



HPE
HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**2023
Director's
Annual Report**

New mural at Harry J. Clarke Public School

A new mural was unveiled at Harry J. Clarke Public School in September, created by local artists Melissa Brant and Faith Wilson, with help from students. The mural was inspired by the Haudenosaunee [Thanksgiving Address](#) and features panels related to the verses of the address, each connected to the central image of Turtle Island.

Students listened to the Thanksgiving address in their classrooms, then discussed what the verses meant to them with Melissa. Students were also encouraged to draw any images that came to mind during the reading to visually express what they were thinking and feeling as they listened.

Melissa and Faith worked on the mural for several days at the school. The final touches were added by the students, who each left a paint fingerprint around the circumference of the piece as an acknowledgement and commitment to the values of appreciation and mindful thanks embodied in the address.



Our commitment to providing meaningful education experiences



Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board is committed to providing meaningful education experiences for students. This report reflects our dedication to the HPEDSB mission to inspire curiosity, display compassion and empathy, nurture individuality and foster a sense of community on our journey to higher achievement. In 2023, focus on our [Strategic Plan](#) priorities of student and staff excellence, safety and well-being, equity and social justice, academic achievement and responsible communications resulted in many accomplishments in student

performance, new learning opportunities, enhanced supports and increased community engagement. Our goal to promote equity and inclusion resulted in new initiatives to support all students in receiving equal access to quality education.

As I review our accomplishments over the past year, I am grateful for the dedicated educators and staff, supportive parents and exceptional students. It is their collective efforts that make HPEDSB a vibrant system of learning, growth and promise.

Shannon Binder
Chair of the Board



I am proud to present the 2023 Director's Annual report which exemplifies a small part of the remarkable work of our students and staff in HPEDSB. As you comb through the pages and read about the experiences and opportunities, you will see the rich learning and development of students in our schools.

This past year, HPEDSB focused on our service to learning, including raising the bar for students, and ensuring skilled readers and success in the new destreamed Grade 9 program. Using new tools and curriculum resources, our staff were purposeful and diligent in their work to support students to be successful.

We have seen the benefits of these efforts with a significant increase in EQAO Grade 6 math (+7%) and the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (+8%) student results. While these results are only a snapshot in time, this data tells us we're headed in the right direction. More importantly, we know that we've made a difference in the lives of students who have been successful in completing the OSSLT at the first opportunity.

This report tells the story of the HPEDSB commitment to students, families and the community. We know our work makes a difference and we're proud of our commitment to students and families. I remain extremely #Proud2BeHPE!

Katherine MacIver
Director of Education

Knowing our learners

EQAO

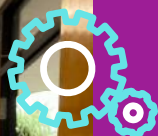
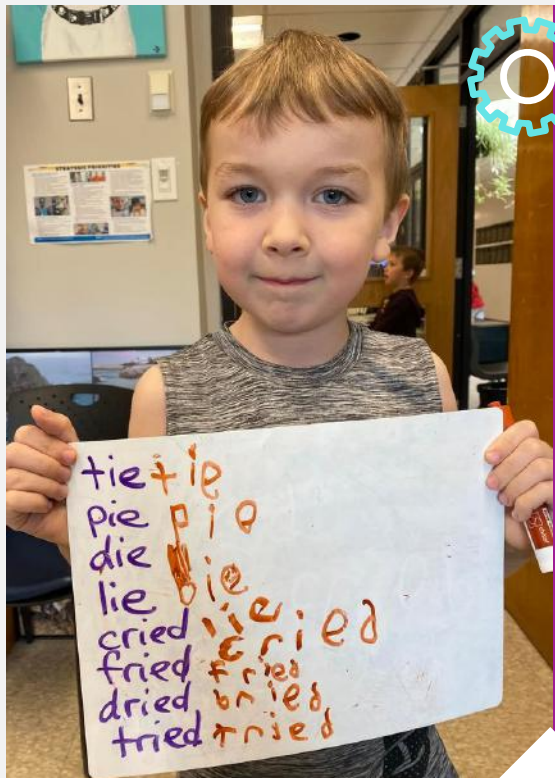
Grade 3, 6, 9 and 10 students participated in the 2022-2023 provincial literacy and numeracy assessments. The EQAO assessments for Grade 3 and 6 students included reading, writing and math, the Grade 9 assessment focused on math and the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), a graduation requirement, measured students' abilities in reading and writing. Reading and writing achievement in HPEDSB has been sustained over the past two years in Grades 3 and 6, with positive growth in the students moving closer to provincial standard in the Grade 6 math assessment and successful completion of the OSSLT.

EQAO Results Over Time
Students Achieving Provincial Standard (levels 3 & 4)

Assessment		2021-2022	2022-2023
Grade 3 Reading	HPEDSB	69	68
	Province	73	73
Grade 6 Reading	HPEDSB	79	79
	Province	85	84
Grade 3 Writing	HPEDSB	61	60
	Province	65	66
Grade 6 Writing	HPEDSB	78	78
	Province	84	84
Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test	HPEDSB	67	75
	Province	82	85
Grade 3 Math	HPEDSB	56	56
	Province	59	60
Grade 6 Math	HPEDSB	33	40
	Province	47	50
Grade 9 Math	HPEDSB	37	39
	Province	52	54



