



Holy Trinity CSS
Catholic School Council Agenda - TEAMS
March 31st, 2026 @6:30pm

1. Welcome

Marguerite Murad & Marcia Sam

Voting Members in attendance: Marguerite Murad, Marcia Sam (Co-chairs), Cameron Smith (Secretary), Marion Bastiampillai (Mary Mother of God parish rep)

Voting Members who sent their regrets: Aloka Fernandes (St. Michael's parish rep), Sneha Lata (Treasurer), Sorina Dragan (Fundraising rep), Aisha Beeai (HT Parish rep), Anu Mahli (OAPCE rep), Margie Grier (Community rep), Frances Bosco-Latincic (St. Michael's parish rep), Jackie Sanderson (Fundraising rep)

Parents in attendance: Yvette Hall

2. Honouring the Land

[Video](#)

3. Opening Prayer & Chaplain's Updates

Tina Drakeford

- Last month we had our Ash Wednesday liturgy with distribution of ashes.
- Throughout Lent we have had a weekly social media campaign on our chaplaincy Instagram featuring some of our student chaplaincy leaders interviewing peers and teachers about the impact of their Lenten practice in their lives.
- On Holy Thursday we will be having our school celebration for holy week the dramatized stations of the cross, that is, our passion play. It will be the 14 traditional stations, but in tableau form with music and some of the characters coming to life and sharing what they're thinking in that moment. The students who are leading it have been working very hard for the last five weeks so we hope it will be a very meaningful experience for everyone.
- During Lent many classes have come in for chapel visits that connect to this season, as well as classes booking chapel visits for Christian meditation as a way to enter into stillness and prayer, but also as a strategy for mental health and stress. For example, we had a careers class who was learning about strategies for addressing stress in the work context come in and learn about the Catholic approach to meditation and then we actually engaged in some meditation together.
- We are currently collecting for our Shifra Home Lenten drive. Shifra homes is a charity that supports women who are pregnant and who are coming from situations of trafficking, violence or homelessness and provides complete residential wrap around care until the baby is six months old, and then provides support reintegrating into the community. We're celebrating the dignity of life in general, but also in March, national women's month, the dignity of women in particular. That justice initiative will conclude on April 7th. Moms are also welcomed to HT cosmo class for Mother's Day to get pampered. Feel free to reach out for more information on what we're collecting.
 - *Poster informing parents about the Lenten drive will be sent via email*
- Looking ahead: grade ten retreats April 13th-17th
- Easter season is fifty days long so May is still Easter and the month of Mary and CEW falls near the middle of the Easter season; so we will have our Easter mass that week along with our journey with Jesus walk.
- St. John's Bible in May- handmade by artisans from around the world- students will sign up with their religion classes to visit across four dates in May

4. Minutes Approved

Marguerite Murad & Marcia Sam

- We did not have enough voting members present tonight to have the minutes approved



Holy Trinity CSS

Catholic School Council Agenda - TEAMS

March 31st, 2026 @6:30pm

5. Student Update

Ben Butler

Student Council:

- Preparing for Junior semi-formal

SAC:

- Teacher vs student basketball game
- Planning Hoops for Hearts Fundraiser for Heart and Stroke Foundation - April 22

SHIELD:

- Leadership event for HT students being planned
- Tuesday, Apr. 21: SHIELD Leadership Symposium
- Ongoing throughout April: Mentor interviews
- Ongoing throughout April: Trailblazer interviews

Robotics:

- In the middle of competitions
- Niagara College Event - April 10th-12th

Equity and Change:

- Beginning the planning for Culture Day '26
- Mental health community resources day April 28 both day and evening

Relay for Life:

- Pep rally went well and signup for the day has started!

UASA:

- Sahara (April 8th)- paid Civvies' Day + teacher giving hummus preparation classes in the atrium
- Kerr St. Missions visit next week

Drama -- Wizard of Oz Play:

- Wednesday, Apr. 29 - Friday, May 1: Mainstage show in the Theatre @ 7:00 PM *Teresa recommended that we attend- tickets will be available on **School Cash Online**
- Wednesday, Apr. 29 - Thursday, Apr. 30: Mainstage performance for family of schools during the day

New student groups recently created

- South Asian club (*as of yet unnamed*) + Asian Community & Empowerment (ACE)- concept for new clubs presented by students at Titan's Table meeting and approved

****Relay for Life Reps to present****- will send a video to Teresa about Relay for Life to share with us, as attendance at tonight's meeting was low

6. Trustee Helena Karabela

- Offered to support parents as they navigate who to contact at the school board's senior level when they have questions or concerns
 - **Contact Helena: (290) 230-1423/ karabelah@hcdsb.org**
- Shared an infographic about the role and value of school trustees- see photos at the end of meeting notes

7. School Updates

Teresa Castellarin/Mike Silvello

- E-bikes/scooters- discussed Teresa's email sent out yesterday; parents agreed that everyone is happy with the message that was communicated to parents to keep students safe; it is too busy in the morning, at lunch, and after school for students to ride their e-bikes/ scooters safely on school property; safety gear is highly recommended.



