

What's New

- [Multi-Year Strategic Plan Survey](#)
- [Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year](#)
- [Peel Public Health: Letter to Families - September 2024](#)
- [Your child's education: A parent guide to our school system](#)

Board Highlights

The following items were received or approved by the Board at its September 24, 2024 meeting:

Pastor's Remarks:

- Monsignor J. Shiels Video Presentation: Prayer

Awards and Presentations:

- 2023-2024 St. Hildegard of Bingen Viriditas Stewardship and Sustainable Practices Award Winner: Reagan Johnson, Designated Early Childhood Educator, St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre
- Proclamations:
 - Bus Driver Appreciation - October 23, 2024
 - Empowering Women Day - October 7, 2024
 - Fire Prevention Week - October 6-12, 2024

Delegations and Presenters:

- Jennifer Andrade, The Region of Peel, Transportation Operations, Bike Rack Program

Updates/Information/Reports:

- Nomination for Membership on the Special Education Advisory Committee
- 2024-2025 OCSTA Membership Fee and Friends and Advocates of Catholic Education Levy
- Motions Recommended by the Administration and Finance Committee and Audit Committee

[Link to Agenda](#)

Upcoming Board Meeting: October 22, 2024

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

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On September 12, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Elementary School was pleased to welcome CP24's Breakfast show live to kick-off their Breakfast Club along with President's Choice Children's Charities and volunteers from the local Loblaws. Along with the big kick-off to Breakfast Club, the broadcast was intended to promote the link between nutrition and academic success in school along with the charities' role in funding schools across Canada getting food into tummies each day. Our Lady of Mercy welcomed students, along with their families, early that morning, meeting in the Gym where the Loblaws volunteers had set up special snack packs to be handed out to all the students.

Nicole Servinis, reporter from CP24, entered the gym with a big "Good morning, Mercy Magic" to which the entire community responded, "Good Morning CP24!"

During the second segment of the event, Nicole spent time speaking with Principal Marchand about the impact of the Breakfast program at Our Lady of Mercy, and then spoke to several students as well about how good it feels to have a full tummy every morning to start the day, and their favourite Breakfast Club foods.

Our Lady of Mercy receives a very generous donation from President's Choice Children's Charities "Power Full Kids" program allowing Breakfast to be served each morning by Teachers. The Breakfast Club is run from the entrance to school ensuring that all children have the opportunity to have breakfast, limiting any possible stigma. The school's motto is, "If you're hungry, eat!"

“You are not alone”: John Cabot C.S.S. hosts iFun Newcomer Orientation Program

On August 28, John Cabot Catholic Secondary School hosted the iFun Orientation Program for newcomer secondary students attending Philip Pocock, St. Martin, St. Paul and John Cabot Catholic Secondary Schools. Thanks to a community partnership between DPCDSB and Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre, settlement workers, teachers and peer leaders came together to welcome over 130 newcomers to these high schools.

iFUN is designed to break down barriers and create bridges of understanding among cultures by reducing the stress and anxiety that comes when moving from one country to another and having to adjust to leaving friends and family and beginning a new life in Canada.



Principal Chris Vincent started the day with a warm welcome to our newcomer students, recently arrived from Afghanistan, Albania, Colombia, Egypt, India, Mexico, Philippines, Syria, Ukraine and other countries. Students then took part in games and activities to build confidence, meet new friends, learn about the school system and practice their English language skills. Peer leaders, who were newcomers themselves a few years ago, led group discussions, answered questions, and shared their own experiences on adjusting to school in Ontario.

At the end of the day, the newcomer students left with smiles on their face and a new-found confidence that they were not alone on their new journey in Canada.



Korean Teacher Candidate Exchange Program at St. Kateri Tekakwitha

The Adult and Continuing Education Department at the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB), in association with Peel International Education Alliance (PIEA), hosted a two-week teacher candidate exchange program for 15 student teachers from GINUE University, Korea, this past July. This program provided them with professional development in Korea, as well as an opportunity to exchange ideas and strategies with experienced Canadian teachers from DPCDSB.

