2025 Calendar & Annual Report

About the HSCDSB



Land Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge that the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board is located on lands that have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We recognize the deep-rooted connections and stewardship that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities have with these lands.

Our school board spans territories covered by the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850, the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850, and Treaty 9. These treaties are not merely historical documents; they are living agreements that guide our shared responsibilities and relationships. As treaty people, we are committed to honouring these covenants.

We dedicate ourselves to supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, especially those that shape and guide education. We commit to learning, listening, and growing in our understanding of the history and experiences of Indigenous peoples, with the hope of building a future founded on mutual respect and understanding.

In a spirit of reconciliation, let us walk this path together, in a good way.

Our Mission

Rooted in Jesus Christ, we are a Catholic learning community called and committed to develop the full potential of each child and to nurture a personal relationship with Jesus that will inspire Catholic leadership.

Our Vision

Dedicated to excellence in education and the desire to live the values of Jesus, we strive to:

- Affirm the sacredness of life and respect for all creation
- Reverence the dignity of each person as a Child of God
- Provide an enduring education that reflects the essence of our Catholic traditions
- Proclaim Christ's message throughout the curriculum
- Celebrate God's love in prayer, at Eucharist, and in all sacramental moments of life
- · Create sacred learning environments
- Cultivate enriching opportunities that will deepen faith

Our Values

Guided by the Spirit on our journey, together with family and Church, we mutually invite, encourage, and support one another in our efforts to transform the world.

Where We Are

The Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board (HSCDSB) serves the communities of Blind River, Chapleau, Elliot Lake, Espanola, Hornepayne, Massey, Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa and White River. HSCDSB has 18 schools combined and covers a distance of over 800 kilometres and an area of approximately 48,000 kilometres.

Board administration offices are located at the Mount St. Joseph Catholic Education Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. Our shared heritage as Northern Ontarians has allowed the Board to overcome some of the challenges this vast geography brings.

Journey Together in Faith and Learning

Visit us online at www.hscdsb.on.ca

100 Ontario Ave, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6B 1E3 Phone: 705-945-5400 | frontdesk@hscdsb.on.ca

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Holy Cross - Sault Ste. Marie 705-945-5532
Holy Family - Sault Ste. Marie 705-945-5519
Holy Name of Jesus - Hornepayne807-868-2452
Our Lady of Fatima - Chapleau705-864-1081
Our Lady of Fatima - Elliot Lake705-848-2204
Our Lady of Lourdes French Immersion - Elliot Lake
Our Lady of Lourdes - Sault Ste. Marie 705-945-5521
Sacred Heart - Espanola
St. Augustine French Immersion - Wawa
St. Basil - Sault Ste. Marie
St. Basil's - White River 807-822-2411
St. Francis French Immersion - Sault Ste. Marie
St. Mary - Massey
St. Mary's - Blind River705-356-7621
St. Mary's French Immersion - Sault Ste. Marie
St. Paul - Sault Ste. Marie

SECONDARY SCHOOL

St. Mary's College - Sault Ste. Marie 705-945-5540

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING

Holy Angels Learning	
Centre - Sault Ste. Marie705	-945-5685

Messages From the Director of Education & Chair of the Board



The Annual Calendar offers the HSCDSB community a chance to celebrate the past school year's achievements. I'd like to express gratitude for the contributions of our colleagues and stakeholders, whose efforts are vital to Catholic Education and advancing our Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Since becoming Director of Education in July 2024, I've been grateful to work with an inspiring team dedicated to fostering faith-filled and innovative learning. I'm excited to see our projects take shape in 2025 and beyond.

The HSCDSB offers exceptional facilities and programs to support student success, including the St. Kateri Outdoor Learning Centre, STEAM Lab, Indigenous Education, French Immersion,

Special Education, Mental Health services, literacy and numeracy supports, and diverse secondary programs that support a variety of student pathways.

Our schools serve as beacons of hope, embracing students and families from diverse backgrounds and celebrating this diversity alongside our Catholic faith and traditions. Guided by our motto, "Journey Together in Faith and Learning," we remain committed to intertwining faith and education as we welcome newcomers and build strong communities.

It is an honour to serve as Director of Education for the HSCDSB, and as our Board and families build on this progress, I eagerly anticipate all that lies ahead.

May God bless you all.

Fil Lettieri, Director of Education



On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend heartfelt gratitude for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children.

This year, our Catholic Education Theme is "Pilgrims of Hope," aligning with Pope Francis' announcement of 2025 as a Jubilee year under the same theme. To be pilgrims reflects our spiritual journey—sometimes travelled alone, sometimes with others, yet always with Christ. We are

called to journey together, building relationships rooted in love, peace, and solidarity.

Our schools remain inspiring spaces where dedicated educators work tirelessly to support students in their academic, personal, and spiritual growth. It is inspiring to see inclusivity and diversity thrive as essential parts of our educational environment.

