



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Denis Morris Catholic High School is grateful for so many blessings in semester one of the 2023-24 academic year. We give thanks for our communal strength, for the lives of the students and staff that enrich it, and we continue to pray for ongoing success for all.

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I introduce the latest edition of our school newsletter. It reflects a vibrant school culture of academic excellence, co-curricular, and community spirit.

In the book of Proverbs, we are reminded: "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." These words encapsulate the mindset of our school—a commitment to excellence grounded in faith and a recognition of the divine inspiration that shapes our daily activities.

At DM, we are blessed with a rich academic and co-curricular program that seeks to challenge and inspire students to reach their highest

potential. From daily coursework to innovative pedagogy, our dedicated staff are committed to providing students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for success.

Our co-curricular programs offer students a wealth of opportunities to explore their interests, develop their talents, and build meaningful relationships. Whether through athletics, performing arts, student leadership, or community service initiatives, our students are encouraged to discover their passions and make a positive impact.

As we celebrate success of our students, and staff in the pages of this newsletter, let us also reflect on the values that unite us as a DM family. We are a community built on a culture of respect, integrity, and inclusivity—a culture that honors the dignity of each individual and fosters a sense of belonging for all. May we always be mindful of the call to serve others with humility and compassion, recognizing that true greatness lies not in what we achieve, but in how we uplift and support those around us.

In the Gospel of John, we are reminded of Jesus' comforting words: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." These words serve as a guiding light and recipe for life success. Our Catholic faith is the added value in Catholic education ....and faith is the greatest gift to give our students. As we navigate the joys and challenges of each day, let us hold fast to this truth, knowing that in Christ, we find the path to happiness, and to a life of purpose and meaning.

It continues to be an honour and privilege to be part of DM's rich history and serve this beautiful school community, one that is blessed with an abundance of excellence and talented, connected and committed young adults. May this newsletter serve as a testament to the transformative power of education, community, and faith, and may it inspire each of us to strive for excellence in all that we do. A special thank you goes out to our editor-in-chief, Mr. Mazur, and to all the staff who contributed to this newsletter. On behalf of Mr. Gualtieri, Mr. Pruyn and myself, we are very grateful to showcase all that is wonderful and good about our beloved Denis Morris. Please enjoy!

Mr. Kevin Timmins  
Principal



## From the Chaplain



When you walk the halls of Denis Morris Catholic High School, you know right away that something special is happening here! This school is alive - alive with faith, alive with school pride and alive with the familiar faces

of students continuing towards their graduation, and alive with the new faces of students learning to navigate hallways, languages, opportunities and events which are unique to Denis Morris and even Canada!

Most especially, DM is alive with people filled with the desire to bring the Gospels to every aspect of school life. This year our Pilgrimage theme "Peace is the product of justice and love" from Saint Oscar Romero, challenged students to see our sisters and brothers in Haiti and Guatemala as worthy benefactors of peace through our efforts of pledging money and walking in their honour.

Likewise, our Advent campaign for the needs of our local community was modeled in the teachings of Jesus, through the Corporal Works of Mercy,

and we supported the local St. Vincent DePaul food bank at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Community Care of St. Catharines-Thorold, and the St. Vincent DePaul store.

Our REDS students are alive with the fire of the Holy Spirit and it is my greatest privilege to be amongst these wonderful people every day, and catching the spirit!

Peace,  
Patricia Morgetano  
Chaplaincy Leader

## Pilgrimage 2023





## A Trip to the Fairy Tale Museum



DM's Arts Department has been hard at work this term. Congratulations to the Drama and Art classes on an amazing Christmas transition day for our Grade 2 and 3 students. These students watched a performance of "A Trip to the Fairy Tale Museum", written and performed by the senior Drama class, and created their own Christmas ornaments to take home with them, courtesy of our Visual Art teachers and volunteers. A day to remember for all!

## DM Film Festival



DM's Film and Video students are proud to present a showcase of their work at our first ever DM Student Film Festival on Wed. Jan. 31 at 6:30pm in the DM Alumni Theatre. All are welcome and admission is free!

A poster for the musical "Back to the 80's". It features a man in a blue and green jacket holding a black camera to his eye. The text on the poster includes: "DENIS MORRIS' ARTS PROUDLY PRESENTS", "BACK TO THE 80's", "Written by Neil Gooding", "Additional material by Stuart Smith", "Revised Orchestration and Arrangements by Brett Fowler", "Original Musical Adaptation by Scott Copeman", "FEBRUARY 22-24 7:00 PM", "ALUMNI THEATRE", "DENIS MORRIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL 40 GLEN MORRIS DR.", "TICKETS \$10 students \$20 adults", and "ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH SCHOOL CASH ONLINE OR CASH AT THE DOOR". There is also a small logo for "DM" and a website address "www.mtishow.com".

