

**BREA CORBET**  
**TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10**



*“By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” – John 13:35*

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.

**April 2021**

This month, the virtue of **LOVE** helps us grow in love for God and love for one another. At Easter, we are reminded of Jesus’ love in action. Love guides the practice of our Catholic faith and is embedded throughout our Catholic education. May you leave footprints of love, wherever you go.

**Masking Outdoors** – The Ministry of Education, in conjunction with Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, expanded the mandate regarding student masking upon the reopening of schools in new year for 2021: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60228/enhanced-safety-measures-in-place-as-in-person-learning-resumes-across-ontario> and <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-reopening-schools>.

The updates made to the DPCDSB Student Masking Protocol can be summarized as follows:

1. All students in Grades K – 12 must wear a non-medical grade mask while on school property, including outdoors.
2. All adults (including parents/guardians accompanying students on and off school property) must wear a non-medical grade mask while on school property, including outdoors.

DPCDSB continues to comply with the advice, recommendations and direction from the Ministry of Education and the Medical Officers of Health from both of our local Peel Public Health and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health units. DPCDSB staff have been advised by Peel Public Health that variants of concern spread more quickly between people than the original strain of COVID-19. Out of an abundance of caution, and in consultation with our school administrators, DPCDSB made masking mandatory for all students in all grades while outdoors, to help reduce opportunities for transmission. Students do have an opportunity for masking breaks during snack and lunch times. For more information please visit: <https://www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/schools/>

**2021-2022 Budget – 2021-2022 Budget** – On April 8, Trustees, Principals, Catholic School Council Chairs and Treasurers are invited to participate in DPCDSB’s Budget Engagement Evening prior to the CCCSC members meeting. In addition, a recorded 2021-2022 Budget Presentation will be released to all DPCDSB staff, schools, Catholic School Councils and parents/guardians that will include a *ThoughtExchange*® question/survey for all stakeholders to participate and provide feedback. Schools that may be planning to hold a virtual Catholic School Council meeting during the month of April will be invited to watch the presentation and participate via the *ThoughtExchange*® platform.

In August 2020, the federal government announced the Safe Return to Class Fund, with an initial phase of \$381 million provided to Ontario. On February 1, 2021 the Minister of Education announced the second phase of Federal investments provided under the Safe Return to Class Fund, an additional \$381 million. This funding is focused on priorities to support the learning, technology needs and health and safety of students for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. A detailed breakdown of all provincial and federal funding announced to-date is provided

in the Board of Trustees Meeting of March 23, 2021 available online <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/news/board-meetings>: • Appendix A – Funding announcements between August 2020 and December 2020 • Appendix B – New federal funding announcement February 1 • Appendix C – Summary of all provincial and federal funding by category of expense. An updated report on the associated COVID-19 expenditures incurred to-date will be provided.

**Temporary Desk Screens** – In response to parents who have asked about the use of temporary desk screens in classrooms, DPCDSB staff have engaged our local public health authorities for their medical expertise and guidance. Similar to their initial stance at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, both Peel Public Health and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health are not recommending the use of plexiglass barriers in classrooms, especially the temporary desk screens. According to both public health units, for plexiglass barriers to be used as an effective tool, the size of the barrier would need to be customized to the student. The temporary desk screens available are a standard size and provide very limited protection, even while students are eating and/or drinking.

As highlighted by both public health units, the daily self-screening assessment and adhering to the Core Four actions, including physical distancing, proper hygiene, wearing masks and getting tested (if symptomatic, exposed to a confirmed positive case or when advised by public health) is most effective. DPCDSB continues to invest all federal and provincial funding received into longer term, more sustainable initiatives, i.e., air scrubbers, upgraded filters, HVAC.

**Safe Arrival** – DPCDSB has engaged in a pilot project of the Safe Arrival Notification System. Training sessions have been initiated with one Secondary (St. Joan of Arc Catholic S.S) and three Elementary schools (St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic School, St. Faustina School and St. Sebastian Catholic School) within Mississauga, Ward 10. Staff are surveying the schools and parent community. Based on the evaluation of the survey results, the next group of schools will be identified and a timeline for a rollout board-wide will be developed.