This past year, we marked significant milestones. Our Summer Indigenous Transition Program was a tremendous success, allowing us to reach more communities across our district. We also warmly welcome Alexander Orazietti as our new Junior Student Trustee—his passion for education and dedication to representing his fellow students makes him a wonderful addition to our team.

Together, let us continue to foster an environment where love, understanding, and inclusivity flourish, creating a brighter future for all.

Sincerely,

Gary Trembinski, Chair of the Board

Administrative Team



Joe Chilelli Superintendent of Education



Stephanie Circelli Superintendent of Education



Justin Pino Superintendent of Business



Franca Spadafora Superintendent of Education



Syndy Withers Superintendent of Education



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Board of Trustees



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Student Trustees

Mya Jensen



Alexandar Orazietti

Multi-Year Strategic Plan



Journey Together in Faith and Learning

Success and Well-being of our Students

Our students learn in an environment where they are cherished, safe, listened to, and included. In keeping with the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, our students also feel inspired to learn, improve, develop, and succeed in and beyond school.

We will:

- Provide relevant education with a particular focus on each community's history and cultures.
- Foster a culture of high standards and excellence.
- → Provide safe and inclusive Catholic environments.
- Respond to the needs, preferences, experiences, ideas, and voices of all our students.

Engagement with our Employees and Partners

Our employees and partners are invited into relationships where they can collaborate, participate, and provide input in order to improve our system.

We will:

- Provide regular updates and frequent opportunities to participate in meaningful dialogue and learning.
- Increase our system's cultural competency, understanding of special needs, and respect for the viewpoints of diverse populations.
- Enrich our school experience by engaging the gifts and talents of our employees and partners.

Nurturing of our Catholic Faith

Our school communities have opportunities where they can rekindle and/or deepen their faith and become immersed in a culture of sacredness, faith, and prayer.

We will:

- Expose our school communities to faith-infused dynamic instruction, resources, experience, practices, and prayer.
- Educate our board and school communities about how to practise, protect, lead, live, and celebrate our Catholic faith.
- Strengthen connections between school, church, and home.

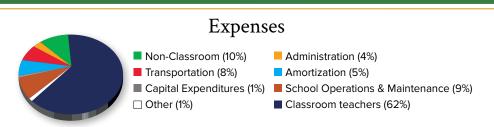
Equitable Stewardship of our Resources

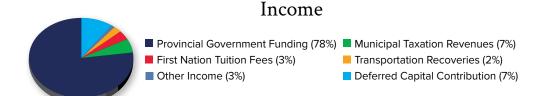
Our system decisions and policies are rooted in Catholic Social Teachings and the belief that resources take many forms and must be allocated in ways that benefit our students, school communities, and earth.

We will:

- Utilize our resources responsibly, justly, responsively, and wisely.
- Allocate resources equitably, not necessarily equally.

Finances 2023-2024 — \$91,128,517





Message From our Partners

CPCO Huron-Superior

The principals and vice-principals of HSCDSB are members of the Catholic Principal Council of Ontario (CPCO), who look to Christ as our example in the work we do daily.

We work with the Board's senior team, educators, support staff, parishes and community partners to ensure welcoming, safe, inclusive and faith-filled schools, which foster our students to reach their fullest potential.

Principals and vice-principals work hard to be active members in the Catholic school communities they serve, the parishes they are part of, and in the communities they call home.

The CPCO Huron-Superior Executive, and its members, are proud of the school board's accomplishments this past year, and are looking forward to more success including all of our efforts to bolster enrollment and welcome our many newcomers who are joining us from across the country and from throughout the world.

Corey Gardi,

President



President

Huron-Superior OECTA

The Huron-Superior Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association celebrates the many accomplishments of our teachers. Although we may be amidst challenging times, excellent things continue to happen within our Catholic schools.

Together with HSCDSB, our teachers help guide our students on their life's journey of learning. Our teachers create inclusive and welcoming classrooms where students can feel safe to create and explore, while making real-world connections to curriculum.

The focus on students and student learning would not be as powerful if not for the collegial, collaborative and respectful working environment between teachers, educational assistants, early childhood educators, support staff and the school board. As a result, great things continue to happen in our Catholic schools and our communities.

Darrell Czop,

CUPE Local 4148

Together with all our education partners, we continually strive to enhance every facet of the education system, ensuring that our students receive the high-quality education they rightfully deserve. With nearly 600 CUPE members, each plays a vital role in contributing to this mission through their daily responsibilities.

- Clerical staff are the first point of contact, handling admin tasks, operations, and family communication.
- Educational assistants support special needs students with strategies for self-regulation and classroom routines.
- Early childhood educators collaborate with kindergarten teachers to support young learners.
- Custodial, maintenance, and day workers keep facilities clean, safe, and in good working order.
- Library workers maintain an inviting library space, promoting a love of reading.
- Early years assistants ensure safety for kindergarten students during lunch and playtime.

