

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.

May 2025

This month, the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's (DPCDSB) virtue of **ACCEPTANCE** aligns with our Catholic social teachings to create school environments that are safe, caring, healthy and inclusive for our students, families, and staff.

May is the Month of Mary, Mother of God. The Church traditionally dedicates the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. During this time, Catholics try to keep the Mother of God more present in their hearts, with a love shown in affectionate devotion to Our Lady.

Catholic Education Week (CEW) 2025 – Each year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) sponsors Catholic Education Week, a week where Catholic education is highlighted and celebrated across the province. This year's celebration takes place from May 4-9. In keeping with the promotion of Catholic identity in the 29 Catholic school boards across the province, this is a special opportunity for our board to place Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic church at the centre of our Pilgrims of Hope journey.

This year's CEW theme is **Catholic Education: Pilgrims of Hope**. Hope is foundational to our faith. We find hope in God's grace and love. This year's CEW is inspired by the Jubilee Year. This Jubilee Year provides us with the opportunity to serve the common good and recommit ourselves to prayer, service, and evangelization. As Catholic school communities, school boards, and as individuals active in Catholic education, we are invited to journey together during this special year, and to live it with enthusiasm, creativity, and generosity. All CEW resources and educational materials can be found on the [OCSTA website](https://www.ocsta.ca/).

The five sub themes for CEW explore ways to live out Pope Francis' call for each one of us to be *Pilgrims of Hope*:

- *by honouring human dignity (Monday)*
- *by caring for creation (Tuesday)*
- *by responding to the poverties in our world (Wednesday)*
- *by serving in solidarity (Thursday)*
- *by living as peacemakers (Friday)*

DPCDSB will engage our communities with a social media campaign to mark this year's CEW. Students, staff, parents, trustees, and alumni are encouraged to share their personal reflections on Catholic education and showcase how they are celebrating the week through



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Blessed
are you among
women, and
blessed is the fruit
of your womb.

– Luke 1:42

AGENDAS AND MINUTES Board and Committee Meetings

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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photos, videos, quotes, and artwork, using the hashtag #DPCDSB_CEW. We look forward to seeing how our schools and communities come together to celebrate this special week.

DPCDSB hosted Jubilee Year Youth Day to celebrate our call to be *Pilgrims of Hope*. This event brought together staff and students from across the system to recognize this significant celebration of our Christian faith. Pope Francis reminds us, “*The future has a name, and its name is Hope.*” As we prepare to journey together as *Pilgrims of Hope* across the DPCDSB, may hope fill our days as we continue to celebrate and uplift the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education in our schools, homes and parishes.

May 1 Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker – International Workers’ Day is celebrated in many countries to recognize the value of human work, defend the dignity of working people, encourage all to be responsible in their work, and celebrate the role that human work has in God’s plan for creation. Our board observes May 1 as **DPCDSB Staff Appreciation Day**. **We express gratitude to our staff for the important work they do in publicly funded Catholic education, in service to the children and youth entrusted to our care.**

Mental Health Week 2025 - May 5-11 marks Mental Health Week. Throughout this week, DPCDSB schools recognize the importance of mental health and wellness. Schools will be using the resources provided by the DPCDSB Well-Being Department, which align with the Ontario Ministry of Education’s curriculum and can be embedded in everyday lessons. At the local school level, students will be engaging in a variety of activities that encourage reflection, connection, and self-care.

DPCDSB Financial Update - DPCDSB continues to project a deficit of \$38.8 million for the 2024-25 school year, impacted primarily by the employer funded Long-Term Disability (LTD) plan. Additional cost pressures include the unfunded portions of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP and CPP2) and Employment Insurance (EI), the transportation grant, as well as critical system investment needs, such as technology, cybersecurity and curriculum materials. For more information, please refer to the DPCDSB Board of Trustees – April 8, 2025, Administration and Finance Committee Meeting on the board website.