The teachers began their first week at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Learning Centre, where they had the opportunity to work in a reciprocal learning environment with teachers from DPCDSB, learning and discussing workshops focused on topics such as: Equity and Diversity, Mental Health, Special Education and much more. Teacher candidates also had the opportunity to receive feedback on their cultural lesson plans that they were presenting the following week in their practicum, through the Educator Exchange experience.

During the second week of the program, the teacher candidates went into the following elementary schools to participate in the Grade 6-8 Literacy and Numeracy Summer Programs: St. Rose of Lima, St. Herbert, St. Barbara and St. Edmund. The teacher candidates enjoyed working alongside Canadian teachers and having an opportunity to observe lessons each day. The visiting teacher candidates also had an opportunity to teach their lesson, and share aspects of their Korean culture with Canadian students. The lessons provided a unique opportunity to learn something new and interesting; the students were very engaged in these lessons. We received positive feedback from both the Korean teacher candidates and the Canadian teacher candidates about their opportunity to collaborate, learn from, and support each other during these programs. Thank you to the school administrators and the host teachers for making this such a positive and impactful experience for everyone.





Start 2 Finish founder Brian Warren came to present St. Louis Catholic Elementary School with a 1st place trophy and backpacks filled with school supplies to our students who participated in their program. Start 2 Finish is a combination of learning running skills and reading for students at elementary schools. While most programs are capped at 40 students, the students at St. Louis filled to 50 with many more on the wait list. It runs weekly after school for two hours. The students stretch and prepare for their runs first and then enjoy delicious healthy snacks before rejoining their reading teams. Start 2 Finish supplies the students with back-to-school backpacks filled with school supplies, t-shirts, healthy snacks, brand new running shoes, Christmas packages and a year-end 5 km race at York University complete with pizza and trophies. Start 2 Finish is in 70 communities across the country. The program is run by volunteers and former athletes who give of their time and athletic skills to work and inspire children in communities from province to province. St. Louis is the proud recipient and first trophy winner of the program.

Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) Feedback Survey

As per Ministry of Education requirements, we would like to hear feedback from parents/guardians, students, staff, and community partners about the [DPCDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2023-2027 \(MYSP\)](#). The MYSP informs the direction of system operations and is fundamental to developing educational programs for students.

We would love to include your voice in our goals, action steps, and strategies associated with each of the MYSP values of Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive, and Trust.

The survey will close on Thursday, October 31, 2024.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

BELIEVE

Cultivating Faith and Devotion
The DPCDSB looks first to scripture, sacrament, and Catholic social teachings for inspiration. Faith formation and its integration into curriculum and climate provide the foundation of our school district.

"Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments." - Psalm 119:66

EXCEL

Cultivating Knowledge and Brilliance
Supporting student achievement through the foundational skills of reading, writing, math and STREAM*, as well as additional competencies that help develop well rounded citizens, is integral to the DPCDSB's mission and vision.
*STREAM: Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math

"Now as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you – so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking." - 2 Corinthians 8:7

RESPECT

Cultivating Human Dignity and Social Justice
Recognition of the human dignity of each person, created in the image of God through addressing the impacts of colonialism and oppression on identities, knowledge systems and languages of communities that have been historically excluded.

"So always treat others as you would like them to treat you." - Matthew 7:12



THRIVE

Cultivating Well-Being and Hope
The vision for mental health and well-being in DPCDSB is for students, staff, and families to thrive through relevant and responsive supports that affirm identities by cultivating a positive sense of self (e.g., fostering accompaniment and belonging for all in the image and likeness of God).

"And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." - 1 Corinthians 13:13

TRUST

Cultivating Relationships and Accountability
Trust requires system transparency, accountability, collaboration, and clear communication with schools, families, parishes, and other partners to build and sustain strong relationships fostering confidence in Catholic education.

"Trust in the Lord, and do good." - Psalm 37:3

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.



Upcoming Events

October Virtue of the Month: Empathy

Judge your neighbor's feelings by your own, and in every matter be thoughtful. (Sir. 31:15)

Month of October: A Marian Month

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily because the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7. It was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. That is why Pope Francis has invited all the faithful to pray the Holy Rosary every day in October.