We take immense pride in our collaboration with the HSCDSB and the myriad benefits it provides to students, families, and the broader community.

Crystal Krauter-Maki,

President

Mandy Masse, Vice-President

An

Parent Involvement Committee

Parental involvement is an important part of building strong school communities and fostering student success. The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is a parent-led committee that facilitates communication and collaboration between school board trustees, administrators, staff, and parents. The PIC acts as a conduit for information sharing between these groups and the grass roots Catholic School Councils (CSC) who support parent involvement in each school.

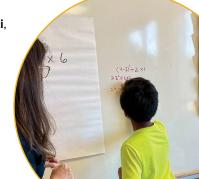
The PIC facilitates board-level interaction directly with parents resulting in:

- Open communication and engagement.
- Strategies and initiatives to promote parental involvement in education.
- Information sharing and dialogue between all levels.

In 2023-24, the committee hosted a Family Math Night at St. Mary's College. Students and their families participated in various stations that demonstrated how math themes and skills flow through many other subjects. The stations helped students understand the importance of mathematics in subjects such as photography, robotics, and foods, among others. The committee also supported school-based programs through "Parents Reaching Out" grants to help schools better engage parents in their children's education

A huge thank you to the parents who participated in their CSC, by volunteering, attending events or otherwise supporting parent involvement at their child's school.

Anthony Orazietti, Co-Chair





Success and Well-Being of our Students

The Outdoor Education Program at St. Kateri Outdoor Learning Centre provides hands-on learning for Grades 6 to 8, thanks to partnerships with Batchewana First Nation, Garden River First Nation, and the Métis Nation of Ontario. These partnerships enrich the program with Indigenous history, culture, language, and land-based teachings, supported by a Cultural Resource Worker, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers. In 2024/25, St. Kateri Outdoor Learning Centre is being modernized to support the Board's outdoor learning program.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	Solemnity of Mary, 1 Mother of God World Day of Peace	St. Basil 2 the Great	Holy Name 3 of Jesus	World Braille 4 Day
5	Epiphany of 6 the Lord	7	New Year's Day	9 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day	10	11
Baptism of 12 the Lord	13	14	15	16	17	18
World Religion 19 Day		21	Trustees 22 Appreciation Day	23	International 24 Day of Education	25
26	Holocaust 27 Remembrance Day	28	Board Meeting 29	30	St. Mary's College Exams	
			SEAC Meeting St. Mary's College Exams	5		



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Engagement with our Employees and Partners

Ensuring safe and healthy schools for our students is always a top priority. Our school communities continue to implement practices on a daily basis to ensure our schools are inclusive and supportive so that our students are able to thrive and achieve their full potential. Pink Shirt Day is recognized in our school communities, aiming to reduce bullying by celebrating diversity in all its forms.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Presentation of 2 the Lord World Day for Consecrated Life Groundhog Day	3	World Cancer 4 Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	World Radio 13 Day	St. Valentine 14 Day	Flag Day 15
16	Louis Riel Day 17 Family Day	18	19 Board Meeting	World Day of 20 Social Justice	International 21 Mother Language Day	22
23	24	25	Pink Shirt Day 26 SEAC Meeting	27	28	1



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MARCH

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Nurturing of our Catholic Faith

Lent is a forty-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. Our school communities prepare our students to understand the importance of this period and how it leads to the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. It is a time for self-examination and to draw closer to God. Many Catholics embrace Lent as an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

SUNDAY	,	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
	2	World Wildlife 3 Day	Shrove Tuesday 4	Ash Wednesday 5 Lent Begins	6	World Day 7 of Prayer Employee Appreciation Day	International 8 Women's Day
First Sunday of Lent Daylight Savir Begins	9 ngs	10	11	12	13	14	15
				March Break			
Second Sunday of Lent	/ 16	St. Patrick 17	18	St. Joseph, 19 Patron of Canada Board Meeting	First day 20 of Spring International Day of Happiness	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	World Water 22 Day Earth Hour
Third Sunday of Lent Fourth Sunday of Lent		31	The Annunciation of the Lord	26 SEAC Meeting	27	28	29



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April

Virtues:

Respect, Stewardship, Reverence





Nurturing of our Catholic Faith

Easter Sunday starts the Easter season, marks the completion of Lent and is the last day of Holy Week which is also known as the Easter Triduum. The true meaning of Easter has deep significance in our lives as Catholics. Jesus Christ overcame death for our salvation. Our school communities recognize this important time with celebrations, masses and exciting class projects.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	April Fool's Day 1	World Autism 2 Awareness Day	3	4	5
6	World Health 7 Day	8	International 9 Day of Pink	10	St. Stanislaus 11	Passover 12 begins at sundown
Palm Sunday 13	14	15	16 Board Meeting	Holy Thursday 17 St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Protectress of Canada	18 Good Friday	Holy Saturday 19
The Resurrection of the Lord	21 Easter Monday	Earth Day 22	Administrative 23 Professionals' Day	24	St. Mark, 25 Evangelist	26
Second Sunday 27 of Easter (Divine Mercy)	World Day for Safety and Health at Work National Day of Mourning	29	30	1	2	3



