NEWS & UPDATES
From the Board of Trustees
Summer 2023

What’s New:

• DPCDSB approves 2023-2024 Operating Budget
• Province announces new Catholic elementary school to be built in Brampton

Board Highlights:

The following items were received or approved by the Board of Trustees at it’s June 20, 2023 meeting:

Awards & Presentations:
• National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada (May 2023) Award Winner: General Manager Richard Moriah
• Annual Dominican Friar’s Youth Interfaith Video Contest Winner: Aisha Biabani, student from St. Joseph C.S.S.
• Lincoln M. Alexander Award Winners: Kiya Busby and Hireé Dugassa, graduates from Our Lady of Mount Carmel C.S.S.

Delegations:
• Pride Flag - J. Luetke, Campaign Life Coalition

Retirements:
• M. Lewis, Superintendent
• C. MacDonald, Superintendent

Reports/Motions:
• Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association Report
• Student Voice Report
• Supervisory Officer Appointments
• Proposed 2023-2024 Operating Budget
• Motion Recommended by the Adminsitration and Finance Committee - June 6, 2023

Upcoming Board Meeting: August 22, 2023

For a complete calendar of Board and Committee meetings, agendas and minutes, visit the DPCDSB Board Meetings webpage.
On May 2, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Secondary School hosted Exploring Opportunities Day. Students in Grades 9-12 and Grade 8 students from feeder schools were able to explore future opportunities. The day had various activities focused on the Environment Specialist High Skills Major program, the Business Specialist High Skills Major program, Skilled Trades, Co-op, OYAP, Dual Credit, Skills Ontario, and more. Students explored various pathways and got to start thinking about the many opportunities available. The Grade 8s were led by the SHSM students to various activities such as touring our Skilled Trades classes, an Environment SHSM outdoor exhibit spotlighting hands-on fishing and water sustainability, a Career Carousel with numerous community partners, a Skills Ontario feature presentation and more. Students were also able to explore the horticulture field by hearing from three experts and then making their own succulent arrangement in Gonzaga’s greenhouse. Students were also fortunate to learn about the cosmetic industry and the homemade product development and business, which was followed by making their own beeswax lip balm.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Needs Moderate Communication Pirates at Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary School hosted two athletic events, Special Olympics Soccer and Special Olympics Bocce. Both events were a big success, with more than 100 athletes participating. The Needs Moderate Pirates qualified to participate in the 2023 Special Olympics Ontario School Championships in both soccer and bocce. The team, went to Kingston to compete in Special Olympics Championship Bocce and placed 4th, and we are so proud of their accomplishments.

It started with an idea and inspiration from St. Paul Catholic Secondary School student Emelda O., and along with her friends Bianca A., Edita T., Daniella A. and Chiara C., this bulletin board came to life. What a wonderful way to display love and inclusion in the cafeteria. Thank you to all the students who participated in writing messages of love on the hearts that make up the woman’s hair.
Outdoor Educational Fun at Silver Creek

This past year, Silver Creek Outdoor Education Centre supported students in engaging in a variety of learning opportunities of ecological stewardship in alignment with Laudato Si.

Each day was a new adventure as elementary and secondary students actively immersed themselves in their learning. Teachers and students actively made curriculum connections in an experiential ecological learning environment. As Pope Francis writes, “the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation”.

Some of the exciting activities and learning students participated in included:

- collecting and analyzing invasive ladybug population
- exploring aquatic ecosystems
- learning geocaching skills
- gathering items from the environment to create living habitats
- creating art in natural landscapes
- gaining inspiration from nature for creative writing exercises
- building leadership and communication skills through team building exercises
- engaging in physical activities such as hiking and snowshoeing

Chaplains from across DPCDSB were also invited to bring students from their school-based chaplaincy teams for a day of spiritual revival.

The Silver Creek team also worked with the DPCDSB Early Years team to facilitate winter and spring Kinder Bio Blitzes. Young learners were encouraged to engage in inquiry-based learning in their own local school yards and then share their learnings and insights via @DPOutdoorEd.

This was a wonderful year of reconnecting with nature and taking our learning outside. Silver Creek Outdoor Education Centre looks forward to providing a host of new creative outdoor educational opportunities for DPCDSB students in the fall.
New Artwork to Honour the Land and Indigenous Knowledge

Philip Cote, MFA (Artist, Young Spiritual Elder, Traditional Wisdom Keeper) worked with the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Secondary School Equity Team to create artwork for the pillars in the entryway of the school. Mr. Cote is a renowned artist of Shawnee, Lakota, Potawatomi, Ojibway, Algonquin, and Mohawk affiliation. He has created artwork for various groups including the Toronto Transit Commission, Sunnybrook Health Sciences, and the City of Toronto.

For this art piece, Mr. Cote chose to depict a Thunderbird and Turtle. The goal was to establish a sense of respect and appreciation for the land and the peoples of the territory on which St. Francis Xavier C.S.S. resides. Thunderbirds are the protectors of humanity, connecting the world of the divine to the human. The design also incorporates the Eagle, which is the symbol of the Mississaugas of the Credit. The Turtle references a common creation story among the Anishinaabe peoples which describes North America as being formed on the back of a turtle (Turtle Island). Together with other initiatives at the school, these images remind us of our treaty obligations, our care and respect for the land on which we live and work, and our commitment to reconciliation.