Teacher development



Ensuring curriculum fidelity

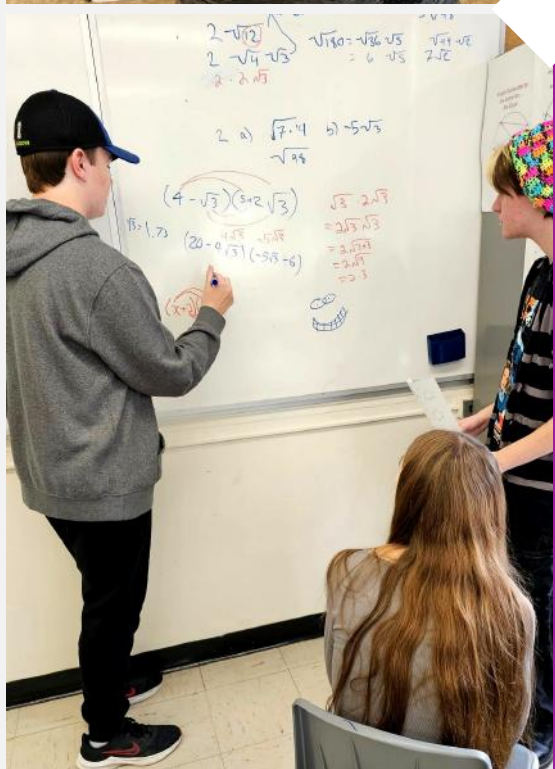
Teachers learned about new language, math and de-streamed curriculum through job-embedded learning opportunities, professional development sessions and professional activity (PA) day training.

Language

Early reading professional learning continued to focus on the *Science of Reading* research using a phonics approach in the development of foundational literacy skills to help students be fluent readers and writers for life.

Math

Educators worked through a scope and sequence of learning that spirals back to the fundamental mathematics concepts and skills that grounds all other aspects of mathematics.



In 3-week cycles, learning partners supported the strengthening of math fundamentals for:

39
ADMINISTRATORS
& SCHOOLS

9,600
STUDENTS

480
TEACHERS

Student learning

eLearning

eLearning courses are delivered online by teachers from HPE and across the province. Students have more freedom to engage with other students, and with learning, through non-traditional timelines using digital tools.

De-streaming

De-streamed learning incorporates a rigorous curriculum responsive to the needs of learners using innovative teaching practices that make learning relevant, accessible and challenging. It provides full and equitable access to post-secondary programs of study aligned with students' interests and career aspirations, regardless of race, class, ability or language.

DELFF

For the first time, the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELFF) exam was offered to a pilot group of Grade 12 students. Offering the DELFF in HPEDSB supported equity of opportunity, as students were not required to travel long distances or pay administrative fees to complete the exam. Successful DELFF candidates earn a lifelong, internationally recognized bilingual accreditation from the French Embassy.

eLEARNING
STUDENTS

728

656

CREDITS
EARNED

92%

SUCCESS
RATE



Learning together through the International Student Program



In 2023, the International Student Program hosted **55 students** from Belgium, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Vietnam. Students lived with 36 homestay families, including four new homestay families, from Bayside Secondary School, Centennial Secondary School, Eastside Secondary School and Prince Edward Collegiate Institute. ISP students were also supported by 16 Canadian student ambassadors at the schools.

To introduce the international students to their new communities, a two-day in person orientation was held in August that included student ambassador-led breakout groups, team building activities, school tours and community information. In addition to in-school learning, ISP students enjoyed a number of Canadian cultural experiences and activities, including a visit to Toronto for the CN tower, Ripley's Aquarium and walking tour of the city, a day at Canada's Wonderland, a Blue Jays game, a Belleville Senators game, a 2-day trip to Niagara Falls, a 2-day trip to Montreal, a fall trip to Campbell's Orchard for s'mores, corn maze, pumpkins, and apple picking, a December holiday celebration and downhill skiing at Brimacombe.



Skilled trades at secondary schools



SHSM/Co-op/OYAP

2022-2023 was an exciting year for skilled trades and expanded opportunities for students. Specialist High Skills Major programs grew in participation, programming options and completion rates.

Co-operative education skilled trades placements increased significantly, with 289 Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program participants, representing 42% of all co-op placements. Twenty-six students signed onto apprenticeship, the greatest number in over a decade.

HPEDSB sent approximately 120 students to the Level Up Career Fair in Ottawa, where students learned about many exciting skilled trades opportunities. Twelve students participated in the Ontario Technological Skills Competition, with one student winning gold and progressing to the National Competition in welding.

HPEDSB was awarded approximately \$358,000 in new, state of the art, precision machining equipment for three manufacturing technology classrooms.

289
OYAP
STUDENTS

26
APPRENTICES

\$358K
NEW
EQUIPMENT



Dual credits



Over 350 high school students were successfully enrolled in dual credit courses in 2023. A dual credit course provides students with a high school and college credit for the same course. Students earned dual credits in a variety of fields, including Social Work, Early Childhood Education, Culinary Management, Manufacturing Engineering and Spa Management. Students completed their automotive, electrical, and plumbing Level 1 Apprenticeships at St. Lawrence College and Loyalist College.



Interactive skilled trades planning tool for students



With over one hundred skilled trades career options available, it can be challenging for students to learn about their post-secondary options and to understand what training and education is needed to set them on the path to a successful career in the trades.

To help families overcome the ambiguity of skilled trades pathways, HPEDSB Experiential Learning Coordinator and OYAP Recruiter, Sean Pudlis, created an online [Skilled Trades Planning Tool](#). The tool was created to assist students and their families in learning about the different skilled trades pathways available, and the training required to begin their journey to a career in skilled trades.

To learn more about a specific trade, select a trade name from the drop-down list in the planning tool to generate results with general trade information, training requirements and other important information associated with that skilled trade.



