



TRUSTEES' REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY APRIL 2026

"On Fire with the Spirit: Awaken! Illuminate! Rejoice!"

Awaken: Strengthening Catholic Faith and Community

We nurture student faith, build strong communities, and support faith formation across our school system:

- **Holy Week and the Easter Triduum:** Students and staff celebrated Christ's resurrection with Masses, prayer services, Lenten fundraisers, and local food drives. Priests visited schools so students could receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **Catholic Education Week Preparation:** Schools prepared for Catholic Education Week under the theme "Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness". Planning included a System Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Dublin, student faith-based artwork displays, and school-based prayer activities.
- **Leadership & Faith Days:** Secondary staff participated in a dedicated Faith Day featuring Mass, prayer, and reflection to support adult faith formation. Meanwhile, emerging leaders in the *Fiat Fellowship* continued their leadership placements and study of Catholic beliefs.
- **Parish & Community Partnerships:** Senior staff met with representatives from the Diocese of London and other Catholic school boards to strengthen school-home-parish connections, support Sacramental preparation, and encourage parish engagement.
- **Equity & Human Rights:** System leaders met with the leadership team from *Parents of Black Children* and attended webinars on the Ontario Human Rights Commission report, "Dreams Delayed," to support equity and inclusion initiatives.

These faith initiatives help form students into **Discerning Believers** and **Collaborative Contributors** who put their faith into action.

Illuminate: Elevating Academic Achievement

We use proven, data-driven teaching practices to boost student achievement in reading, writing, and math.

- **Targeted Reading Support:** Literacy Resource Teachers launched early reading interventions for Kindergarten and Grade 1 classrooms at four focus schools (St. Boniface, St. Joseph's Clinton, Holy Name of Mary, and Precious Blood). All Kindergarten teachers completed the Early Development Instrument (EDI) questionnaire to measure early childhood health and development.

- **Secondary Literacy Testing:** High school students at St. Anne's CSS and St. Michael CSS completed the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) following focused classroom preparation.
- **Math Action Plan:** Math facilitators provided hands-on classroom coaching and test preparation for Grade 3 and Grade 6 students. Ministry Student Achievement Officers visited Sacred Heart in Wingham to observe math instruction and review progress.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Professional Learning:** Elementary teachers participated in a professional development day called "The Heart Work in a Digital Age," focusing on integrating AI tools safely while grounding practices in Catholic values and human dignity.
- **French Language Training:** French Immersion teachers attended structured literacy workshops, and staff completed training to administer the DELF French language exams for Grade 12 students.

These academic focus areas help develop **Reflective, Creative, and Holistic Thinkers** and **Self-Directed, Lifelong Learners**.

Rejoice: Fostering Student Success and Well-being

We support mental health, strong attendance, and post-secondary pathways for all learners

- **AI Secondary Summit & Caregiver Night:** High school students attended an interactive AI summit with keynote speaker Giancarlo Brotto to discuss future-ready digital skills, ethics, and academic integrity. Parents and caregivers attended an evening session focused on digital balance and mental well-being.
- **Hands-on STEM Competition:** Over 220 students participated in the 3rd Annual District Technological Skills Competition at the Seaforth Agriplex, competing in categories like Robotics, Construction, and a new Landscaping and Horticulture category.
- **Skilled Trades & Career Pathways:** Secondary students explored career pathways through mobile Skills Ontario trade trucks, college workshops, industry visits, and specialized certifications like First Aid and pesticide safety. Female Grade 8 and high school students attended specialized "Jill of All Trades" and mentorship events.
- **Attendance Strategies:** The board reviewed findings from a 1,900-response *ThoughtExchange* survey. The survey showed that social connections motivate students to attend, while illness, mental health, and weather remain key barriers. Attendance counsellors continue to provide targeted one-on-one and family support.
- **Mental Health Literacy:** Guidance counsellors, teachers, and chaplains completed advanced mental health literacy training through School Mental Health Ontario. The board also hosted a "Community Connections" event linking over 25 local agencies with families of students with special needs.
- **Indigenous Education & Stewardship:** Students began creating 50 handcrafted planter boxes for Elders of the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation. Students also experienced live cultural storytelling and performances by the *Tribal Visions* dance group.

These experiential and well-being activities encourage students to grow as **Effective Communicators** and **Responsible Citizens**.

Governance and Operations

The Board maintains open governance, safe facility operations, and sound financial management:

- **Policy Reviews and Approvals:**
 - **Modified School Day (P2.2.4):** Board Policy 2.2.4 was formally **approved**. It sets clear rules for temporarily shortening a student's school day for documented medical or safety needs while aiming for a quick return to full-time attendance.
 - **Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting (P2.2.8):** Board Policy 2.2.8 was presented for **information and review**. The policy grounds grading practices in Catholic values, asset-based learning, and the *Growing Success* framework, emphasizing clear and fair feedback.
- **Budget & Financial Reporting:**
 - **Financial Update:** The Q2 financial report (as of February 28, 2026) showed total expenditures on track at 48.6% of the overall budget.
 - **Community Consultation:** Over 208 community members participated in the 2026–2027 Budget *ThoughtExchange* survey, emphasizing the need for continued investment in faith formation, literacy, math interventions, and mental health supports.
 - **Enrolment Projections:** Preliminary projections for 2026–2027 estimate an elementary enrolment of 3,351 students and a secondary enrolment of 1,326 students.
- **Facility & Health Approvals:**
 - The Board **approved** six School Condition Improvement (SCI) capital projects for summer completion, including roof replacements at Precious Blood, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Anne's CSS, Jeanne Sauvé, and St. Joseph's Stratford, along with a corridor lighting replacement at Jeanne Sauvé.
 - The Board received the **Annual Drinking Water Report**, confirming that required testing across non-municipal school sites returned no adverse safety issues.
 - Construction on the St. Mary's Listowel classroom and childcare addition is progressing on schedule.

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.