The Ministry of Education is fully aware of the unique position that DPCDSB, with respect to the employer funded LTD Plan and we continue to work with the Ministry of Education through our multi-year financial recovery plan working towards a resolution.

Enrolment – Enrolment figures are updated with the Ministry of Education at specific reporting times including Estimates, Revised Estimates, March reporting and Year-end. Between the reporting dates of Estimates (June) and Revised Estimates (December), total projected enrolment decreased by 83 average daily enrolment (ADE) students (or about 0.1%). Early projections for 2025-2026 indicate stabilization: enrolment decline in the elementary panel mitigated by enrolment growth in the secondary panel.

Ministry of Education Student Achievement Plan – On July 28, 2023, the Ministry of Education released a memorandum communicating key regulatory and policy reforms in support of the *Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023*, including a new regulation that established provincial priorities for student achievement:

- Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills
- Preparation of Students for Future Success

- Student Engagement and Well-Being

As part of the July 2023 memorandum, the Ministry released a Student Achievement Plan (SAP) framework, which is aligned with the above student achievement priorities. The framework sets out goals and performance indicators for school boards to measure student achievement, develop action plans and monitor their progress on levelling up student outcomes. School boards must use the SAP Public Reporting Template to publicly report on progress made in relation to the provincial student achievement priorities. The publication date is generally April 2 each year; however, due to delays related to the 2025 provincial election, the Ministry of Education requires school boards to post their 2024-2025 SAP Public Reporting Template by April 30, 2025. DPCDSB has posted this report publicly on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) page of our website: <https://www.dpcdsb.org/>

EQAO Webinar for Parents/Guardians of Elementary School Students – Register for a free live webinar about EQAO’s Primary and Junior Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics on May 6 at 12pm or May 20 at 12pm. Participants will learn about the purpose of Ontario’s large-scale assessments. EQAO staff will explain the assessment format, highlight resources to support students, and answer questions from participants. The session is approximately 45 minutes, followed by a live Q & A with EQAO staff. [Registration Link](#).

Provincial EQAO Results 2023-2024 – EQAO assessments provide a snapshot of students’ progress in reading, writing and math. [Learn more](#)

Shining Stars Special Olympic Event - Our 14th Annual Mississauga West Shining Stars Special Olympic Event will be hosted on Thursday May 8 at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Secondary School. This beloved event takes place every year for our Mississauga West Diverse Learners. Students will have the opportunity to participate in Special Olympic Events. The event begins with an Opening Ceremony and Liturgy, followed by lunch and concludes with a parade and singing. Thank you to our staff, elementary student volunteers, and St. Aloysius Gonzaga leadership students for supporting this special event!

Parent Engagement Workshops - Associated Youth Services Peel and DPCDSB invite parents/guardians of youth age 12+ to virtual group sessions during the month of May. The purpose of the sessions is to promote positive behaviour in youth and prevent problematic behaviour such as substance use and internet overuse. Three parent workshop topics include:

[Parenting in the Digital Age Balancing Screens and Social Media – Tuesday, May 13, 2025 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Building Resilience and Managing Stress in Youth – Thursday, May 22, 2025 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.](#)

[Fostering Positive Parenting and Communication – Wednesday, May 28, 2025 - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.](#)

Click each title above for more details about the topic and the link for registration. Each session requires a separate registration. Parents/Caregivers can attend one or more sessions.

Volunteer of the Year Award – Volunteers play a very important role in our schools and in our communities, helping to build vibrant, caring, inclusive, faith filled school communities. This award has been developed to acknowledge the dedicated individuals who make a significant contribution to supporting Catholic education. It recognizes an individual who exemplifies volunteerism in DPCDSB. The award process is also a means to thank volunteers for their continuous years of commitment and dedication. The candidate chosen as the Volunteer of the Year and all the nominees for the

award will be recognized and celebrated at the June 19th, 2025 meeting of the DPCDSB Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC) and at the DPCDSB Catholic School Council Chairs Meeting in the fall. Nominations can be initiated by anyone within your school community but should be supported by administrators. Nominees can be parents, administrators, non-teaching board/school staff members (i.e., custodian, secretary, maintenance staff, support services, etc.), teachers, students, or community members. Please reach out to our local DPCDSB school for more information.