On May 13, a group of 20 students and six staff from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Secondary School headed North to the Diocese of Whitehorse in Yukon. It was a transformative experience. We worked to help prepare Braeburn Christian Camp, a summer camp north of Whitehorse, visited St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Secondary School and spent a few days at the Arctic Institute of North America’s Kluane Research Station where we enjoyed the beauty of Kluane National Park. The trip concluded with an overnight stay in Vancouver. Our students were off the grid for a few days - with no heat in the cabins, no Wi-Fi, no showers and no toilets. The students came together and learned all about the value of living in community, the value of hard work, and about the reality of the Church and life of the Territory. We were blessed to have Bishop Vila, the Bishop of Whitehorse celebrate two Masses for us - one at the cathedral and one overlooking beautiful Braeburn Lake. We were richly blessed by great weather, bountiful beauty, the hospitality of the Northern people, and a profound sense of community. It was an amazing experience.
Another Year of 100% EcoSchool Certification

Once again, DPCDSB elementary and secondary schools are committed to becoming informed, engaged, and empowered citizens of our global environment community. EcoSchool teams including students, educators, and staff engaged in a variety of environmental activities and initiatives geared to conserving our natural resources and reducing our footprint on the planet throughout the Board. Through the dedication of EcoSchool teams, staff and students engaged in numerous activities including Earth Day, The Great Gulp, National Sweater Day, Waste-Free Lunch campaigns, and more.

Through the Board’s longstanding Inter-School Stewardship & Sustainable Practices Council (ISSSPC) supported by sharing resources and best practices, providing PD, and continuing the ongoing dialogue via their network of EcoSchool Leads, combined with the many rich and varied local school-wide initiatives, DPCDSB once again achieved 100% Board-wide EcoSchool certification.

Thank you to all EcoSchool teams and support staff. Your contributions to the core value of TRUST, to “promote practices that value the sacredness of creation” within the DPCDSB 2019-2023 Multi-Year Strategic Plan and Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC) truly made a difference.

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**Stewardship in Action at Our Schools**

Dufferin-Peel schools were Eco-Certified this year!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification Level</th>
<th>Schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bronze</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Gold</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platinum</td>
<td>70</td>
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**We Have So Much to Celebrate in Dufferin-Peel!**

- 121 Schools organized and completed WWF Sweater Campaigns
- 104 Schools organized and completed Waste-Free lunch campaigns
- 119 Schools participated in WWF Earth Hour Activities
- 134 DPCDSB schools celebrated Earth Day
- 128 Schools participated in planting actions!
- 42 Schools participated in tree planting and maintenance
- 72 Schools planted pollinators
- 14 Schools grew food gardens
- 177 Trees were planted on DPCDSB school grounds this year!
- 635 Trees were maintained on DPCDSB school grounds this year (by mulching, watering, etc.)
- 1008 Pollinator plants were planted on DPCDSB school grounds this year in 72 pollinator gardens!

Celebrating 100% DPCDSB EcoSchools Certification in 2022–23!
Upcoming Events

**July 21, 22, 23 - St. Anne's *50th Anniversary* Parish Feast Celebrations**
Friday July 21 - 7:00 p.m. - Mass of Commitment
Saturday July 22 - 9:15 a.m. - Mass of Anointing / 6:00 p.m. - St. Anne’s Community BBQ, Dancing for all ages and Kid's Karaoke. Sunday July 23 - 10:00 a.m. - Solemn Feast Day Mass presided by His Excellency Bishop Ivan Camilleri, followed by an outdoor Procession and food will be available for sale. Address: St. Anne’s Roman Catholic Church, 115 Vodden Street East, Brampton. For more information, call 905-453-1303.

**August 26 – STOPR First Time Rider Safety Program**
On August 26, Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) welcomes all Kindergarten students and elementary age siblings to its First Time Rider Safety Program. This one-hour safety session will introduce children to school buses prior to the first day of school. Sessions will run between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm at six locations across Peel Region. Parents/Guardians can book their session online on the STOPR website starting late-spring. For more information, visit the First Time Rider Safety Program webpage on the STOPR website and the First Time Rider Safety Program Booklet.

**August 30 - Archdiocese of Toronto Annual Education Mass**
The Archdiocese of Toronto Annual Education Mass, offered for all Catholic educators, will take place at 6:30 pm on Wednesday August 30 at St. Michael’s Cathedral Basilica. The mass will be followed by a dinner at which Archbishop Leo will be the featured speaker. To purchase tickets or tables for the dinner, visit: learning.saintmonicainstitute.ca.

**September 5 - First Day of School (Elementary and Secondary)**

Link to: [2023-2024 School Year Calendar](#)

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

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On May 29, St. Daniel Comboni Catholic Elementary School hosted the very first Brampton West girl coding event called a 'Hack-a-thon'. Hackergal is an organization whose mission is to inspire girls across Canada to explore the opportunities in code. Tech jobs are the fastest growing in North America. This Hack-a-thon gave girls the opportunity to network with many schools from Brampton West and code with purpose. This year’s theme was “Coding together for our Planet”. Girls were grouped together to create and to learn how coding can create social change and help shape a greener future. Our mission for this Hack-a-thon was to code a project that shows the world how we can save the planet. Projects were designed to inspire others on how they can save the environment on a local or global scale. Some project examples included: telling a story about the environment that has made a difference in their lives, discussing the importance of youth involvement in promoting sustainability, and creating a vision of a future world where we can see eco-friendly living all around us. Thank you to Mrs. Mezzatesta, EGELTs and the support from the Brampton West Superintendent for a wonderful opportunity. A big shout out to our participating schools: Our Lady of Fatima, St. Bonaventure, St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Lucy, St. Aidan, St. Anne, St. Rita, St. Ursula, St. Jacinta Marto and St. Daniel Comboni.
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