



TRUSTEES' REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY OCTOBER 2023

We are proud and excited to share the many updates and activities that have taken place this month throughout the district. We strive to ensure that our students have rich, inclusive learning opportunities that support their learning and fulfill the goals of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan.

**Together on the Journey
Encounter, Accompany, Transform, Go Forth**

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Presentations

Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO) - Outstanding Catholic Student Award - Secondary Student Recipients

The 2023 student recipients of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario (CEFO) Award, Ellie L. from St. Michael CSS and Benetta V. from St. Anne's CSS, were recognized at the October Board Meeting. Ellie L. and Benetta V. were honoured at their respective secondary school graduation in June and were honoured once again at the CEFO dinner hosted in Toronto on October 28. I will be attending this dinner on behalf of the senior team and the Board. Each recipient will be attending, along with their parents.

The Catholic Student Award is sponsored by The Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario and is one of the highest honours a student can earn at a Catholic high school. The recipients of this award are students who demonstrate good scholarship, involvement in school or community activities, are inclusive of others, and demonstrate conduct which typifies the objectives of the Catholic school.

Awe and Wonder Science Curriculum Resource

Superintendent of Education, Karen Tigani presented the Teacher Resource for Science and Faith, Awe and Wonder, to the Board of Trustees. This resource will be used as a model to reinforce how our faith is integrated into all curriculum areas and ensures that the lens of our faith is always at the forefront in our planning, teaching, learning and assessment. The system team is actively supporting teachers in Huron-Perth Catholic as they plan lessons through a Catholic lens and nurture faith in science class.

AWE & WONDER

Faith and Science Teaching Resource
Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Integrate faith and science harmoniously within the teacher resource
- Equip HPCDSB educators with versatile materials to enrich their teaching
- Explore scientific topics from a Catholic perspective
- Aligns with the revised Ontario Science expectations

Let us Begin:

Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect. All of us as living creatures depend on one another. We are responsible for the care of this family.
Pope Francis

Sample from Grade 2: Animal Diversity

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Blends science and our Catholic faith seamlessly
- Embedded into each of the lessons are prayers, hymns and faith based reflections
- Connections to Indigenous ways of knowing are integrated

EDUCATOR SUPPORT:

- Comprehensive teacher guides offer a variety of activities to deliver faith-infused lessons
- Professional development opportunities to empower educators with effective teaching strategies
- Digital supplementary resource is being co-developed by system support and HPCDSB educators

Student Achievement

Math Action Plan

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board emphasizes the critical importance of high-quality mathematics teaching and learning in its strategic plan. Our Board's strategic plan commits to three goals in the area of achievement in mathematics, as follows:

ensuring the implementation and monitoring of a resource for K-8 teachers that is consistent with essential practices in mathematics and emphasizes content areas that are likely to improve results; developing a system of training that will ensure teachers are equipped to implement essential practices for assessment and evaluation in math; and implementing and monitoring a leadership development program for principals and vice-principals to assist them in supporting achievement of the Board's goals for student achievement.

Our Board's strategic plan aligns with the Ministry of Education's "taking action in mathematics" initiative which requires boards to develop a Math Achievement Action Plan. The Ministry of Education's plan is intended to support student achievement and results in math across all schools and districts. In HPCDSB, we can be proud that our strategic plan paves the way for the Math Achievement Action Plan and is entirely in line with the goals and objectives we continue to pursue.

The Ministry of Education designated some schools "priority schools" based on 2022 EQAO achievement results in Grades 3 and 6. Our Board has one priority school: Holy Name of Mary in St. Marys. The Ministry of Education's Math Leadership Team is providing our Board with regular check-ins, support and resources and is networking math leads from across the province in a variety of weekly learning sessions.

Our Math Team consists of the Superintendent of Education (Karen Tigani), Math Learning Coordinators in elementary (Christine Dale) and secondary (Paul D'Hondt) and our Math Facilitators (Hailey Cook and Brittany Wilson). This team has drafted a Math Achievement Action Plan in collaboration with various math educators and school leaders in our Board, informed by the guidance, resources and coaching provided by members of the provincial math team. Over time, the plan will continue to evolve based on feedback from members of our Math Advisory Team, principals and classroom teachers.

It is a targeted yet flexible plan for all schools in the district that we will continue to develop and refine throughout the year. It is considered a living document and one that is informed by student achievement data and ongoing reflection on identified key performance indicators. The Ministry of Education provides school boards with 3 priority actions; in light of these, we have selected a strategy for each priority action area, with identified actions that we will take at the board, school and classroom levels to achieve our goal of improved student achievement.

