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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - MR12

From: Karen Tigani, Director of Education

Celebrating Autism Awareness Month: Building Inclusive Schools Through Neurodiversity Education

DUBLIN, ON - As Autism Awareness Month comes to a close, the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board is proud to highlight meaningful progress in fostering inclusive and supportive learning environments for all students, affirming our belief that every child is a unique gift from God, created with inherent dignity and purpose.



A key focus this year has been the Board's commitment to neurodiversity education. During the 2025–2026 school year, nearly 50 training sessions have been delivered across the system so far, which is an unprecedented milestone that reflects both the demand for and impact of this work.

These sessions take place directly in classrooms and are designed to help students better understand and support one another. In some cases, they involve whole-class activities that build empathy and awareness of the many different ways people experience and interact with the world, such as using alternative communication tools during a shared activity. At other times, sessions are more targeted, helping classmates better understand and connect with a specific student by focusing on strengths, shared interests, and ways to offer meaningful support. A particularly impactful part of this work is when students are supported in leading their own presentations, sharing about themselves in their own voice and helping peers understand who they are. All of these approaches can be powerful and transformative for entire classrooms, helping to create environments where students respect and genuinely embrace one another.

These learning opportunities are also empowering students to become leaders and allies while strengthening peer relationships and fostering a strong sense of belonging across school communities.



“The growth we’ve seen this year reflects a shared commitment to inclusion across our schools,” said Jessica Langan, Learning Coordinator of Special Education. “When students understand and support one another, we create environments of true belonging where everyone can thrive.”

As Autism Awareness Month concludes, the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board remains committed to continuing this important work by amplifying student voice, strengthening peer support, and fostering school communities rooted in Gospel values, where the dignity of every person is honored and celebrated.



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