Skilled Trades Planning Tool

Trade Name: Arborist (1) ▾

GENERAL TRADE INFORMATION					
TRADE CODE	NOC	COMPULSORY TRADE	RED SEAL	HOURS BASED	RATIO 1:1
444A	2225	N	N	N	N

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS				
ON THE JOB HOURS	IN-SCHOOL HOURS	TOTAL TRAINING HOURS	EXAM REQUIRED?	IN-SCHOOL SESSIONS
5400	720	6120	Y	2

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW... 

Skilled Trades **do not require** a College Application.

Skilled Trades require Apprenticeship, which is regulated by Skilled Trades Ontario (STO) and enforced by the MLTSD. Apprenticeship can be started in High School through OYAP, or immediately after graduation.

In-School Hours are scheduled through the employer and MLTSD, and are not part of any college application process.

Click a Logo for more information →



ontariocolleges.ca 





Best practices for Individual Education Plans



Following a review of Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Student Services, with support from the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), shared the IEP review findings and the recommendation to provide enhanced guidance regarding when to initiate an IEP, use accommodations or modifications and when to discontinue an IEP.

Guiding Questions and Best Practices for Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

IN HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD



The review found that there is a significant number of students with IEPs and/or modified learning expectations in elementary schools but no clear evidence that modified learning expectations, or IEPs, supported closing learning gaps or improved student achievement. What is more beneficial for student achievement is access to strategic accommodations for grade-level content and access to evidence-based interventions that attempt to address identified gaps through continuous assessment.



To assist educators with decisions regarding student accommodations, modifications and IEPs, two new guidance documents were created and introduced in schools.

- [Guiding Questions and Best Practices for IEPs](#)
- [Modifications Messaging](#)



Our focus on Indigenous education



Truth and reconciliation

Prior to Truth and Reconciliation Week, and National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, all schools received HPEDSB-created resources along with National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation programming to support age-appropriate learning about Reconciliation and Residential Schools. Many activities happened during the week, with over 170 classes participating in a collaborative online painting session with Anishinaabe Artist Moses Lunham.



Student success coaches

Two Indigenous Student Success coaches were hired in 2023 to support Indigenous students at Eastside Secondary School and North Hastings High School, which each have self-identified Indigenous students as 23% of the student population. The coaches support students from a cultural, social, emotional, and academic perspective with strategies to monitor and improve credit accumulation, attendance, restorative practices, and Grade 6 to 7 and Grade 8 to 9 transitions.

Ken'niyohontehsa' Festival at ESS



Eastside Secondary School hosted the spring Ken'niyohontehsa' (Strawberry) Festival, inviting seniors from the Tyendingaga community and the Wolf Pack, an Indigenous student club from North Hastings High School, to join ESS students. Special guests included Instagram and TikTok influencer, James Jones, aka Notorious Cree and Theland Kicknosway, a performer, role model and cultural influencer. The day had multiple dance, lacrosse, art and cultural learning events culminating in a school-wide round dance and guest performance by Notorious Cree and Theland Kicknosway.



NHHS Transition camp

Incoming Grade 9 Indigenous students attending North Hastings High School took part in a 7-day summer camp that focused on land-based learning, outdoor education and culture-based activities. Educators, Indigenous support staff, and Indigenous community members enriched the experience. The camp was to help the students transition to high school by building relationships, instilling pride and developing skills to support academic success.



Equity

Martin Boyce presentation

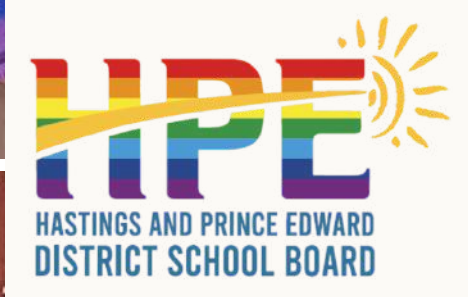
In April, Martin Boyce, one of the few surviving Stonewall Riot activists, presented to an engaged audience of students and staff from many HPEDSB schools at Centennial Secondary School. The event was also livestreamed for schools that couldn't attend in person. Martin regaled the audience with colourful tales of his coming of age in New York city and the events culminating in the riots. Candid, humorous and raw, his storytelling illustrated the emerging counterculture of the late 1960s, as Martin shared insights about life contending with widespread discrimination for the people who didn't ascribe to the norms of the time.

HPEDSB was the Pride parade Grand Marshal

As part of the June 2SLGBTQI Pride Month celebrations, all students and staff were invited to join in the Bay of Quinte Pride Parade, where HPEDSB led the parade as the Grand Marshal. Free HPEDSB Pride T-shirts were available for participants.

The parade began at the HPEDSB Education Centre on Ann Street, and followed Dundas Street until it reached Zwick's Park. Fun was had by all and hundreds of community members lined the road, waving, cheering and shouting encouragement to those walking in the parade.





Actions to support positive mental health



Youth summit

On August 17, 30 students attended a youth summit for mental health at the Education Centre. The summit was youth-led with adult mentors. Students engaged in mental health-related conversations and activities, learned skills to assert themselves and shared diverse perspectives in an inclusive safe space while socializing with peers.



Student well-being champions

HPEDSB hosted a summer three-day Well-being Champion training workshop, attended by 17 secondary students. The *Student in Action* mental health literacy training gave students tools to help them become well-being champions in their schools. Participants shared ideas about how to help themselves and their peers seek support for mental health, reduce stigma about mental health challenges, and access strategies to enhance student voice in promoting mental health awareness at school. Three initiatives were chosen to be completed by the end of the school year: start wellness clubs in schools, develop a mental health student survey and plan monthly mental health promotion activities.