In addition to the plan for the entire district, we are providing more intensive support for improvement at our priority school through dedicated Math Facilitator support (minimum 20%) and ongoing professional learning and collaboration for the school principal and teachers facilitated by members of the Math Team. Lessons learned and effective strategies utilized at this school will be shared and implemented across the district in all schools, to enhance district-wide practices as well as success rates for all learners.

The Math Achievement Action Plan includes the following areas of focus:

- Curriculum Fidelity
- Math Content Knowledge for Teaching
- Knowing Your Student
- Measurable Results: Improvements in Math Achievement

We have identified the following 3 priority actions as well as board, school and classroom strategies that will be used to address the 3 priorities.

PRIORITY 1: Ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation and use of instructional and assessment practices with a proven track record of enhancing student achievement.

- Board: Provide guidelines, resources and supports for mathematics curriculum-aligned long-range plans, unit plans, and lesson plans.
- School: Directly connect long-range plans, course outlines, lesson plans, and reporting to current curriculum expectations (e.g., educators consult the Curriculum and Resources website regularly to ensure alignment).
- Classroom: Draw explicit connections to and between mathematical processes and in lesson planning and use proven instructional and assessment practices (e.g., High-Impact Instructional Practices).

PRIORITY 2: Engaging in ongoing learning to strengthen mathematics content knowledge for teaching.

- Board: Prioritize mathematics content knowledge for teaching in professional learning opportunities and in allocation of resources, including staffing.
- School: Collaborate with Board Math Lead to identify school/ division/ grade mathematics content knowledge focus areas, including planning and monitoring associated professional learning.
- Classroom: Access resources (e.g., teacher supports on the Curriculum and Resources website), experts (e.g., curriculum consultant, school math facilitator), and professional learning to continuously develop content knowledge for teaching.

PRIORITY 3: Knowing the mathematics learner, and ensuring mathematical tasks, interventions and supports are relevant and responsive.

- Board: Build capacity in data analysis resources to understand mathematics achievement from a variety of sources, including alignment between EQAO, report cards, and locally-developed assessment tools/ tasks.
- School: Integrate common open and parallel learning tasks across grades/ divisions that foster student ownership of mathematics, while ensuring all students have accessible entry points into learning.
- Classroom: Adapt lesson planning in response to data collected from multiple, frequent assessment opportunities (e.g., interviews, conversations, student agendas, exit tickets, portfolios, surveys).

EQAO Results

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board celebrates the achievement and success of our students on the EQAO Provincial Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. The annual assessments were conducted in the spring of 2023 in the Primary and Junior divisions as well as in Grade 9 Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

The students in the Primary Division of Huron-Perth Catholic exceeded the provincial average in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics.

- 81% of the students in the Primary Division achieved Level 3 or 4 in Reading compared to the provincial average of 73%.
- 74% of the students in the Primary Division achieved Level 3 or 4 in Writing compared to the provincial average of 65%.
- 66% of the students in the Primary Division achieved Level 3 or 4 in Mathematics compared to the provincial average of 60%.

The students in the Junior Division of Huron-Perth Catholic exceeded the provincial averages in Reading and Writing and are approaching the provincial average in Mathematics.

- 81% of the students in the Junior Division achieved Level 3 or 4 in Reading compared to the provincial average of 84%.
- 85% of the students in the Junior Division achieved Level 3 or 4 in Writing compared to the provincial average of 84%.
- 49% of the students in the Junior Division achieved Level 3 or 4 in Mathematics compared to the provincial average of 50%.

Grade 9 students participated in the provincial mathematics assessment. Our students' performance on the assessment indicates a trend in achievement consistent with students across the province in Grade 9 Mathematics.

- 55% of the students in Grade 9 Mathematics achieved Level 3 or 4 compared to the provincial average of 54%.
- 98% of our eligible students participated in the assessment, compared to a provincial rate of 88%. We ensure a model of support where all students who participate receive the support they need.

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is committed to a rich and inclusive model of support for the achievement and wellness of our students. We ensure that first-time eligible Grade 10 students participate in the OSSLT and receive the support they need. We are very thoughtful about the preparation required and differentiate support to meet the needs of our learners. The achievement of Grade 10 students who participated in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test aligned with the provincial average.

- 87% of students in Grade 10 were successful on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, consistent with the provincial average of 85%.
- 97% of our eligible students wrote the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, compared to 93% provincially.

We are pleased to recognize the achievement of all our students in all EQAO testing categories. We are committed to providing high quality instruction and learning opportunities in our Catholic schools, with an emphasis on literacy and mathematics, for all students. We continue building on our successes and implementing targeted resources and supports to improve the achievement of our students. We continue to provide high quality resources, ongoing professional learning, and continuous support for our educators through members of our curriculum and program teams, to ensure that all students have access to the best learning environments and diverse opportunities to demonstrate learning.

