



REPORT TO THE HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Prepared by: Tara Boreham and Sean McDade, Superintendents of Education
Presented to: The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board
Date: Monday, May 26, 2025
Submitted by: Karen Tigani Director of Education and Secretary

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY

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 in the month prior to the board meeting, 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 month of May is a beautiful and meaningful time in the school calendar, as we celebrate Catholic Education Week and honour our Blessed Mother, Mary. It is a season filled with hope and devotion, marked by the renewed enthusiasm and deep commitment of our students, staff, educators, and families. We are inspired by the incredible learning and growth that continue to propel us forward as we journey together, living out our Board's theme: *On Fire with the Spirit*. We are pleased to highlight some of the many activities and opportunities that have taken place across our district this month.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Catholic Education Week 2025

Catholic Education Week was a significant success throughout our system. The event began with a system-wide Mass celebrated by Rev. Bishop Fabbro, where we were blessed to have students from St. Columban, St. Patrick, St. James Catholic Schools and several music teachers from across the district lead our music ministry. There were several priests and deacons from our Deanery in attendance as well. We enjoyed the presence of so many staff, students and community members as we celebrated Catholic education within our system. Students from across the district created beautiful artwork inspired by the theme "we must fan the flame of hope" and our spiritual theme "on fire with the Spirit".

Throughout the week, individual schools held their own liturgies and Masses, celebrating our schools and honouring Mother Mary. Students participated in lessons and activities developed by the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustees Association, as well as additional activities co-created with the Mental Health Team to mark Children's Mental Health Week, including the launch of the "Stop, Pause, Pray" initiative in our elementary schools that highlights Christian meditation practices in a way that promotes self-regulation with our students. This collaborative effort highlighted the importance of both faith and mental well-being in our educational community.

Staff Pilgrimage to Midland Martyrs' Shrine

The current Jubilee Year is a sacred time to consider making a prayerful pilgrimage. As a Board, we wanted to offer something very special for staff. On May 15, twenty-eight staff from across the Board embarked on a faith formation pilgrimage to the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland, a sacred space rooted in the legacy of Canadian Martyr St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions. The day offered time for personal prayer and quiet reflection on the Shrine's peaceful grounds, fostering a deep spiritual connection with God and creation. Attendees gathered to celebrate Mass, entering the mystery of the Eucharist together in unity and reverence. The heart of the day was a three-hour retreat led by Jesuit facilitators from the Shrine, centered on the theme *A Journey of Discovery with Christ*. Through guided reflections, shared stories, and spiritual exercises, staff were invited to consider how God has uniquely gifted each person with a relationship with Christ, a personal vocation, and the call to live lives of love, generosity, and service.

As the martyrs once did, participants were encouraged to recognize that embracing Jesus Christ more fully allows for a deeper understanding of one's own calling in life. In the diversity of our world and the complexity of human experience, this pilgrimage became a moment to pause and listen for God's voice, to be renewed in mission, and to commit once again to walking with Christ. Through the example of St. Jean de Brébeuf and his companions, the retreat invited all present to reflect on the courage, faith, and love that defines the Christian journey and inspires a renewed dedication to Catholic education.

International Education

April provided our international students from Brazil their first time receiving an Ontario Provincial Report Card. Noting that report cards in Brazil are very different, Principal Grace met with all Brazilian students to review their academic progress in each of their secondary courses. Principal Grace explained the details about what is included in a report card, including what the Learning Skills evaluate. All five students are progressing very well and at this point in the semester are on track to earn all their credits. The work that Katherine Miller, the Board's Multi-Language Learner teacher is doing with the students and their teachers at both schools is making a difference. Additionally, all students are making great strides with their ability to speak English.

