

February 2024

Ministry of Education Updates – As announced recently by the Ministry of Education, program updates to kindergarten will be effective for 2025. This updated mandated curriculum is related to the areas of literacy, math and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with explicit instruction. These updates also reflect the Right to Read report. Learn more: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1004097/ontario-unveils-a-back-to-basics-kindergarten-curriculum>

OCSTA Seminar for Trustees – OCSTA (Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association). Education Minister Lecce addressed trustees and student trustees from Catholic School Boards across the province. Among the topics that he touched on were the following:

- Cellular phones in the classroom have become a great “distraction” for students. A policy will be developed to control its use.
- Vaping by students is widespread in secondary schools and needs to be curtailed.
- The curriculum has not been reviewed for 12 or more years. The Ministry has made it a policy for curriculum to be reviewed every five years from now on.
- There is a severe shortage of teachers especially for French and the skilled trades (Technological Studies). Teacher training which used to take one year and was later increased to 2 years needs to be accelerated to meet the need.

2022-2023 Director's Annual Report – This report outlines the goals of the DPCDSB Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan and how we, as a system, strived to meet the goals of that plan. Our profound gratitude goes out to our parents/guardians and our community partners for helping us to deliver a quality Catholic education to the thousands of students in our care. Learn more: <https://annual.dpcdsb.org/>

2024 – 2025 Extended French Program – Any student who is eligible to attend a Dufferin-Peel Catholic school and who is presently a Grade 4 student is invited to apply for the Extended French (EF) program for Grade 5 in September 2024. The EF program starts in Grade 5 with 50% of the program taught in French at the elementary level. The subjects taught in French are French Language, Social Studies, Science, and one of the following subjects: Visual Art, Music, Drama or Physical Education. This program offers an excellent opportunity for becoming functionally bilingual in later years. More information is provided during the virtual EF information sessions on Thursday February 8, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m for families living in Mississauga. EF application forms can be submitted online from Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m until Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 3:00



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If we *love* one
another, God
lives in us.

– 1 John 4:12



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p.m. Learn more: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/programs-services/languages/extended-french>

Digital Delivery of Report Cards – In October 2023, our board’s pilot for the digital delivery of report cards proceeded according to plan. This included the demonstration of the solution to pilot schools, training sessions, and the facilitation of drop-in sessions. Throughout this period, valuable insights were obtained from participants, and the process was refined accordingly. The next stages of deployment include:

- Go live with all secondary schools for the mid-term assessment in April.
- Go live with both elementary and secondary panels for the finals in June.

This revised timeline will allow staff to navigate the challenges effectively and ensure smooth implementation moving forward.

School Facility Condition Assessment Program – The Ministry of Education resumed the program in 2023 after a two-year pause due to COVID-19. Under this program, each DPCDSB school is inspected once every five years by assessors from an independent, third-party firm hired by the Ministry, with about 20% of all schools inspected in any year. Information collected from these inspections is used to estimate the overall facility condition or state of repair of each school, along with the school’s five and ten-year school renewal backlogs at the date of inspection. The data collected from the inspections inform the Ministry’s School Condition Improvement funding for major school renewal needs. All DPCDSB schools were inspected during previous assessment cycles between 2011-2015 and 2016-2020. As of 2020, DPCDSB’s five-year school renewal backlog was estimated to be about \$345 million. The Ministry has informed DPCDSB that a total of 27 schools will be inspected between December 4, 2023, and February 2024, of which 20 schools were inspected in the first two weeks of December. The remaining seven schools will be assessed in February. Similar to previous inspections, there will be minimal disruption to regular school operations and DPCDSB Facilities staff accompany the assessors at all times while on school property.

Family Life Education Curriculum – The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) works in close conjunction with the Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops in developing curriculum for Ontario’s Catholic school boards. New Family Life Education Curriculum and Support Resources are expected to be implemented in September 2024. DPCDSB will follow this curriculum as well as the resources developed by ICE, and in compliance with all expectations of the Ontario Ministry of Education with respect to the Catholic faith.

Draft Resolutions – The Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA) has requested draft resolutions for consideration at their Annual General Meeting to be held this Spring, 2024. The resolution process provides member boards with the opportunity to bring forward important issues, which have provincial implications, to the attention of all trustees in the province. At the December 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting, our Board of Trustees reviewed one resolution (Artificial Intelligence Funding) to be submitted to OCSTA. Given the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) to students and educators in administrative tasks and personalized learning, all personnel from school boards in Ontario will benefit from its use. Therefore, implementing AI would be aligned with the mission statement to improve student learning while improving the livelihood of educators. DPCDSB will formally request that OCSTA petitions the Ministry of Education to ensure that ongoing and annual funding be provided to school boards so that AI be implemented into classroom settings to assist educators and help with student learning.

PA Day – An important change has been made to our current 2023-2024 school year calendar regarding an upcoming Professional Activity (PA) Day. As per the Community Information Bulletin sent to all DPCDSB families, **the PA Day originally scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2024 has been rescheduled to Monday, April 8, 2024.** This change has been made due to a total solar eclipse occurring on Monday, April 8. The eclipse is expected to begin at approximately 2:00 p.m. and end around 4:30 p.m., coinciding with student dismissal times. DPCDSB’s decision to change the date of the PA

Day was made to ensure students will not be outdoors during the total solar eclipse, as the health and safety of our students is our top priority.

16th Annual ShareLife Poster Contest – We are proud of the beautiful artwork and creativity shown by DPCDSB students who submitted entries to the 16th Annual ShareLife Poster Contest. Congratulations to Olene, a Grade 6 student from Father C.W. Sullivan C.E.S., for placing first in the contest. Olene’s artwork will become the official elementary ShareLife poster to be distributed in schools and parishes across the Archdiocese. We also thank and congratulate all finalists from across the DPCDSB for putting forward their awesome artwork.

- 2nd place: Vittoria, St. Faustina C.E.S.
- 4th place: Cristiana, St. Cornelius C.E.S.
- 5th place: Jacqueline, St. Rose of Lima C.E.S.
- 7th place: Chris, St. Therese of the Child Jesus C.E.S.
- 9th place: Colby, St. Joseph C.E.S. (Brampton)
- 10th place: Dana, St. Joseph C.E.S. (Brampton)

Wishing our DPCDSB students, families, and staff a Happy Family Day! Enjoy the day spent with your family, friends and loved ones.

HERMAN VILORIA

Trustee, Mississauga Wards 2 & 8