<i>EQAO Provincial Assessment</i>	<i>HPCDSB</i>	<i>Province of Ontario</i>
<i>Primary Reading</i>	81%	73%
<i>Primary Writing</i>	74%	65%
<i>Primary Mathematics</i>	66%	60%

Junior Reading	81%	84%
Junior Writing	85%	84%
Junior Mathematics	49%	50%
Grade 9 Mathematics	55%	54%
OSSLT	87%	85%

Strategic Plan 2024-2027 - Milestones

The Board is currently in the final year of its 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. The Board's Vision, Mission and Core Values serve as the foundation for the development of policy and the Board's strategic plans.

Our Vision

Faith and Learning....Celebrating the Journey

Our Mission

We are a Catholic School Board. We serve our students, working with the home, parish and school community to:

- *Nurture a Christ-centred environment*
- *Provide student-focused learning opportunities*
- *Support the growth of the whole person*

Our Core Values

Growth of the Whole Person

We embrace our covenant with God, the holistic development of all persons and excellence in student achievement.

Relationships

We nurture positive places of learning with stewardship that honours the sacred dignity and inclusive success of all persons.

Huron-Perth Catholic Schools are:

PLACES OF EQUITY, INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY, where effective leadership encourages and promotes a collaborative, multi-dimensional approach to equity and inclusive education. As a Catholic community, we must ensure that students, parents, unions, service organizations and other community partners feel welcome, valued and appreciated.

PLACES OF RESPECT AND JUSTICE where all are encouraged to speak and act with fairness and respect towards people of all faiths and dispositions.

PLACES OF HOPE for every one of our students. Catholic teachings and beliefs call our young people to move towards a hope-filled future. We invite them to be people of hope and to reach out to members of their local community and beyond.

PLACES OF CELEBRATION. We celebrate our rich history, the beauty and sacredness of those within our school community and the love of God. The human heart loves to celebrate. We have much to celebrate in our schools.

PLACES OF QUALITY LEARNING AND TEACHING. Our goal is that each child will grow to be a well-rounded individual who achieves the Catholic Graduate Expectations through their K-12 journey. We honour the wisdom of teachers and create authentic opportunities to be lifelong learners in the Huron-Perth Community.

The Ministry of Education has enacted legislation that sets education priorities of school districts. Priorities to be included in multi-year plans include (by regulations), student achievement and well-being that emphasizes:

- High levels of student achievement as measured by EQAO in mathematics and literacy
- Skills training (e.g. workplace and trades pathways)
- Programs to maintain high graduation rates (attention to attendance and suspension rates)

Notwithstanding the Ministry's foci, priorities to be determined by the Board will include Catholic faith formation and may include others that emerge from community consultation and discernment. The Director of Education will begin supporting the Board in creating its next strategic plan in November of 2023.

Projected Milestones

- Multi-year Spiritual Theme Discernment - November 2023 (Discernment process to be communal and rooted in scripture and Catholic teaching.) - November/December 2023
 - Board Approval Of Multi-Year Spiritual Theme - December/January 2023-2024
 - Environmental Scan And Community Consultation - January/February 2024
- Report Of Themes And Presentation Of Draft Goals For Discussion To Board - March/April 2024
- Board Approval Of Strategic Plan Goals - Presentation Of Draft Expectations, Sample Actions And Sample Indicators Of Success - April/May 2024
 - Draft Strategic Plan Presented To Board - May/June 2024
 - Board Approves 2024-2027 Strategic Plan - August 2024
- System Kick Off Of Multi-Year Spiritual Theme - September 2024

Catholicity

When Faith Meets Pedagogy Youth Forum

We are delighted that 18 youth and chaplains from our two secondary schools will be participating in the Catholic Curriculum Corporation's When Faith Meets Pedagogy Youth Forum on Thursday, October 6. This event takes place in Toronto and will include keynote speakers Fr. Tony Ricard from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, David Patterson, L'Arche Canada and Development and Peace. These youth will be involved in additional faith leadership opportunities throughout this school year to engage them in sharing what they are learning and provide faith-based leadership for their peers at St. Michael CSS and St. Anne's CSS.

Faith in Action

Our schools participated in a variety of food drives connected with local Catholic service organizations, such as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, throughout the month. We greatly appreciate the support that our schools and the families of our students provide to the local food banks throughout the academic year.

Elementary Sports Council Update

The Elementary Sports Council has successfully run four Two-Pitch Tournaments as well as the district-wide Cross Country Meet. This year, the two-pitch tournaments took place in Goderich, Exeter and Stratford and included students from grades five to eight. Each team played three games and our athletes demonstrated sportsmanship and dedication at each tournament.

The Annual District Cross Country Meet was hosted at St. Joseph's and St. Anne's in Clinton on October 11. Once again, this event was a resounding success, seeing close to 700 students participate.

