

BREA CORBET
TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10

In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places." - John 14.2



December 2019

This month's virtue of **hope** helps us to rely on God. It keeps us searching for true happiness and sustains us during times of difficulty or discouragement.

- **Advent** – December 1 marks the beginning of Advent, our Catholic liturgical year, and this year's theme of "Igniting Hope" continues to guide our school year. During this exciting time of anticipation and celebration, we learn about, and grow closer, to Christ. Through the eyes of our children at Christmas, we are lit up by the miracle of baby Jesus. His saving message carries the reminder of hope with Jesus' presence in our schools, homes, church and in our hearts.

- **Our Mission and Vision** – As we enter into the season of Advent, I am motivated by the call to service to protect our publicly funded Catholic education. I'm inspired with the responsibility to advocate for our students and families, for whom it is a privilege to serve. In addition to developing a new Multi-Year Strategic Plan, this year, our Board of Trustees also redefined our Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) mission and vision:

Mission – Disciples of Christ, nurturing mind, body and soul to the fullness of life.

Vision – Changing the world through Catholic education.

- **CPCO** – In November, DPCDSB hosted the Catholic Principals Council of Ontario's (CPCO) Conference and Annual General Meeting, the theme of which was "Compassion – Leading with Heart." Minister of Education, Steven Lecce, addressed the delegates with a message of affirmation for the critical role educators have, acknowledging the increased pressure of serving school communities with diverse and complex needs. He spoke with conviction about his support for Catholic education.

- **2020 PRO Grant Update** – At the end of November, the Central Committee for Catholic School Council (CCCSC) and Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), parents and community partners were presented with the new funding model from the ministry regarding 2019-2020 PRO (Parent Reaching Out) Grants. The Ministry of Education has informed school boards they will receive a predetermined funding amount for PRO Grants. The amount of \$46,174.99 has been allocated to DPCDSB. Both CCCSC and SEAC expressed concerns and provided feedback on how funds could be distributed and shared among schools. Both CCCSC and SEAC have agreed to submit a letter to the Ministry of Education and Members of Provincial Parliament with the support of the Board of Trustees to express their concerns. More information on this issue will be forthcoming.

Proposed projects will be required to demonstrate a commitment to the roles of parents in students' educational experiences:

- Providing a safe and welcoming school environment;
- Maintaining open communication with teachers;
- Respecting parents as valued partners within the education system in relation to decisions about their child's education; and
- Parents are informed about the content of the Ontario Curriculum Guidelines.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

- **Cafeteria Services Survey** – A survey for Secondary Cafeteria Services has been reviewed by DPCDSB Trustees and was distributed to all DPCDSB secondary schools during the week of November 25. Administrators will provide opportunities for all secondary students to complete the survey during the school day. Student Trustees and Student Senate members will also be encouraging students to participate. All students are provided with a direct link. The survey is also accessible at bit.ly/cafsurvey2019 and from the DPCDSB website: www.dpcdsb.org. The survey will remain open until December 20, 2019 and results will be analyzed in January 2020.
- **Single Use Plastics** – Some of our schools have taken the initiative to discontinue providing single use plastics, including plastic forks and spoons by January 2020. In an effort to be responsible stewards of the earth and educate our students on what it means to be environmental and eco-friendly schools, I am challenging all Ward 9 and 10 schools and families to do the same. I have also raised this at the Board table with a view to promoting the concept across the system. Please send reusable water bottles, lunch containers and cutlery from home for your children. Thank you to everyone for doing your part.
- **Jordan's Annual Sock Drive** – In 2015, DPCDSB elementary student, Jordan, had a goal of collecting 100 pairs of new socks for the homeless in our city. By the end of 2018, Jordan collected nearly 25,000 pairs of socks that have benefitted thousands in need. Now in her fifth year, Jordan's 2019 goal is to collect 15,000 pairs of socks. Thanks to Jordan for warming the world, one pair of socks at a time. Please visit www.JordansSocks.com for more information.
- **DPCDSB 50th Anniversary** – Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make our 50th anniversary celebration dinner a success. With over 600 attendees and the generosity of sponsors, including title sponsor Nelson, it was a memorable evening. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the organizing committee, I extend special thanks to the student choir from St Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Elementary, R.F Hall Catholic Secondary band, parents, staff, government leaders, community partners and clergy, including Cardinal Collins and Monsignor Sheils, for joining us.

This month, I look forward to attending the upcoming Advent masses and Christmas concerts in our Ward 9 and 10 DPCDSB schools. Thank you to our students, parents and staff for sharing your time and talents with our school communities as we share in the Christmas spirit throughout the special activities this month.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 15:13).

You are always welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I also invite you to follow me on my social media platforms.

Wishing all families, friends and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in learning, growing and leading with Christ,

Trustee Brea Corbet

Trustee - Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10

Vice Chair - Faith and Program Committee

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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