Father Angus MacDougall Award – Julie Webster, DPCDSB Coordinator of Religious Education & Faith Formation was recently recognized by our Board of Trustees as co-recipient of the Father Angus MacDougall Award for excellence in Family Life Education by the Catholic Association of Religious and Family Life Educators of Ontario (CARFLEO). Julie, along with Amy Kiefer of the Bruce Grey CDSB were the main authors for the entire primary division of *Blessed & Beloved*, the new Family Life program for elementary schools. The following is an excerpt from the letter nominating Julie for this award: *"Their dedication to the program is unwavering. It has been a sacrificial work to complete three grades in under 15 months of writing. The quality of the work is outstanding. Their collaboration has created a widely recognized program of excellence that will support Catholic Education in Ontario for a generation to come! Their work is now being recognized by western provinces who are seeking to use the program in their schools and so their legacy will have a trans-Canadian impact. They have produced clear, Catholic, fun, compelling lessons and supports to student learning".*

Dress Code Reminders – A dress code refers to the standard of student dress which is respectful of the dignity of the human person and inclusive. DPCDSB students are expected to come to school dressed for learning. *Parents are to ensure students are dressed in a manner which ensures that their torso and upper legs, to the mid-thigh, are not exposed.* Students are not permitted to wear clothing that promotes hate, discrimination, illegal activity, profanity, violence political language, threats to health & safety or content that contravenes the Ontario Human Rights Code.

May 16 PA Day – In compliance with [R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 304: SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR, PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAYS \(ontario.ca\)](#), school boards are required to make details regarding any upcoming PA Days available to parents/guardians. A Community Information Bulletin was shared with parents/guardians including a description of the upcoming Professional Activity Day on May 16 for DPCDSB Elementary and Secondary schools. Elementary PA Day Activities include: Literacy, Curriculum Implementation - Artificial Intelligence, Mathematics, Curriculum Planning. Secondary PA Day Activities include: Curriculum Implementation - Artificial Intelligence, Guidance/Careers, Mathematics and Application to Other Subject Areas, Curriculum Implementation. For more information please visit DPCDSB website and refer to [School Information and Updates](#)

DPCDSB School Board Excursions – DPCDSB has not cancelled student excursions to the USA, but the board is advising families to ensure travel documents are in order prior to departure and to understand that travelers are subject to border screening procedures.

Holy Sacraments – Congratulations to our DPCDSB Grade 2 students who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Congratulations also to our Grade 7 students who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. May God bless our students and their families as they grow together in faith.

Focus On Youth Summer Camp Grades 4-8 – Focus on Youth is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Education to support non-for-profit groups in delivering summer programs that keep young people safe and active. DPCDSB provides a unique summer experience for youth where students participate in daily literacy, numeracy activities, as well as prayer and Catholic faith formation activities. This arts-based program will explore the elements of hip hop, break dancing, graffiti

art, beat boxing and spoken word/emceeing. Each themed week will highlight a professional artist representing their respective art form. While learning about the culture of hip hop, participants will also learn how to become leaders and role models by sharing their unique voices and vision with the broader community.

Focus On Youth Summer Camp Dates: **July 8 to July 29** Times: **8:30 am to 3:00 pm**

Registration is strongly encouraged by **June 20**. Please note that space is very limited. [To register](#).

Wishing a Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, guardians, and mentors, as you glorify God in your vocation. May God continue to uphold you in the special role you serve and may you be richly blessed with the love of children.

Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us.



As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your child(ren).

Take care and God bless you always.

Luz del Rosario

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Chair of the Board of Trustees

Trustee, Mississauga Wards 6 & 11