



2022-2023 Director's Annual Report Highlights

Listening With the Ear of the Heart

dcdsb.ca/DirectorsAnnualReport



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Director's Message

I am pleased to present the 2022-2023 Director's Annual Report which highlights the initiatives and accomplishments achieved in the concluding year of the Durham Catholic District School Board's multi-year plan, *Discovery 2023: Renewing the Vision*.

The past school year was filled with learning, excitement and the joy of community. Students, staff and families were thrilled to be able to re-engage with one another in celebrations of faith, robust learning inside and outside of the classroom, co-curricular activities, field trips, proms, graduations and retirements.



Our spiritual theme, Listening with the Ear of the Heart, encouraged us to focus on what it means to authentically listen to one another and to God. Through deep listening, we can expand our knowledge and understanding of the lived experiences of others which supports a culture of respect for all.

In preparation for the future, a comprehensive consultation and engagement process to develop our new multi-year plan, *Inspire 2026*, was completed. As part of this process, we listened and worked with students, staff, family, clergy, parish and community partners to obtain input and feedback on priorities for our system. We also developed new mission and vision statements and identified the shared values that would guide us forward in the coming years.

I want to extend my sincere gratitude to students, staff, families, Board of Trustees, parish and clergy partners, and community members for their ongoing partnership and efforts to support Catholic education in Durham Region.

The Director's Annual Report is an opportunity to highlight some of the initiatives, projects and activities from the 2022-2023 school year that further support student achievement, faith formation and student well-being. I invite you to learn more about our achievements and our stories in this report.

Thank you for another exciting faith-filled year of learning, community and growth.

Yours in Faith,

Tracy Barill
Director of Education

Visit our website for the full
Director's Annual Report:



Who We Are

The Durham Catholic District School Board (DCDSB) shares a sense of community among families, educators and parishes and is committed to integrating the teachings of the Gospel with quality educational programs that guide students in their journeys to meeting the Catholic Graduate Expectations.



45

Schools



3

Alternative & Continuing
Education Centres



21,838

Total Students
as of September 30, 2022



2,418

Total Permanent Employees

Our 2022-2023 Spiritual Theme: Listening With the Ear of the Heart

The spiritual theme for 2022-2023 was inspired by Pope Francis and his call to engage the Catholic Church throughout the world in a Synod on Synodality, to “journey together as the people of God”. This theme was an invitation to all members of the DCDSB community to focus on the importance of deep listening and compassion as we emerged from the worst days of the pandemic. In his letter for the 56th World Day of Social Communications, Pope Francis reminded us that “it is only by paying attention to whom we listen, to what we listen, and to how we listen that we can grow in the art of communicating, the heart of which is not a theory or a technique, but the ‘openness of heart that makes closeness possible’.” The DCDSB community embraced these words and strove to live them out in practice on a daily basis.

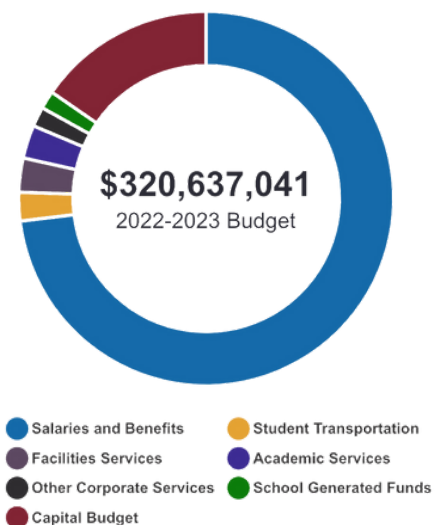


Watch our YouTube video:



Our Financials

In June 2022, the DCDSB approved a balanced operating budget of \$320.6 million for the 2022-2023 school year. The annual budget is developed by senior staff, under the direction of the Board’s Chief Financial Officer and the Board Finance Committee, chaired by Trustee Monique Forster. The process includes stakeholder consultation and requires adherence to Ministry of Education priorities and the commitments of the DCDSB’s established multi-year plan. The Board continues to demonstrate fiscal responsibility while ensuring financial support for the mission, vision and strategic priorities of the DCDSB community.



Strategic Plan & Priorities

Discovery 2023: Renewing the Vision Strategic Plan

The Durham Catholic District School Board's strategic plan, *Discovery 2023: Renewing the Vision*, guided the board's planning and commitments from 2019-2023. Under this strategic plan, all actions were led by the principles of Excellence, Equity and Engagement.