Principal Grace attended the Canadian Association of Public Schools International (CAPS-I) Annual General Meeting on Sunday, May 4 and then attended Professional Development sessions on May 5 and 6 at the CAPS-I conference in Calgary. Learning sessions were led by other Canadian School Districts which focused on international recruiting trends, homestay challenges and other operational topics in international education. This is the biggest annual international education conference in Canada and all member school boards are required to send at least one Board representative for the Annual General Meeting and Conference. It provides excellent learning opportunities and extensive networking opportunities.

Our student enrolment continues to grow, with noticeable impact from the work being done directly with agents and families to build relationships and trust through our recruitment efforts. Another student from Spain has committed to attending our Board for September 2025 along with a student from Japan. The Grade 11 student from Japan will be the Board's first student visiting from this country and he will be attending St. Michael CSS in Grade 11. Additionally, the Grade 11 student from Spain will be attending St. Anne's in the fall.

LEADERSHIP

Leader's Learning Council (LLC)

On May 13, principals, vice-principals, and learning coordinators came together for a powerful training session led by experienced educator Darryl from Greenfield Education, the provider of Lexia and other impactful learning platforms used in our schools. The training focused on the enhanced student achievement and data portal, equipping leaders with tools to monitor progress, identify strategic leadership moves, and act early to support student needs. Deeply aligned with our Board's strategic plan, the training emphasized the moral imperative of timely intervention, supporting students early and often, to ensure every learner has the opportunity to succeed. Central to the session was our ambitious goal of graduating at least 95 percent of our students. We recognize that this goal belongs to us all. It is a collective effort, where leadership at every level - from kindergarten through Grade 12 - shapes the conditions for student success. As a Catholic school system, we are called to guide each student with care and purpose along the path God has set before them—toward graduation and most importantly, a hopeful future.

School Mental Health Ontario Provincial Leadership Meeting

On May 28 and 29, the Board's Mental Health Lead and Superintendent of Education proudly represented our board at the 2025 Spring Provincial Leadership Meeting, hosted by School Mental Health Ontario. This annual event is a cornerstone gathering for mental health leaders, superintendents, and clinical managers across the province. The conference offered valuable insights into emerging school mental health initiatives and evidence-informed practices, while also fostering meaningful collaboration among Ontario school boards. Through engaging sessions and strategic networking, we explored innovative approaches to student well-being and contributed to shaping the future direction of school mental health in Ontario. This opportunity reinforces our Board's commitment to leading and learning in the evolving landscape of student mental health and wellness.

Department Head Learning Session

On May 20 **all** Department Heads from both secondary schools met at the Brodhagen Community Centre to engage in a day of learning and leadership. Hosted by Superintendent Sean McDade and Secondary Coordinator Paul D'Hondt, former Superintendent Lorrie Temple animated the day on the topic of Catholic leadership. Participants reflected on the role of department leader and servant leadership, while identifying and discussing challenges in their work.

Catholic Curriculum Corporation AGM

Members of the Learning Coordination and System Program Team, along with Superintendent McDade and Director Tigani, attended the Catholic Curriculum Corporation Annual General Meeting in Toronto on May 8 and 9. During the May 8 council meetings—the final gathering of the school year—discussions focused on how best to support students in Catholic education across various subject areas. That evening, Director Tigani was honoured at the AGM dinner as the outgoing Chair of the Executive Council and Board of Representatives, in recognition of her

leadership and longstanding dedication to Catholic education through her years of service with the Catholic Curriculum Corporation.

On May 9, the *When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference* workshop selection committee met to finalize the workshops that will be selected to present at the annual conference in October. This committee is chaired by Huron-Perth CDSB's Religion and Family Life Learning Coordinator, Caroline Thus. This conference is the largest Catholic education conference in Canada and we look forward to many of our staff attending this fall.

Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association (OCSOA) Conference and AGM

On May 14-16, Director Tigani and Superintendents of Education Boreham and McDade attended the OCSOA annual professional conference entitled "Leading With Purpose". Huron-Perth CDSB was one of the host boards for this professional learning and faith formation event. There was significant leadership from our team. Our senior leaders led liturgy and prayer, engaged in the mentor-coaching event and helped facilitate learning sessions. Our newest Supervisory Officer, Superintendent McDade was blessed and commissioned by Bishop Fabbro to go forth and lead as Jesus modeled in a special ceremony fashioned around the leadership stance of Jesus who "washed the feet of others". At the awards dinner, retired Director of Education Chris Roehrig was honoured and received a certificate to acknowledge his leadership and dedication to Catholic education.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Professional Development, May 2

Elementary - During the morning, all Elementary Dance, Drama, Health, and Physical Education Teachers (DDHP) and Music Teachers participated in a virtual session with Behaviour Consultant Megan Delcourt. The session focused on classroom management strategies grounded in evidence-based practices, with an emphasis on the effective use of reinforcement.

In the afternoon, all elementary staff engaged in professional learning on executive functioning and universal supports. Staff were given time to reflect on practical strategies they could implement in their classrooms to enhance student achievement and support diverse learner needs.

Secondary - Secondary teachers and educational assistants gathered at St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School for our Professional Development Day. The morning saw a presentation by Kristi Johnson, a Special Education lead and OECTA course instructor, who led the educators through practical ways of implementing Universal Design for Learning and Differentiated Instruction in secondary classrooms. Participants discussed the issues in groups and planned with their colleagues.

Karen Congram, who delivered an engaging presentation on the importance of inclusive education facilitated the afternoon session. Drawing from her extensive experience as a secondary teacher, Learning for All coach, and as a mother and advocate for a child with complex special education needs, Karen shared both professional insights and personal reflections. Building on the morning's focus on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Differentiated Instruction (DI), she provided practical examples demonstrating how all students can meaningfully access the curriculum and contribute to inclusive secondary classrooms through creative planning, intentional pre-planning, and a collaborative team-based approach.

Regional Special Education and Supervisory Officer Councils (RSEC/RSOCC) - May 22-23

This two-day conference focused on empowering students and addressing current regional trends in education. Day one featured an in-depth session with Douglas Fisher on fostering student engagement and self-directed learning. His presentation emphasized the importance of designing learning experiences that build knowledge, self-efficacy, and cognitive regulation. The day concluded with business updates and networking opportunities. On day two, attendees split into RSEC and RSOCC breakout sessions to explore region-specific issues in special education and curriculum. Presenters Charmaine Perera and Mishaal Surti provided insights into provincial trends and policy directions. Participants engaged in collaborative discussions to identify shared challenges, successes, and solutions across school boards.

Special Education Regional Coordinator/Consultant Conference - May 29-30

Members of the System Special Education Team attended the Special Education Regional Coordinator/Consultant Conference (SERCC) on May 29-30. The two-day conference offered a powerful and thought-provoking exploration of inclusion, neurodiversity, and best practices in special education. It opened with Joe Lambert's compelling personal story of resilience and survival from institutionalization, reinforcing the critical importance of valuing every human life. This was followed by a session with Adam Davies, who introduced the neurodiversity paradigm and emphasized the shift from advocacy to collective empowerment. Afternoon breakout sessions encouraged rich dialogue among participants, while updates from Ministry field officers and SERCC business rounded out the day. The second day focused on practical strategies for supporting students with intellectual disabilities, presented by the Waterloo Catholic District School Board team and KidsAbility, and concluded with a session that reflected on the past to inspire future inclusive practices, highlighting community collaboration and co-creation through a partnership between the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board and Facile Perth.

