March 8, 2023
Skilled Trades and Technology Students Showcase their Skills!

On March 8, DPCDSB hosted its annual Catholic Secondary Skills Event at Father Michael Goetz Catholic Secondary School. Over 170 secondary students competed in various trades-related and technology events. This annual competition gives students the opportunity to not only showcase their skills, but also allows them to delve deeper into education and career-life planning as they explore potential careers in the skilled trades and technology sectors. All participating students received a Certification of Participation to add to their resume package and to document on their Individual Pathways Plan.

Many of the students below have qualified to proceed to the Provincial Skills Competition on May 1-2 at the Toronto Congress Centre. The Provincial Skills event is open to all visitors and the public to observe. We would like to acknowledge all our 2023 Gold, Silver and Bronze medal winners, and all students who participated in this year’s event. Congratulations!

On April 14, Health & Wellness SHSM students from St. Paul Catholic Secondary School visited St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto to take part in the ThinkFirst Injury Prevention Strategy for Youth (TIPSY). Students participated in a variety of interactive workshops and educational activities with critical care and emergency nurses, Toronto Police, and an individual who has sustained a brain injury. They learned specifically about substance use, distracted driving, brain injuries, organ transplants, and spinal injuries. Students also had the opportunity to tour the ICU and Trauma Bay. Thank you to Ms. Dugas, Mr. Vicars, and Ms. Virjee for organizing and supervising this valuable learning experience.
Upcoming Events

April 30 - May 5 - Catholic Education Week
Catholic schools across Ontario will celebrate Catholic Education Week from April 30 to May 5. This year’s theme is Catholic Education: We are Many, We are One. The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) will run a social media campaign as part of its Catholic Education Week celebration, asking students, staff, parents, trustees and alumni to share how they are celebrating Catholic education in their communities through photos, videos, quotes and artwork using the hashtag #DPCDSB_CEW. We invite all members of our community, including our students, staff, parents/guardians, families, trustees and alumni, to participate in this social media campaign and share with us how they are celebrating this special week and how they are supporting the themes of unity and diversity in our schools and communities. To see how DPCDSB schools are celebrating Catholic Education Week, follow us on Twitter (@DPCDSBSchools), Facebook (@DPCDSBSchools) and Instagram (@dpcdsb.schools). For more information about Catholic Education Week, visit [dpcdsb.org](http://dpcdsb.org).

May 1 - DPCDSB Staff Appreciation Day

May 1 – International Workers’ Day/Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker
International workers’ Day is celebrated in many countries. This day can be a day to recognize the value of human work, defend the dignity of working people, encourage all to be responsible in their work, and celebrate the role that human work has in God’s plan for creation.

May 1-7 - Mental Health Week (National)

May 1-7 - International Child and Youth Care Week

May 2-3 - Mindfulness Matters: Mental Health and Wellness Transition Conference for Grade 8 Students
Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School’s Mindfulness Matters, Triple A (Awareness, Advocacy, Action) Team is pleased to be hosting its annual Mental Health and Wellness Transition Conference in-person on May 2 and 3. This event is for Grade 8 students in its feeder schools (St. Evan, St. Rita, St. Andrew, St. Peter, St. Benedict, Holy Family (Extended French) and St. Cornelius) and will be held at Robert F. Hall C.S.S. (6500 Old Church Rd., Caledon East). The goal of this Transition event is to promote Awareness, Advocacy and Action for positive Mental Health and Wellness, as well as ensure a smooth transition between elementary and secondary school. Students will have the opportunity to participate in interactive group presentations and smaller team-building activities led by Peer Leaders. They will also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops geared to developing healthy and concrete strategies for promoting good mental health.

May 3 - Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day – Virtual Event for Students
During Catholic Education Week, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association will once again celebrate Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day (OCSYD) on May 3. Over the last several years our provincial student trustee leadership team has taken on the task of planning an engaging and interactive event to inform and inspire Catholic youth in our system. This seminar will be held virtually on Zoom and include a series of keynote speakers and interactive workshops. The event will start at 9:30 a.m. and will close with the Catholic Education Week Provincial Mass, celebrated by His Grace, Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto.

May 3 - Catholic Education Week Provincial Mass
His Grace, Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto will celebrate the annual Catholic Education Week Provincial Mass on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. The celebration of the Eucharist will be presented via live-stream from St. Michael’s Cathedral. All students, families, staff, trustees, and the broader Catholic community are invited to participate “virtually” in this celebration of the Eucharist by clicking on [https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live](https://www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live) at the scheduled time.
May 3 - DPCDSB Wellness Wednesday
All DPCDSB students and schools will have the opportunity to participate in a series of wellness activities during Catholic Education Week (April 30-May 5, 2023). This week also coincides with National Mental Health Week. During this week, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board Well-being Department will offer a selection of wellness activities and resources board-wide, to be embedded in everyday lessons and school activities. On May 3, all schools will celebrate Wellness Wednesday. The focus of the day will be “Wellness for Success” with an opportunity for all students to ‘pause’ and focus on catching up, reviewing, and resetting goals.

May 3 - Metropolitan Andrei’s 50th Anniversary Liturgy and Open House
Metropolitan Andrei Catholic Elementary School is excited to announce that it will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with a liturgy and open house event on Wednesday, May 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event is open to all current and former students, staff, parents, and community members. The celebration will begin with a liturgy at 5 pm in the school gym (515 Mississauga Valley Blvd., Mississauga). The liturgy will be led by Father Mario, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish and will include special readings and prayers to honor the school’s history and achievements. Following the liturgy, the school will host an Open House. The Open House will provide an opportunity for attendees to tour the school, see the changes that have been made over the past 50 years, and meet with current and former staff and students. Please RSVP: https://forms.gle/6V3jCsSa4SsKB1cM7.

