



St. Dominic Catholic School

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September 2024 Newsletter

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Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

(905) 890-1221

www.dpcdsb.org

Twitter: @DPCDSBSchools

Instagram: dpcdsb.schools

School Hours

8:15 Supervision Begins

8:30 Entry Bell

10:30 Morning Recess

11:25 Lunch

12:25 Afternoon Bell

1:50 Afternoon Recess

3:00 Dismissal

FOLLOW US

School Website

<https://www.dpcdsb.org/DOMNC>

School Twitter

@StDominicDP

Back to School Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for keeping me safe during my summer.

Thank you for your guiding hand on my shoulder.

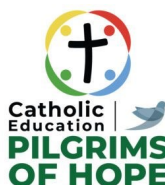
Thank you for ensuring the safety of my family and me.

Please help me prepare for school and shower me with
your mercy as I make my way to school.

Please look over me this school year.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen



The VIRTUE for September is Faith



From the perspective of the Catholic
Graduate Expectations, a person of faith:

- Knows the saving story of our Christian faith
- Speaks the language of life
- Prays and worships God

God made us to live together as a
family community.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new school year, and a special welcome to those families new to our school community! A special greeting is also extended to our Junior Kindergarten children who are starting school for the first time.

As principal at St. Dominic School, I look forward to working with each of you in supporting our students this year.

The students have come to school very happy and excited this September. It is a time to begin new friendships, explore and discover new learnings, while all being supported by our faith. We look forward to opening our school doors to all of our families with our upcoming Open House. It will be a time to meet your child's teacher and explore the classroom.

On behalf of our school staff, we share a vision of supporting our students in their education rooted in Catholic Faith. Through our mutual efforts and ongoing communication, guided by the spirit of Christ, we will maintain and nurture a school community in which our children are safe and happy.

We look forward to an exciting year of learning at St. Dominic Catholic School as we all work together to prepare students for their future as faithful, responsible, and caring members of the community!

L. Mundy

Important Dates



Sept. 3rd	First Day of School
Sept. 13th	Forms coming home for those interested in being part of our Catholic School Council
Sept. 16th	PA Day / Re-organization (no school for students)
Sept. 27th	Terry Fox Run (more information to come) Catholic School Council Forms Due
Sept. 30th	Orange Shirt Day
Oct. 3rd	Open House BBQ / Meet your child's teacher 6:00 pm—7:30 pm (More information to come)
Oct. 7th	Grade 7 Vaccination Clinic (info. to come)
Oct. 9th	Picture Day—bring your smiles! First Catholic School Council Meeting All Are Welcome to Attend 6:00 pm St. Dominic School Library
Oct. 11th	PA Day (no school for students)
Oct. 14th	Thanksgiving (schools will be closed)
Oct. 16th	Opening /Thanksgiving Mass (Gr's 1-8) 9:15 am St. Dominic Parish
Oct. 31st	Happy Hallowe'en

Interested in being a Student Monitor over the lunch hour?

If you would like to inquire about working as a student monitor over the lunch hour between 11:25 am —12:25 pm, please see Ms. Mundy.

Morning Arrival

School begins at 8:30 am. It is important that students arrive on time, to minimize disruptions to learning. Establishing morning routines are important skills in order to be prepared for the day! Late students come through the office.

School Attendance

Using SafeArrival, Parents/Guardians are required to report their child's absence, late arrival or early departure using **one** of these three methods:

- **Toll Free # 1 (844) 435-3440**
- **SchoolMessenger** go.schoolmessenger.ca
- **SchoolMessenger App** (blue icon) from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Future absences can be reported at any time using this system. For more information on how to report an absence using SafeArrival, visit: <https://www.dpcdsb.org/parents/absence-reporting>

Kiss and Ride

If you are using the Kiss and Ride in the morning or afterschool, please follow the procedures below so that we ensure the safety of our students, families, and staff.

- **NEVER LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE.** The Kiss and Ride is meant to keep traffic moving. It is not an area to park your car.
- Please have your children exit your car on the passenger side of your vehicle.
- Remind your children to use the cross walk and side walk areas after exiting your car.
- Please control your speed and be aware of students that may pop out in front of you.

Medications at School

Every year, all medications, including EpiPens/puffers, stored at school are sent home on the last day in June.

