



REPORT TO THE HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Submitted by: Karen Tigani, Chief Executive Officer

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE

Public Session

BACKGROUND

Many activities take place every month throughout the district to ensure that our students have rich, faith-filled, inclusive learning opportunities that support their learning and fulfill the goals of the Strategic Plan. The Board Highlights list many of the activities that take place this month, with contributions from Superintendents of Education, Learning Coordinators, the Mental Health Lead, the OYAP Project Lead, and Managers of activities that take place under their leadership.

DEVELOPMENTS

The spiritual theme anchoring our Strategic Plan is “On Fire With The Spirit: Awaken! Illuminate! Rejoice!” Inspired by the Holy Spirit and enlivened by the Pentecost story, we experience this final month of the school year for students and many staff members full of faith, hope, love and joy. We are excited about the incredible learning and growth that propels us forward as we journey together. June is marked by enthusiasm and is a time of transition for many students, families and employees. We are delighted to highlight some of the activities and opportunities that took or will take place this month across our district.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Graduation and End of Year Celebrations

Our elementary schools are planning their Grade 8 Graduation liturgies and celebrations, which will occur over the last two weeks of June. Our secondary schools hosted Proms once again this year and the students were thrilled to participate in this highly anticipated evening with family, friends and staff. The St. Michael CSS and St. Anne’s CSS Proms were both held at their respective schools on Friday, June 5.

Our secondary school commencement ceremonies are fast approaching as well. The St. Anne’s CSS and St. Michael CSS Graduations will be held at the schools on Thursday, June 25.

Schools will be hosting a closing Mass and/or liturgies over the next two weeks as they celebrate a faith-filled year of learning across our system.

Events with the Diocese of London

A team of Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board staff members will be attending a farewell celebration for Most Reverend Bishop Ronald Fabbro on June 18 in London. Videos were created by students and staff wishing Bishop Fabbro a happy and healthy retirement and thanking him for his years of service and pastoral guidance for our Catholic faith formation and education system.

We also look forward to the installation Mass of Bishop Miehm on June 29 at St Peter's Cathedral in London which will be attended by CEO Tigani at the invitation of the Bishop.

Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for Schools

Our schools recently participated in the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for Schools. The Novena began with a day of preparation on Wednesday, June 3rd, followed by 9 days of prayer and ending on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 12th. Resources prepared by the Institute for Catholic Education were shared with staff, offering a clear overview of the Novena, including daily themes, prayers, and reflections to guide classroom participation. This spiritual practice helps to deepen our collective devotion and connection to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

LEADERSHIP

Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA) Indigenous Leads Conference

This month, the Indigenous Education Team engaged in rich learning, collaboration, and professional development at the OCSTA Indigenous Leads Seminar in Brantford. The comprehensive itinerary featured immersive, land-based learning sessions led by Dallas Squire and Amy Bomberr; a profound tour of the Mohawk Institute (former residential school site) and the Woodland Cultural Centre; and a longhouse tour and presentation at the Kayanase Greenhouse in Six Nations. This was all rounded out by hands-on experiential learning workshops and moments of prayerful reflection led by the Indigenous Education Team leads at the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board. CEO Tigani and Superintendent McDade attended this learning experience as well. Anne O'Brien, Director of Education at OCSTA shared information about curriculum resources and announced that the update to the Grade 11 World Religions CVO course is now approved by the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) and will be available for use this summer and beyond.

Also this month, the team furthered their impactful work by participating in the Catholic leads meeting, collaborating closely with Southern Ontario Catholic Indigenous leads and the Ministry of Education regarding our Indigenous Board Action Plan.

Symposium for Leaders Igniting Catholic Education (SLICE)

School and system leaders came together for the annual Symposium for Leaders Igniting Catholic Education on June 11 and 12. This is an important retreat opportunity rooted in our commitment to leading as disciples of Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit. These days allow us to reflect on our progress toward the board's strategic priorities and plan for next year. It is a time to engage in important learning about leadership, strategic change management, and school improvement. It is a time of prayer and this year the focus was built upon nurturing synodal listening and Conversations in the Spirit. Day 2 concluded with Mass celebrated by Father Jude Ogbenna. It was the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - a beautifully fitting alignment with the theme of "On Fire With the Spirit: Rejoice, Illuminate, Rejoice".

