

Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year

Like so many other events over the past nine months, this traditionally busy time of year has been complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The start of the 2020-21 school year has been a somewhat tumultuous one, again, with necessary changes to school board operations due to COVID-19. While the pandemic environment will continue for the foreseeable future, we hope that the hybrid learning model that is in place at DPCDSB will help families adjust to the unpredictable nature of this environment and that the flexibility it offers allows a more continuous flow of learning for our students.



As we continue our Advent journey, trustees have determined the chair and vice chair of the Board of Trustees over the next year, as well as the chairs and vice chairs of most of the other committees of the Board. The Board of Trustees has begun year three of its four-year term of office. Our schools continue to 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. 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 8 apostolic letter, in which he proclaimed The Year of St. Joseph, *“How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer? How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all?”*

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.

Your DPCDSB Trustees

Board of Trustees

Sharon Hobin (Chair)
Mississauga Wards 2 & 8

Luz del Rosario (Vice Chair)
Mississauga Wards 6 & 11

Brea Corbet
Mississauga Wards 9 & 10

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Brampton Wards 1,3 & 4

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Bruno Iannicca
Mississauga Ward 7

Mario Pascucci
Mississauga Wards 1 & 3

Stefano Pascucci
Mississauga Ward 4

Thomas Thomas
Mississauga Ward 5

Shawn Xaviour
Brampton Wards 7-10

Alejandro Garcia Polo
Student Trustee

Heather Fernandes
Student Trustee

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Chair and Vice Chair

At the Board's annual organizational meeting, held on December 1, trustees elected Mississauga Wards 2 & 8 trustee, Sharon Hobin, as Chair, and elected Mississauga Wards 6 & 11 trustee, Luz del Rosario, 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 8 meeting. This report outlines how the DPCDSB met the goals and objectives of its Multi-Year Strategic Plan over the past year (2019-20). 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](https://www.dpcdsb.org).

Multi-Year Strategic Plan

The Board of Trustees' [Multi-Year Strategic Plan \(MYSP\) 2019-2023](#) informs constituents of board priorities. The MYSP reflects the board's vision and mission, including its overall purpose, beliefs and strategic directions; it is also based on local practices, traditions and cultures. Strategic planning is required of school boards by the Ministry of Education. Our MYSP is also deeply aligned with our primary focus on Catholic Social Teachings, on the inherent human dignity of all, the need to work to support interdependence and the common good and the requirement of ensuring subsidiarity across the levels of our system, from classroom to board. The MYSP 2019-2023 has five core values that frame the essence of our work as a learning community: Believe, Excel, Respect, Thrive and Trust.

COVID-19 School Screening Tool

Remember to use the [updated screening tool](#) for all students and children attending school or daycare in Peel. If they have one or more symptoms, please stay home or get tested for COVID-19. For more information about school screening, visit the [Region of Peel Public Health website](#). For those attending school or daycare in Dufferin County, please use the [Ontario COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#).

Bus Cancellations and School Closure Notifications

A reminder that if school buses are cancelled in a region of the board, ALL schools located in that region will be closed to staff and students. Secondary students will continue with their regularly scheduled timetable and learn remotely for the day. Elementary students may access learning activities provided by the teacher during regular school hours. The teacher will be available to students online in the Learning Management System from 9:30 am to 11:00 am and 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm for instruction and small/group or individual support and will be available for support during regular school hours.

In addition to schools being closed to students and staff on bus cancellation days, before and after school programs will also be cancelled. All school-based child care centres in that region will remain OPEN unless otherwise indicated by the child care provider.

Bus cancellation notices will be posted by 6:00 a.m. as follows:

- On the [DPCDSB website](#) and all school websites by 6:00 am. Check the yellow ALERT Banner at the top of the website.
- Recorded message on the DPCDSB main phone line at 905-890-0708

Reporting Positive COVID-19 Cases Over Christmas Break

Over the Christmas Break, COVID-19 cases will continue to affect DPCDSB students, staff and families. We have been working very closely with our public health partners and continue to have a responsibility to receive and process positive case information. In this regard, parents/guardians and staff are still required to report positive cases. However, with schools closed, we ask that cases be reported through a centrally monitored email mailbox or phone line. While there are obviously no classes to be dismissed over the break, there will still be cases where students in a class in which there is a case will be required to self-isolate. More information will be sent to parents/guardians and staff on the reporting process. This information will also be posted on the DPCDSB website at dpcdsb.org.

Make a Difference - Get involved in your local Catholic School Council

At DPCDSB, parents/guardians are an integral part of our Catholic school communities. We appreciate the involvement of parents/guardians at the local school and encourage participation in school activities and events. Consider becoming involved in your school's Catholic school council. School councils play a vital role in the education system in Ontario. They provide a forum through which parents and other members of school communities can contribute to improving student achievement and school performance. For more information about your local Catholic school council, please inquire through your school office and visit the [Central Committee for Catholic School Councils webpage](#).

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 Catholic School Trustees in Municipal elections;
- Your children may attend Catholic elementary schools, subject to eligibility requirements;
- You show your support for the Catholic school system.

To verify that you are an English Separate (Catholic) School Supporter, check the assessment section of your Tax Bill or Property Assessment Notice. 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.

Follow Your Trustee and DPCDSB on Social Media

DPCDSB social media 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. Many trustees also are active on social media, so check the Trustee Section profiles on the [DPCDSB website](#). Following is a listing of all DPCDSB social media channels.

CONNECT with us!



[@DPCDSBSchools](#)



[@dpcdsb.schools](#)



[@DPCDSBSchools](#)



[DPCDSBVideos](#)

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. A schedule of meetings is available on the [DPCDSB website](#).

For more information, visit the [Trustees section](#) of the DPCDSB website.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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