

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.

January 2025

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB)'s virtue of the month in January is **Self-Control and Decision Making**. Developing loving habits helps us to respond lovingly to others, in our choices and actions. The New Year brings new opportunities to reflect, learn and to live more like Christ, as *pilgrims of hope*.

World Day of Peace January 1, 2025: The World Day of Peace was established by Pope Paul VI in 1968. He asked that *"every year, this commemoration be repeated as a hope and promise at the beginning of the calendar which measures and outlines the path of human life in time, that Peace with its just and beneficent equilibrium may dominate the development of events to come."* Each year has a specific theme, chosen by the Holy Father.

Celebrating the Jubilee Year: Every 25 years, the Church calls its members to a year of Jubilee, a year to strengthen our faith in God, our love for each other and our hope in God's saving promises. Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year with a focus on the theme, *"Pilgrims of Hope."* Jubilee Years have been a rich part of Catholic life since the year 1300, when the first Jubilee was proclaimed by Pope Boniface VIII. The forthcoming Jubilee Year calls for forgiveness, hope, joy and justice. To be pilgrims is to see our journey in this life as a way of nurturing our faith and relationship with Jesus Christ. A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey of movement towards a goal, often experienced together with others. That certainty describes the heart of Catholic education.

Pilgrims of Hope also serves as the theme for Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association's (OCSTA) Catholic Education Week 2025. DPCDSB will host a Jubilee Youth Day to celebrate our call to be *Pilgrims of Hope*. This event will bring together our staff and students from across the system to celebrate this significant celebration in our Christian faith. As one Catholic faith community, we are called to build a closer relationship with Christ. We are also called to *"be pilgrims"* with one another, building relationships of love, peace and our solidarity towards each other. During this year, we are encouraged to deepen our commitment to prayer and to accompany others in their own prayer life, as well as reflecting on how and why we pray. This year will have a special focus on the Lord's Prayer, Our Father, as we celebrate the start of the Year of Prayer designated by Pope Francis. Our school communities across DPCDSB will be encouraged to dedicate themselves to the presence of the Lord in preparation for this special spiritual year with an emphasis on the different forms of prayer, especially the Lord's Prayer.



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“ May He
grant you your
heart's desire and
fulfill all your
plans.
– Proverbs 16:19 ”

AGENDAS AND MINUTES

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB)

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As we unite through our Catholic faith, Pope Francis reminds us that hope can never be abandoned, especially through difficult times. Hope is cultivated through our prayers of unity and our actions of solidarity, as we join in communion with the Church and one another. In scripture, hope is found through the actions of those who follow Jesus' example in their life journey. God's pilgrims bring communities hope, peace and strengthened faith because of their trust in Jesus' teachings. As we prepare to celebrate as "*Pilgrims of Hope*" across the DPCDSB, may the Holy Spirit inspire us to live out this special year in ways that are creative and rooted in faith, making concrete contributions to the transformation and healing of our world.

DPCDSB Director's Annual Report: Directors of Education are required by the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) to produce an annual report to their respective communities. The 2023-2024 Director's Report outlines how our school board has met the goals of our Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). It also provides an account of how DPCDSB has met the Ministry's goals on equity and inclusivity, over the past year. DPCDSB is committed to a Catholic learning environment that is informed by the principles of acceptance, support, and inclusion of all learners. Rooted in the Catholic understanding of the inherent human dignity of all persons, equity and inclusion are reflected in our system approach and supporting policies. The report was presented at the December 10, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees and is available online in the [meeting agenda](#).

2024-2025 Revised Estimates, Operating Budget: Revised Estimates provides an opportunity to update the work completed during the original Budget submission, including updated enrolments, staffing adjustments and changes following the audited yearend. The proposed revised compliance deficit position for DPCDSB is \$38.8 million. Declining enrolment and the DPCDSB's Long-Term Disability (LTD) plan continue to be budget challenges. DPCDSB continues to experience enrolment decline, however at a much slower rate. Additional cost pressures to DPCDSB continue to include the unfunded portions of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP and CPP2) and Employment Insurance (EI), the transportation grant, as well as system investment needs, such as technology, cybersecurity and curriculum materials.

The moratorium on school closures directed by the Ministry of Education remains a major concern to DPCDSB. Underutilized elementary pupil spaces in DPCDSB now exceeds 16,000 which is the equivalent of approximately 30 elementary schools. The requirement to keep all schools open results in costs to service all sites, maintain buildings and spreads support services staff time across more areas and reduces efficiencies.

2024-2025 Revised Estimates, Capital Budget: the Revised Capital estimates is an opportunity to incorporate changes in approved capital funding initiatives and projects for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, as well as updates following the audited year-end. There are no changes to the capital funding programs originally announced for the 2024-2025 school year.