When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference: Co-Host Board

Religion and Family Life Learning Coordinator Caroline Thuss has been meeting regularly with staff from our co-host school board, Durham Catholic DSB, to plan the upcoming When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference. This conference, which occurs from October 22 through to the 24 this upcoming fall is held at the Delta Toronto Airport and Convention Centre. It welcomes over 600 educators from across the province. Our theme for the upcoming year is "Being the Beatitudes: Forming Hearts, Shaping Minds, and Inspiring Faith". This encourages us to embody

the Beatitudes, which is exactly the vocation of Catholic Educators. Our keynote speakers will be Dr. Anne Jamieson, Director of the Institute for Catholic Education, and Julianne Stanz, who formerly served in the Diocese of Green Bay for 16 years as Director of Evangelization and Discipleship. We are looking forward to this conference and our provincial level leadership opportunity for our Board.

Elementary Sports Council Two-Pitch Tournaments

The Elementary Sports Council successfully hosted this year's two-pitch tournaments for both junior and senior students. Held in Exeter (Huron) and Stratford (Perth), athletes from across the district represented their schools with outstanding skill, athleticism, and sportsmanship.

Return of District Track & Field

June also marked a major milestone with the highly anticipated return of the district-wide Track and Field Meet on June 10. The event was proudly hosted at St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School, utilizing their beautifully rebuilt, state-of-the-art track facility. The success of these massive events is a direct result of the incredible dedication across our board. Coaches from every school did an exceptional job preparing their athletes, while our Sports Council teachers and principals worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organize safe, competitive, and memorable experiences for all participating students.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Celebrating Ontario Day

On June 1, schools across Huron-Perth Catholic DSB proudly celebrated Ontario Day. To support our educators in bringing this celebration to life, the board provided staff with a comprehensive suite of school-wide and classroom-ready resources. These curated materials allowed students to explore the rich history, diverse culture, and unique geography of our province. This initiative successfully fostered a sense of civic pride and community connection across all grade levels to kick off the month of June.

Mathematics

In June, the Math Team provided critical year-end support while strategically positioning the system for the final year of the current Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Focus remained squarely on the classroom, with the team continuing to advance mathematics teaching and learning directly alongside students and educators. To strengthen instructional precision, facilitators worked with schools to implement short learning cycles, using evidence of student learning to identify immediate needs and address key unfinished learning. The Math Coordinator also provided targeted preparation and confidence-building strategies for students participating in the Grade 9 EQAO mathematics assessment. End-of-year reporting was supported through the development and distribution of updated, asset-based report card comments aligned with curriculum expectations. Looking ahead, the team delivered foundational professional learning for Kindergarten educators in preparation for upcoming mathematics curriculum changes and refined the system Scope and Sequence lessons to ensure teachers have access to high-impact instructional resources for September. In addition, the Math Coordinator participated in provincial collaboration and professional learning through Ontario Math Coordinators Association (OMCA) meetings and Ministry of Education Math Lead webinars, helping to ensure that board priorities remain aligned with provincial direction, emerging research, and high-impact instructional practices.

Literacy

June has capped off an incredibly productive month for the Literacy Team. With support from the System Literacy Team, all elementary schools completed the End-of-Year Early Reading Screening for students in Senior Kindergarten through Grade 2. This important screening serves a vital dual purpose: it identifies potential reading challenges early to allow for timely, targeted intervention, while also highlighting student achievements and growth. Furthermore, the resulting data directly informs instructional next steps and strategic class placements for the upcoming school year. To wrap up the month and the school year, our Literacy Team engaged in deep planning, reflection, and legacy mapping. As the team prepares for an upcoming transition (due to retirement of team members), members are dedicating their final weeks to consolidating, packaging, and sharing the comprehensive work accomplished over the last several years. This ensures that the robust foundation built, the resources developed, and the instructional momentum gained will seamlessly carry forward to support student literacy in the future.

Early Years

Kindergarten orientation and bus safety sessions have now successfully wrapped up across all elementary schools. These events provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our Catholic school communities while offering families essential information and peace of mind as their children prepare to begin school this September.

Alongside welcoming new families, Kindergarten educators have been actively preparing for the future. Over three days, all Kindergarten teams came together to deeply engage with the new Kindergarten Curriculum set for implementation this fall. The professional development sessions specifically focused on the language and mathematics strand, where the most significant curriculum changes have occurred. To ground this learning in practical application, teams participated in a collaborative "Keep, Tweak, and Transform" activity. This allowed educators to critically examine their current practices, celebrate what is already working well, and purposefully update their instructional approaches to seamlessly align with the upcoming curriculum changes.