We extend our gratitude to the members of the Elementary Sports Council for their diligent organization of both of these events, promoting community spirit and commitment to physical activity among our students. Elementary Sports Council events are valuable experiences for our students and exemplify the unity and sense of community that define the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board.

Loving Hands Event - October 24

On October 24, members of the various Perth County Catholic Women's League chapters will be welcomed to St. Michael Catholic Secondary School for a time of prayer and community-building with our students in the Hairstyling and Aesthetics program, many of whom are in an SHSM program. Our students will pamper the CWL members with a manicure, pray the rosary together in our chapel, and then finish with some refreshments and fellowship. This event was a resounding success in the past and the school looks forward to hosting once again.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism (EDIAR)

The first meeting of the school year for the EDIAR committee will be held on October 24, 2023. The aim of the committee is to bring together individuals who are passionate about promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within our organization. During the first meeting findings of the KPMG Equity audit and research inquiry results from the Board's Western and Queen's University partners will be shared. Findings from the Demographic data study and school climate report will also be shared. The committee will review the Terms of Reference and the work plan for the year.

Special Education

Empower Refresher Training

On October 26, our fully trained Empower Teachers will take part in their annual half-day "Refresher Training". This is an important component to the success of our Empower Reading Program which is being offered in all of our elementary schools as a tier 3 reading intervention.

RSEC (Regional Special Education Council)

RSEC will be held in Niagara on the Lake on October 26 and 27. This event brings together system leaders in Superintendent and Coordinating roles a couple of times each year. Some key agenda items include quality implementation of school and system improvement, unlocking the Science of Reading, and current regional issues in special education. Tara Boreham, Superintendent of Education, Deb McCarthy, Coordinator of Special Education, Mary-Jo Drager, Coordinator of Literacy and Language, and Jessica Langan, System Special Education Resource Teacher, will be attending the conference.

Educational Assistants Professional Development

On October 20 all Educational Assistants participated in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCi) training at three different locations with our Applied Behaviour Analysis Consultants.

Continued Partnership with Facile Perth

Facile Perth assists people with disabilities and their families in Perth and Huron Counties to plan for and build a good life in the community. We have partnered with them to offer independent facilitation and planning to students and families of both our secondary schools. Through this partnership, we are ensuring that people have the information they need to build a good life in their community, including accessing the necessary resources and support. Members of the Special Education team, representatives from Facile Perth and staff from both secondary schools met in October to discuss the goals and plans for this year's collaboration.

Digital Tools To Support Learning

Coding and Robotics: Grade 7/8 Science

In the month of October, the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board saw yet another significant development in our Board's commitment to STEM education. Graciously supported by donations from NWMO (Nuclear Waste Management Ontario) and the Stratford Optimist Club, we are proud to announce the launch of STEM workshops in all Grade 7 and 8 classrooms across HPCDSB. These workshops, orchestrated by the IT/Science Learning Coordinator, offer our students hands-on learning experiences. These experiences not only enrich their comprehension of science and technology but also nurture their creativity and critical thinking abilities. The heart of this initiative lies in the provision of LEGO Spike Education kits for each school in HPCDSB. These kits are exceptional tools that will empower our students to demonstrate their scientific knowledge in a practical and engaging way. This initiative reflects our ongoing dedication to fostering a dynamic and forward-thinking learning environment for all students in Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board.

Student Achievement

Mathematics

The Math Team continued to be busy in October supporting teachers and students in classrooms. Our two Math Facilitators spent two weeks at our priority school, Holy Name of Mary, working in primary, junior, and intermediate classrooms on the teaching and learning of mathematics using the Effective Math Block and a focus on assessment for learning. They will continue to support Holy Name weekly while attending to the needs of other schools in our district. The Math Team met regularly to develop the Math Action Plan and attend Ministry math meetings focused on fidelity to the curriculum, developing mathematical knowledge for teaching and leading, and knowing our learners. The Math Team also led a professional development session on Friday, October 20 for elementary teachers. At this session, schools were introduced to our Math Action Plan and participated in breakout sessions with divisional focus.

Literacy

October has proven to be a significant month for the System Literacy Team, marked by the implementation of several carefully planned initiatives. Our foremost focus has been on supporting educators in the integration of our newly introduced phonics resource, UFLI. This endeavor has entailed extensive discussions concerning the literacy block and the adoption of best practices to effectively incorporate all components of the new Language Curriculum. In

addition, the team has conducted informative sessions for our Special Education Teachers, as well as Secondary Literacy Coaches and English Department Heads. These sessions were designed to equip them with the requisite knowledge and strategies to enhance their teaching practices and implement the new Grade 9 destreamed English curriculum. Furthermore, our team is poised to embark on the provision of small-group K-3 interventions within two schools. The objective is to offer targeted assistance to students, thereby bolstering their readiness for success in the regular classroom environment. We firmly believe that early intervention is pivotal to ensuring the future academic accomplishments of these students.

