

### Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year

This is a busy time of year in our schools, our homes and our lives. Almost four months of the 2019-20 school year are behind us and it has been a positive and productive time for us as a Board of Trustees. Our new Multi-Year Strategic Plan is in place and will guide us in all we do for the next four years. Our Board and Committee chairs and vice chairs have been chosen and we have started our work in year two of our four-year mandate. Our schools enjoy strong relationships with our families, local parishes and the community at large, and continue to be safe, caring, healthy and inclusive places to learn and to work. Our graduation rates are among the highest in the province and we, your voice on the Board of Trustees, continue to work hard to make sure that each student has every opportunity to achieve success.

And now, as we are about to start our Christmas Break, we share the words of Pope Francis, who said in his December 1 apostolic letter, "As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realize that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him."

We thank you for supporting Catholic education, and pray for a restful, peaceful and Blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year for all students, parents/guardians, families and staff.

May God Bless you always.



#### Board of Trustees



Back Row L-R, Darryl D'Souza, Mario Pascucci, Anna da Silva, Frank Di Cosola, Stefano Pascucci, Shawn Xaviour  
Front Row L-R, Brea Corbet, Luz del Rosario, Sharon Hobin (Chair), Thomas Thomas (Vice Chair), Bruno Iannicca

#### Board of Trustees

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[www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org)

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### Multi-Year Strategic Plan

September 2019 represented the start of [DPCDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan \(MYSP\) 2019-2023](#). The following five strategic values were approved for the MYSP framework: (1) Believe; (2) Excel; (3) Respect; (4) Thrive; and (5) Trust. These five values were chosen as they reflect DPCDSB's core commitment to Catholic education. They also align with the Ministry of Education's key priorities included in the recently released vision: *Education that Works for You*. The MYSP also includes a new vision and a renewed mission for the system.

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

**Vision:** *Changing the world through Catholic education.*

The implementation of the new MYSP will influence multiple aspects of the system, including: programs; facilities management; and careful stewardship of all available resources. The 2019-2023 MYSP will also support DPCDSB to identify opportunities for future growth.

### Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence in Catholic Education in Dufferin-Peel

2019 marked a historic milestone for the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB), as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary. For five decades, our board has provided a quality Catholic education to generations of children and has become an integral part of communities in Peel Region and Dufferin County. We have grown from our original 27 schools to become one of the largest and most diverse Catholic school boards in Ontario with 151 schools, serving over 80,000 students and employing over 10,000 staff. This is a testament to decades of commitment to Catholic education by our trustees, pastors, staff, students, and parents/guardians.

Over the course of 2019, DPCDSB celebrated this milestone with activities, events and initiatives, including:

- honouring each pioneer school with a commemorative plaque
- 50th Anniversary Student Art/Essay/Video Competition
- [50th Anniversary Video](#) produced by Salt and Light Television
- [50th Anniversary Song - "We Believe"](#) written and composed by Nancy Boss, teacher
- Staff Retreat Day
- Parent Evening
- Celebration Dinner



Thanks to all who have contributed to 50 Years of Excellence in Catholic education in Dufferin-Peel.

### Chair and Vice Chair

At the Board's annual organizational meeting, held on December 3, trustees acclaimed Mississauga Wards 2 & 8 trustee, Sharon Hobin, as Chair, and Mississauga Ward 5 trustee, Thomas Thomas, as Vice Chair. Both are one-year terms of office.

### Director's Annual Report

The Board of Trustees received the Director's Annual Report at its December 10 meeting. This report outlines how the DPCDSB met the goals and objectives of its Multi-Year Strategic Plan over the past year (2018-19). It also outlines the work the DPCDSB has undertaken with respect to equity and inclusion over the past year. Both are requirements and priorities of the Ministry of Education. The Director's Annual Report is available on the DPCDSB website at [dpcdsb.org](http://dpcdsb.org).

