



TRUSTEES' REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

MARCH 2025

ON FIRE WITH THE SPIRIT

Lent in our Schools

School communities have actively participated in Lenten practices—fasting, prayer, and almsgiving—focusing on peace and charity. Students and staff engaged in various spiritual activities, including the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, and musical performances. The Catholic Education Centre staff joined local school communities for Ash Wednesday Mass, with a prayer service and distribution of ashes offered for those unable to attend. Leaders also received *The Path to Hope*, a Lenten devotional aimed at deepening their faith and preparing for Easter. As part of our commitment to Development and Peace Schools, every school received a kit to take part in the “Major Mustard Seed Challenge” throughout Lent. The students are excited about this experience and it is a wonderful way to engage students in a tangible sign of God’s love in their midst while also making important curriculum connections.

Improving Student Achievement - Literacy

The System Literacy Team has completed the second round of early reading screening for all Senior Kindergarten to Grade 2 students. This screening helps identify students' strengths and areas for growth to guide future instruction. Literacy Coordinator and Special Education Coordinator are working closely with school teams to review data and plan next steps. At the district level, data analysis will inform future planning and resource allocation.

Grade 3 and 6 teachers recently took part in a full day of professional learning focused on the new Literacy curriculum to support EQAO readiness. The System Literacy Team has also created practice resources aligned with the assessment to help students become familiar with the test format. Literacy Resource Teachers are further supporting schools by modeling these lessons in classrooms.

Improving Student Achievement - Mathematics

In March, the Math Team supported elementary schools with a focus on EQAO preparation for Grades 3 and 6. They worked alongside teachers to strengthen students' problem-solving skills using released EQAO questions and the strategy of “Teaching About Problem Solving.” This

approach encouraged critical thinking, self-talk, and perseverance. The team also continued supporting other grades and ongoing initiatives like the “Do the Math” intervention.

Student Success Pathways

Students from St. Michael and St. Anne’s Catholic Secondary Schools took part in several enriching experiences this month. As part of Black History Month, St. Michael hosted a Black Hair Styling Event led by former student and professional barber Melissa Dolton, who demonstrated techniques for fades, braiding, and extensions, promoting cultural awareness and inclusivity. Female students from both schools also attended the Women in Skilled Trades (WIST) event, where they explored career opportunities and earned a Mental Health Certification. Additionally, SHSM Sport students completed the Respect in Sport Coaching Certification, building their skills to support safe and respectful sports environments.

STEM

Grades 9–12 students at St. Anne’s and St. Michael are taking part in STEM workshops through a continued partnership with the University of Waterloo’s Engineering Outreach program. These hands-on sessions, shaped by our ICT Learning Coordinator, focus on coding, problem-solving, and real-world engineering, aligning with the Ontario Curriculum and supporting future-ready learning.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

From March 3–8, Huron-Perth Catholic DSB celebrated Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Week, with K-12 classrooms engaging in activities to support emotional intelligence and well-being. The Mental Health and Wellness Team (MHWT) provided a ‘Grab and Go’ resource for educators and delivered SEL presentations to 10 elementary classrooms, reaching approximately 220 students. Additionally, the MHWT completed the Board Mental Health and Addictions Scan for School Mental Health Ontario, helping refine the district’s mental health strategy. March also marked Social Work Week, recognizing the dedication of our School-Based Social Workers and their essential role in supporting student well-being.

Special Education

Special Education Resource Teachers gathered for a full day of learning at the Catholic Education Centre, focusing on executive functioning, universal supports, and a new book study, *Rethinking Disability and Mathematics*. The afternoon session emphasized EQAO preparation and targeted interventions to support student achievement. Teachers collaborated with the

Learning Coordination Team, building on the foundation set in February's Leadership Learning Community (LLC) meeting.

Budget Goals

The 2025-2026 budget goals are driven by the strategic plan and will create an environment where we are able to raise expectations for all students, and provide inspired and faith-filled communities.

1. Catholic faith development for staff and students.
2. Student-centered learning focusing on mathematics and literacy.
3. Focus on preparing students for post-secondary pathways.
4. Focus on systems of support to improve student attendance.

To review the full version of the latest Board Meeting agenda and minutes check out our [Board Agendas and Minutes](#) webpage on our Board website. Any questions, please contact the Director's Office by emailing directorsoffice@huronperthcatholic.ca.