



TRUSTEES' REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

February 2025

ON FIRE WITH THE SPIRIT

Artwork Presentation by Artist - Christen Dennis

At the February 24 Board meeting, trustees welcomed knowledge keeper Christin Dennis to share his story and piece of artwork "Sacred Dream of Reality" which he has donated to the Catholic Education Centre.



Sacred Dream of Reality

Planning for a Future Beyond High School

The Huron-Perth Catholic DSB and Avon Maitland DSB are hosting three transition fairs to support parents and caregivers of students with disabilities as they plan for life beyond high school. The first event, a virtual panel with Facile Perth on February 26, covered key transition

topics for families of students in grades 7-12+. In-person fairs will follow on April 12 at St. Michael Secondary School in Stratford and May 3 at Central Huron Secondary School in Clinton.

Catholicity

The *Daily Reflections for Elementary Schools* provide monthly resources created by the Religion and Family Life Learning Coordinator to support prayer, scripture reflection, and Catholic teachings, aligning with Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and virtues. These materials, designed for morning announcements and classroom use, also include a calendar for at-home discussions with families, reinforcing faith formation goals. Additionally, the *Flat Luce Pilgrimage Across the Huron-Perth Catholic DSB* celebrates the Jubilee Year by sending a Flat Luce figure—a Vatican-created anime-style mascot symbolizing the light of Christ—on a journey to schools and parishes. Inspired by *Flat Stanley*, this initiative fosters faith, community engagement, and creativity while connecting students to sacred spaces.



District Skills Competition

On February 26, around 200 Grade 7 and 8 students participated in the second annual HPCDSB District Skills Competition, showcasing their talents in Robotics, Mechanical Engineering, Green Energy, and Construction. This hands-on event, supported by teachers and community volunteers, helps students explore career pathways in skilled trades and technology. Winners will advance to the Skills Ontario provincial competition in May.

Improving Student Achievement - Mathematics

In February, the Math Team continued supporting elementary math instruction, focusing on preparing grade 3 and 6 students for EQAO testing by using released questions and the High Impact Instructional Practice of “Teaching About Problem Solving.” This approach helps students develop critical thinking, perseverance, and adaptive reasoning by making problem-solving strategies explicit and encouraging self-reflection and discussion.

Improving Student Achievement - Literacy

In February, the System Literacy Team conducted the Mid-Year Acadience Screening for SK-2 students, assessing key early literacy skills and collaborating with teachers to analyze results and develop targeted action plans. Additionally, four elementary schools are receiving Tier 2 Early Reading Intervention, where Literacy Resource Teachers provide targeted support to struggling SK-2 students to address reading challenges and prevent further literacy gaps.

Secondary

This month, secondary teachers collaborated on program development, with technology teachers exploring the new grade 9 and 10 curriculum and math and social science teachers working on best practices. In semester 2, the district launched 8 eLearning courses with 206 local students and 66 from other Catholic boards, ensuring access to quality, faith-based online education through Catholic Virtual Ontario.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board's Mental Health and Wellness Team promoted anti-bullying awareness on Pink Shirt Day, provided SBIRT training for school mental health professionals, and facilitated faith-based mental health retreats for secondary students. Additionally, they delivered Social Emotional Learning presentations to elementary students and implemented the RESET curriculum to educate grade 7 and 8 students on exploitation and human trafficking, resulting in improved awareness and help-seeking behaviors.

2025-2026 School Year Calendar Approved

The calendar for the next school year was approved at the February Board Meeting. The calendar has been submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval. The draft can be viewed on the website at: <https://huronperthcatholic.ca/our-calendar/>.

2025-2026 Budget Community Consultation

The Board encourages public participation in the 2025-2026 budget process through various engagement strategies, including the ThoughtExchange platform, which allows community members to provide input on budget priorities aligned with the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, with results presented to Trustees in April.

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.