Multidisciplinary Literacy Team Meeting

Members of our curriculum and special education teams meet throughout the year to examine the roles that each department and area plays in supporting literacy throughout the district. The first meeting this year was held on October 13 at the Catholic Education Centre. This brought together Learning Coordinators in the areas of Literacy, Religion, Special Education and Technology as well as our Literacy Resource Teachers, System Special Education Resource Teacher, Curriculum Support Teacher, and Speech and Language Pathologists. Working as a cross-disciplinary team of professionals, the team collaborates on implementation of best practices in literacy and the interdependence of support that everyone provides across the district in this critical aspect of student learning and instructional practice. The agenda included the following topics: morphology, implementation of UFLI, universal screening and data analysis, Lexia, Empower, digital tools to support literacy, equity and faith, intervention plans, and ensuring the new curriculum is well supported.

English Language Learners Project

Our Learning Coordinators with responsibilities to support multilingual learners, MJ Drager and Paul D'Hondt, have conducted numerous Initial STEP assessments for our newcomer students in several schools. These assessments offer crucial insights into the English proficiency levels of each child, thereby equipping classroom teachers and school teams with valuable data to inform their educational strategies. Following each assessment, an individualized student profile is generated and shared electronically, facilitating seamless data tracking and accessibility for our schools. Furthermore, several in-person meetings have been convened to engage in comprehensive discussions regarding the program objectives and tailored goals for each student. In line with our commitment to supporting effective oral language acquisition, a digital program has been purchased to enhance the learning experiences of these students. We are exploring effective ways to track student progress and ensure teachers have access to valuable information about their students' needs as well as opportunities to collaborate with one another to respond to their students' learning needs.

French as a Second Language (FSL)

Sandra O'Neil, our FSL System Support Teacher, has been actively engaged in delivering personalized one-on-one coaching sessions to our core French educators. These sessions have placed a strong emphasis on fostering discussions pertaining to oral language acquisition and the application of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) within the curriculum. In addition to her coaching efforts, Sandra has undertaken an initiative within each French immersion school. Her role has been instrumental in providing invaluable guidance regarding the extensive array of new educational resources procured for our French immersion programs last year. To ensure seamless accessibility for all educators, each of these resources has been cataloged, thereby facilitating equitable access to these materials across our schools.

Kids First Community Partner Collaboration

Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board has an active role with Kids First Huron Perth. Kids First is a consortium of over 60 local agencies and professionals that seek to ensure that all children and families have access to a range of high-quality, inclusive and affordable early years and child care programs and services that are child and family-centred and contribute to children's learning, development and well being. This group hosted a forum on October 11, 2023 where Early Years Coordinator MJ Drager presented to the group regarding the important work of Calling All Three Year Olds.

Indigenous Education

We have had the opportunity to welcome two Indigenous knowledge keepers into several of our schools this month. Brenda Collins worked with three of our elementary schools on creating a Medicine Wheel Mosaic, during which she taught about the cultural significance of the medicine wheel and healing circles for some Indigenous cultures. The finished mosaic will hang in the school as a visual reminder to the community about the important role that Indigenous cultures and history plays in our community and country. It will also hopefully help to contribute to the nurturing of cultural understanding and awareness for students and staff.

Christin Dennis shared his teachings about the Medicine Wheel with the Secondary World Religions and the Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices classes at St. Anne's CSS and St. Michael CSS. Christin also shared cultural information about the Indigenous peoples who lived on the land that the schools are located in and about their relationships to the land and all creation.

Secondary Teacher Collaboration: Literacy Focus

On October 3, our secondary English department heads, along with our secondary destreaming coaches, met at the Catholic Education Centre with Coordinators Paul D'Hondt and Mary-Jo Drager, and literacy support teachers Karen Kramers and Cathy Buchanan to discuss the new English curriculum being implemented across the system, in Grades 1-9. They discussed the new aspects of the curriculum and highlighted the continuity between elementary and secondary. Ongoing work will investigate implementation strategies, with a focus on identifying and supporting areas that will best prepare students for success throughout their high school experience. A thoughtful analysis of OSSLT results as well as classroom level student achievement will inform the ongoing work of teachers to close learning gaps and elevate student performance in English classes and beyond.

Experiential Learning Programs In Secondary

Electrical Board Presentations

In partnership with Conestoga College, we hosted presentations at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Boniface schools for Grade 8 students on October 5. Students learned about electrical current flow, shut-off systems, used math skills, and had a great time in this experiential learning opportunity which blended science and mathematics learning expectations as well as communication skills.