Summer School

Preparations are underway throughout June to prepare for the provision of Summer School 2026. This provides our students opportunities to continue learning and they have access to various secondary summer school courses this July. Over 200 students are registered for Senior English (3U and 4U), Cooperative Education or Grade 10 Civics and Careers. These options are helpful for students looking to "reach ahead" and obtain a mandatory credit so they can achieve flexibility in their timetable during the regular school year. For some students this is an important additional option to support the pursuit of a specialized program that involves additional courses or cooperative education that they are unable to fit into their schedule during the regular school year. For others, it is part of their pathway to graduation with their peers. Staff are hired and in position to begin.

Secondary Professional Development Day

On June 5, secondary educators gathered for a Professional Development Day focused on strengthening both their professional practice and faith formation. Teachers participated in learning sessions on assessment and evaluation, as well as learning more about Erin's Law (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Reporting Act, 2024), deepening their understanding of effective instructional practices, and student well-being. The day also provided valuable time for subject-area teams to collaborate, co-plan, and share effective teaching strategies in preparation for the coming school year. The day included the celebration of Mass (Perth) /

Liturgy (Huron), offering staff an opportunity to gather in prayer and reflect on their shared vocation as Catholic educators.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Educational Assistant Professional Development Day

On June 5, our Educational Assistants (EAs) gathered for a day of professional development, reflection, and renewal rooted in our Catholic faith. The day opened with a communal prayer and a welcome session, setting a spiritual and collaborative tone for the work ahead. Throughout the morning, EAs engaged in deep-dive reflection sessions, analyzing the past school year's learnings, celebrating major student successes, navigating complex challenges, and sharing the most effective practices for student support. This collaborative time allowed staff to learn from one another's diverse experiences across our schools. Following a networking lunch, the afternoon featured an inspiring keynote address from Katie Jameson. Her presentation beautifully affirmed the shared values, deep purpose, and daily commitment that guide our staff's ministry in education. The day concluded with a celebration dedicated to recognizing the massive impact our EAs have on fostering student success, true inclusion, and a deep sense of belonging for all learners.

Special Education Resource Teacher Meeting

On June 8, our Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) met for a highly productive day focused on system updates and expanding pathways for student success. A major focus of the meeting was an update on our Facile Futures partnership, highlighting our innovative cross-sector approach to supporting students as they transition to post-secondary life. This collaborative framework ensures that students with diverse learning needs have seamless, wrap-around support as they exit the secondary system. In addition, SERTs engaged with an essential presentation on PPM 140, reinforcing our system's commitment to evidence-based behavioral strategies and compliance standards for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Finally, the group reviewed the rollout of the Grade to Grade Transition Package, an incredibly valuable new resource designed to ensure smooth, supportive, and well-documented transitions for students with exceptionalities as they progress into each new grade level.

DIGITAL TOOLS TO SUPPORT LEARNING

1:1 Chromebook Initiative

To ensure the continuity and success of the 1:1 Chromebook initiative for all students across the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board, school library staff have dedicated significant time this month preparing for Stronghold Services' upcoming summer refresh. Over the summer, all student Chromebooks will undergo essential maintenance, cleaning, and software updates. Devices will then be redistributed to schools based on projected enrollment, ensuring they are fully ready for students at the start of the 2026–2027 academic year. This proactive preparation is a direct result of the hard work and coordination of our school and IT staff.

In addition to maintaining our technology infrastructure, the board will continue its work to establish clear blended learning best practices. Our focus will be on ensuring that student screen time is always purposeful, strategically aligned with sound pedagogy, and supports assessment and evaluation practices. Through this work, we will seek to maximize student engagement and learning while reducing unnecessary screen time and minimizing digital

distractions, ensuring technology remains a tool that enhances, rather than drives, the learning experience.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAMS IN SECONDARY

Both St. Anne's CSS and St. Michael Catholic Secondary Schools maintained strong student engagement in SHSM programming throughout the 2025–2026 school year. For example, at St. Anne's they experienced a highly stable enrollment of 155 Grade 11 and 12 students across seven sectors, experiencing notable growth in the newer Non-Profit, Education, and Child Care sectors.

