

BREA CORBET
TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10



"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them". – Matthew 18:20

October 2019

This month's virtue of EMPATHY reminds us of the dignity in ourselves, and the ability to recognize it in others. As a Catholic community, we believe that the cross is the ultimate sign of compassion and forgiveness.

Catholic Education Week: Each year, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA) sponsors the provincial-wide initiative, Catholic Education Week. With 29 Catholic school boards in Ontario and 500 publicly funded Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Toronto, this initiative is an integral part of the faith life of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB). OCSTA develops resources for our schools and communities to use throughout the entire school year. This year's Catholic Education Week theme is inspired by three sources:

1. The recent Papal Exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, by Pope Francis following the 2018 Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment;
2. The recent Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario's pastoral letter, *Renewing the Promise* (2018);
3. The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations by the Institute of Catholic Education (2011)

Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP): The anchor theme of Catholic Education Week ties into both the DPCDSB's *Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC)*, in the focus on Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching, and the five-priority Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) framework that Trustees approved under the first core principle "Believe". The following five areas were approved: (1) Believe (2) Excel (3) Respect (4) Thrive (5) Trust. These represent the five core values of the DPCDSB, reflecting our core commitment to Catholic education. These values align with the Ministry of Education's key priorities included in its recently released vision: *Education that Works for You* (focusing on Modern Classrooms, Modern Learning and Health and Physical Education). The 2019-2023 MYSP also supports DPCDSB in identifying opportunities for future growth. The implementation of the new MYSP will influence our education system, including programs, facility management and careful stewardship of available resources (e.g. Long-Term Facilities Master Plan).

Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle (CBILC): The 2018-2019 CBILC is based on the Strategic System Plan 2014-2019 with its seven core principles. In general, the following observations were made:

- Progress in EQAO literacy assessments has remained stable at high levels of achievement.
- A high degree of personalized instruction and support for critical thinking in literacy among educators.
- Among students in Grades 4 through 12, a majority report high competence in literacy problem solving and writing strategies.
- Math survey data indicates high integration of practices that support student math communication and use of manipulatives and technology. There is still room for improvement regarding strategies to help students construct knowledge, create rich tasks and meet individual student needs.
- Social, academic and intellectual engagement, as well as social, physical and cyber interaction among students in Grades 4 through 12 are areas that can benefit from some focus.
- Student application of scripture, sacrament and Catholic social teaching in daily life are other areas of focused efforts to improve.
- Local parish priests were pleased with the opportunity to provide input about DPCDSB schools. Most priests surveyed felt DPCDSB schools are welcoming, easy to communicate with and responsive to pastors' concerns.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

The 2019-2020 CBILC represents the first CBILC aligned with the five values of the new 2019-2023 MYSP. This includes: (1) identification of operational goals for each of the five values of the MYSP; (2) action steps to achieve the goals; and (3) identification of data and evidence for monitoring the goals.

Goals include student, staff, and/or community outcomes. The data used to monitor the CBILC are collected through a number of system-level surveys and other feedback strategies to ensure decisions are evidence-informed. Every effort is made to spread the surveys and other feedback mechanisms throughout the year to reduce stress on the schools. At the local level, school administrators develop the Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle (CSILC). Each CSILC incorporates CBILC goals, with school administrators providing school-specific responses and action plans to support attainment of these goals.

September 2019 represented the end of the Trustees' *Strategic System Plan 2014-2019*, and the beginning of the *Multi-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2023*. Details of MYSP development to date and next steps for implementation are available in the report: <https://www.dpcdsb.org/Documents/September%2010%202019%20F%20and%20P.pdf>.

OAPCE Consultation: The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) has launched an online consultation for parents. The Ontario government has made several changes over the past year in publicly funded education. OAPCE now seeks a consult with parents as to their concerns regarding these issues. Please also share with your parent members at upcoming Catholic School Council meetings and invite them to complete the survey. All consultations will be posted on the OAPCE website and sent to the Ministry of Education. Link to provide your input is conta.cc/2nx4nb9.

Flu Prevention: October 28 - November 1, 2019 marks Flu Prevention Week. This year, DPCDSB is improving efforts to communicate what we can do to protect the health of our children and ensure healthy school environments. To prevent getting and/or spreading the flu, please remember:

- Flu shot vaccination is the best first defense;
- Keep children home when they are sick or showing flu-like symptoms (e.g., fever, vomiting or diarrhea);
- Wash hands frequently. Cover your cough. The flu can spread up to six feet away.

For more information, please visit: www.peelregion.ca/flu or call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700, www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/flu-influenza.html and www.forjudeforeveryone.

Eden Food for Change: primarily serves families in western Mississauga. In 2018, they served an average of 467 households every month and distributed a total of almost 500,000 lbs. of food, 50% of which was fresh food. The need continues in our community. Many of our schools have upcoming food drive events. If you have an opportunity to donate food this month, please visit edenffc.org for most needed items, or call 905-785-3651. Drop off food to either 3185 Unity Drive, Unit 2, or 3051 Battleford Rd; both locations are in Mississauga. Thank you for your support.

Wishing you all a wonderful and blessed time of gathering, worship and thanksgiving. I invite you to follow me on my social media platforms and encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

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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