School Renewal funding allows school boards to improve aged building systems and components, undertake capital improvements and address maintenance requirements. School Renewal funds should be prioritized to address facility condition, ventilation, health and safety, general building code requirements and accessibility. The Board of Trustees approved a revised capital budget position amounting to \$82.0 million which represents a compliant capital budget position.

Kindergarten Registration: DPCDSB offers the Full Day Kindergarten program in 125 Catholic elementary schools in Mississauga, Brampton, Caledon, Bolton, and Orangeville. Parents/guardians can [register online](#). Registration is open to children who are baptized Roman Catholic or have a parent that is baptized Roman Catholic. Kindergarten students must be at least four (4) years of age by December 31, 2025. All elementary schools are currently accepting new online registrations for 2025-2026 unless specified below:

- St. Sofia Catholic Elementary School – Similar to 2024-2025, enrolment at St. Sofia is paused for the 2025-2026 school year except for new Junior Kindergarten (JK) students. A cap of 60 students has been set for new JK students registering for September 2025.
- For information about Kindergarten Registration for the St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre, visit the [St. James C.E.S. website](#).
- To find out which Catholic school is in your area, use the [Peel Region](#) and [Dufferin County](#) *Find My School* tools or contact the DPCDSB Planning Department at 905-890-0708 ext. 24440
- If you are applying for admissions under 'Flexible Boundaries', please contact the school office directly.
- [Elementary Student Transfer Request Form](#) (for current DPCDSB students)
- [Entry Planning Form for Students with Differing Abilities Form](#)

For more information about admissions and requirements, parents/guardians should contact their [school directly](#) or the Admissions Department at 905-890-1221 or admissions@dpcdsb.org.

Registration for St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre (C.G.L.C) International Baccalaureate (IB) Programs: Registration for the 2025-26 school year (Kindergarten to Grade 8) IB Programs at St James C.G.L.C. will take place from Monday, January 13 to Thursday, January 16.

St. James C.G.L.C. is an authorized IB World School which offers the Primary Years Program (PYP) and Middle Years Program (MYP) and provides learning opportunities with a global focus for students from Kindergarten to Grade 8. As a regional site, St. James C.G.L.C. does not offer online registration through the board's online system.

The registration process is outlined on the [registration section of the school website](#). The completed registration form(s) and supporting documentation can be sent by email to St.JamesInfo@dpcdsb.org. Should the number of applications exceeds the number of allotted spaces, completed applications received by the due date will be subject to the random selection process. To be included in the random selection process, registrations must be received by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 16. For more information, please visit the [school website](#) or contact the school office at 905-891-7619 or St.JamesInfo@dpcdsb.org.

Entry Planning Evening for Students with Differing Abilities: DPCDSB invites parents/guardians of students with differing abilities to an in-person information session on January 16, 2025 to support the entry planning and transition process for students who will be new to the DPCDSB beginning September 2025. During the in-person session, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to meet with board staff and to learn more about the entry planning and transition process. The same information presented at the in-person event will be shared at the virtual evening session on January 20, 2025 for those families who choose to attend online. Please refer to the [event flyer](#) on the board's website for registration and

more information. Inquiries regarding registration for the parent information session may be directed to Fara Miranda Fernandes, Resource Secretary, Special Education & Learning Services at 905-890-0708 Ext. 24011 or Fara.MirandaFernandes@dpcdsb.org.

- **In-Person Session:** Thursday, January 16, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., St. Marcellinus Catholic Secondary School, 730 Courtneypark Dr. W. Mississauga
 - **Virtual Session:** Monday, January 20, 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Virtual Presentation via Microsoft TEAMS
- Registration:** [Register online](#) by Thursday, January 16.

Gifted Identification Information Session: On January 29, families who are interested in learning more about the Gifted Identification Process in DPCDSB can attend a virtual presentation via Microsoft TEAMS. Time: 7:00-8:00 pm. For more information, please refer to the [event flyer](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

Month of January – Tamil Heritage Month (National)

January 1 – The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation), World Day of Peace

January 3 – Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

January 5 – Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, First Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 7 – Feast of the Nativity

January 12 – The Baptism of the Lord, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 13-16 – Registration for St. James Catholic Global Learning Centre International Baccalaureate Programs

January 16 and 20 – DPCDSB Entry Planning Information Sessions for students with Differing Abilities (In-Person and Virtual)

January 18-25 – Prayer for Christian Unity

January 19 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday of the Word of God

January 20 – Term 1 Elementary Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress

January 24 – International Day of Education

January 25 – Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

January 26 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 27 – International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

January 26 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 29 – Gifted Identification Information Session

January 30 – PA Day – Secondary School: Principal's Day, Semester Turnaround

Happy New Year and welcome back to our DPCDSB students, families and staff in our Catholic school communities.

Thank you for choosing a Catholic education for your family.

Yours in learning, growing, and leading with Christ,



Trustee Shawn Xaviour

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Chair – Faith and Program Committee

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