Don't forget to preorder your tickets for "Back to the 80s"! The musical runs February 22-24 at 7pm in the DM Alumni Theatre. Tickets are available now on School Cash Online and we will also accept cash ticket purchases at the door for available seating. It's going to be a blast from the past - don't miss it!

 **Love the Arts!**





## Transportation SHSM Field Trip

Denis Morris Students enrolled in Transportation Technology SHSM program traveled to eastern Pennsylvania to experience a wide variety of transportation based activities over 4 days.

Our first stop was the Watkins Glen International, nicknamed "The Glen", is an automobile race track in Finger Lakes region of New York. To our surprise there was a car club making laps around the track these included Porches, Ferraris', McLaren's, Mustangs, and Camaros. This track has a rich history which includes hosting a yearly NASCAR race and previously F1 up to the 1980's.



On the second day we first visited the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) Museum in Hershey, PA which is dedicated to the preservation and education of motor vehicle history. One of the highlights of the AACA museum was the display of world's largest collection of the infamous Tucker Car Company.

Students also had the opportunity to take a factory tour of the New Holland Haytools Plant in York, PA. This was an up close tour of the manufacturing of agricultural equipment. The whole process was very interesting indeed!

Our trip continued to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. Many of the Museum's nearly 100 locomotives and railroad cars are housed inside a vast, 100,000-square-foot exhibit hall, with additional equipment stored outside in our Train Yard. The students were amazed by the overall size of these trains.





## Transportation SHSM Field Trip... Continued



The highlight of the trip was the NHRA Nationals in Reading, PA. This event incorporates NHRA's (National Hot Rod Association) Youth and Education Services (Y.E.S.) program. The Y.E.S. program was created as a tool to connect education and drag racing. Students attended a career day presentation that includes a panel discussion with Nitro Funny Car driver Bob Tasca, NHRA officials, and MAC Tools personnel. The students learn the importance of goal setting, career opportunities in motorsports and furthering their education. After the presentation our students were able to explore the sport of professional drag racing in which most had never experienced the thrill of 11,000 horsepower vehicle that can reach a speed of over 500 kilometres per hour in 1000 feet.



Our final stop was to the famous half mile dirt race track, Williams Grove Speedway. The race cars in attendance were the Hooiser Diamond Series 410 sprints and the 358 sprints. The dirt was flying!!

Overall the students were exhilarated with the whole experience of the Transportation Technology SHSM field trip.



## 2024 NCDSB Skills Competition

Denis Morris students will be participating in the upcoming 2024 Niagara Catholic Skills Competition at the end of February. Students will be competing in categories ranging from skilled trades like auto service, construction to computer based skills like animation, photography, and more.

DM students will go toe to toe against students from the other 7 high schools within NCDSB with the winners moving onto regional and provincial competitions. These competitions will be held at multiple locations including Seaway Mall, Niagara College, and area High Schools. This is a great opportunity for students to showcase the skills that they obtained within the classroom. Good Luck to all competitors!



## Robotics Field Trip

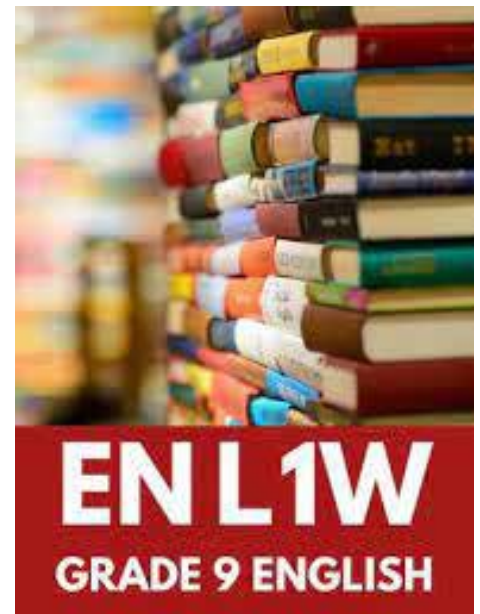


# I ♥ English

This year, the Denis Morris English Department introduced ENG3C and ENG3U Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices to the curriculum as per the Ontario Ministry of Education. In this course, students explore the themes, forms, and stylistic elements of a variety of literary, informational, graphic, oral, cultural, and media texts emerging from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit cultures. This is done through a series of Canadian Indigenous authors/creators from various periods and cultures including Drew Hayden Taylor, George Riga, and Waubgeshig Rice. As well as view documentaries like *We Were Children*, *The Reel Injun*, and take part in cultural activities like beading, saging, and local festivals. If you should have any questions, please contact the three teachers trained in the subject area, including: Mrs. DelPriore, Mrs. Naphin, or Ms. Petrullo.