Heal with horses



Over the summer, the Student Services team collaborated with Heal with Horses Therapeutic Centre to offer students with special needs the opportunity to attend a land-based wellness camp. The camp's primary focus was to promote good physical and mental health and wellness, and to enhance participants' overall sense of well-being. Students experienced the spiritual, emotional, physical and mental benefits of being outside on the land with animals in nature.

School mental health professionals offered supervision and support to the children attending camp and integrated school mental health activities twice a day. The HWH staff gave students an opportunity to spend time with, and learn about, the animals on the farm. Students learned about respect, kindness, patience, connection and belonging. At the end of the camp, positive changes were observed in the students that would help support their transition back to school.

Adult education



Quinte Adult Education celebrated 113 graduates in June 2023. During the 2022-2023 school year, over 1,900 credits were obtained through coursework and/or the Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition process. The 2023-2024 school year start up has been busy, with over 100 new students registered in September and over 500 active students continuing from the previous year.

Adult learners have incredible stories of their journeys. One graduate, Robert, shared the following after attending the June 2023 graduation ceremony, “Obtaining my high school diploma has opened up a new door for me. Among my artistic endeavors I am now also a substitute teacher at our local school system. I am also exploring possibilities to further my formal education. Once again thanks [...] to everyone at QAE. I am very grateful for such a positive experience.”



June graduate Dan shared that earning his diploma helped him with a new job opportunity. “I just want to thank you again for everything. This is a really big deal for me, I have wanted to get this finished for a long time [...] I had an amazing opportunity that kind of fell into my lap. Everything seems to be falling into place and it started with this, so I am very thankful.”

#Proud2BeHPE



Bayside Secondary School wins Forged by Youth award

Bayside Secondary School earned first place and was awarded \$15,000 in the 2021-2022 CWB Welding Foundation [Forged by Youth Class Welding Project Award](#). The award-winning project was an Electric Go Kart, or E-Kart, designed and manufactured by the 2021-2022 Specialist High Skills Major manufacturing class.

The goal was to design and manufacture as many of the components as possible within the BSS facility through the processes taught in manufacturing, including welding, machining, additive manufacturing (3D printing), CAD, CAM and more. Everything on the E-Kart, except fasteners, bearings, chain and drill, were manufactured by students in their classroom. As evidenced in the [Test Flight](#) video, the result was a kart that was fun to drive and environmentally conscious, since the E-Kart can be charged by the sun through solar panels.

Michael Burns, BSS welding teacher, shared the following about his award submission, "I think it is really important that the Canadian Welding Bureau is honoring the efforts of students across the country with the Forged by Youth award and to win the top prize for this award is an incredible milestone for Bayside Manufacturing. We have a lot of fun in this program and students learn a lot of valuable skills, but when industry connects with the students in these programs, that's when students see the continuity from education to career."

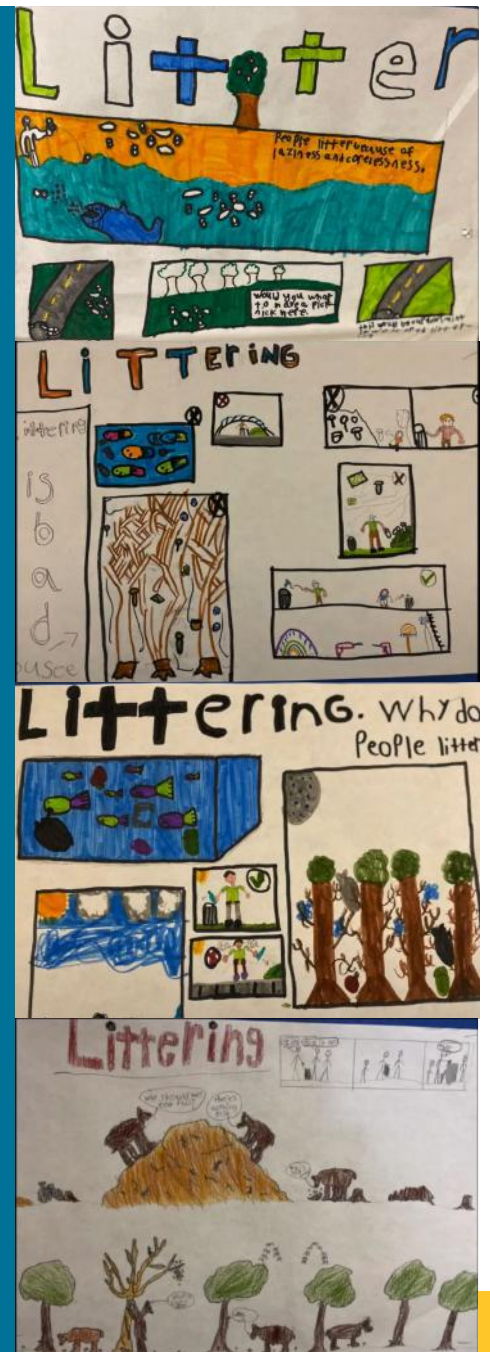


Madoc Township students fight litter

In March, Angela Burr's Grade 4/5 class from Madoc Township Public School presented a proposal to the Madoc Township council for support with a donation from the township of garbage bags and a processing space, to support students cleaning up litter in the municipality. Mrs. Burr encouraged the students to consider actions they could take to combat the harmful effects of pollution in their immediate environment and they determined that cleaning up litter in their community would have a tangible positive benefit.

The Grade 4/5 students prepared a [video](#) outlining the impacts of littering and wrote the following statement to introduce themselves to the councilors.