Elementary Students Experiencing Learning in Our Secondary Schools:

Grade 8 Arts Day at St. Michael CSS

On October 18 and 19, Grade 8 students from Perth County travelled to St. Michael CSS for an Arts Day that featured experiences in the various arts programs as well as information about the Arts and Culture SHSM program offered. It was a great day for the Arts community at St.

Michael CSS to showcase their programs and to complement the learning that is taking place for our Grade 8 students in their schools.

Grade 6 Trades Expo: Indigenous Canoe Building and Women in Skilled Trades Event

On October 24 - 27, Grade 6 students from our Catholic elementary schools are invited to our secondary schools for some great learning opportunities. Student Cabinet representatives are excited to show off their schools and share insights with our future Eagles and Warriors. Students will participate in two technology rotations, attend an Indigenous Canoe Building Event, and attend a Jamie McMillan presentation.

Marcel, an Indigenous Canoe builder who has worked with HPCDSB over the past couple of years, will spend the week building a canoe at the secondary schools. While building, he will make presentations to the elementary and secondary students. Jamie McMillan, an Ironworker by trade and a professional trades speaker, will do several presentations over the week for students.

Wee Warriors

The Wee Warriors program continues through October in the St. Michael CSS Hair and Aesthetics room. There are 21 participants. This evening program is offered for interested children from ages 8 -13.

SHSM Certifications, Activities and Events:

Jill of All Trades - Reach Ahead Experience

This experience enabled Grade 11 and 12 students to gain confidence in their ability to be successful, refine skills and work habits, and make informed choices about future careers and next steps. This is one of many initiatives that the Ministry supports to ensure female students are encouraged to pursue pathways that include skilled trades.

First Aid & CPR

This certification is a requirement for all students enrolled in a SHSM program. Forty-two students in our new Sports and Environment SHSM at St. Anne's CSS participated for the first time in this training. The training happened on October 10, 11 and 13.

Leadership Skills Certification - St. Anne's CSS Strides Event

SHSM students in Ms. Gaynor's afternoon classes planned and led student activities for the St. Anne's CSS "Strides" (walkathon) event while earning a Leadership Skills certification as part of their SHSM Sports Program. This is a great example of student leadership and showcased one of the reasons why students might want to consider signing up for an SHSM program to enhance their learning and secondary school experience as well as preparing them for the workplace and post-secondary opportunities.

SHSM Arts and Culture Trip

The St. Michael CSS Arts Department set up an advanced training in an art-form, experiential learning and career exploration opportunity with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival for over 50 students at St. Michael CSS and 25 students from St. Anne's CSS. Students participated in a Dance workshop and went to a performance. This SHSM training, experiential learning and career exploration activity gave students opportunities to explore, observe, participate in, and reflect on a variety of sector-specific experiences and careers.

SHSM Environment Certifications

On October 19, the St. Michael CSS SHSM students participated in “Leave No Trace and Species” Identification certifications. A former trainer with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Area put together a great curriculum to inspire students.

SHSM Training at LiUNA, London

Students travelled to the LiUNA Training Centre in London for Elevated Platform and Scissor Lift training. LiUNA trainers will come to St. Anne’s CSS to help the students achieve their Working at Heights Certifications. SHSM students in Agriculture, Construction and Transportation had an opportunity to participate in Confined Space Training. These certifications are highly valued by employers and look good on student’s resumes.

OYAP Level 1 Students

We have a large group of students interested in entering OYAP Level 1 programs at Fanshawe, Conestoga and Lambton Colleges. Students enrolled in a 4-credit co-op during Semester 2 can apply to enter a college to complete their Level 1 studies with one of our college partners. There are many advantages to completing an OYAP Level 1 program while in high school including having transportation, program and other costs covered by the college of choice.

An information session for interested students was held at both schools and an outreach program for parents took place during the first week of October. The goal was to identify specific student interests, inform students about the program requirements and outline appropriate interview techniques. Areas of interest include welding, plumbing, electrical, and truck and coach programs.

Dual Credit Courses at Lambton College

We have six St. Anne’s CSS students who are attending dual credit courses at Lambton College every Thursday in the following areas: Styling and Cutting, Make-up Applications, Introduction to Electrical, Mental Health, e-Sports Marketing, Criminology, Diversity Issues in Policing, Baking, and Photography. Each student earns 2 high school credits and 2 college credits upon successful completion of their courses.

Dual Credit Courses at Conestoga College

We have three St. Michael CSS students attending Doon Campus in Kitchener to participate in Crime Scene Investigation and the Canadian Criminal Justice System courses. By participating, these students will be able to earn 2 college credits and 2 high school credits, simultaneously through enrollment in this student success initiative.