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Equitable Stewardship of Our Resources

In 2024, the Board modernized its HR, Payroll and Financial system with an Enterprise Resource Planning solution designed to improve administrative efficiency. The Public Address system was replaced at St. Paul Elementary School in Sault Ste. Marie. Additionally, the Board updated its Multi-Year Accessibility Plan in accordance with the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2025. In 2025, the Board plans to implement Multi-Factor Authentication for 100 percent of its staff and refresh digital devices within the classrooms.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	St. Joseph 1 the Worker Principals Appreciation Day	2	Sts. Philip 3 and James
Third Sunday 4 of Easter	Honouring human 5 dignity MMIWG Awareness Day	Caring for 6 creation	Responding to 7 the poverties in our world	Serving in 8 solidarity	Living as 9 peacemakers Educational Assistants Appreciation Day	10
		THOLIC EDUCATION W	FILGRING OF HC			
Fourth Sunday of Easter World Day of Prayer for Vocations Mother's Day	12	Our Lady 13 of Fatima	Board Meeting	15	16	17
Fifth Sunday 18 of Easter	19 Victoria Day	20	SEAC Meeting	22	23	24
Sixth Sunday 25 of Easter	26	27	28	The Ascension 29 of the Lord	30	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



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JOURNEY TOGETHER IN FAITH AND LEARNING





Success and Well-Being of our Students

Graduation ceremonies mark a significant milestone for our students in Grade 8, Grade 12, and our adult learners. It's a time when students take pride in their hard work, reflect on meaningful memories, and look ahead to the exciting next chapter in their journey — whether it's moving on from elementary school, graduating from secondary school, or stepping forward from adult education. This celebration brings joy and pride to students, families, and staff alike, honouring their hard work and the exciting future that await.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
World 1 Communications Day	School 2 Crossing Guard Appreciation Week	3	SEAC Meeting	World 5 Environment Day	6	7
Pentecost 8 Sunday	Blessed Virgin 9 Mary, Mother of the Church	10	11 Board Meeting	World Day 12 Against Child Labour	St. Anthony 13 of Padua	14
Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Father's Day	16	17	18	The Most Holy 19 Body and Blood of Christ	World Refugee 20 Day	National 21 Indigenous Peoples Day
22	23	24	25 St. Mary's College Exams	26	World Day of 27 Prayer for Priests	28
Sts. Peter 29 and Paul	30	1	2	3	4	5



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Equitable Stewardship of Our Resources

In July 2024, the Board's Summer Learning Program for kindergarten to Grade 2 students took place with great success. Holy Cross in Sault Ste. Marie served as the host, providing a supportive environment for three weeks of learning and growth. A virtual option was also available for students across the district. The program incorporated Indigenous teachings, giving students the opportunity to participate in an Indigenous Education Carousel led by Elders, where they explored teachings through six interactive stations.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1 Canada Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	Nunavut Day 9	10	11	12
13	14	15	Our Lady of 16 Mount Carmel	17	18	19
20	21	St. Mary 22 Magdalene, Disciple of the Lord	23	24	25	26
World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly	28	29	International 30 Day of Friendship	31	1	2



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AUGUST -

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Success and Well-Being of our Students/Engagement with our Employees and Partners

For the first time, the HSCDSB Summer Indigenous Transition Program hosted events for St. Augustine French Immersion students in Wawa. This program was designed to support Indigenous elementary students as they transition to high school, helping them prepare for student life while building a solid foundation for their educational and career goals. In addition, over the summer, our Indigenous Education Department participated in local First Nation back-to-school events. These gatherings provided a valuable opportunity to connect with students and families, as well as to collaborate with local community partners.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4 Civic Holiday	5	Transfiguration 6 of the Lord	7	8	9
10	11	International 12 Youth Day	13	14	Assumption 15 of the Blessed Virgin Mary	16
17	18	World 19 Humanitarian Day	20	21	22	23
31	25	26	27	St. Augustine 28	The Passion 29 of St. John the Baptist	30



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___SEPTEMBER-

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Nurturing of Our Catholic Faith/Engagement with our Employees and Partners