DIGITAL TOOLS TO SUPPORT LEARNING

Artificial Intelligence Network

We are continuing our collaborative efforts to explore and support the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in education within the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board. Recently, members of our senior team, corporate managers, and ICT department participated in the CODE Generative AI Learning Network, joining eight other Ontario school boards. This network provided a valuable opportunity to share best practices, discuss common challenges, and learn from each other's experiences as we navigate the evolving role of AI in classrooms. Our involvement in this province-wide dialogue ensures we remain informed, proactive, and aligned with emerging standards and strategies to enhance teaching, learning, and operational efficiency through AI.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Mathematics

The Huron-Perth CDSB Math Team began the month of May with a system-wide professional learning session focused on developing mathematical reasoning skills. Principals facilitated discussions with their K–8 teachers, educational assistants, and designated early childhood educators, while the Math Learning Coordinator and three Math Facilitators broadcasted a presentation. Educators explored the developmental continuum of mathematical

reasoning—from counting, to additive, to multiplicative, to proportional reasoning. They observed videos of students solving computational problems, identifying and analyzing their reasoning strategies. We were delighted to be joined by members of the provincial Math team who were deeply impressed and inspired by the leadership and work of our team and educators.

The Math Team then led educators through a Number Talk or Problem String—Tier 1, high-impact instructional practices designed to advance student thinking toward more sophisticated reasoning. Educators also learned about the importance of making student thinking visible using tools such as number lines and area models during these routines. These strategies connect to Universal Design for Learning by ensuring all students can access and engage with mathematical reasoning.

Also, the Math Team attended the Ontario Association for Mathematics Education (OAME) conference in Oshawa. This annual event is a key gathering for math leaders across the continent. Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board sent 13 educators, including three secondary teachers and six newly appointed permanent elementary teachers. Participants engaged in a variety of sessions to deepen their pedagogical skills and content knowledge. A post-conference survey was distributed to gather feedback and inform future professional learning.

The rest of May remained busy for the Math Team. They delivered key manipulatives to Junior and Intermediate classrooms, supported problem-solving with Grades 3 and 6 students, and assisted with the invigilation of EQAO assessments. May also marked the release of the final set of the team's nearly 600 Scope and Sequence lessons.

Literacy

Throughout the month of May, the system literacy team's commitment to early intervention in literacy remained a key focus. Two dedicated Learning Resource Teachers (LRTs) provided targeted support across four schools, working intensively in Grade 1 classrooms four days a week. This initiative is designed to build and reinforce foundational reading skills at a critical stage in students' development. By addressing potential challenges early, we aim to equip each student with the tools and confidence they need to achieve their personalized reading goals and thrive as lifelong learners.

Besides ongoing intervention work, the literacy team also launched the final round of screening for the school year. This End of Year (EOY) screening provides an important opportunity to measure student growth over the past year and inform next steps for instruction and support. The data gathered also plays a key role in helping the district make informed decisions about class placements and potential early interventions for September.

Throughout May, the literacy team also worked closely with Grade 3 and 6 students and their teachers in preparation for the literacy portion of EQAO. Support included modelling lessons and helping students become familiar with the digital testing platform—ensuring they approach the assessment with confidence and readiness.

French as a Second Language: DELF

On May 5,6,& 7 almost 30 Grade 12 Core and French Immersion students from St Anne's CSS and St Michael CSS challenged the DELF (Diplôme d'études en langue française) exam. DELF is an internationally recognized proficiency exam from France. It is based on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), which defines language proficiency along six global

levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2. At each level, proficiency is measured across four competencies: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The French Ministry of National Education awards a diploma to successful candidates. HPCDSB offered the A2 and B1 and B2 tests this year.

This is an extremely valuable initiative that promotes linguistic diversity and cultural understanding. By offering the DELF, students can assess and certify their French language proficiency, opening doors to broader educational and career opportunities in a globalized world while fostering a deep appreciation for the French language and culture.

Challenging the DELF is not a required component of the regular FSL program, nor is it a replacement for the French program. Students who are in French Immersion and Core French continue to work toward earning their French Immersion Certificate and FSL credits, with the DELF being an additional option. DELF test results are not included in any course evaluation or final report card grades. We are grateful for the leadership of Principal Shona Gracey who animates the DELF and supports all staff and students who are involved in DELF in our Board.