**Early Years Child Care** – The Ministry of Education announced that effective March 8, regulatory amendments that support working families and improve the childcare and early years sector will:

1. Exempt certain authorized recreational providers from their three-hour operating limit, improving access to select before and after school programs for families with school-age children.
2. Enhance health and safety protections in licensed childcare settings.
3. Reduce regulatory/administrative burden on childcare operators by removing redundant and unnecessary requirements for all providers.

[For more information.](#)

**Childcare Renovations** – The childcare renovations project at St Albert of Jerusalem Catholic Elementary School has now been completed. Occupancy was granted by the City of Mississauga on February 1. PLASP Childcare Services has been notified and is preparing to move into the space. The childcare centre at St Edith Stein Catholic Elementary School will be undergoing renovation work that will commence on April 12, 2021 with plans to be completed by August, 2021. Any work continuing after August 2021 will be carried out after regular school hours. We do not anticipate any significant impact on regular school operations.

**Enrolment Report** – The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on school enrolments throughout the province. DPCDSB enrolment projections contribute to the development of the Long-Term Facilities Master Plan (LTFMP) and are updated on an annual basis. An enrolment decline of 2,413 students over the last year can be attributed to many factors, including admission and demission of students, families moving out of the jurisdiction of DPCDSB and the COVID-19 pandemic.

All grade levels have experienced a decline in enrolment from the previous school year. The greatest change has occurred in Junior Kindergarten (JK) with a decrease of -13.4% (563 less JK students from the previous year). As kindergarten is not a mandatory program for students to attend, many parents may have either chosen an alternate mode of learning for their children that guaranteed smaller class cohorts (private school or learning pod/private

tutor) or opted out of kindergarten entirely. At the secondary panel, DPCDSB continues to experience high levels of retention of Grade 8 students and enrolment growth from new students being admitted to Grade 9 from outside DPCDSB.

At the Board of Trustees Administration and Finance Committee Meeting in February, an overview was provided with student enrolment trends in DPCDSB over the 20-year period from 2010 to 2030. This data is used to inform the development of DPCDSB's LTFMP and the development of any future capital priorities list requested by the Ministry of Education. Overall, DPCDSB is expected to experience a net enrolment decline of approximately -7.47% over the next ten years. During that time, the elementary panel is projected to decline by approximately -6.80% and the secondary panel by -8.47%. However, there are still areas within the board that are experiencing some enrolment growth. [For more information.](#)

The LTFMP reflects enrolment changes through the recommendation of new pupil places either through new schools or additions to schools, realignment of school boundaries, program changes and pupil accommodation reviews once new Pupil Accommodation Review (PAR) Guidelines are released by the Ministry of Education.

**Ninth Line Development** – The Draft Plan of Subdivision proposes 3,500 residential units in the new developments in the Ninth Line area. The DPCDSB Planning and Operations Department anticipates this would yield approximately 149 elementary students and 124 secondary students for the Ward 10 area Catholic schools. St. Simon Stock Catholic Elementary School will absorb most of this development, however, enrolment at St. Albert of Jerusalem, St Faustina, St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic elementary schools and Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary Schools will also be impacted. As per DPCDSB's enrolment projections and the capacity of our existing schools, staff expect there will be more than enough capacity in our schools to accommodate new students from this development.

**Settlement Services** – DPCDSB offers Settlement Services in all schools across the board. Currently, there are 15 settlement workers from five agencies, connected to our elementary and secondary schools. The Settlement Services team reflects the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of DPCDSB newcomer families. The program supports newcomer families to integrate into their local school and community.

The Newcomer Assessment and Reception Centre (NRAC) assesses between 1000 - 1500 newcomer students every year. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the number of newcomers entering our country and DPCDSB, settlement services have continued. The work continues to address technology needs for newcomer students such as obtaining devices, internet connection and set-up, accessing the digital learning platforms and uploading their work. The settlement workers are currently supporting the mental and emotional wellbeing of newcomer students by offering various virtual extra-curricular/after-school activities, including opportunities for virtual socialization, collaboration when working on homework and participation in special events.