"We are the unstoppable grade 4/5 class of Madoc Township Public School. We humans have made a huge negative impact on our earth. But we believe we can make a difference. In order to understand all this you need to know the whole story. It all began with our video tour of Sandy Pines in the fall. They helped spark a curiosity about human impacts on the environment which soon became an inquiry on littering and impacts on our ecosystems. It led some of us to wonder if we also make positive impacts. We then thought, what can we do? A small group of students were inspired to clean our school yard and now we wish to expand. So that is why we are here. To make a change. Because we are the unstoppable students from Ms Burr's grade 4/5 class. Hope you enjoy our video."



Why is Littering Bad?



#ThisIsMeInHPE

Bandfest 2023

Centennial Secondary School hosted Bandfest 2023, featuring performances from several Grade 7 and 8 school bands, with a highlight performance from the Centennial Secondary School Senior Concert Band.

The participating schools were Bayside Public School, Centennial Secondary School, North Hastings High School (Grade 7/8), Prince of Wales Public School, Queen Elizabeth School, Stirling Public School, Susanna Moodie Public School and Tyendinaga Public School.

After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, students and staff were eager to come together in person to share their love of music. Every band performed in the CSS auditorium, then participated in a professionally led workshop in the practise rooms.

Principal Marg Thompson and Superintendent Ken Dostaler offered greetings and opening remarks to the performers, both sharing their enthusiasm for the musicians' performances. The day was a positive experience for staff, students and audience members, highlighting the importance of the school music programs and instructors in providing meaningful enrichment to students.



Student Red Dress Day petition

On May 5, 2023, the date of Red Dress Day, senior students in the Indigenous Studies class at Prince Edward Collegiate Institute canvassed the school population to have willing members sign a petition to all three levels of government to enact real, tangible change in addressing the ongoing genocide of Indigenous women and girls in Canada. The petition was signed by almost all students and staff, then sent to MP Ryan Williams, MPP Todd Smith, the Liberal Party of Canada and Prince Edward County Town Council.



PECI Red Dress Day 2023 Petition to Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments

In 2019, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its 231 Calls for Justice in an effort to stop the ongoing colonial genocide perpetrated against Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirited individuals. This Inquiry was a direct result of the 2015 Calls for Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in particular Call 41, which states, "We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls." The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (or UNDRIP), of which Canada is now a signatory, states that "particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration."

The time for declarations and calls has passed. It is time for action. We the students and staff of Prince Edward Collegiate Institute call upon all levels of government to work together in order to enact all Calls to Action within their purview, engage with the Calls for Justice and adhere to the tenets of UNDRIP in order to bring about tangible results in the fight against discrimination and violence against Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirited individuals. The violence faced by Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirited Individuals is a direct result of colonization, the Indian Act, and other systemic issues. It is everyone's duty to do better, work toward decolonization, and reconciliation.

When we know better, we do better.

#Proud2BeHPE

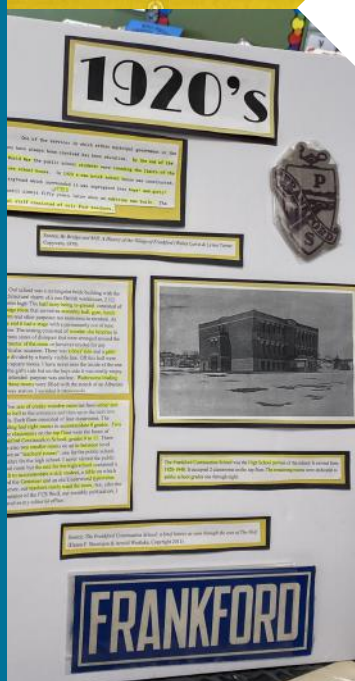


100th anniversary of Frankford Public School

On September 30, Frankford Public School celebrated its 100th anniversary. The day-long festivities began with a special opening ceremony with speeches and certificates from local dignitaries in front of a packed gymnasium full of past and present Frankford PS families. Principal Laura Maclellan-Fraser remarked that several families had attended the school for three or four generations, with one family having five generations educated at Frankford PS.

Attendees were encouraged to admire the custom art piece in the gymnasium, commissioned for the centennial from local artist Serna Artwork, and to walk through the school to review the decades displays of photographs and memorabilia from the past 100 years.

The celebration was a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together to reminisce about the history of Frankford PS over the past century and to look forward to the future.



#ThisIsMeInHPE

Bird's Creek Public School wins Stories of Peace Award

In 1981, September 21 was declared the International Day of Peace by the United Nations. In 2023, the Canadian Peace Museum in Bancroft launched the inaugural Stories of Peace Award, asking applicants to film a short video explaining what peace means to them and share it on social media, tagging the museum.

On September 21, 2023, 22 years after the initial declaration, the Canadian Peace Museum announced that the [video](#) submitted by Bird's Creek Public School had won the first ever Stories of Peace Award. The video, featuring the Grade 3/4 class and produced by LeeAnne Ireland, features students sharing their ideas of what peace means to them personally, from "not getting bullied" and "filling someone's bucket" to "watching a sunset on the lake".

As the first winners of the award, the school received a \$500 cash prize and a custom-made wooden trophy.




**BIRD'S CREEK
BEAVERS
EXPLAIN WHAT
PEACE MEANS
TO THEM!**

celebrating
#StoriesofPeace2023



Community consultation on accommodation options



Some schools in specific areas of HPEDSB have been experiencing enrolment pressures. At the end of May, the public was invited to community drop-ins to review possible accommodation options for students and schools and to share new ideas that hadn't already been considered. The main themes from the feedback are shown below.