The *Discovery 2023: Renewing the Vision* multi-year plan built upon the alignment and coherence documented through the board's previous strategic plan. It also established a strong foundation centred on *Renewing the Promise: A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education* and the Ministry of Education's priorities.



Learn more about Discovery 2023:



	Witnessing Faith Witnessing faith embodies a Catholic worldview informed by the Catholic Social Teachings in the lifelong pursuit of the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations.
	Celebrating Inclusion and Well-Being Well-being is built upon a sense of belonging and the development of the whole person, social, emotional, academic, spiritual and physical.
	Teaching and Learning Innovative and engaging experiences are built upon the foundation of Literacy, Numeracy and Faith across the curriculum.
	Expanding Pathways A pathways planning mindset ensures that all students from Kindergarten to adulthood develop the knowledge and skills they require to make informed education and career/life choices.
	Managing Resources Managing resources is essential for system alignment, financial stewardship, risk management, and effective use of board assets.

Strategic Priorities

The *Discovery 2023: Renewing the Vision* strategic plan focused on five identified strategic priorities:

- Witnessing Faith
- Celebrating Inclusion & Well-Being
- Teaching and Learning
- Expanding Pathways
- Managing Resources

Our Achievements

Strategic Priority 1: Witnessing Faith

The 2022-2023 Board Spiritual Theme, Listening With the Ear of the Heart, enabled our Catholic school communities to consider the ways we encounter and welcome others as we listen for understanding. Ongoing reflection across the system called us to respond as discerning believers, formed in the Catholic faith, to recognize and celebrate diversity, and to seek to hear the voices of those who have been historically underrepresented. Our schools engaged in equity walks and sought to diversify the religious icons, symbols, and visible expressions of Catholic identity to better reflect the diversity of their communities.

Access to meaningful and engaging faith formation for all members of our DCDSB community is recognized as essential to personal well-being. Elementary staff who serve as Adult Faith Ambassadors were re-engaged to support the liturgical and spiritual aspects of their school. The DCDSB continued to offer annual retreat experiences for students and staff while also engaging in local and provincial discussions related to new and emerging ways to support Adult Faith Formation.

The 2022-2023 school year provided opportunity to reflect upon the home-school-parish partnership after years of delays and lockdowns due to the pandemic. A pastoral planning resource was developed to guide and strengthen these partnerships, as well as to “name and notice” the Catholic identity of our schools and system.

Our Stories



Secondary Students Build Nativity for St. Bernadette's Parish



Father Donald MacLellan Students Volunteer at Food Bank



All Saints Wins Third Place in OCSTA Short Video Contest



Parish and Clergy Brunch at DCDSB



Mother Mary Gardens at St. Wilfrid



Celebrating Our Spiritual Theme

Our Achievements

Strategic Priority 2: Celebrating Inclusion and Well-Being

In 2022-2023, we partnered with the Abilities Centre to facilitate the Leading Equitable and Accessible Delivery (LEAD) Process. During this process, we completed a comprehensive self-assessment and engaged a broad range of staff, students, families, and community members to develop an improvement plan to work towards transformational organizational change in support of our ongoing efforts to be accessible for all.

The DCDSB's 2023-2026 Mental Health Strategy, *Together for Mental Health: Everyone, Everyday*, was launched and focuses on mental health within the context of our Catholic faith.

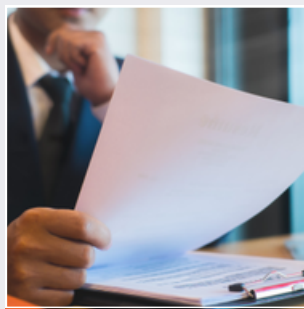
The board engaged in system-level learning on important human rights concepts and principles with a view to building staff capacity to address systemic discrimination. Professional development focused on developing competencies to identify and effectively confront different forms of discrimination. Training topics included historical or intergenerational trauma, understanding race, racism, different forms of discrimination, microaggression, guidelines on the use of racial slurs in schools, and ways to engage in race-based conversations. The goal of the training was to increase system understanding of human rights concepts and principles with a view to promoting inclusive, safe, welcoming learning and working environments.

As part of the board's Equity Action Plan, the inaugural Virtual Engagement Series for students in Grade 7-9 was established in the 2022-2023 school year. To support anti-racism efforts, a resource document titled *What does racism have to do with me?* provided key information to support the mental health and well-being of Black and racialized students.

