

Our DPCDSB Mission: Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body and soul to the fullness of life.
Our DPCDSB Vision: Changing the world through Catholic education.

DECEMBER 2023

*As we begin the season of Advent, this month's virtue of **hope** guides our 2023-2024 school year. Advent marks a new liturgical calendar, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. It is a season of hope, of peaceful preparation and of joyful expectation of the birth of Our Saviour.*

Re-Election of DPCDSB Chair and Vice-Chair – At the DPCDSB Board of Trustees' annual Organizational Meeting on November 21, Trustees re-elected Mississauga Wards 6 & 11 Trustee, Luz del Rosario, as Chair of the Board and Mississauga Ward 5 Trustee Thomas Thomas as Vice Chair. A complete list of the trustees representing the various board committees is available on the board website.

Student Trustee By Election - The successful candidate for the by-election for the Student Trustee – South position is St. Martin Catholic Secondary School student, Christopher Joseph. Christopher took the Oath of Office at the November 28 Board of Trustees Meeting. We look forward to working with Christopher as he represents DPCDSB students during the 2023-2024 school year.

School Renewal Funds – The special COVID Resilience Infrastructure Stream Funding from the federal and provincial governments during the pandemic allowed DPCDSB to undertake approximately \$12 million in HVAC-related upgrades to schools across the system. As a result, DPCDSB no longer has any schools that are completely without air conditioning and has several schools that are fully air conditioned that were not previously.

While the degree of air conditioning within schools after these upgrades varies by school, DPCDSB continues to allocate school renewal funding annually towards HVAC-related upgrades. However, addressing air conditioning in schools is only one of many significant school renewal needs contained within an estimated school renewal backlog board-wide in excess of \$350 million and growing as it outpaces available Ministry funding.

Ministry of Education Curriculum Updates - The Ontario government is introducing new mandatory learning in the Grade 10 Canadian History course about the Holodomor famine and its impact on the Ukrainian community in Canada. This new learning is intended to elevate Canadian values focused on embracing democracy, freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. Beginning in



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***“For unto us,
a child is born, to
us a son is given;
His name shall be
called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of
Peace.” – Isaiah
9:6***

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September 2025, the curriculum will outline how the Holodomor, also known as the *Great Ukrainian Famine*, was a result of totalitarian policies of the former Soviet Union (Josef Stalin) leading to a man-made famine in Ukraine that resulted in the deaths of millions of Ukrainians between 1932 and 1933.

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The Christmas Break is **Monday, December 25, 2023 to Friday, January 5, 2024**. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday January 8, 2024!



*Wishing you all a prayerful Advent Season and a
Blessed and Merry Christmas.*



Herman Vioria

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Trustee, Mississauga, Wards 2 and 8