1

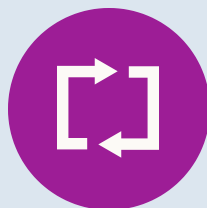
French Immersion

- Keep French Immersion at Bayside Secondary School
- Expand French Immersion to more Belleville schools
- Extend French Immersion at Prince Edward Collegiate Institute to Grade 12

Harmony PS

- Various ideas to address growth and overcrowding at Harmony Public School

2



3

Boundary adjustments

- Change the boundary area for Susanna Moodie Elementary School
- Adjust the boundary area for Tyendinaga Public School
- Move the boundary area for Trenton High to enable School Frankford Public School students to attend

Senior staff reviewed and analyzed the data in greater detail in the summer. Two boundary reviews began in fall 2023: one for the Bayside-Trenton area and the other for the Harmony-Foxboro area. The goal is to present options to the Board of Trustees in early 2024, followed by transition planning.

Budget consultation



In January, community input was invited for the 2023-2024 budget to inform the budget planning process for the coming school year. Feedback was offered through an online forum where people shared what they felt was important for the budget to support students and fiscally responsible, data-driven decisions. Through that process, 659 respondents shared 500 thoughts in response to the question, "As we plan the budget for the next school year, what are the most important things HPEDSB should consider in order to support all students?"

The three key ideas that came from the consultation were:

- ◆ Invest more money back into schools
- ◆ Provide additional Educational Assistant support
- ◆ Continue to support technical classes/apprenticeship programs

With those priorities in mind, HPEDSB was able to pass a balanced budget for the 2023-2024 school year. Below is a word cloud created from the feedback.





Transportation review

A student transportation review was conducted to determine route efficiencies and potential cost savings in five regions: Bayside, Belleville, Central Hastings, North Hastings and Trenton. Public consultation with families and schools took place in March through a series of town hall meetings.

Based on feedback from the public consultations, changes to student transportation proceeded in three regions. No changes were made in Belleville or Central Hastings. Changes in busing eligibility for courtesy riders within walking distance of schools eliminated a bus run to Bayside Public and Secondary schools, resulting in a savings of \$25,071 and reduced a bus run to Trenton High School, resulting in a savings of \$31,595.

For September 2024, the proposed changes to school start and end bell times for Bird's Creek Public School, North Hastings High School, and York River Public School will take effect. The delay in implementation will allow time for more discussion and input about childcare availability and to determine the effects on shared bus routes with Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board.

Adventure Class program review



Academic programs are reviewed regularly to ensure they align with HPEDSB and Ministry of Education goals and direction, are current with curriculum standards and best practices in pedagogy, and are grounded in equity and inclusion. During the 2022-2023 school year, HPEDSB conducted a program review of the Adventure Class Program at Queen Victoria School. This program review was based on the evaluation framework developed in partnership with Queen's University.

The program review sought to answer five questions:

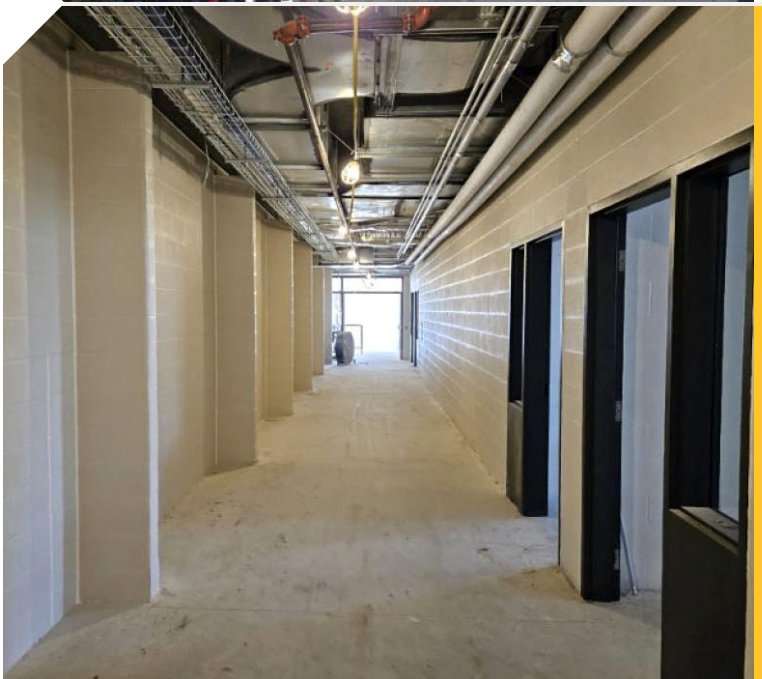
1. **Equity:** To what extent is the program equitable?
2. **Student Achievement:** What level of impact does this program have on student achievement?
3. **Student Wellness:** How effective is the program in fostering student well-being?
4. **Sustainability:** To what extent is the program viable and sustainable for the school board?
5. **Uniqueness:** In what ways does this program differ from a typical classroom experience?

Senior staff reviewed a summary of evidence from the program review and decided to continue the Adventure Class program with refinements. The Adventure Class relocated to Prince Charles School (Belleville) for the 2023-2024 school year because there is space available for the program and the location supports experiential learning.

Opening in 2024: Easthill Elementary School



Easthill Elementary School has been under construction to consolidate the students from Queen Elizabeth School and Queen Victoria School. When construction fell behind schedule, HPEDSB hosted a town hall in early March 2023 to provide information to the affected school staff and families and collect their feedback. A contingency plan was finalized in early April by senior staff to delay the anticipated move in date from September 2023 to later in the school year. The contractor intends to complete work on Easthill Elementary School by late fall/early winter.