On Sept. 27, 2024, employees and education partners gathered for our annual Faith Day at St. Mary's College. The day began with Mass, where Father Jeff Shannon shared a homily on Pilgrims of Hope. Staff donated non-perishable items to St. Vincent Place and raised over \$1,490 for the Catholic Principal Council of Ontario's Helping Hands/Caring Hearts Fund. Keynote speaker Cadmus Delorme addressed "Truth and Reconciliation: What We Inherited and Building a Long-Term Relationship," urging us to view reconciliation as a shared responsibility rooted in respect and understanding. We also honoured Truth and Reconciliation, with staff wearing orange to demonstrate our commitment to healing. The day included teachings from local Elders and a drumming ceremony led by the Giigidoo Nimkii youth drumming group.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	2	3	4	International Day 5 of Charity	6
7	International 8 Literacy Day	9	World Suicide 10 Prevention Day	11	Most Holy 12 Name of Mary	13
Exaltation of 14 the Holy Cross	15	International IT 16 Professionals' Day	17	18	Métis Nation 19 of Ontario's Powley Day	20
St. Matthew 21 International Day of Peace	22	23	24	Franco-Ontarian 25 Day	26	St. Vincent 27 de Paul
World Day of Migrants and Refugees	29	National Truth 30 and Reconciliation Day (Orange Shirt Day)	1	2	3	4



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OCTOBER-

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Success and Well-Being of our Students

As Thanksgiving approaches, classrooms buzz with excitement as kids prepare for the holiday by creating festive turkey decorations. With colourful feathers and creative designs, their artwork fills the halls, bringing warmth and cheer to the school. After that, Halloween makes its mark. Skeletons, pumpkins, and cobwebs line the walls, giving classrooms a playful, eerie vibe. For example, the Student Senate organized a pumpkin carving contest for students in Grades 6 to 8, with the winning classes participating in a haunted house at St. Mary's College. The shift from festive to spooky shows the magic of the season, as kids celebrate both Thanksgiving and Halloween with imagination and joy.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	St Thérèse of the Child Jesus Yom Kippur at sundown International Walk to School Day	Guardian 2 Angels National Custodial Appreciation Day	3	St. Francis 4 of Assisi
World Teachers' 5 Day	6	7	8	9	World Mental 10 Health Day	International 11 Day of Girl Child
12	13	14	15	World Food 16 Day	International 17 Day for the Eradication of Poverty	St. Luke 18
World Mission 19 Sunday	School Bus 20 Safety Week	21	St. John Paul II 22	23	ECE 24 Appreciation Day	25
26	27	28	29	30	Halloween 31	1



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-NOVEMBER-

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Engagement with our Employees and Partners

November is a month of reflection in Canada, marked by Remembrance Day and Treaties Recognition Week. Our school communities commemorate Remembrance Day with lessons and services honouring the sacrifices of soldiers and their families, which allow us to enjoy the freedoms of living in Canada. During Treaties Recognition Week, we reflect on the importance of treaties with Indigenous Nations, fostering understanding and reconciliation. Together, these observances encourage us to respect our shared history and work towards a more inclusive future.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	All Saints' Day 1
All Souls' Day 2	3	4	5	6	International 7 Inuit Day	National 8 Indigenous Veterans Day
			reaties Recognition Wee	¥Κ 		
9	10	Remembrance 11 Day	12	World Kindness 13 Day	14	15
World Day 16 of the Poor Louis Riel Day	International 17 Students' Day Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week	18	19	20	Presentation 21 of the Blessed Virgin Mary	22
Christ the King 23 World Youth Day First Sunday of Advent 30	St. Andrew 24	International 25 Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	26	27	28	29



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4	5	6	7	8	9	10



Nurturing of our Catholic Faith/Engagement with our Employees and Partners

December is a time of preparation for the coming of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Advent serves as a time where many school communities gather food and clothing along with fundraising for those in need. "Heaven Cent" is one of the largest Advent fundraisers that St. Mary's College facilitates each year, reaching goals of up to \$20,000 in three short weeks. These funds are distributed to families in need and agencies within our community which provide supports that directly serve students in our system.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	Special 2 Education Appreciation Day	St. Francis 3 Xavier	4	International 5 Volunteer Day	St. Nicholas 6
Second Sunday 7 of Advent	Immaculate 8 Conception	9	Human Rights 10 Day	11	National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous People	13
Third Sunday of Advent St. John of the Cross	15	16	17	International 18 Migrants Day	National Ugly 19 Christmas Sweater Day	20
Fourth Sunday 21 of Advent	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	St. John the 27 Evangelist
Feast of the 28 Holy Family	29	30	New Year's Eve 31	1	2	3



NOTES:

_JANUARY 2026-

	9						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

Equity & Inclusion

School and Classroom Practices

Our Multi-Year Strategic Plan focuses in part on the success and well-being of our students and engagement with our employees and partners. Through these strategic directions, we continue to work towards increasing the knowledge and understanding of all staff and students with regards to Indigenous perspectives, histories and ways of knowing. We are committed to providing equitable educational opportunities for newcomers and multilingual learners and students with special education needs.

In 2024, we created a new Indigenous Education
Department and increased the number of staff supporting
Indigenous education in our schools. Transition coaches,
cultural resource workers, counsellors, and a systems
administrator have been hired to support students, families,
and staff. We are excited about the opportunities these staff
members will provide to our communities and are grateful
for their work and contributions to our Board.