Core French Professional Development

Our Core French teachers engaged in an exciting day of professional learning on May 2 PD Day. Teachers Sandra O'Neil and Kaitlyn Michie led an informative morning session focused on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), providing valuable strategies on how to integrate its principles into everyday classroom practice to support all learners. In the afternoon, we were fortunate to welcome guest speaker and educational leader Kim Lochart, an expert in Structured Literacy for FSL classrooms. Kim delivered an inspiring session on the power of Read Alouds for French as a Second Language learners, offering practical tools and insights to enrich literacy instruction in the Core French classroom. The day was a meaningful opportunity for collaboration and growth among our FSL educators.

Kindergarten Orientation

Kindergarten Orientation days have begun in all our elementary schools this month. In collaboration with our bus companies, new junior kindergarten students and their families have been welcomed into our schools. These events are geared toward creating an opportunity for families to meet school staff and have some bus safety training. It is very exciting to welcome our newest learners and families into our schools!

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAMS IN SECONDARY

Women in Skilled Trades (WIST) Exploration , May 5 - 6

Female students from both SMCSS and SACSS schools traveled to Toronto to take part in a multi-day WIST experience. The trip included hands-on training in plumbing at Conestoga College, a visit to the Ontario Masonry Training Centre, and participation in the Skills Ontario Young Women's Conference. Students explored exhibitor booths and connected with trades professionals to gain deeper insights into career opportunities in the skilled trades.

Ontario Skills Competition – May 6

Held at the Toronto Congress Centre in Etobicoke, this competition is one of the largest skilled trades events in Canada.

- **Secondary Level:** St. Anne's CSS competed in Team Carpentry, while St. Michael CSS had students participate in Automotive Service Technician (AST), Aesthetics, and

Hairstyling. Our students demonstrated their skills at a high level, competing among the best in the province.

- **Elementary Level Engagement:** This month, 20 elementary students proudly represented our school board at the provincial Skills Ontario competition. These students had been preparing diligently over the past several months in areas such as robotics, green energy, construction, and mechanical engineering through hands-on projects like building wind turbines, model houses, cranes, and LEGO-based machines. Their participation reflected our ongoing commitment to experiential learning and STEM education, while providing an opportunity to showcase their problem-solving, collaboration, and innovation skills on a provincial stage. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and how they represented our board among the best young talent in Ontario. Together, these experiences reflect the strength of our OYAP portfolio, fostering awareness and excellence in the trades across all grade levels.

Business & Entrepreneurship Career Experience

On May 22 students from both schools attended a Sector Partner Career Talk with Toronto Blue Jays staff, learning about diverse roles in sports and business. The event also featured workshops on entrepreneurship, finance, digital literacy, and career planning. Students earned sector-recognized certifications and finished the day attending a Blue Jays game to see and appreciate some of the learning in action.

Dual Credit – Aesthetics (Fanshawe College)

A total of 19 students (8 from SACSS 11 from SMCSS) are enrolled in a Dual Credit course in Facials and Makeup at the REACH Centre. The course runs April 30 to June 11, providing college-level training and valuable industry certification.

Co-op Supervisors' Appreciation Breakfasts

To recognize the vital role of community employers, both secondary schools hosted appreciation breakfasts: St. Anne's CSS – May 15; St. Michael CSS – May 29

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)

Several students are participating in Level 1 apprenticeship training at Ontario colleges:

- Electrical (Conestoga College): 1 student completing training by May 23
- Welding (Lambton College): 2 students (April 28–June)
- Automotive Service Technician (AST, Fanshawe College): 1 student (April 28–June)
- Electrical (Fanshawe College): 6 students (April 28–June)
- **OCTE Conference – May 7–10 (Ottawa)**
OYAP leads and Tech educators from across the province will gather at the Ontario Council of Technological Educators (OCTE) conference to discuss new pathways, strategies, and innovations supporting student success in skilled trades.
- **SCWI Forum – May 13 (Humber College)**
Four HPCDSB representatives will attend the School College Work Initiative forum. With evolving dual credit offerings and pathways, this event offers timely insight into collaborative programming.
- **RPT10 Year-End Meeting – May 27 (Chatham)**
This final meeting of the year will highlight successes in Dual Credit and OYAP Level 1 programming and initiate planning for the 2025–26 school year.
- **OYAP Information Sessions-May 21**
St. Michael hosted both a parent luncheon and evening session to share Dual Credit, SHSM, and OYAP opportunities.