### Follow DPCDSB on Twitter

The DPCDSB twitter account is a great way to receive important and timely information related to issues that impact schools, such as Hold and Secures, Lockdowns, bus cancellations due to weather conditions and other notices. It is also a great way to see examples of the many wonderful things that take place in our schools each and every day. Follow us at [@DPCDSBSchools](https://twitter.com/DPCDSBSchools). Many trustees also are active on social media, so check our trustee profiles on the [DPCDSB website](http://DPCDSB website).

### Bus Cancellations and School Closure Notifications

During the winter months, inclement weather and/or poor road conditions may cause the disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations. A decision to cancel bus transportation and/or to close schools is made, by 6:15 a.m. Bus cancellations and school closures are communicated through the following channels:

#### DPCDSB and School Websites - Yellow Alert Banner

[dpcdsb.org](http://dpcdsb.org)

#### Transportation Services Websites

[stopr.ca](http://stopr.ca)

[stwdsts.ca](http://stwdsts.ca)

#### Recorded Phone Message

905-890-1221 and 905-890-0708

#### Various Media Outlets

#### Twitter

[@DPCDSBSchools](https://twitter.com/DPCDSBSchools)

[@STOPRinfo](https://twitter.com/STOPRinfo)

[@STWDSTS](https://twitter.com/STWDSTS)

### Support Catholic Education

Like many Catholics, you may be surprised to find out that you are not registered as a Separate (Catholic) School Supporter, but rather, as a Public School Supporter. By directing your tax support to the Separate School System:

- You may vote for Separate School Trustees in Municipal elections;
- Your children may attend Catholic elementary schools, subject to eligibility requirements;
- You show your support for publicly funded Catholic education.

To verify that you are an English Separate (Catholic) School Supporter, check the assessment section of your Tax Bill or Property Assessment Notice. If you require assistance to check your support status or to register as a Separate (Catholic) School Supporter or change your Direction of School Support, contact our Admissions Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24512 or [admissions@dpcdsb.org](mailto:admissions@dpcdsb.org).

### Influenza (Flu) Prevention

It's flu season and we want to make sure that students and staff stay as healthy as possible. Our Regional Health authorities have some great tips to help reduce the risk of catching and spreading the flu, including:

- Get the flu vaccine.
- Practice good hygiene.
- Wash your hands frequently.

For more information on the flu, visit:

- Peel Health at [www.peelregion.ca/flu](http://www.peelregion.ca/flu)
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health at [www.wdgppublichealth.ca/clinics-classes/flu-clinics](http://www.wdgppublichealth.ca/clinics-classes/flu-clinics)
- Government of Ontario at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/flu-facts#section-5>

Information is also posted on the [DPCDSB website](http://dpcdsb.org). Let's all work together to prevent the flu and keep our schools and other facilities healthy places to learn and work.

### Online Community Bulletin Board

In alignment with the DPCDSB's efforts to reduce our environmental footprint, schools do not distribute advertising and promotional materials from external organizations directly to parents "through the backpack". Rather, these items are posted on the DPCDSB's online Community Bulletin Board webpage. Resources include local youth programs, such as summer camps, recreation and other non-board programs and services. Visit [dpcdsb.org](http://dpcdsb.org) and check out the [Community Bulletin Board](#) in the Parents section. Content is added on an ongoing basis.

## ROLE OF THE TRUSTEE

Dufferin-Peel's Catholic schools are overseen by a board of 11 elected trustees. Trustees serve as system leaders of publicly funded education in their communities and province. They work collaboratively with their community to shape a vision for DPCDSB that is reflective of the input of parents, students and community members. Trustees advocate for excellence in education and act as role models to engender confidence in publicly funded education. In addition, Catholic school trustees have a clearly defined role as stewards and guardians of Catholic education. Two student trustee representatives, elected by their peers, also sit with the Board of Trustees in a non-voting capacity.

Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre located at 40 Matheson Boulevard West in Mississauga. For meeting agendas and minutes, check the News tab on the DPCDSB website [dpcdsb.org](http://dpcdsb.org). Check out the [Trustees section](#) of our school board website for more information about DPCDSB trustees.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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