Holy Trinity CSS

Catholic School Council Agenda - TEAMS

March 31st, 2026 @6:30pm

- b. Conduct in the Community- Teresa reminded us not to assume it is not our kids and encouraged everyone to have a conversation about conduct in the community with our families.
- c. Yearbook Update- Teresa said another order of year books is on the way, there were not enough in the first order; when they arrive, parents will be emailed.
- d. AP Exams Update- 160 kids to write AP Exams this year at HT- lead to possibility of receiving a university-level credit if they do well enough- helps students earn credits towards their post-secondary education
- e. Exam Schedule Update- looks almost the same as last year- grade 12's writing preliminary exams before the other grades to ensure they have everything completed before graduation
 - i. Graduation Ceremony is on Tuesday June 23rd @ 10:30 so adjustments needed to be made to the schedule.
- f. Continued Focus on School Routines (lates, absences, uniform)- VPs are doing a blitz on these issues- important for student maturity and responsibility, and the VP's are holding students accountable
 - i. Yvette asked how to proceed if she got a call for late/ absence in error- student should inform their teacher and go to the office if there is an error with absence reporting, or if they have an unexplained absence
 - ii. Mr. Silvello reported that the number of daily lates has reduced from a few hundred to under 20 per day due to new procedures in place- he has also put a digital tracking program in place to keep track of lates, which has helped

8. Co-chairs

Marguerite Murad & Marcia Sam

a. Updates

- i. **Afro-Caribbean Marketplace (Cameron Smith)**- 27 vendors confirmed, as well as DJ and performers for event on Thursday May 7th at 5:30-7:30pm
 - i. Advertising began last Friday- please send the poster and registration form to any Halton-based online chat groups you are a part of
 - ii. HT BSU will be joining us for the event, and to support with setting up
 - iii. All are welcome to attend event
 - iv. Planning committee is meeting next week to finalize floorplan
 - v. Teresa to email feeder schools the poster- Cameron to remind Teresa next Tuesday
- ii. **PRO Grant**- April 28th at 6-8pm (coffee, tea, water availability)- 45-minute workshops in three classrooms: SAVIS, Halton Police, Common Compass
 - i. 8 community partners will be present
 - ii. Sign up through Eventbrite
 - iii. Two feeder elementary schools have been very supportive of the event
 - iv. Yvette asked if the workshops can be recorded so that they are accessible for everyone- Teresa will look into this with Silvello
- iii. **CPIC recap (Marcia Sam)**
 - i. **Parent Engagement**
 - 1. Pathways- Skilled Trades, Jon Callegher, Job Talks- Thursday February 26, 2026
 - 2. CPIC elections- first week of March, outlines processed and key dates
 - 3. Disproportionalities Action Plan was reviewed with Sita
 - ii. **AI within HCDSB- Jeff Crowell, Superintendent was the presenter**