**OSSLT Update** – The Ministry of Education and the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) have provided school boards with a field test, or pilot, for the 2020-2021 school year. This field test is not mandatory and individual school boards have been given the autonomy to make the decision as to whether to administer the test this year. In consultation with our Secondary Principals, DPCDSB will not be participating in this year's field test. Schools may continue to decide to participate in the Grade 9 EQAO Assessment of Mathematics as this assessment does not impact graduation requirements. Please reach out to your school principal should you have any questions.

**April 26 – Mississauga North Family of Schools CCCSC Parent Engagement Event** – “They are not too little for Big Conversations: Talking to Our Children about Race and Racism” with Mante Molepo, founding member and Director of Parents for Diversity. **Please click this link to join webinar:**

<https://zoom.us/j/93793801374?pwd=QjNPRm5rK1YvUHFganJpdEdna0hzQT09> **Password:** 9WkRQG

**April 29 - Money Mentors Financial Literacy Online Workshop for Parents** – DPCDSB Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) invites parents/guardian of students with diverse learning needs to attend the following virtual Parents' Reaching Out Event. Please use this link to register: <https://forms.gle/Ya1m9vuzw8o2mqPa9>

**Graduation 2021 Update** – In consultation with, and under the advisement of, Peel Public Health, and in alignment with the province's *COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open*, the following information was provided to parents/guardians in the DPCDSB Community Information Bulletin of March 11, 2021:

- There will be no in-person graduations for Grade 8 and Grade 12 students this year. Virtual ceremonies will be "live" and not a pre-recorded video, as was the case last June.
- Due to gathering restrictions, unfortunately all proms are cancelled for this year.
- Photographers are not permitted to enter schools to take student pictures, including graduation photographs. Staff are working with our vendors to determine alternatives for graduating students to have their photos taken. More information is forthcoming.
- We are seeking input from the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC), Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Catholic School Councils and student representatives on how we can honour our graduating students locally at each school, while maintaining the health and safety for all.

The importance of graduation for our students and their families cannot be understated, nor can the Catholic faith focus of this very special day. DPCDSB will ensure a consistent approach to these events across all of our schools. A checklist of approved activities, which adhere to health and safety protocols, but still offer the opportunity for students to retrieve diplomas, awards, yearbooks, etc., will be provided to schools.

**Free the Flow** – DPCDSB has successfully initiated an innovative pilot to provide free menstrual hygiene products to students, as a matter of health and wellbeing to help end period poverty. Pre-COVID pandemic, the pilot was conducted in four of our secondary schools. We are currently in the phase of retrofitting the dispensers in all female washrooms. Staff have been working on a communication strategy to promote this initiative in our schools. We expect to fully implement the program in September 2021.

**Student Trustees** – Leadership in Catholic education is a sacred calling. On Thursday, February 25, the election of Student Trustees for the 2021-2022 school year took place via a Zoom meeting hosted by DPCDSB. Congratulations to Dea Sokoli (St Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic Secondary School) and Leroy Onuoha (Cardinal Leger Catholic Secondary School). We look forward to working with them and supporting their efforts to elevate student voice. We are grateful for the contributions that our current Student Trustees, Alejandro Garcia Polo and Heather Fernandes, have made to Catholic education and we wish them much success in their future endeavours.

As always, I am available to respond to your questions and concerns. I also invite you to follow my social media platforms. If you are a DPCDSB parent/guardian, please ensure that you have provided your child's school with your email address, in order to receive Community Information Bulletins and other important communications directly from the DPCDSB.

Wishing our students, families and our staff the blessings of Easter. This time in the life of the Church and in our lives, gives us all cause for prayer and reflection to share in our faith, in the true community of Catholic believers. Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your child(ren). May God bless you and your loved ones.

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***Yours in learning, growing and leading with Christ,***

**Trustee Brea Corbet**

DPCDSB Trustee - Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10

Chair – Bylaw & Policies Review Committee

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