In 2024, the Outdoor Education Program at Holy Cross Catholic School expanded to include Grade 8 students in addition to already serving Grade 6 and 7 students. With the support of teachers, cultural support workers, and Elders, we create an environment that fosters student success both inside and outside the classroom. By integrating local Indigenous culture, perspectives, language, and land-based teachings, we provide students with an authentic outdoor learning experience.

Building relationships with community partners remains a priority, allowing more classrooms the opportunity to learn from Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Special events included an Elders learning carousel, Elders in the Classroom, the lowering of a teaching lodge, and other cultural programming that provided essential support for student success. Currently, an Indigenous artist is collaborating with the St. Mary's College (SMC) Indigenous Student Union to create a mural for the culture room, further enriching the school's cultural space.

Expanding on our commitment to fostering connections with Indigenous communities and enriching student experiences, we prioritize supporting Indigenous languages as a key part of reconciliation. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission highlights the importance of protecting

HSCDSB is committed to creating and supporting positive workplaces and learning environments, fostering and promoting Equity and Inclusive Education (EIE) principles, and celebrating diversity. We continue to provide rich learning opportunities to employees, students and community members to help ensure respectful, positive, safe, equitable, and inclusive learning and working environments, which are free from discrimination and harassment.

Indigenous language rights, including offering them as credit courses. In response, HSCDSB is dedicated to developing programs that celebrate and support First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures and languages, while expanding access to Native as a Second Language (NSL) for all students in our region.

Leadership, Governance, and Human Resources

The Board is committed to Equity and Inclusive Education (EIE) across all areas of school operations. System and school leaders work together to ensure policies, procedures, and practices foster a respectful, diverse environment free from discrimination.

In the 2023-2024 school year, the Multilingual Learner (MLL) Team continued to support newcomer families as they joined HSCDSB schools, creating a welcoming environment for students to learn and grow. The MLL team helps families register, conducts student interviews, performs English language assessments, and connects families to community resources. To further ease the transition, the team hosted events, including a newcomer parent information night with community partners, and SMC hosted an arts and multicultural festival. With over 30 countries represented in our schools, HSCDSB warmly embraces newcomers.

An inclusive education system ensures that students see themselves reflected in the curriculum, empowering them through meaningful learning. Ontario educators use culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy (CRRP) to connect learning with students' backgrounds, languages, and identities. HSCDSB's CRRP Action Team supports schools in fostering positive environments, enhancing student engagement and success, and building community ties. Last year, teachers had the opportunity to participate in a book club featuring Genesis Begins Again, a novel that explores themes of racism, oppression, and social identity. Teachers also had the opportunity to have a one-on-one meeting with

the author to better inform their teaching and to learn and grow in their implementation of anti-oppressive practices in the classroom.

In 2024, 28 Grade 12 students at SMC completed the Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française (DELF) exam, earning internationally recognized certification in French proficiency. This achievement opens academic and professional opportunities in French-speaking regions and highlights their language skills to universities and employers worldwide.

Data Collection, Integration, and Reporting

Professional development opportunities focused on EIE continue to be offered to staff. For the 2023-2024 school year, in-service workshops for leadership teams emphasized developing an awareness of our own cultural mindsets and the skills necessary to foster environments where teachers, staff, students, and parents feel unconditionally included, valued, and supported. EIE leadership opportunities for students include, but are not limited to, the Indigenous Student Advisory Council, Junior and Senior Student Senate, and the NET Retreat.

At both the board and school levels, identity-based student data is analyzed in relation to achievement, attendance, graduation rates, credit accumulation, violent incidents, suspensions, and expulsions. This comparative data informs the Board's decision-making around programming and resource allocation, ensuring that barriers to student success are addressed and that marginalized and disadvantaged students are supported.

To promote an aligned and integrated approach to implementation, EIE principles are embedded across various areas, including student achievement, curriculum and assessment, safe and healthy schools, special education, mental health, leadership development, hiring practices, Indigenous education, and French-language education initiatives.



We at HSCDSB are very excited about the many changes that are taking place both in the programming and infrastructure of our outdoor facility at St. Kateri Outdoor Learning Centre.

The main building is receiving a renovation that will include an additional classroom, new washroom facilities, and an HVAC system. This is being completed to help accommodate the many programs that run at St. Kateri daily. During this renovation, full programming will continue to occur at the Sugar Shack on Fifth Line.

