

BREA CORBET
TRUSTEE - MISSISSAUGA, WARDS 9 AND 10



"Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments."
Psalm 119:66

September 2019

The virtue of **FAITH**, this month, invites us to learn, grow and involve God in our busy lives and deepen our personal relationship with Him.

Welcome back – I am so pleased that you have chosen a Catholic school for your child's education. My three children attend Catholic school in the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB). I know the importance of Catholic education. We extend a warm welcome to students and families, faculty and staff, Catholic School Councils and parent volunteers, lunch monitors, custodians, bus drivers, crossing guards etc. It is my hope that you will feel welcomed at your school, grow in learning and also grow in our shared Catholic faith. Know that you may ask questions of your teachers, administrators, staff and myself, at any time. We look forward to an exciting new school year ahead! This year's Catholic Education Week theme is "Igniting Hope".

School Year Calendar – For the updated 2019-2020 Calendar, including PA days, please visit the link below:
<https://tinyurl.com/y6l2leu7>

Your Trustee – As your elected Catholic Trustee for Mississauga Wards 9 and 10, I am one of eleven Trustees for DPCDSB. My role is to promote and protect our Catholic education, advocate for student achievement and wellbeing, approve the corporate capital and operating budgets as well as develop and manage our multi - year strategic plan. I also represent you at the Board of Trustees' table, so knowing my communities is crucial to my involvement in the decision making process. My favourite time is spent visiting our schools, engaging our students, listening to parents and working with staff. Together, we will continue to advance Catholic education and improve the learning experience within our school communities.

Budget – This year, our total annual budget is \$1.0 Billion. School boards are totally funded by the Ministry of Education through Grants for Student Needs (GSN), which are based on a per pupil amount. More will be explained about this in a future newsletter. This year, due to provincial funding reductions, the DPCDSB was required to reduce expenditures by approximately \$16 million. Consequently, very difficult financial decisions had to be made to balance the 2019-2020 budget, as required by legislation. Students are our primary concern and our ultimate goal is to protect the classroom.

50th Anniversary - This year marks a historic milestone for the DPCDSB. For five decades, DPCDSB has provided Catholic education to generations of children and has become an integral part of communities in Peel Region and Dufferin County. We have grown from 23 founding schools to become one of the largest and most diverse Catholic school boards in Ontario, serving approximately 81,000 students in 151 Catholic schools (125 elementary and 26 secondary) and employing over 11,000 staff throughout Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon and Orangeville. We work in partnership with 46 churches and missions and are blessed to have so many priests enrich our Catholic education. The growth of DPCDSB is an authentic testament to the decades of support from students, their parents/guardians, staff and church clergy who are committed to Catholic education.

DPCDSB will formally mark our 50th Anniversary on Tuesday November 19, 2019 with a Gala Dinner (more information later). Special events and initiatives throughout the year will also celebrate this important milestone.

Extraordinary lives start with a great Catholic education.

Graduates – DPCDSB takes great pride in having one of the highest graduation rates in Ontario (93%) and our students have exceeded provincial expectations in EQAO test scores in most areas. In a recent media release, Director of Education Marianne Mazzorato noted, “This year, we celebrated our 7,441 graduates who have fulfilled the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and are ready to take on a new journey outside the familiar walls of their schools. We are extremely proud of each and every one of them and wish them success and God’s richest blessing as they move on to the next chapter in their lives.”

Catholic School Councils – As I visit our Catholic School Council meetings, I share important information for parents about the issues, pressures and changes. I love hearing from you about the great things happening in our schools today. I encourage you to attend your council meetings and in fact, put your name forward to be a voting member of your council. I will continue to update you on current information important to you, by way of my newsletters. Schools are also advised to provide updated meeting minutes and agenda items on their school websites to ensure all school communities stay informed.

It is the policy of DPCDSB that each school under its supervision have a Catholic School Council, advisory in nature, and governed by the Education Act. The primary means of achieving its’ purpose is by making recommendations, in accordance with Regulation 612/00, to the Principal of the school and to the school board.

PURPOSE - The purpose of Catholic School Councils through the active participation of parents is to:

1. Promote the mission, vision and values of the board;
2. Support the sacramental life and Catholic practices of the board;
3. Promote and support co-operation and communication with the local parish and OAPCE;
4. Be faithful to its’ mission;
5. Improve student well-being and achievement and;
6. Enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

Bus Transportation – We bus 18,000 students every day. Busing is provided and managed through a consortium with Peel District School Board (PDSB) and Dufferin-Peel (DPDSB) known as Student Transportation of Peel Region (STOPR). 2019-2020 busing information is available online at www.stopr.ca. Click on parent/student login. Enter your child’s nine digit Ontario Education Number (OEN) to look up the details. OENs are found on any report card.

Many parents ask us about busing and why we do not provide busing for certain programs. Simply put, we do not have the provincial funding to support expanding transportation services. We would like to offer busing for more students, especially to our programs like French Immersion and Regional Schools. However, we want to continue to offer these amazing programs and so we do, within the limited financial provisions. We continue to do our best to support courtesy bus rider requests. Decisions are coordinated in October, once eligible riders are determined.

“Walking School Bus” – Consider active ways to travel to/from school. Active families create healthier school communities. It’s also one of the ways we can support our many Eco School initiatives for a healthier planet. Plan your safe route, pick up friends and foster friendships and fitness along the way. For more information, please visit: <http://ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/>

Are you TICKED? – Many Catholics are surprised to find out that they may be registered as a Public School Supporter. To verify your English Catholic School Support, please check your assessment section of your Tax Bill or Property Assessment Notice. **NOTE:** If you have moved over the summer, it is important to note that your English Catholic School Supporter designation DOES NOT follow you when you relocate. Every time you move or there is a change in ownership, it is essential that you register again as an English Catholic School Supporter. Your record of school support is used to determine the number of trustees that can represent ratepayers within a particular jurisdiction and serves as an indicator of the level of support for Catholic education in the province. To register, check or change your Direction of School Support Designation, please contact the Admissions Department by phone: 905-890-0708 ext 24512 or email: admissions@dpccsb.org.

Meetings of the Board of Trustees and Committees of the Board take place on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) at the Catholic Education Centre - 40 Matheson Blvd West, Mississauga. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend these public meetings to stay updated and informed. Meeting schedules, agendas and minutes are also available online. Visit <https://www.dpcdsb.org/news/board-meetings>.

I am so proud to be your Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Trustee. Despite the many challenges placed before us, our schools provide quality educational opportunities in a Catholic environment for all of our students.

Please feel free to contact me, if you have any questions or concerns. You are welcome to follow me on my social media platforms listed below. 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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