- **Ongoing OYAP Placements**
Numerous students continue to gain hands-on experience in various industries as they complete their OYAP placements.

Specialized Learning & Field Trips

- **Fanshawe Animation Workshop – May 1**
Six Arts & Culture SHSM students from SACSS participated in a hands-on 2D animation session with David Latour from Fanshawe College using the Mobile Cintiq Lab.
- **BattleSTEM – May 8 (University of Guelph)**
St. Anne's CSS students in Health & Wellness and Agriculture SHSM programs competed in STEM challenges and earned certifications in Project Management and Lab Practices.
- **Discovery Day at Lavis/Miller Group – May 9**
Fifteen Grade 10 St Anne's CSS students toured this local business to explore apprenticeships and summer job opportunities.
- **OYAP Hairstyling Exploration – May 9**
St Anne's CSS students visited Elegance in London and the Festival School of Hairstyling in Stratford, connecting with instructors and learning about hairstyling as an OYAP pathway.
- **Sports Injury Workshop – May 15**
Health & Wellness and Sports SHSM students took part in a taping and wrapping workshop led by a local physiotherapist.
- **Industry Tours – May 15**
Students visited Cleaver Brooks and Steele Craft, learning about career paths in construction and manufacturing.
- **Habitat for Humanity Build – May 21**
Ten Construction SHSM students participated in a community build in Kitchener, gaining hands-on experience while giving back.
- **Jill of All Trades – May 28**
Female students took part in mentor-led, hands-on workshops at Conestoga College to explore skilled trades and build confidence in non-traditional career pathways.
- **In-House SHSM Certifications at SACSS**
Certifications include: Customer Service, Leadership Skills and Ethical Considerations

Certification & Safety Training

CPR & First Aid Certification – May 1, 13, 16

SHSM students completed mandatory certifications to fulfill program requirements.

Dual Credit Program

Lambton College: 5 students from SACSS are enrolled in programs, HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, Arboriculture, Outdoor Education, and Bakeshop

Conestoga College: 1 student from SACSS is enrolled in Cabinet Making and Security Guard Licensing

Grade 10 Class Presentations

Staff continue to attend classes, supporting students with SHSM program awareness and course planning. St. Anne's offers SHSM in:

- Agriculture
- Arts & Culture
- Business

- Construction
- Health & Wellness
- Non-Profit
- Education & Childcare
- Sports

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Elementary:

In our elementary panel, the Mental Health and Wellness Team provided 17 Social Emotional Learning (SEL) sessions to approximately 260 students. With the integration of our OCSGEs, the topics ranged from recognizing and understanding emotions, managing stress, building resilience, coping with big feelings, relationship skills, anxiety, social awareness, setting boundaries, and resolving conflict.

The MHWT continues to facilitate a book study on *Relationship, Responsibility and Regulation: Trauma-Informed Practices for Fostering Resilient Learners* by Kristin Van Marter Souers and Pete Hall. School staff are diving into trauma-informed practices, focusing on how we can better understand and support students who have experienced trauma. The goal is to explore how we can create a safe and resilient learning environment by addressing the underlying needs that drive student behavior. It's a valuable opportunity to reflect on our practices and deepen our impact on students' lives.

Secondary:

SMCSS and SACSS hosted a lunchtime event featuring music, snacks, wellness activities, and fellowship. This initiative aimed to foster a sense of community and celebrate Catholic Education and Children's Mental Health Week. Students and staff participated in engaging activities that promote well-being and reflection, creating a supportive environment for open conversations about mental health. The event highlighted the importance of education and mental health advocacy within the school community.