Agricultural Learning: Students from both schools attended Sheep Day on May 27 at the REACH Centre in Clinton. In collaboration with Ontario Sheep Farmers, local veterinarians, and farmers, students participated in hands-on animal handling, culinary experiences, and sheep shearing demonstrations.

Arts and Culture: St. Michael CSS students engaged in Stratford Festival experiences and various arts events, while six St. Anne's CSS students joined forces with industry professionals at St. Michael to earn a Special Effects Make-up certification delivered by Centauri Arts.

Broad Industry Exposure: St. Michael CSS students participated in a wide array of external events, including the Ontario Skills Competition, Women in Skilled Trades events, the Canadian Outdoor Farm Show, business trips to Toronto, and Huron Manufacturers Association tours.

As June progresses, Guidance staff and SHSM leads at St. Michael are focused on finalizing certifications to ensure graduating students secure their official SHSM Red Seal designations.

Dual Credit Success

Dual Credit participation remained robust through partnerships with local colleges, allowing students to earn high school and post-secondary credits simultaneously.

- Excluding OYAP credits, St. Anne's CSS students successfully earned a total of 49 dual credits over the school year. Programs spanned multiple sectors, including Criminology, Digital Photography, Hairstyling, Early Childhood Education, and Make-up Artistry.
- Both schools saw enrollment in emergency and justice services. St. Michael CSS enrolled 16 students in a Crime Scene Investigation course through Conestoga College (led by former Stratford Police Detective Scott Campbell), while both schools sent students to the REACH Centre for Fanshawe College's Introduction to Paramedicine/Emergency Services course.

OYAP and Skilled Trades Apprenticeships

The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) remains a vital, highly competitive pathway at both institutions, blending college placements with hands-on trade experience.

Through partnerships with Conestoga and Fanshawe Colleges, students at both schools successfully engaged in Level 1 Apprenticeships across several fields:

- **Electrical & HVAC:** Active pathways for students at both schools. Two St. Anne's CSS students are continuing their HVAC training at Fanshawe's Woodstock campus until June 19th.

- Plumbing: Successfully completed by a St. Anne's CSS student this spring.
- Automotive Service Technician: Utilized by St. Michael CSS students, with ongoing interest from St. Anne's.

Looking ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, recruitment and preparation are already well underway. Ten St. Anne's students have already expressed interest in future OYAP Level 1 trades (including Millwright and Truck and Coach), with staff actively providing interview prep.

To further fortify this pathway, the Ministry has approved funding for a new section of MCT4C (Mathematics for College Technology) at St. Anne's CSS next year. This course will connect mathematical concepts directly to real-world applications in the construction and electrical industries, enhanced by project-based learning with local Co-op employers.

Certifications and Workplace Readiness

Throughout May and June, students aggressively pursued industry-recognized certifications to bolster their resumes for future employment and Co-op placements.

Combined, students across both secondary schools achieved certifications in:

- Health and Safety: CPR and Standard First Aid, WHMIS, Working at Heights, Safe Food Handling, Infection Control, Lockout/Tagout, Confined Space, and Elevated Work Platform Training.
- Professional & Sector-Specific Skills: Customer Service and Business Etiquette, Leadership Skills, Project Management, Lab Practices, Grower Pesticide Safety, Allyship Awareness, Mental Health Awareness, and Music Technique.

Girls in Aviation Day – London International Airport

On Tuesday June 2, approximately 64 female students in Grades 6 to 8 from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School and St. Boniface Catholic School attended this exciting hands-on learning opportunity. The event will introduce students to a wide range of careers within the aviation industry and provide valuable exposure to opportunities for young women in aviation. Through interactive experiences and conversations with industry professionals, students will gain a better understanding of the many educational and career pathways available within this growing sector.

St. Michael Catholic Secondary School Co-op Breakfast

St. Michael Catholic Secondary School hosted its annual Co-op Breakfast on Wednesday, June 3 in the school cafeteria. The event welcomed approximately 75 community partners, employers, educators, and students to celebrate the success of the Cooperative Education program. This gathering recognizes the valuable partnerships that provide students with meaningful, real-world, hands-on learning experiences aligned with their career goals and post-secondary pathways. The breakfast serves as an opportunity to thank our employers for their ongoing support while highlighting the positive impact Cooperative Education has on student success and career readiness.