Health and Safety



Health and safety audit

To ensure consistency between school boards and effective implementation of best practices, School Boards' Co-operative Inc. conducts regular audits to evaluate school board health and safety practices and procedures. In 2023, the Joint Health and Safety Committee worked with SBCI to complete an audit on both the HPEDSB Health and Safety Procedures and WSIB processes. The findings of the audit will be available in early 2024.



KINDNESS MATTERS

The HPEDSB Code of Conduct applies to everyone who uses this space.



Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board is a system of respect where every person has the right to a safe environment free from fear, harassment, discrimination, injury and prejudice.

We are dedicated to providing service and support to students, families, community partners and one another.

Please help us be successful.

Kindness matters

To serve as a friendly reminder to all students, staff and visitors to schools, Human Resources Services and Communications Services created a Kindness Matters sign. Through the Joint Health and Safety Committee, schools had a sign posted at all entrances over the summer.

Staff wellness

In the spring, Human Resources Services offered resilience workshops to support employee mental health and well-being by providing strategies for addressing stress and challenges in the workplace and at home. Two sessions were provided for leaders and three sessions for employees.

A new Employee Assistance Program provider, TELUS Health, was introduced in September, which offers enhanced counseling services to staff along with a proactive approach to well-being.

New websites

In November 2022, HPEDSB introduced a new [HPEschools.ca](https://www.hpeschools.ca) website as the first step to upgrade both the corporate and school websites, allowing for enhanced modern communications with all stakeholders.

The new websites feature an attractive, uncluttered visual layout, updated menu structure to enable ease of locating information, enhanced calendar features, and many more enhancements. The staged rollout of new school websites began in the spring of 2023 and is on track to have all new school websites launched before the end of November 2023.



Student absence reporting

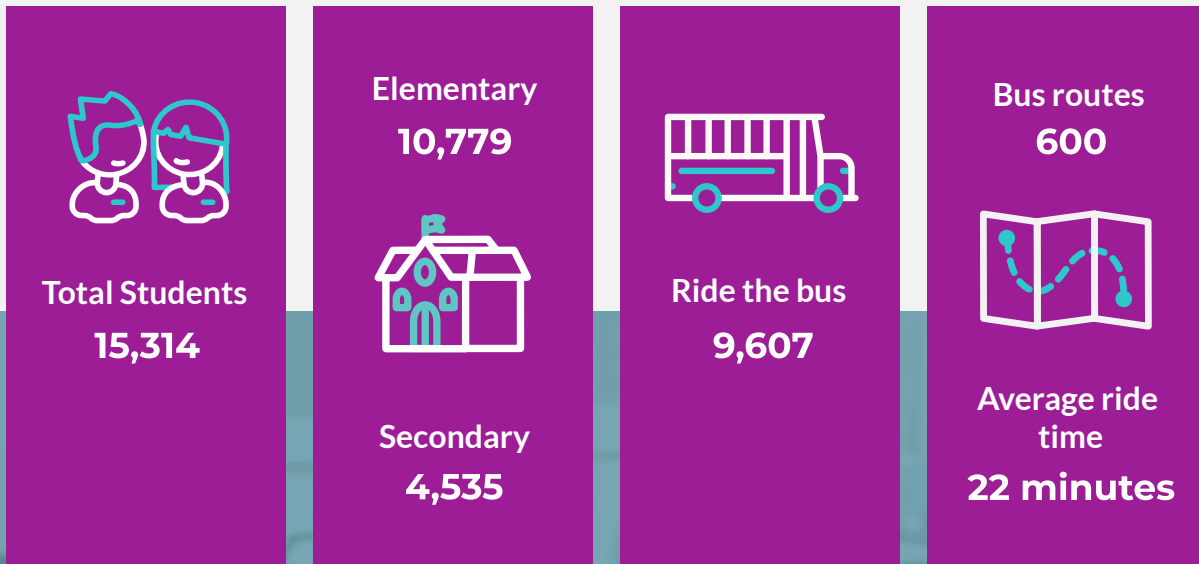


In the spring of 2023, five schools began piloting a new student absence reporting system, called SafeArrival, where a student absence can be reported in advance, 24/7, using the choice of a mobile app, the SafeArrival website, or an interactive toll-free phone number. Future absences can be reported any time.