Catholic Education Week and Children's Mental Health Week

Stop Pause Pray

For CEW and CMHW, the Mental Health Team in collaboration with the Religion and Family Life Coordinator developed the Stop, Pause, Pray initiative. This practice aims to enhance self-regulation skills while deepening students' connection to their faith.

The steps include:

Stop: Cease your current activity to create a moment of stillness.

Pause: Take a moment to ground and center yourself.



Pray: Engage in our On Fire with the Spirit prayer, the short prayer provided on the prayer cards or of another prayer that resonates with oneself, the class, or their students.

Educators were provided with grade-specific presentations, scripts, and prayer cards to support the implementation in their classrooms. By sharing faith-filled mental health activities with our students, fostered both spiritual growth and mental wellness.

Parent & Caregiver Night with Dr. Zayed

The MHWT, in partnership with AMDSB, held their fourth presentation as part of the ongoing Caregiver Series. Dr. Zayed presented on “What Do Children Need From Parents?” There were 40 caregivers/community members present and we received extensive positive feedback on the session. This aligns with our fourth priority of the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan which is “Increase Student Attendance, Safety, and Family Engagement.”

School Based Social Worker Professional Development:

- Recent Advances in Assessment and Intervention for Autism and ADHD
 - Understood recent advances in assessment of autism and ADHD
 - Learned about recent developments in working with students with autism and ADHD
- Working with Neurodiverse Children and Youth: An Anti-Oppressive Approach (Wilfrid Laurier University)
 - Learned about the implementation of therapeutic approaches for children, and youth using diverse approaches.
- Trauma and Addictions (Wilfrid Laurier University)
 - Explored the connection between trauma and addiction with a focus on providing knowledge, tools and resources to effectively serve clients who are dealing with both trauma and addiction issues.
 - Supports the implementation of PPM 128
- ACT and Self Compassion (Wilfrid Laurier University)
 - This course emphasized direct experience, skill-building and practice of ACT strategies for fostering self-compassion.

School Services Advisory Council Final Meeting of the Year:

The HPCDSB and AMDSB Mental Health Leads co-hosted the final School Service Advisory Council Meeting at the AMDSB Board office located in Seaforth. The School Service Advisory Committee is composed of organizations that are actively providing services to HPCDSB and AMDSB students. We work collaboratively to address the needs amongst children and youth and at the system level to support clear pathways to service with an understanding of our agency protocols and scopes of practice.

This final meeting of the school year involved collaborating with our school service professionals to reflect on the services provided to students throughout the 2024-2025 school year and consider how we may enhance the mental health and social service delivery in the upcoming year. For example, each service reported on their strengths and areas for improvement of their organization’s service delivery as well as the gaps and needs of services they’ve observed through their roles.

MAINTENANCE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety Week

The winner of the fourth annual Safety Cup Challenge is St. Mary's (Goderich). Thanks to all staff for your participation in our Annual Health & Safety Week. As part of the prize package, the school's name will be *engraved* on the **SAFETY CUP** and enjoy displaying this prize for one year! In addition, staff will receive a pizza party to celebrate their win!! The Health and Safety Department will be reaching out when the safety cup has been engraved to arrange its delivery. Pizza lunch will be provided to staff and the opportunity to have their day with the Safety Cup.

Annual Waste Audits

In accordance with Ontario Regulations 102/94 and 103/94, the Board is required to conduct annual Waste Audits and develop Waste Reduction Work Plans for all schools with an enrolment exceeding 350 students. This year, audits were completed at St. Michael Catholic Secondary School, St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School, and St. Mary's Catholic School in Listowel. These audits were conducted in partnership with our waste contractor, Waste Management. The final reports will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and will be made publicly available on the Board's website and posted at each participating school.

RECOMMENDATION

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