

BREA CORBET

TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10



"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." - Psalm 19:14

November 2019

This month's virtue of Conscience is a reminder to welcome Christ into our minds and thinking, in our mouths and words we are speaking and into our hearts through our loving.

- **50th Anniversary** – This year marks Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's (DPCDSB) 50th year in Catholic education. We are formally commemorating this historic milestone on Tuesday, November 19th with a Celebration Dinner at the Versailles Convention Centre, 6721 Edwards Boulevard, Mississauga. His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto will be joining us as keynote speaker. For more information, please visit the school board website link: <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/news/events/DPCDSB-50th-anniversary>

DPCDSB 50th Anniversary Song – We are very proud that one of Mississauga North's teachers, Ms. N. Bodsworth-Boss, created the music and lyrics to the 50th Anniversary theme song, "We Believe". We look forward to hearing the song showcased at our 50th Anniversary event and also throughout DPCDSB telephone system. You can access the music video online at <https://youtu.be/8Totrh0TeyS>

- **School Generated Funds (SGF)** – SGF funds are generated in schools from a number of different sources. They are used in a number of different ways to enhance the development of educational programs and to support school initiatives. The Board of Trustees requested a review of School Generated Funds and received a report on *General Administrative Procedures (GAP): Review of School Generated Funds and Fees for Learning Materials and Activities*. Over the last year, a review of SGF account balances highlighted that some schools were holding surplus funds in SGF accounts. It is important to have the funds redirected back into the school to support students. School Administrators are tasked with developing a communication plan to ensure staff, students and Catholic School Council (CSC) members are consulted in the use of funds and to create expenditure plans.

- **Edwin Pilot Project** – In 2018, the DPCDSB engaged in an innovative partnership with Nelson Publishing to pilot a new digital opportunity and learning tool called Edwin. This digital platform provides inquiry-based learning that aligns with the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and fosters growth and development in global competencies. As a result of the positive responses, DPCDSB has expanded the Edwin Project for the 2019-2020 school year to include all Grade 6/7, Grade 7, Grade 7/8 and Grade 8 students throughout 125 elementary schools in DPCDSB. Over 430 classroom teachers and 11,000 students are provided with their own individual Chromebook featuring Edwin. <https://www3.dpcdsb.org/Documents/Tuesday%20October%202019%20fandp.pdf>

- **Policies for Review** – Among the upcoming policies initiated and prioritized for review is *9.01 - Catholic Code of Conduct*, which will also include DPCDSB bullying prevention awareness and practices. DPCDSB has been involved with the Project Now initiative. I have inquired about DPCDSB's plan on suicide prevention in light of the provincial announcement of \$40 million towards mental health services and support. Meetings are scheduled to review the provincial funding, impact and the implementation for DPCDSB. For a list of the 16 policies recommended for review https://www3.dpcdsb.org/Documents/Agenda%20Package%20-%20Regular%20Board%20Meeting_Oct22_2019%20WEBSITE.pdf

- **2019-2020 PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grants** – Recently, the Ministry of Education announced the PRO grants for 2019-2020. The provincial total of \$1.25 million is approximately half the amount provided in previous years. All school boards will receive a predetermined amount of PRO Grant funding. In addition to the reduction, the program changed from an application-based funding model to an allocation-based grant. We recognize that PRO grants are very important for school communities. DPCDSB staff will be meeting with our parent groups (SEAC - Special Education Advisory Committee and CCCSC - Central Committee for Catholic School Councils) in November and will seek input with regard to the spending and allocation of funds.

Proposed projects will be required to demonstrate a commitment to respecting the roles of parents in students' educational experiences on how schools can:

- Provide a safe and welcoming school environment;
 - Maintain open communication with teachers;
 - Respect parents as valued partners within the education system
 - Inform parents about the content of the Ontario Curriculum Guidelines.
- **School Messenger** – Improving communication across the DPCDSB is one of my priorities. At October 22nd Board Meeting, I requested a review of the process, so that all families can have online access to school teacher placement for September school start-up. Trustees were informed that School Messenger software has been purchased and will be implemented over the upcoming year, prior to September 2020.
 - **Sharelife** – Our ShareLife Schools Campaign raised \$246,000 for ShareLife last year, making us the top fundraising school board in the Archdiocese of Toronto. We are so proud to have a 100% participation rate from DPCDSB schools. Together, our community of families and staff are changing lives for many in need. Thank you to everyone!
 - **November 16, 2019** – St. Edith Stein Catholic Elementary School welcomes everyone to their Annual Christmas Bazaar. Last year, our family enjoyed the music, treats and a visit with Santa. The classrooms and halls are transformed into the magic of Christmas. Vendors for Christmas shopping, crafts, baked goods and unique gifts. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00p.m.

I invite you to follow me on my social media platforms. You are always welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you.

Yours in learning, growing and leading with Christ,

Trustee Brea Corbet

Trustee - Mississauga, Wards 9 and 10

Vice Chair - Faith and Program Committee

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

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