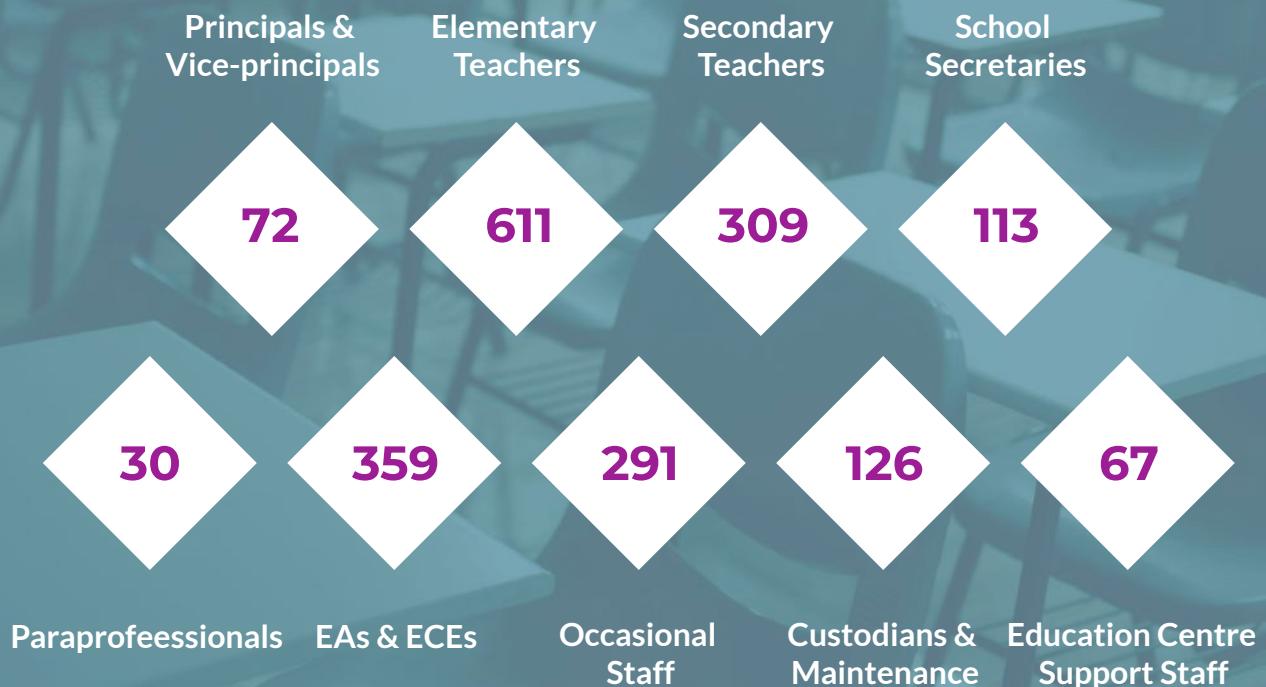
Following a review of the pilot project, a staged introduction of the reporting system is planned for all schools in the 2023-2024 school year.

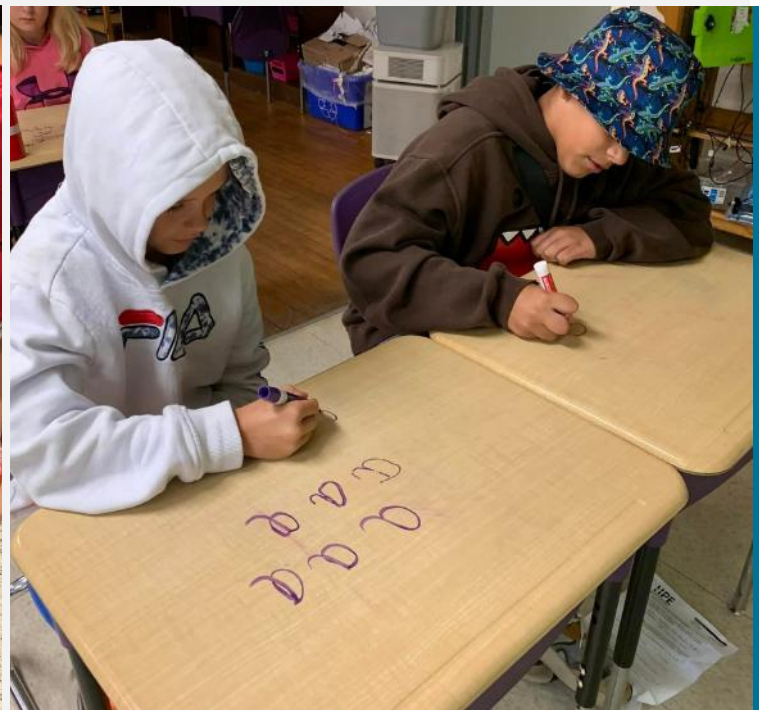
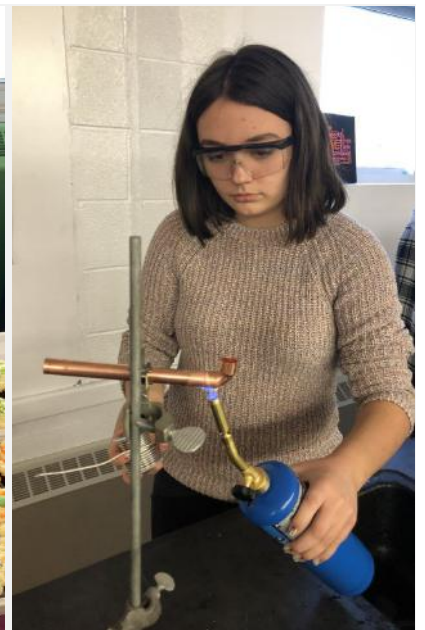
HPEDSB BY THE NUMBERS

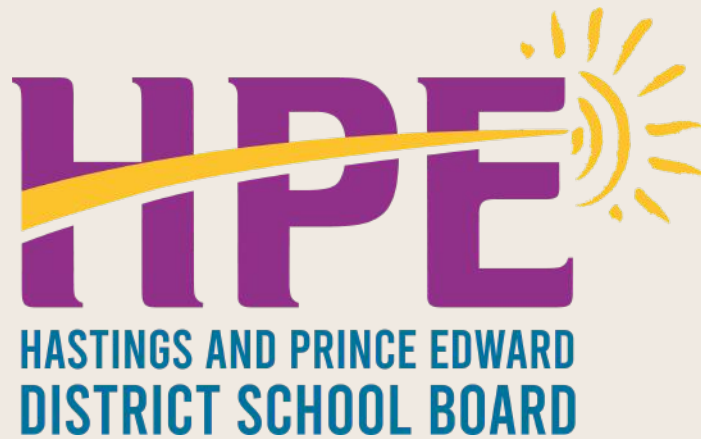
Students



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