Holy Trinity CSS

Catholic School Council Agenda - TEAMS

March 31st, 2026 @6:30pm

1. Learning goals- Understand the what and why behind AI integration in education; Understand the current position in the Catholic Church on AI
 2. For 2025-26, first time Ministry of Education has mandated training for staff on: use of AI in education using board-approved tools, use of AI tools safely and in line with privacy legislation
 3. Standardizing the understanding of what AI is
 4. **What did Pope Francis say?** Emphasis on the importance of using AI ethically to benefit humanity and mitigate its risks; AI should promote human dignity and not worsen inequalities; critical decisions should always be made by humans, not machines; encouraging a balanced approach to technological progress, and ensuring it serves the common good
 - a. Concern for the impact of AI on the intellectual and neurological development of young people
 - b. Only HCDSB-approved AI tools are permitted
 - c. No student personal information is entered into AI tools
 - d. AI use is guided by:
 - i. Catholic teaching on human dignity
 - ii. Ministry of Education policy
 - iii. Existing HCDSB assessment and integrity policies
 - e. AI use will be very standardized in the school
 - f. Led to the board rethinking policies regarding academic dishonesty
 - g. AI to be used as a support tool, not a replacement for learning
 - h. Key takeaway- parent council members are not expected to be AI experts, but we are trusted partners in helping parents understand how AI is being used in schools
 - iii. Not all classes at HT are actively using AI- right now, it is helping students in some classes generate ideas (e.g. supporting arguments/ details for thesis), but students are still expected to complete the writing independently and to find sources on their own
 - iv. Concerns: Teresa explained that students are using AI to receive counselling and it is reducing resiliency in students, who are turning to AI for relationships/advice that don't challenge/disagree with student
 1. Marguerite- offered that AI is accessible and affordable and this is why students are turning towards it
 2. Cameron shared that some students are choosing AI partners to avoid conflict, and looking for their support when they have suicidal ideation- and AI is not responding in a way that is helpful
 3. Yvette explained that when you are training your AI, it keeps all of the information and always wants to be right, so it can blackmail users with previous information shared
- a. Financial Update (Sneh Lata absent but Teresa and co-chairs shared information)-**
- i. we raised about \$2000 at our February used uniform
 - ii. We raised about \$800 with the Purdy's Easter fundraiser
 - iii. We were able to give \$1000 to the DECA group
 - iv. Current parent council account balance- \$1955.50
- b. Fundraising Update (Sorina Dragan- absent)**
- i. Teresa reminded everyone to sign up to volunteer for the Purdy's pick-up tomorrow



Holy Trinity CSS
Catholic School Council Agenda - TEAMS
March 31st, 2026 @6:30pm

c. Parish Updates:

i. Mary Mother: Marion Bastiampillai

- i. Holy Week Masses are running Thursday to Sunday; Saturday is a special mass, a student from HT is converting to Catholicism and his Baptism is happening on Saturday
- ii. April 18th- 6pm Ukrainian Church dinner/ dance fundraiser- tickets available on the church website
- iii. Communion are throughout May

ii. St. Michael:

Aloka Fernades/Frances Bosco-Latincic

- i. As we enter Holy Week, families are invited to join St. Michael's Parish for key celebrations: Holy Thursday at 8 PM, Good Friday services at 2 PM and 3 PM, the Easter Vigil on Saturday at 8 PM, and Easter Sunday Masses at 9 AM, 11 AM, and 12:30 PM.
- ii. Please note that Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence, and the parish office will be closed.
- iii. Also, everyone is welcome to the Servants of the Light Prayer Group's 50th anniversary celebration on April 9 at 7 PM."

iii. St. Joseph (absent)

iv. Holy Trinity

i. Aisha Beeai (absent)

d. OAPCE - Anu Malhi (absent)

e. Community Rep Updates

- i. Oakville Centre for Performing Arts throughout April:
 - i. New age rock bands: Slam Storytelling (CAMH supported- very impactful!); Oakville Symphony performances; Rock of Ages (amazing show!); Just for Laughs Comedy; BonJovi Classic Albums Live and many others.
 - ii. Erchless Museum Oakville: "Good Libations: A History of Alcohol"; workshops with knitting, painting and arts and crafts; For families: "Hunting for History" scavenger hunt for children every day during opening hours.
 - iii. Rec Centre Activities: 16 Mile Sports Complex OPENS TODAY!! March 31st; 83,000 squares feet with a brand new (huge!) library, fitness centre (with many pickle ball courts), and indoor track, a pool and a brand new gym. The pool will be open later this month, but guided tours of the facility are available through the opening hours. M-Th 6-10, Fr 6-9, Sat/Sun 8-7. Lots of opportunities for youth volunteer and employment too.
 - iv. Other Rec Centres throughout Oakville also have plenty going on all the time – check them out!
 - v. Theatre Sheridan has two shows playing over the next few weeks: "In Real Life" (highly lauded), and "The Drowsy Chaperone" (HT put this on in 2014; it's a great show!).
 - vi. Queen vs Abba at John Knox Presbyterian Church on April 10th
 - vii. **EARTH DAY** Clean up at various locations (9-12 or 1) throughout town on Saturday, April 18th; A fun way to get out and really feel part of your community.
 - viii. Earth Day Cleanup on April 25th at Bronte Creek Provincial Park 10-12.



Holy Trinity CSS

Catholic School Council Agenda - TEAMS

March 31st, 2026 @6:30pm

There is literally something for everyone, if ever you're interested. Get out and be part of it! ☺ Not on the list, but always available are art shows and food events throughout town.

9. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

- a. Tuesday May 5th

Holy Trinity **March & April 2026** Events

March 2026	Monday's - After School Math Help 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm
	March 23 to April 10 – GRAD PHOTOS
March 2 to 4	OFSAA Swimming in Windsor
Monday March 2	Touch Football Tournament at StFX
Tuesday March 3	HTSR Science Fair in the Library – Period 3 and 4 Staff Meeting 2:40 pm
Wednesday March 4	SHSM Arts & Culture Reach Ahead Activity, period 3AB & 4
Friday March 6	SHSM Certificates – ICE training
Monday March 9	Hosting HCDSB Cosmetology skills competition
March 9, 10,11	HOSA club trip to Metro Toronto Convention Center
March 9,10,11,12	Atrium activity “Who is your wonder woman” banner (during lunches)
Tuesday March 10	Department Head Meeting 2:40 pm OSSLT after school prep program
Thursday March 12	Space Jam Event period 4 buy-out event
March 16 to 20	MARCH BREAK – March 16 to 20
March 23 to April 7	Lenten drive for Shifra Home
March 23 to 26	Varsity Girls Hockey Team to OFSAA in Windsor
Tuesday March 24	Relay For Life Prep Rally period 1 Lenten Day of Reconciliation period 2,3A & 3B OSSLT after school prep program
Wednesday March 25	Progress reports distributed electronically
Thursday March 26	CIVVIES DAY
Friday March 27	SPIRIT DAY “ Purple Tops and Rock Your Socks ” for World Down Syndrome Day & Epilepsy Awareness Day SHSM Business trip to Wilfred Laurier WLU Business Trip
Monday March 30	Practice Fire Drill Grade 10 Pre-Capstone class HRE20A trip to McMaster Hosting Senior Girls Soccer Tournament Burlington Cup Jr. Hockey Tournament
Tuesday March 31	Math contest period 1 & 2 Hosting Senior Girls Soccer Tournament SHIELD Mentor Interviews Titans Table meeting 2:40 pm



Holy Trinity CSS

Catholic School Council Agenda - TEAMS

March 31st, 2026 @6:30pm

	OSSLT after school prep program Catholic Parent Council Meeting 6:30 pm
April 2026	Monday's - After School Math Help 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm
Wednesday April 1	OSSLT Practice Test Burlington Cup Jr. Hockey Tournament Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser pick up Hosting Senior Boys Soccer Tournament
Thursday April 2	Holy Thursday Stations of the Cross Hosting Junior Boys Soccer Tournament
Friday April 3	Good Friday (Statutory Holiday)
Monday April 6	Easter Monday (Statutory Holiday)
Tuesday April 7	Hosting Senior Boys Soccer Tournament Grade 9 & 10 Math Teachers meeting 12:00 to 2:30 pm Staff Meeting 2:40 pm
Wed. April 8	Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament at StA Hosting Senior Girls Soccer Tournament OSSLT Session 1 AP student Meeting 9:30 am in the Theatre SAHARA- Middle Eastern Heritage Day (10:40 am to 1:15 pm in the Atrium)
Thursday April 9	OSSLT Session 2 Boys Pre-season Lacrosse Tournament Book Club Meeting 2:40 pm to 3:40 pm, Library Parent Teacher Interviews 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Friday April 10	OSSLT – previously eligible students writing at 8:00 am in the Library Visual Arts AVI20 grade 10 trip to ROM Mock Trial Team Members (grade 12) to Thomas Merton Centre HCAA Jr. Hockey Championship Tournament (if applicable) Hosting Junior Girls Soccer Tournament Paid CIVVIES DAY (proceeds to swim team for OFSAA)
April 13,14,15	French DELF exam
Monday April 13	HCAA Jr. Hockey Championship Tournament (if applicable)
April 13,14,15,16	Rock Climbing in Gym C
April 13 to 17	Grade 10 Religion Retreats in the Chapel
Tuesday April 14	Relay For Life kick-off during period 1 HCAA Jr. Hockey Championship Tournament (if applicable) SHSM Construction training and certification in the library
Wednesday April 15	Practice Fire Drill
April 14 to 17	Rock Climbing in Gym C
Thurs. April 16	Start of term 2 (civics/careers) Mock Trial Team Members (grade 11) to Thomas Merton Centre
Friday April 17	Math Contest at Thomas Merton Centre Hosting Lacrosse Tournament SHSM Arts trip - Hamilton
April 16 to 24	French DELF oral exams
Monday April 20	Practice Fire Drill Jr. Hockey Classic in Hamilton – April 20 & 21
Tuesday April 21	Hosting Best Buddies Dance 10:30 to 1:00 - gym Trailblazer Interviews