If your child has an EpiPen, puffer, or requires prescription drugs and/or Benadryl to be administered during the school day, **please complete a form in the office.** For those students that have previously stored items at school, forms were sent home with your child in June.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS and MEDICAL FORMS



Student Verification Forms will be coming home with your child. Please take the time to read through this package and make any necessary corrections to ensure all information is accurate. Should any of your contact information change, please correct and/or inform the office. Please have these forms completed and returned to the school by **Friday September 13th.**

Lunchtime Routines

Don't forget to send in forks, spoons, and water bottles!



There are two options for lunch:

1. **Staying for Lunch:** All students who indicate that they will be staying for lunch are expected to be in the designated lunchroom areas every day for lunch. Any student who stays for lunch is required to follow the lunchroom expectations.
2. **Going Home for Lunch:** Student who go home for lunch are expected to do so all year.

Students who stay for lunch are not permitted to leave school property without a signed and dated note from parents/guardians each time they leave the school grounds. Thank you for your co-operation.

For our older students, it is very helpful if they learn their parents phone numbers. At times they will need to call home.



STOPR Website and Twitter:

Be sure to follow us on twitter @STOPRinfo and check out the website www.stopr.ca for the most up to date transportation information including:

- Delays and Cancellations
- First Time Rider Program Video and Resources
- School Bus Safety Videos and Resources
- Transportation Procedures and Forms
- Transportation and School Eligibility
- Walk and Roll Guide to School for Parents

If your child was a courtesy seat rider last, you need to re-apply this year. Please pick up a form in the office. Courtesy seats will not be issued until mid-October.

You can also register with STOPR to get up to date information.



PAY YOUR SCHOOL FEES ALL ONLINE

School Cash Online allows parents and community members to pay school-related fees online safely, quickly, and easily. Parents can purchase items like spirit wear, lunches, and field trips - anytime, anywhere.

How do I register?

Please refer to these [Registration Instructions](#) for step-by-step details on how to get signed-up for online payments.

To directly login or to register, visit [School Cash Online](#).

What payment methods will be available?

Parent will be able to pay online using Visa, MasterCard and e-Cheque.



Before and After School Programs

Before and after school programs will be offered at most elementary schools, with revised drop-off/pickup routines, wash-room protocols, and enhanced cleaning procedures. If you have questions about child care, please contact your child care provider directly. Space is limited. Registration will be first come, first served. For additional information, please call our Parent Services hotline at 647-484-4372 or www.plasp.com



Thrive in Community

September 2024

Supporting Mental Health and Well-Being



Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year!

Welcome back to the start of another school year. September brings lots of new beginnings for many students. For Kindergarten students, it is a whole new experience of being in school; grade nines are embarking on their secondary journey; and many students are making connections in new classrooms and new schools. Do you remember starting school and the feelings of anticipation and excitement for the year? In this newsletter, we will continue to share information to support children and youth, provide resources for parents, highlight how schools are promoting wellness, and uplift spiritual care through the regular monthly features. We wish all of you a mentally healthy September and a whole year of wellness. Watch the video below from the Secondary Mental Health and Well-Being Champions to see how well-being is being implemented every day.



Back to School
Wellness Tips for Parents

Please look out for the monthly THRIVE Newsletters sent out by DPCDSB.

Pick Up Arrangements and/or Daily Changes

If there are any changes to your child's pick up routine at the end of the day, please let your child know in the morning. We often have children not knowing how they're getting home. Please also communicate to your child's teacher either through note or agenda.

LUNCH PROGRAMS

We will be offering various lunch options for our students again this year. More information will be sent out as it becomes available. To help you begin planning, we are looking at offering the following:

Kidsessentials Monday

Kidssentials

<https://kidssentials.com/>

Pizza Tuesday

TBD

Pitas Thursday



CRIMINAL REFERENCE CHECKS

In keeping with the Safe Schools Act, **ALL volunteers including those going on one day school trips MUST have a Criminal Reference Check.** The Criminal Reference Check for volunteers may take a few days to be processed. Please visit:

<https://www.peelpolice.ca/en/services/record-checks-and-suspensions-pardons.aspx>

If you already have a Criminal Reference Check on file at the school, the office will be sending home the yearly Criminal Offence Declaration form for you to update. Please return upon completion.

Reorganization Information

September 16th, 2024 is a PA Day for students for school reorganization. This may result in some students moving classes and possibly reorganization of classes. In some circumstances, there may be no changes at all. Our final staff list including teachers and grades will be shared in our October Newsletter.