Guidance and Cooperative Education Teachers Symposium

On Friday, June 5, our Guidance and Cooperative Education teachers participated in a one-day professional learning symposium at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School. The event featured presentations from economic development representatives from Huron County, Perth County, and the City of Stratford. Participants will also engage in a session with Four County Labour Market Planning, focusing on employment trends, areas of job growth within our communities,

and sectors experiencing workforce shortages. This information will help educators better support students as they explore career pathways and post-secondary opportunities. In addition, the Director of Workforce Development from Merit Ontario presented on skilled trades career opportunities and apprenticeship pathways available to graduating students, helping to connect young people with in-demand careers across Ontario.

St. Anne's Construction Students Support Kettle Point Community

Construction students from St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School have been building 50 planter boxes for the Kettle Point First Nation community. Over the past three weeks, students have designed, measured, cut, and assembled the components in the construction shop, applying valuable skilled trades knowledge while contributing to a meaningful community project. The planter box components were transported to Kettle Point, where students traveled on Wednesday, June 3, to assist with the final assembly of all 50 units. Planter boxes will be distributed throughout the community, allowing families to grow fresh vegetables and herbs at home. This project extends beyond construction skills development. The planter boxes help promote food security, encourage healthy eating, and provide families with opportunities to grow their own produce. The initiative also supports community self-sufficiency, environmental stewardship, and the sharing of gardening knowledge between generations. Through this partnership, students are gaining a deeper understanding of community engagement while making a positive and lasting impact on the lives of others.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Erin's Law (Bill 123) Professional Learning for Secondary Staff

Our Mental Health Lead and School Based Social Workers collaboratively facilitated training for our secondary panel staff to support the implementation of Erin's Law (Bill 123). The session built foundational understanding of sexual violence, consent, and trauma- and violence-informed responses, with a focus on strengthening staff capacity to recognize and respond to disclosures.

The training also highlighted key secondary curriculum connections, supporting educators in embedding age-appropriate learning related to consent, healthy relationships, and personal safety across subject areas. In addition, participants were introduced to the newly released Huron Perth Child & Youth Sexual Violence Support Guide, which outlines a coordinated, trauma-informed approach and clearly defined referral pathways. The guide provides staff with practical direction for accessing community support, consulting with partners (e.g., Children's Aid Society, police), and ensuring appropriate, timely responses to student needs. Overall, the training promoted awareness, consistent practices, and reinforced multi-sector collaboration to enhance student safety, well-being, and access to support. We look forward to our continued learning and implementation of Erin's Law in the fall.

Professional Development: Supporting Students with Autism and Mental Health Challenges

In response to a noticeable increase in students presenting with intersecting mental health and special education needs, including sensory profiles and ASD diagnoses or queries; our School-Based Social Workers participated in a School Mental Health Ontario virtual professional learning session focused on supporting students with Autism and co-occurring mental health needs. This targeted learning opportunity supported ongoing professional growth by strengthening the team's ability to differentiate between Autism-related characteristics and mental health concerns, allowing for more accurate understanding and responsive intervention. Social Workers enhanced their knowledge of evidence-informed strategies to address anxiety, mood difficulties, and emotional or behavioural dysregulation, while also clarifying their role in

collaborating with families, educators, and community partners. This proactive capacity-building fosters the delivery of competent, responsive, and developmentally appropriate mental health services for an increasingly complex student population.

FACILITIES AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Joint Health and Safety Committee met on June 3, 2026. Items discussed included the following:

- eBase Reporting
- On-line Reporting Tool Training and H&S Representative Training and Principal follow up
- Health & Safety School Rep Training
- JHSC Terms of Reference Update
- Monthly and Annual Inspections
- Incident Reporting
- Annual Drinking Water Reports
- Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training, and Skills Development (MLITSD) Updates
- Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting Dates

Annual Water Sampling - Ontario Regulation 243/07

As per Ontario Regulation 243/07, annual water sampling for lead occurred in all schools the week of June 8. Sampling was conducted by custodial staff.

Annual Waste Audits

Per Regulations 102/94 and 103/94, Waste Audits and Waste Reduction Work Plans must be prepared by the Board annually at a school where student enrolment is greater than 350 students. Waste Audits were conducted at St. Michael, St. Anne's and St. Mary's, Listowel in conjunction with our waste contractor, Waste Management. Final reports will be prepared and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conversation and Parks and posted on the Board's website and at each school.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board receives the Board Highlights for June for information.