The program that is run out of the main building has different classes attending daily for curriculum-based programs. This program caters to the following grades throughout the school year:

Grade 2 - Environmental Awareness

Grade 3 - Pioneer Christmas

Grade 4 - Ecosystems

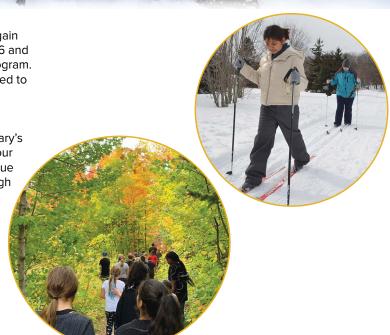
Grade 6 - Navigation

Grade 7 - Snowshoeing and Cross-Country Skiing

In addition to the above programming, we are once again offering an outdoor education program for our Grade 6 and 7 students, with the addition this year of a Grade 8 program. These students attend Holy Cross School and get bused to the facility on alternating days.

There has also been the addition of a Grade 9 and 10 program at the secondary level. This means that St. Mary's College is now able to offer outdoor education in all four grades as the Grade 11 and 12 program will also continue to run. Students in these programs receive not only high school credits but college credits as well through the Dual Credit program at Sault College.

It has been a goal of HSCDSB over the last many years to increase the awareness and usage of this wonderful facility. Both the renovations to the facility as well as the added programming are a testament to this commitment. These are indeed exciting times for outdoor education at HSCDSB.



STEAM Lab

The HSCDSB STEAM Lab has made significant strides in the 2023/2024 school year, thanks in part to a generous \$250,000 donation from Tenaris Canada. This funding has enabled substantial upgrades and expansions to the lab's facilities and programming, positioning it as a key resource in fostering STEAM education within the board.

Throughout the year, over 1,200 students have benefited from hands-on learning experiences in the STEAM Lab, including a new wave of Grade 4 participants, reflecting the Board's dedication to expanding STEAM opportunities to younger students. These experiences were further enriched by the acquisition of cutting-edge tools such as Lego Spike Kits and advanced 3D printers, which have been instrumental in facilitating interactive learning and creative problem-solving skills among students.

In addition to internal enhancements, the lab underwent exterior renovations, creating a welcoming and functional space for students and the community alike. This transformation has set the stage for increased community involvement, exemplified by two successful parent and community engagement nights co-hosted with Science North. These events not only showcased the students' accomplishments but also fostered a community-wide appreciation for STEAM education, strengthening the partnership between HSCDSB and local organizations.

A pivotal addition to the lab's operations has been the hiring of a full-time STEAM Lab teacher and a shared lab technician for the 2024/2025 school year. These dedicated roles ensure consistent, high-quality instruction and support, allowing students to dive deeper into their projects and engage in the curriculum in innovative ways. The STEAM Lab continues to evolve as a vibrant educational hub, inspiring students across HSCDSB to explore, create, and innovate in a collaborative learning environment.

Through strategic investments, expanded programs, and meaningful community partnerships, the HSCDSB STEAM Lab remains committed to equipping students with the skills and experiences necessary for future success in STEAM fields.



Catholic Education Theme

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

This year's Catholic Education theme, Pilgrims of Hope, is a year-long celebration that aligns with Pope Francis' announcement of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025. Jubilees are an ancient tradition declared by the Pope every 25 years. The Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica will be opened on December 24, 2024, to mark the commencement of the Holy Year. These doors are symbolic of Jesus Christ as the door of our salvation for which we are called to proclaim to the world. Many will embark on pilgrimages of hope to various sites, including Rome, but there are opportunities for pilgrimages closer to home and for each of us to be a pilgrim of hope for others.

A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey, one where the virtue of hope and a brighter future motivates the individual along the way. Hope can be an internal feeling as well as a shared experience. There are many ways in which we can be people of hope: by honouring human dignity, caring for creation, responding to the poverties in our world, serving in solidarity and living as peacemakers. When we reflect on these, which happen to be the sub-themes this year, they remind us of Jesus' commandment "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

We need hope today. We need to be pilgrims of hope to those facing a health scare who are without a family doctor; we need to be pilgrims of hope to those feeling overwhelmed or struggling with their mental wellness; we need to be pilgrims of hope for the newcomer who fled for safety; we need to be pilgrims of hope for those facing financial struggles as the cost of living continues to rise; we need to be pilgrims of hope for those struggling with matters of faith, doing their best to make difficult decisions in light of Catholic teachings and values.

We all need pilgrims of hope to guide us during those times when we just aren't sure what to do, or say or how to just be. Imagine for a moment how HOPE makes you feel. Hope feels good. It is comforting. Accepting. Peaceful.

We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us! We are called to be pilgrims of hope.



Student Achievement

In the 2023/2024 academic year, our Board took significant steps to support student achievement and equip students with skills for future success. We invested in resources that facilitated the implementation of new Language and Math curricula, enhancing instructional practices and supporting effective intervention strategies to boost student proficiency in literacy and numeracy.

We prioritized professional development, offering training for educators in Kindergarten to Grade 3 to build their understanding of evidence-based screening tools. This training empowered teachers to utilize assessment data effectively to tailor instruction to students' needs.