Our Stories



DCDSB Celebrates Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Week



Special Education Review and LEAD Process



UBUNTU Virtual Engagement Series



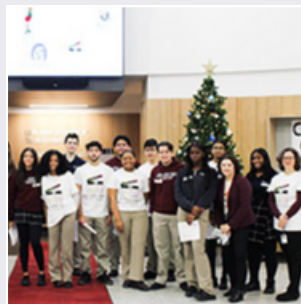
Power of Words Presentation



Focusing on Black Students Without Borders at Archbishop Denis O'Connor



PRISM Group at Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School



BIPOC Filmmakers at All Saints Catholic Secondary School



Students Promote Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Through Mural

Strategic Priority 3: Teaching and Learning

In 2022-2023, we focused on enhancing Science and Math programming throughout the board. We offered professional development for all educators on the new Grade 9 De-Streamed Math curriculum, and the new Grade 1-8 Math curriculum, including coding and financial literacy. Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Leads in each of our schools were provided with training which included modelling and demonstration for teaching coding.

Indigenous Education programs and initiatives expanded across the system. Collaborations with the Indigenous Education Circle and Indigenous community partners continued, and every school in the board had opportunities throughout the year to connect with community partners. The Student Indigenous Education Circle grew to include an Elementary and a Secondary circle beginning in September 2023, which allows more Indigenous students in the board to connect, learn and grow together.

Building upon the success of our Grade 11 English course, *Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices*, the Grade 12 course, *Contemporary Indigenous Issues and Perspectives in a Global Context*, was introduced at all DCDSB secondary schools.

Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, we offered additional tutoring and supports for students, along with expanded programming in STEM, coding, and mathematics. The Ministry of Education provided tutor support funding in the spring of 2022, which allowed DCDSB to provide individualized and personalized literacy and numeracy supports/learning for Kindergarten - Grade 12 students.

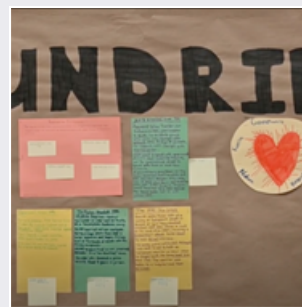
Our Stories



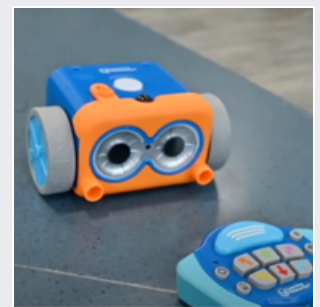
DCDSB 2022-2023 EQAO and OSSLT Results



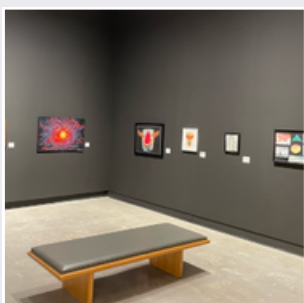
DCDSB Students Reflect on Truth & Reconciliation



New NDW Course: Secondary Student Perspectives



Elementary Students Code Fire Escape Plans



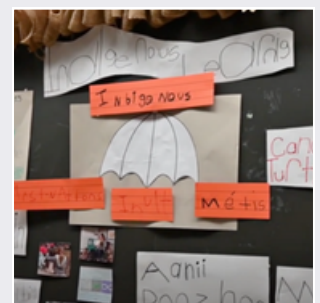
Student Art Exhibit at Robert McLaughlin Gallery



Licensed to Learn Peer Tutoring Certifications



Secondary Students Create Prosthetics



Kindergarten Students: Indigenous Education Learning

Our Achievements

Strategic Priority 4: Expanding Pathways

Exploring the apprenticeship pathway with Grade 7 and Grade 8 students continued to be an area of focus in the 2022-2023 school year, as students examined skilled trades programming available in secondary school through participation in Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs (OYAP) and technology courses.

To increase awareness and promote the skilled trades and apprenticeship pathway to under-represented groups, female students and their families were invited to participate in the Build a Dream Career Expo. Female students also had the opportunity to participate in Durham College's Skilled Trades Day for Girls and Centennial College's Durham Trades Day, which had a focus on females in the trades.

The Ministry's expansion of the mature Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (mPLAR) program supported 48 students across our seven secondary schools with an enhanced pathway to secondary school graduation. The Child Care Assistant Training program, Custodial Services Training Program, and Personal Support Worker Program all expanded during the 2022-2023 school year. With the flexibility to take high school credit classes from home or school, combined with mature PLAR, the Adult Education centre supported 211 adult students in earning their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

Enrolment at our student engagement programs, Centre for Success and Reconnect continued to grow throughout the school year and both programs reached maximum enrolment. Construction was completed over the summer at our new Oshawa Reconnect site and will welcome in new students for the fall of 2023.

