

BREA CORBET
TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10



“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.” – Micah 6:8

February 2020

This month, we are called to embrace the virtue of **RESPECT**. As we draw closer to Christ, may we see Him in the goodness of others and live out respect, one of the greatest expressions of love.

- **Grants for Student Needs (GSN)** – On January 13, the Ministry of Education announced the consultation format for GSN in 2020-2021. The Ministry is seeking feedback from school boards and education stakeholders. The Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA) will be submitting key priorities for the Ministry’s consideration. More information to follow.
- **Establishment of Bullying Prevention Committee** - DPCDSB is pleased to announce the formation of the *Bullying Prevention Committee (BPC)*. This staff committee will focus on the review, analysis and monitoring of the DPCDSB’s bullying prevention policies, procedures and practices with a purpose of identifying and enacting changes where appropriate.
 - The committee will be composed of senior staff and principals and will consult with parents/guardians through the DPCDSB’s Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC), Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC), as well as with students, through Student Senate, and trustees.
 - The BPC will focus first on reviewing current policies, procedures and practices in place to support students affected by bullying, with a view to determining if administrators have the tools they require to adequately support those affected by bullying. Part of the committee’s work will include a survey of elementary and secondary students regarding the effectiveness of current supports available to those affected by bullying.
 - The committee’s work commenced in January 2020 with the goal of presenting a report to the DPCDSB’s By-law/Policies Review Committee during the first half of the 2020-21 school year.
 - The DPCDSB has engaged renowned anti-bullying expert, Dr. Debra Pepler, to provide advice and guidance to inform the BPC’s work. Dr. Pepler is a recipient of the Order of Canada and a Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology at York University. She is best known for her ongoing research on aggression, bullying, and victimization among children and adolescents. Her programs of research on peer and family relationships have been embedded in clinical and community programs. She is one of the co-founders of PREVNet, a federally funded national network to promote healthy relationships and prevent bullying for children and youth. She is also a member of the Independent Respect and Culture Review Committee that authored the *Final Report of the St. Michaels College School (SMCS)* published in August 2019.
 - The DPCDSB will host a Parent Engagement Night for parents/guardians at a date to be determined in the spring, where Dr. Pepler will be the keynote speaker. More information on this event to follow.

- **Bus Cameras** – In December 2019, the Region of Peel approved a motion to initiate a working group to investigate the implementation of stop arm cameras on school buses throughout the region. This group includes representation from DPCDSB, Peel District School Board, City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR) and Peel Regional Police. A report from the working group will be sent to Regional Council in April. Currently, stop arm camera technology is utilized on some school buses in the Niagara and Ottawa regions. DPCDSB will be following the development of this initiative and provide updates as more information is available.
- **Blood Donation** – Every minute of every day, someone in Canada needs blood. On January 24, Lilet Raffinan with Canadian Blood Services, presented at the Board of Trustees - Faith and Program Committee Meeting. It was inspiring to hear the success stories of our DPCDSB school blood drives. Secondary students have the opportunity to gain knowledge linked to the science and health curriculums; leadership skills that can be highlighted on their resume and life experience that makes a significant difference for our communities. Together, we are raising awareness and saving lives for many Canadians. The need for blood donation continues this time of year. For more information, please visit www.blood.ca
- **2020 Black Futures Symposium: Igniting Hope in our Past, Present and Future** - Each year, DPCDSB organizes a Black History Conference as a forum for students. This year, Fr. Tony Ricard and his students from St. Augustine Secondary School in New Orleans will be presenting. Learning from, and about, others in Christ allows us to understand our history and improve our future. Panel discussion will share insights on the realities of anti-Black racism, Black identity in education and media representation. The symposium commemorates values of racial, social and economic justice and harmony encompassed by the mission of Christ and envisioned by our Holy Father Pope Francis. DPCDSB has also arranged for Fr. Ricard to present to parents/guardians and community members on Wednesday, February 26 from 4:30-6:30pm at the Catholic Education Centre – 40 Matheson Blvd West, Mississauga. All are welcome.
- **Distinguished Alumni** – DPCDSB is accepting nominations for its 2020 *Distinguished Alumni*, former students who are making valuable and unique contributions in their respective careers, pathways and communities. Our Distinguished Alumni represent the image of the Catholic learner, as described by the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. Criteria and Nomination Form are available online at www.ow.ly/S9NF50xVvfD . Nominations will be reviewed by a committee comprised of trustees, staff and students. Nominations are due by February 14, 2020.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I also invite you to follow me on 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.

Yours in learning, growing and leading with Christ,

Brea Corbet

Trustee - Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10

Chair – Administration and Finance Committee

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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