Dufferin-Peel CDSB 2024-2025 School Year Calendar



2024-2025 School Year Calendar

First day of classes Elementary and Secondary Schools	Tuesday, September 3, 2024
First Day of classes Semester Two Secondary	Friday, January 31, 2025
Last Instructional day Elementary and Secondary Schools	Friday, June 27, 2025
Number of school days for the 2024-2025 school year	194
Number of Instructional Days in Elementary Schools	187
Number of Instructional Days in Secondary Schools	187
Number of Professional Activity Days in Elementary Schools	7
Number of Professional Activity Days in Secondary Schools	7

► School Holidays for the 2024-2025 School Year

Every Saturday and Sunday

Labour Day	Monday, September 2, 2024
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 14, 2024
Christmas Break	Monday, December 23, 2024, to Friday, January 3, 2025 (inclusive)
Family Day	Monday, February 17, 2025
Mid-Winter Break	Monday, March 10, 2025, to Friday, March 14, 2025 (inclusive)
Good Friday	Friday, April 18, 2025
Easter Monday	Monday, April 21, 2025
Victoria Day	Monday, May 19, 2025

► Elementary Schools, including St. Sofia – Professional Activity Days

1. Monday, September 16, 2024	Principal's Day: Re-organization/Faith Development
2. Friday, October 11, 2024	Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context
3. Friday, November 22, 2024	Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context
4. Monday, January 20, 2025	Term 1 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress
5. Friday, February 14, 2025	Reporting to Parents
6. Friday, May 16, 2025	Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context
7. Monday, June 9, 2025	Term 2 Assessment and Evaluation of Pupil Progress

► Secondary Schools – Professional Activity Days

1. Friday, October 11, 2024	Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context
2. Friday, November 22, 2024	Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context
3. Thursday, January 30, 2025	Principal's Day: Semester Turnaround
4. Friday, February 14, 2025	*Principal's Day: Assessment and Evaluation/Faith Development
5. Friday, May 16, 2025	Provincial Priorities in a Catholic Context
6. Thursday, June 26, 2025	*Principal's Day: Year End Reporting and Activities
7. Friday, June 27, 2025	*Principal's Day: Year End Reporting and Activities

**Semester end and year end evaluations and school wide promotion meetings; contact parents with course and summer school recommendations, OSR and report card preparation; inventory management of books, equipment, learning materials; curriculum development for new course outlines; goal setting for the upcoming semester and school year.*

► Secondary Schools – Examination Days

Semester 1: January 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 2025	January 29, 2025 – Instructional Day – Examination Review
Semester 2: June 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 2025	June 25, 2025 – Instructional Day – Examination Review

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.
~ 1 Peter 4:10



*Extraordinary Lives Start With
a Great Catholic Education*

*Get involved in
Your local CSC –
Catholic School Council
VOLUNTEER
you can make a difference!*



One of the main functions of the Catholic School Council is to promote the vision, values, sacramental life and Catholic practices of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS (CSC)

Making a Difference

CSC play a vital role in the education system in Ontario:

- Provide a forum through which parents and community members can contribute to improving student achievement, well-being and school performance;
- CSC, as advisory bodies, make recommendations to principals and the Board on many matters;
- In turn principals and the Board consult with CSC on matters that affect student learning.

Catholic School Councils work with schools to ensure that Catholic education is preserved and maintained.

Catholic School Councils assist schools in improving Catholic identity and respond to the Gospel call for justice.

"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people."

~ Jean Vanier, Community and Growth

September 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Our Catholic School Councils provides an opportunity for parents and guardians to discern how their gifts and talents might serve the school community. As per the Ontario Regulation 612/00 and 298, the purpose of a school council is, through the active participation of the parents, improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

In addition to the purpose of school councils as identified in the regulation, the mission of the Catholic School Councils in the DPCDSB, is to promote, the vision, values and sacramental life of Catholic practices for the Catholic communities we serve.

Information on our school council can be found on our school website using this link below.

<https://www.dpcdsb.org/DOMNC/about/school-council>

The various member positions available are: Chair/Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Parish Representative, Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE), and Parent Members. There are a minimum of four meetings per school year.

More information will be coming home next week!

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

L. Mundy
Principal



Off to an Exciting New School Year!

