



Region: Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB)

Director: Marlo Znidarec

Spring 2026

Regional Report Spring 2026

1. School Parish Confirmations wrap up in our community and I was able to get out to a few and help volunteer and now look forward to First Holy Communions. As a Catholic community we should always try to be present for sacraments in our community even if it's not the year your child(ren) is making theirs, this should be discussed with your Parent Council and a group of volunteers to help should be allocated. The school and the parish always welcome volunteers to help on the day of sacraments and if you can't volunteer your presence to support and cheer on the students is a wonderful sentiment. God bless all of our Confirmandi and First Holy Communicants It truly takes a village!
2. As many parents within HCDSB have expressed concern regarding School/ Parish Life, a small subcommittee met virtually on how we can achieve our goals to strengthen not only the relationship but also the communication between school and parish. A survey will be sent to all Halton OAPCE representatives and I will provide it to the Diocese of Hamilton. There was a bit of a delay on this as we wanted our new Bishop Joseph Dabrowski to get settled and for the community to get to know him. Thus far, his messages to students and education have been a blessing and we are beyond delighted to have him as our Bishop.
3. OAPCE Annual Conference took place Saturday April 18th at St Francis Xavier Secondary School in Mississauga. A special thanks to a wonderful school

community for hosting. The day was filled with education with the focus on artificial intelligence, faith and new friendships. Thank you to those parents that were able to attend.

4. HCDSB hosts the first ever Healthy Active Schools Student Conference on April 20th with elementary students from grades 7 & 8. Workshops included living in balance, healthy choices, screen time and how to respond to when mistakes happen and so much more.

5. Catholic Education Week just wrapped up May 4th - 8th. This is such an exciting week and I hope that you were able to attend the *Walk with Jesus* or any other events that your child's school hosted. Catholic Education week is truly a reflection on why you chose Catholic Education for your child. Bishop Dabrowski offered a beautiful message that can be found on social media.
Congratulations to the winners of the HCDSB Catholic Education Week Creative Contest!

6. Nominations for CPIC should have already been submitted as well as CPIC volunteer of the year awards. Results will be posted soon check in on the HCDSB website or HCDSB Instagram

7. Welcome newly elected Student Trustees for the 2026-2027 School Year
The students' profiles can be found here
<https://www.hcdsb.org/2026/03/hcdsb-welcomes-newly-elected-student-trustees-f-or-the-2026-2027-school-year/>

8. Congratulations to the winners of the 2026 Student Awards of Excellence
May God bless you always and may you all continue to shine
<https://www.hcdsb.org/2026/05/hcdsb-announces-winners-of-the-2026-student-awards-of-excellence/>

9. Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting (CPIC) will take place Monday May 11th at the HCDSB in Burlington all are welcome.

10. As we approach the last days of the school year please feel free to contact me with your questions & comments.

Provincial Updates

OAPCE recently issued an Open Letter to the Honourable Minister of Education, Paul Calandra, on behalf of parents across Ontario. The letter highlights:

- The importance of protecting publicly funded Catholic education
 - The central role of parents as primary educators
 - The need for continued consultation and transparency in decisions impacting Catholic families
- The full letter can be read here:

<https://oapce.org/an-open-letter-to-the-honourable-minister-of-education-paul-calandra/>

Regional Updates / Key Points to Bring Back to Parent Councils

Please share the following at your next Parent Council meeting:

- OAPCE Newsletter (Parents4Parents)
<https://oapce.org/blog/>
- Conference Registration Information
<https://oapce.org/events/>
- Reflection on *Leading with Hope*
<https://oapce.org/reflection-on-hope/>
- OAPCE Open Letter to the Minister of Education
<https://oapce.org/an-open-letter-to-the-honourable-minister-of-education-paul-calandra/>

Please encourage parents to visit www.oapce.org regularly for updates, blog posts, advocacy communications, and provincial resources.

TO DO:

Please continue to:

- Read and share the OAPCE Newsletter
- Bring updates back to your local Parent Councils
- Encourage parent engagement in provincial initiatives
- Follow OAPCE on Facebook and Instagram to stay connected with timely announcements and advocacy updates

Together, as parents supporting parents, we strengthen Catholic education across Ontario.

Marlo Znidarec

Director of OAPCE Halton