Holy Trinity CSS

Catholic School Council Agenda - TEAMS

March 31st, 2026 @6:30pm

	Department Head meeting 2:40 pm HCDSB hosting PRO grant presentation
Wed. April 22	Report cards distributed electronically SHIELD Leadership Symposium 2:40 pm to 5:00 pm (Cafeteria, Atrium, Theatre & Gym) Hosting HCDSB Student Senate Meeting 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm (cafeteria)
Thursday April 23	In-School Mock Trial Practice Simulation for HT students (Library period 1,2,3A) Junior Semi Formal (Cafeteria) 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm run by Student Council
Friday April 24	PA DAY OUAC reporting deadline
Tuesday April 28	Titans Table meeting 2:40 pm HCDSB hosting PRO grant presentation
April 29	Wizard of Oz mainstage show during the day for our Family of Schools
April 29,30, May 1	Wizard of Oz mainstage show in the Theatre 7:00 pm
Thursday April 30	CIVVIES DAY Track & Field Meet at Mohawk Sports Complex in Hamilton

- **Staff Meetings 1st Tuesday of each month**
- **Catholic Parent Council – 1st Tuesday of each month 6:30 pm (5 meetings)**
- **Titans Table & Safe Schools Team meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each month**
- **Department Head meetings – 3rd Tuesday of each month**
- **Civvies Day – last Thursday of each month**



Across HCDSB & Oakville

AT A GLANCE

ACROSS HCDSB

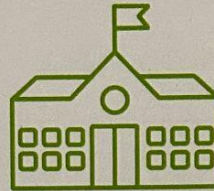
Enrolment data as of Fall, 2025.



About our Board
5600+ EMPLOYEES



Educating
36,600+
STUDENTS



God's call to love
and to serve is nurtured across our
48 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS **10** SECONDARY SCHOOLS
3 CONTINUING EDUCATION FACILITIES



OVER
112,700
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL SUPPORTERS
IN HALTON REGION

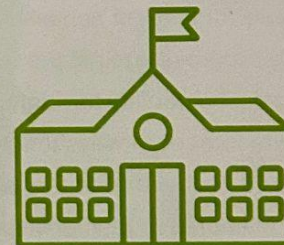
OAKVILLE



Educating
10,790+
STUDENTS



OVER
41,500
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL SUPPORTERS
IN OAKVILLE



17 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
3 SECONDARY SCHOOLS

CONNECT WITH ME



Helena Karabela
Oakville Trustee
Wards 5 & 6
(289) 230-1423
karabelah@hcdsb.org

WWW.HCDSB.ORG



Achieving Believing Belonging Becoming



Holy Trinity CSS
Catholic School Council Agenda - TEAMS
March 31st, 2026 @6:30pm

Why Are School Trustees So Important?

School board trustees are the members of a school board. They are locally-elected representatives of the public, and they are the community's advocate for public education. They are required to carry out their responsibilities in a manner that assists the board in fulfilling its duties under the *Education Act*.

A trustee's role is to maintain a focus on student achievement, well-being and equity and to participate in making decisions that benefit the board's entire jurisdiction while representing the interests of their constituents. Trustees must also communicate the views and decisions of the board back to their constituents.

This is not as simple as it sounds. Because Ontario is large and diverse, the job of school board trustee varies widely. A trustee is responsible for identifying the needs and priorities of their community and for ensuring these are considered in the decisions that result in practical educational opportunities for students. In doing so, trustees must consider conflicting interests and values. A trustee must do this in collaboration with the other members of the school board by developing policies that work for all students, and ensuring they are implemented effectively. It is the local trustee who makes sure that the community has a direct way to express its views on vital education decisions that affect our day-to-day lives. School trustees play an indispensable role in preserving our democratic heritage.

The Role of School Trustees

- Establishing the board's multi-year strategic plan, which includes the vision to ensure a strong public education system
- Setting goals for student achievement, well-being and equity
- Monitoring progress against the board's strategic goals and priority areas
- Promoting accountability throughout the school board
- Allocating resources in ways that ensure equity of outcomes and demonstrate accountability
- Establishing a respectful, caring, professional climate throughout the school board
- Creating collaborative relationships inside the board and across the community
- Promoting continuous improvement
- Promoting community involvement and establishing communications
- Holding the director of education accountable as they lead, execute and monitor activities on behalf of the board of trustees
- Ensuring effective stewardship of the board's resources which includes passing the budget
- Catholic Trustees have a distinctive focus that includes a vision of Catholic education that is Christ-centred, and a commitment to educating students in the Catholic faith tradition.

Are you registered as a Catholic School Supporter?



By ensuring you are a registered separate school supporter:

- you are able to **vote for Catholic school board trustees**
- you are ensuring that your municipalities property assessment base is up-to-date, which is a **public record of support for Catholic schools**

Learn more: hcdsb.info/catholic-school-supporter