May 4 - Philip Pocock C.S.S. Spring Music Concert
Philip Pocock Music Presents “The Music Awakens.” Please join us on Thursday May 4 as students from the school’s Instrumental, Guitar, and Vocal Programs share their talents with family and friends in the school community. You will be entertained with great musical selections from the school’s Concert Bands, Small Instrumental Ensembles, Show Choir, Chamber Choir, Guitar Class, Worship Band, and many student solos. Show start time is 7:00 p.m. Location: Philip Pocock C.S.S., Cafetorium, 4555 Tomken Road, Mississauga.

May 6 - St. John Bosco Spring Market
The St. John Bosco Spring Market will be held on Saturday, May 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Join us as we host over 50 local artisan vendors and student vendors. Enjoy the food trucks and activities and crafts for kids as well. Location: St. John Bosco Catholic Elementary School, 1025 North Park Drive, Brampton (close to Professor’s Lake). For more information, call 905-792-0890.

May 7 - National Child and Youth Mental Health Day (National)

May 8 – Nominations for Central Committee for Catholic School Councils’ Volunteer of the Year Award
This award has been developed to acknowledge the dedicated individuals who make a significant contribution to supporting Catholic education. Volunteers play a very important role in our schools and in our communities, helping to build vibrant, caring, inclusive, faith filled school communities. This award will recognize an individual who exemplifies volunteerism in DPCDSB. The award process is also a means to thank volunteers for their continuous years of commitment and dedication. The candidate chosen as the Volunteer of the Year and all the nominees for the award will be recognized and celebrated at the June 15 meeting of the CCCSC and at the fall meeting of Catholic School Council Chairs. Nominees can be parents, administrators, non-teaching board/school staff members (i.e., custodians, secretaries, maintenance staff, support services, etc.), teachers, students or community members. Please review, complete and provide the following forms for nominees. The deadline for submission is Monday, May 8, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Details for submission are noted on the Nomination Form. Please send all submissions to angela.charette@dpcdsb.org.
May 13 - CCCSC Parent Engagement Event: We are Many, We are One: Weaving the Catholic Partnership with Teresa Hartnett
The love parents feel for their children is not easily expressed in words, yet it is conveyed in the many actions they undertake for their children. The Catholic Education system is the partner parents work with most closely during the many years they strive to help their children grow into healthy, happy and faith-filled adults. Many different people make up a school community, yet together they work as one, striving to provide children with a Catholic Education that will prepare them for a bright future. Join us for this presentation on how, together, we can provide our children with the best tools for success in their lives. Keynote Speaker: Teresa Hartnett. Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Location: St. Joseph C.S.S., 5555 Creditview Road, Mississauga. Event Registration Link / Event Flyer

May 13 - 35th Anniversary Celebration of the International Languages Croatian Course
Open House: 11:30 a.m. Program: Service Recognition awards and Distinguished Alumni awards 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Location: Father Michael Goetz C.S.S., 330 Central Parkway West, Mississauga.

May 18 – Parent Reaching Out Event: Developing Storytelling with AAC Users
The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee invites parents/guardians of students with differing abilities and their child to attend a Parent Reaching Out Event, in honour of “Speech & Hearing Awareness Month”. Come learn how to use story icons to support your child’s story telling. Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Location: Catholic Education Centre, 40 Matheson Blvd W., Mississauga, Room 301. Please use this link to register by May 11, 2023 for the in-person event: https://forms.gle/Dd4K98wVZL5v21rg9. Registered participants are asked to please bring their child’s AAC system and a preferred story book to the session. Event Flyer

May 21 - World Communications Day
Catholics are invited to reflect upon the media of social communication and how these influence our lives. The media can promote values that lead to a more fully human society. The Church’s ministry is twofold; the media can be used to help promote the Gospel. At the same time, as receivers of the materials presented by the media, the faithful have a duty to support and promote worthwhile presentations on media and reject those which promote values contrary to spiritual growth.

May 22 - Victoria Day

May 27 - Our Lady of Peace C.E.S. Spring Marketplace
Please join Our Lady of Peace Catholic Elementary School Council as they host our Second Annual Spring Marketplace on May 27 at Our Lady of Peace at 15 Fincham Avenue in Brampton from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come out and check out the many treasures the vendors have to offer at our indoor market, including baked and home goods, crafty creations, natural skin care products and more. Free entry. We look forward to seeing you.

May 29 - Brampton West Hack-a-thon for Girls in Grades 6-8
Brampton West will be hosting a Hack-a-thon for girls in Grades 6-8. The Hack-a-thon is a culminating event to celebrate the achievements of our students in the Hackergal coding program. The event will take place Monday, May 29 at St. Daniel Comboni Catholic Elementary School, 120 Veterans Drive, Brampton. Students will complete learning sessions provided by Hackergal prior to the event. The cost of the program is free to students.

May 31 - Red Shirt Day
Red Shirt Day (of Action for AccessAbility and Inclusion) is a day when people across Canada come together and wear red in schools, workplaces and spaces everywhere in order to create a visible display of solidarity, to show their support for persons and families who are living with disabilities, celebrate the achievements of people living with disabilities, and to pledge their commitment to help create a fully accessible and inclusive society that honours and values the contributions of people of all abilities in all aspects of life in Canada. More Information.

For a complete schedule of events, visit the DPCDSB Events webpage.
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