In mathematics, we developed Math Action Achievement Plans at both the Board and school levels, with a focus on foundational skills like number sense. For high school, we supported educators with professional development to strengthen their knowledge of the Grade 9 de-streamed curriculum, helping them apply effective teaching and assessment methods.

To encourage pathways in STEM, we organized presentations for Grade 10 and 11 students to increase interest and enrolment in senior-level math and science courses. Additionally, we promoted career pathways in trades and job skills through events like "Young Women in the Trades" and Skills Ontario's "Try a Trade." Partnering with community organizations, such as Sault College, we encouraged students to explore programs like the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM), Dual Credits, and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP).

Addressing attendance and re-engagement was a Board-wide priority. We established an Attendance and Re-engagement Committee, including community partners, to oversee initiatives aimed at improving attendance. A targeted Attendance Campaign for students and parents underscored the importance of consistent attendance and active engagement in learning.

Through these efforts, our Board made meaningful progress in supporting student achievement and preparing students for a variety of academic and career pathways in 2023/2024.



Student Pathways

As a Catholic learning community committed to nurturing the full potential of each child, HSCDSB fosters success in academics and in life. With varying opportunities and support, our students are empowered to follow their own pathway through school, ensuring a seamless transition to their post-secondary destinations.

The Xello program, utilized by all students in Grades 6 to 12, is a useful tool for encouraging goal setting and career exploration. Students are led through reflective questions such as: Who am I? What are my opportunities? Who do I want to become? What is my plan for achieving my goals? The program supports continuous growth by allowing students to track their progress over time, fostering long-term engagement and ownership of their educational journey.

'When students are empowered to design and plan their own lives, they are engaged, they achieve, and they find themselves applying their learning in their daily lives. In an environment that encourages such learning, students develop confidence in knowing that their school programs are created with them in mind, that the world beyond school has something to offer them, and that they have something to offer the world.' (Creating Pathways to Success, 2013)

More than 450 students from our city schools attended the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development LevelUp! Career Fair, where they explored the skilled trades through a variety of interactive exhibits and hands-on activities. Students also had an opportunity to hear directly from tradespeople and local employers.

St. Mary's College hosted a Young Women in the Trades event where students in Grades 7 and 8 explored the Skilled Trades. Students attended presentations from women currently working in a skilled trade and were also provided with the opportunity to explore hands-on

activities in the various trade sectors. For the 2024/2025 school year, students will be welding, crafting a charcuterie board and learning how to change a tire.

HSCDSB has stepped into the fast-growing international phenomenon that is Esports.

Esports (also known as electronic sports) is a form of competitive gaming where students play and compete in multiplayer video games. Esports has the potential to inspire students to pursue higher education or careers in areas like game design, computer

science, data analysis, broadcasting and graphic design. During our elementary Esports tournament, a segment called "Beyond the Game" invited community partners and post-secondary institutions like Sault College and Algoma University to showcase post-secondary pathways in these areas.

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Camp provided students in Grades 4 to 8 an exciting opportunity to explore future career pathways. Through interactive workshops, students experienced real-world skills related to the various SHSM sectors offered at St. Mary's College. This early exposure helps students connect their classroom learning to various career paths inspiring them to pursue programs they are passionate about.

Our Board has purchased Honour the Work STEAM Skilled Trades kits for Grades 4 to 6 to provide students with an introduction to the skilled trades within the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) industries. These kits allow students to engage in practical, trades-focused activities that reflect real-world uses sparking an interest in potential career pathways early on. This year, we will add kits for Grades 1 to 3.





Prayer – We Are Called To Love

Loving God,

May this Jubilee Year ignite in us a sense of hope for the future.

As we place one foot in front of the other, may we do so in faith, hope and joy, so that we may be builders, dreamers and leaders in Jesus' name.

May we listen carefully to those we meet along the way, responding with love to the needs of this world.

Guide us towards communion, focusing on what unites us as one human family.

Inspire us to pause and see the beauty of creation, making good choices to preserve it for future generations.

Fan the flame of hope that has been given to each of us, so that we may choose to serve the common good and recommit ourselves to prayer, service and evangelization.

Amen.

Dieu aimant,

Que cette année jubilaire enflamme en nous un espoir renouvelé pour l'avenir.

En plaçant un pied devant l'autre, puissions-nous le faire dans la foi, l'espérance et la joie, afin que nous soyons des bâtisseurs, des rêveurs et des guides inspirés par Jésus.

Puissions-nous écouter attentivement ceux que nous rencontrons en chemin, répondre avec amour aux besoins de ce monde.

Guide-nous vers la communion, en nous concentrant sur ce qui nous unit en tant que famille humaine.

Inspire-nous à faire une pause et à voir la beauté de la création, faire les bons choix pour la préserver pour les générations futures.

Ravive en nous la flamme de l'espoir que chacun porte, afin que nous puissions choisir de servir le bien commun et de nous consacrer de nouveau à la prière, au service et à l'évangélisation.

Amen.



"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us."

Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022