October is:

German Heritage Month (National)

Canadian Islamic History Month (National)

Latin American Heritage Month (National)

Women's History Month (National)

International Walk to School Month (International)

Learning Disabilities Awareness Month (National)

Healthy Workplace Month (National)

Canadian Library Month (National)

October/November 2024 - Secondary School Information Sessions for Prospective Students and Families

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) will hold a series of information sessions for prospective students and families interested in enrolling in a DPCDSB secondary school for the 2025-2026 school year. The information sessions will provide an overview of the programs and services offered at Dufferin-Peel Catholic secondary schools and will provide students and families with an opportunity to take a tour of the school and hear from current students about the transition into secondary school. A schedule of the [Secondary School Information Sessions](#) is available on the DPCDSB website. For more information about the information sessions, please contact the school directly.

October 1 – Memorial of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

October 2 - Walk to School Day (Provincial)

October 2 – Memorial of The Holy Guardian Angels

October 3 - Preparing Your Child with Differing Abilities for the Sacraments In-Person Information Session

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee and Special Education and Learning Services Department are hosting an in-person ProGrant information session for families who will be preparing their child(ren) with differing abilities for the Sacraments. It will be held at the Catholic Education Centre at 40 Matheson Boulevard West in Mississauga on Thursday, October 3 from 6:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. [More information](#).

October 4 – Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi

October 5 – Memorial of St. Faustina Kowalska

October 5 - World Teacher Day (International)

October 6 – Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 6-12 - Fire Prevention Week

Join the National Fire Protection Association in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week. This year's campaign, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape, works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires. For more information and resources, visit the [NFPA website](#).

October 7 - Empowering Women Day

DPCDSB recognizes the first Monday in October as Empowering Women Day, a day to commemorate the notable achievements and advancements of Canadian women and address the challenges faced by Canadian women.

October 7 – Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women. (Luke 1:28)

October 9 - Navigating the Individual Education Plan Virtual Information Session

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee and Special Education and Learning Services Department are hosting a virtual ProGrant information session for families of students with diverse learning abilities to learn more about the I.E.P. process in DPCDSB on Wednesday October 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. [More information](#).

October 10 - World Mental Health Day

October 11 – PA Day (Elementary & Secondary)

October 11 - Memorial of St. John XXIII

October 11 - International Day of the Girl

October 13 – Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 14 – Thanksgiving Day – A Special Day of Prayer in Canada

It is fitting for God's people to offer public thanks for all the gifts we have received. The bountiful produce of the earth is a visible sign of the many blessings God wants to shower on us through Christ. Our God also wants us to share the goods of the earth with all people.

October 15 - Memorial of St. Teresa of Jesus

October 16 – World Food Day

World Food Day has been promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organization since 1981. The Church is concerned about the issue of hunger in the world, remembering the words of the Son of Man on the last judgement of the nation, *"...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..."* (Matthew 23:35).

October 16 - Memorial of St. Marguerite d'Youville

October 17 - Memorial of St. Ignatius of Antioch

October 18 – Feast of St. Luke, Evangelist

October 20 – Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time World - Mission Sunday

Catholics throughout the world are invited to pray for and give to the missions. The collection this Sunday is organized by the Pontifical Missions Society.

October 21 - Feast of St. Ursula

October 21-25 - National School Bus Safety Week

October 23 - Bus Driver Appreciation Day

October 24 - Child Care Worker & ECE Appreciation Day (Provincial)

October 25 - Dress Purple Day (October is Child Abuse Prevention Month)

Every October, Children's Aid Societies across Ontario raise awareness about the important role that individuals and communities play in supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families through the provincial Dress Purple Day campaign. This year, Dress Purple Day will take place on October 25. We are calling on all Ontarians to wear something purple to show children, youth, and families that they are here to help. [More Information](#).

October 27 – Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 28 – The Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

Saints Simon and Jude appear in the New Testament lists them as one of the apostles.

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

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