Our Stories



Canadian Welding Bureau
Welding Training



Custodial Services
Training Program



Summer Welding
Camps



DCDSB's Centre
for Success



Free Personal Support
Worker Program



Black Youth in
STEM Camp



Girls Exploring the
Skilled Trades



Congratulations to Our
Project SEARCH Interns

Strategic Priority 5: Managing Resources

Corporate departments at the DCDSB work to maximize effectiveness and efficiencies, while providing the infrastructure and services required to support students, staff and families. Highlights and accomplishments from the 2022-2023 school year include:

- Implementing initiatives to identify and dismantle barriers in the employment process; intentionally expanding the use of job advertising platforms to encourage participation by candidates from historically marginalized groups; and the incorporation of bias-free hiring guidelines.
- Supporting the launch of Inspire 2026, the DCDSB's new multi-year plan.
- Engaging in boundary reviews for Brooklin Regular (English) Track, Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School/Archbishop Denis O'Connor Catholic High School, and the Oshawa Program and Boundary Study.
- Intentionally developing and implementing a capital renewal plan that reduces overall energy consumption and reduces the carbon footprint of the board to align with the Sustainable Management Plan.
- Implementing a new framework to equitably allocate financial and administrative resources to schools.
- Enhancing our cyber security efforts by implementing industry best practices to safeguard our data and network.
- Continuing our Multi-year Technology Equalization Plan to ensure that all schools maintain a 2:1 technology ratio, which means two students for every one mobile device.

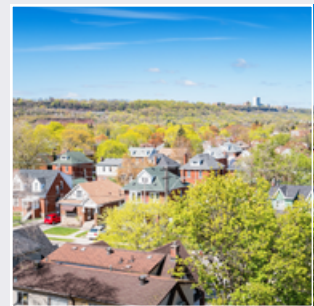
Our Stories



2022-2023 Budget and Strategic Priorities Report



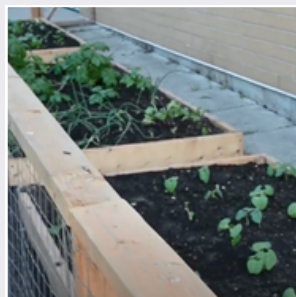
Board Approves 2023-2026 Multi-Year Plan



Oshawa Program and Boundary Study



DCDSB Receives City of Pickering Environmental Schools Grant



Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School Community Garden



DOC Launches 1:1 Chromebook Pilot Program

Celebrating Excellence

EQAO and OSSLT Results

The 2022-2023 Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results demonstrate improvements and are statistically on par or above the provincial average in all areas.

Board and provincial results are highlighted in the table to the right. The numbers represent the percentage of fully participating students who achieved at or above the provincial standard for each area of testing.

*Note: First time eligible students are captured in the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) data.

EQAO Assessment	DCDSB	Province
Grade 3 Reading	72.2%	72.6%
Grade 3 Writing	65%	65.5%
Grade 3 Math	59%	59.7%
Grade 6 Reading	86.8%	83.7%
Grade 6 Writing	86.7%	83.6%
Grade 6 Math	48.8%	49.5%
Grade 9 Math	55.4%	53.7%
OSSLT (Grade 10)*	87.1%	84.7%

Awards and Distinctions

Board Award of Merit

- Pat Costello, Academic Services Consultant

Distinguished Catholic Alumni Award

- Aaron Vandermeer
- Marla Brennan
- Matthew Vocino
- Deborah de Ville
- Melanie Ruttie
- Raina Kadmar
- Andrea Spinner

Distinguished Catholic Leader Award

- Mark Daranjo, Secondary Vice-Principal

Reverend John Markle Award for Outstanding School/Home Communications

- **Elementary:** St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School
- **Secondary:** St. Mary Catholic Secondary School

Trustee Youth Award

- **Elementary:** Daniel P., from St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School
- **Secondary:** Claire C., from Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School



Board of Trustees



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Chair of the Board and Trustee,
Town of Ajax



Morgan Ste. Marie
Vice-Chair of the Board and Trustee,
City of Oshawa



Kim Beatty
Trustee,
City of Oshawa



Richard Damianopoulos
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Ronald Rodriguez
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of Information and Privacy



Paula Sorhaitz
Superintendent of Education



Daniel Stargratt
Assistant Superintendent
of Indigenous Education



Katharine Stevenson
Superintendent of Education



Mike O'Neill
Superintendent of Education



Jim Wilson
Superintendent of Education



Gerard Winn
Superintendent of Education

Student Senators



Visit dcdsb.ca/DirectorsAnnualReport for more details on our achievements and our stories.



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