Team-taught Dual Credit Foods Classes

We are partnering with Fanshawe College once again to deliver team-taught food classes at St. Anne’s CSS. Students participating in this program also have an opportunity to earn their Food Handler Certification which is great to have for summer jobs and beyond. This is a very popular program for students at the school.

The Huron Manufacturing Association (HMA) Tour

The Huron Manufacturing Association set up a tour of 2 different manufacturing sites for secondary students. This experiential learning and career exploration activity gives students opportunities to explore, observe, participate in, and reflect on a variety of sector-specific experiences and careers. These activities also enable students enrolled in the SHSM to find out about the opportunities available in careers that interest them.

Mental Health And Well-Being

Caregiver Lunch and Learn

Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board and Avon Maitland District School Board, in partnership with the Huron Perth Children's Aid Society (HPCAS) locally, facilitated our first Caregiver Lunch and Learn of the year on October 11th. This month's presenter was Alta Bennett and she provided practical strategies and learning about "The Power of Mindful Parenting" and over 240 participants registered for this event.

The Caregiver Lunch and Learn Series will run monthly and showcase varying community partners and topics for caregivers that consider common mental health challenges that children and youth are facing as well as strategies that can be implemented by caregivers at home or in the community to support their children.

Please see our schedule of upcoming sessions that may interest you and stay tuned for registration links via your school's communication system and HPCDSB's social media sites:

2023-2024 MHWB CAREGIVER MINI-SERIES:	
November 8, 2023	Conflict Resolution and Restorative Justice Approaches by The Salvation Army
December 13, 2023	Recognizing Signs of Unhealthy Relationships presented by Emily Murphy Centre

Secondary Professional Development Day

On October 20 our Secondary Educators benefited from a collaborative Professional Development Day, where our Mental Health and Wellness Team partnered with the Huron OPP in the morning. This featured learning about the following:

- Current Trends in Youth Behaviour: The Huron OPP shared insights into current trends in vaping and drug use, providing valuable perspectives on the challenges they encounter in their work, including the issues of sextortion and child exploitation.
- Online Safety and Privacy: We delved into online safety, explored the impact of social media on mental health, discussed the nuances of location sharing, and examined privacy settings.
- Educator Roles: Educators were provided information about recognizing and responding to student concerns, along with guidance on connecting students to the appropriate services, including resources from the School Mental Health Ontario (SMH-ON). When to involve the mental health team and/or police and what they might expect from these services.

The topics emphasized ensuring trauma-informed practices and staff engaged in scenario-based exercises and discussion was encouraged throughout to enhance learning and understanding about the topics discussed.

Mental Health Literacy Grade 7/8 Curriculum Implementation Planning

On October 11, our Religion and Family Life Coordinator (Caroline Thuss) and Mental Health and Wellness Coach (Lindsay Durst) attended the London District Catholic School Board for School Mental Health Ontario's (SMH-ON) West Region Meeting for implementation planning.

Throughout the day they gained a comprehensive understanding of the MH78 modules by exploring the available implementation support, accessing tools for effective monitoring and engaged in dedicated time to customize plans and tailor them to our HPCDSB context.

Enhancing Student Safety through R.E.S.E.T. Curriculum

RESET = Recognizing Exploitation a Syllabus to End Trafficking

The Ministry of Education provided funding to enhance student safety across Ontario concerning Human Trafficking. This funding has enabled HPCDSB to partner with Victim Services Huron to introduce the R.E.S.E.T. curriculum in our Huron schools. R.E.S.E.T. was developed by experts from the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region, well-versed in frontline services for trafficking survivors, curriculum development, and workshop delivery.

Talking about human trafficking with youth is crucial. The average age of entry is just 13, with the majority of victims being Canadian girls and women under 25. The curriculum's content aligns with our Catholic faith, emphasizing the sanctity of human life, the sacred nature of relationships, and the importance of educating on consent and safety. We are committed to delivering this critical safety information in our Catholic schools, ensuring that our students are well-equipped to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

Introducing the R.E.S.E.T. curriculum builds off of the groundwork done last spring where the board provided an informational webinar about Human Trafficking for caregivers and St. Anne's CSS hosted Victim Services for a presentation to staff and students to raise awareness about Human Trafficking.

School Service Advisory Council (SSAC)

On October 17 our Mental Health Lead Kaitie Westbrook co-chaired the first School Service Advisory Council (SSAC) meeting alongside AMDSB Lead Heather Hirdes. The SSAC committee functions as a sub committee of the Children and Youth Mental Health Network which fits under the Huron Perth Ontario Health Team and is comprised of organizations that are actively providing services to HPCDSB and AMDSB students. The committee works collaboratively to address the needs amongst children and youth and at the system level to support clear pathways to service with an understanding of our agency protocols and scopes of practice.

