

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. Through the eyes of our children at Christmas, we are inspired by the miracle of the baby Jesus and Christ's message of hope.

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. Facilities staff anticipates finalizing the 2024 Facility Renewal Projects list by the end of February 2024. The table below provides information about recent projects that resulted in upgrades to provide/enhance air conditioning in Mississauga North schools.



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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

Meetings and Agendas Board and Committee Meetings

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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- Divine Mercy CES Installed variant refrigerant flow system 2023
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel CSS Cooling upgrade to gym 2023
- St. Edith Stein CES Replaced air handling units 2021
- St. Richard CES Replaced air handling unit 2023

Toronto and Region Conservation – Toronto and Region Conservation Authorities (TRCA) annually creates unique experiences for families and communities to celebrate the holidays together. Across nine local watersheds, including Black Creek Pioneer Village, the Kortright Centre for Conservation, Albion Hills Conservation Area or Claremont Nature Centre, the diverse range of experiences and opportunities to get outside and take part in fun family activities is a hallmark of December programming at TRCA. For more information, read the November 28, 2023 - Board of Trustees Meeting report [Item E1c](#)

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 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 leading to a man-made famine in Ukraine that resulted in the deaths of millions of Ukrainians between 1932 and 1933. [For more information.](#)

It is a season of hope, of peaceful preparation and of joyful expectation. *We wish our students, families, and staff in our DPCDSB schools and communities a blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

The DPCDSB 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!

Yours in learning, growing, and leading with Christ,



Herman Viloria
DPCDSB Trustee,
Mississauga, Wards 2 and 8



Brea Corbet
DPCDSB Trustee,
Vice Chair – Administration and Finance
Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10