This year's priorities include:

1. Collaborative and integrated services for students in Huron and Perth
2. Focus on awareness promotion of all services available to students in Huron and Perth County Schools and support the navigation and negotiation for families to access the appropriate services for their child
3. Caregiver Lunch and Learn Series
4. Update Community MH Crisis Response Protocol and Sexual Assault Protocol

Corporate Services and Operations

2023-24 Enrolment Update October 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to 2023-24 opening enrolment.

2023-24 enrolment projections were:

Elementary:	3,223.0 Average Daily Enrolment (ADE)
Secondary:	
Pupils of the Board	1300.0 ADE (average of October & March count dates)
High Credit	12.0 ADE (average of October & March count dates)

Enrolment reports are run and monitored weekly at the beginning of each school year. Checks for reasonability are done, as well a follow up with schools to confirm numbers reported provide an accurate reflection of students in the schools. We can expect to see enrolment continue to see changes up to the October 31 count date. Enrolment on each count date accounts for 50% of the overall enrolment utilized for the 2023-24 Grants for Student Needs (GSN).

The elementary enrolment figure used for grant calculation purposes in the budget was 3,223 FTE. The 3,251.5 FTE currently reported is an increase of 28.5 pupil FTE.

The total secondary October enrolment figure used for grant calculation purposes in the budget was 1319 FTE, a difference of -14.5 FTE currently reported.

The following reports are attached:

1. October 10, 2023 Enrolment by School Report.
2. October 10, 2023 Elementary Enrolment by Grade Report. This report reflects opening enrolment by grade for each of our elementary schools

Enrolment Update : October 10, 2023
*FTE

*numbers will still change before October 31 count date

Secondary High Credit Students
 *above 34 credit threshold

*FTE

4. **THEORY**

Honoraria for Board Members November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024

Ontario Regulation 357/06, Honoraria for Board Members sets out the method for calculating the limits on honoraria paid. Components of honorarium as set out in the regulation are:

- The base amount for the year.
- The enrolment amount for the year. (submitted to the Ministry with estimates)
- The attendance amounts payable to the member for the year.
- The distance amounts payable to the member for the year.

The enrolment amount is to be calculated anew in each year of a member's term of office.

The Trustee Honoraria has been set for the period of November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024. There is no change to the base amount, and a small decrease of -\$12.00 in the enrolment amount due to the estimated decrease in enrolment from prior year.

The attendance amount of \$50 is unchanged, and may be paid to a member for attending any meeting of a committee of the Board that is required to be established by an Act or Regulation.

These committees are 1) Special Education Advisory, 2) Supervised Alternative Learning for Exceptional Pupils, 3) Audit Committee, and 4) Parent Involvement.

The distance amount is not applicable at Huron-Perth. The honorariums are as follows:

- Trustee \$7,490.00 (2022 = \$7,502.00)
- Board Vice Chair \$10,240.00 (2022 = \$10,252.00)
- Board Chair \$12,990.00 (2022 = \$13,002.00)

Maintenance and Health and Safety

Joint Health and Safety Meeting

The Joint Health and Safety Committee held a meeting on October 18, 2023. Items discussed include the following:

- Incident Reporting
- Hayes Award and Accessing Ebase
- Workplace Violence Risk Assessments
- Monthly Inspections

POLICIES UPDATE

Policies Posted for Input/Review or in Development

The following Board policies and procedures are currently under review until the Tuesday before the next Board meeting. To review the policies further, visit the Board website [here](#).

For Review by Board

- *3E:3 Advertising in Schools*
- *Artificial Intelligence*

Approved by Board

- 1:1 By-Laws of the Board
- Infectious Disease Reporting
- 3B:5 Information and Communications Technology
- 3E:21 Purchasing

Rescinded by Board

- 3B:8 Electronic Social Media

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Equity, Diversity Inclusion, and Anti-Racism (EDIAR) Committee Meeting - Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 4:30 p.m.
- Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Meeting - Monday, November 13, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
- Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) Meeting - Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
- Annual Board Meeting - Monday, November 20, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting - Monday, December 11, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

QUICK REFERENCE

[BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS](#)

[Presentations](#)

[Student Achievement](#)

[Catholicity](#)

[Special Education](#)

[Digital Tools To Support Learning](#)

[Student Achievement](#)

[Experiential Learning Programs In Secondary](#)

[Mental Health And Well-Being](#)

[Corporate Services and Operations](#)

[Maintenance and Health and Safety](#)

[POLICIES UPDATE](#)

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[UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS](#)

To view a fulsome version of the latest Board Meeting Minutes check out our [Board Agendas and Minutes](#) webpage on our Board website. Any questions please contact the Director's Office by emailing directoroffice@huronperthcatholic.ca.