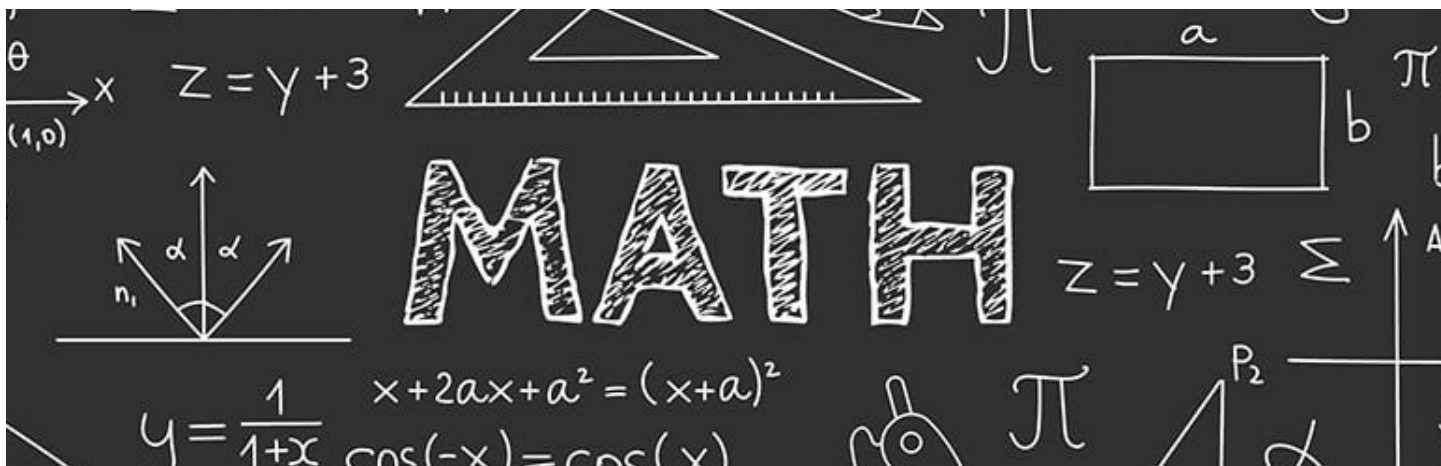


The OSSLT was a success with 79% of grade ten students achieving success on the first writing. Writers not yet successful will have an opportunity to write again in April. Support sessions will be offered during late lunch and resources have been made available to families.



Destreamed English (ENG1W) has successfully launched at Denis Morris. Taking an extra year before streaming students will allow them the opportunity to ensure they make the best decisions for their future. As well, students are able to learn and grow with their school age peers in the same classroom. Students have an opportunity to choose their stream in grade 10.





The Math department and the math students have been very busy this semester whether it was preparing peer tutoring, working in study groups, participating in class activities or studying for final exams.

The grade 9's were busy preparing to write the EQAO math test, which was completed at the end of January by over 100 students. Senior students have been working all semester peer tutoring math after school at the homework help program.

Math students, more than ever, have been actively engaged in activities and lessons using technology whether it was using Knowledhook, MathUp, Desmos or finance calculators.

Of course, much of the end of January was spent preparing for final exams or summative assignments within their classes. We look forward to February when students will partake in the University of Waterloo math contests being written for grades 9 to 11 and in April for grade 12.





## World Religions Trip



Students in the Grade 11 World Religion courses this semester were treated to a field trip to begin the month of December. The annual World Religion trip is a great opportunity to live out the Vatican call for ecumenism.

Students began their day with a visit to the Congregation B'nai Israel and Jewish Community Centre where they learned about the history of the building and the ways that the Conservative community has changed over time. Students were invited to read from prayer books and even got to see the Torah Scrolls up close.

Next, they headed to the Al Noor Masjid (Islamic Society of St. Catharines) where they participated in a question and answer period to learn about the Five Pillars of Islam. Students were impressed with the beautiful, rich carpet that covered the floor and indicated the direction of Mecca. While at the place of worship they learned about the times of prayer throughout the day and how diverse the Muslim population is around the world.

From there, it was on to Saints Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church. Once inside students were in awe of the stunning iconography that adorns the walls. They discussed

the differences between the Roman Catholic and Ukrainian Catholic Church and even were allowed to step inside the sanctuary.

After a lunch break, students continued their day with a stop at the Niagara Regional Native Center. While there, students experienced a smudging ceremony and enjoyed the talented singing and drumming by our hosts. The day was a wonderful opportunity for students to compliment the curriculum from the classroom meeting people from each different spiritual tradition.

The entire experience spurred many conversations about the similarities and differences between the Roman Catholic faith and other spiritual practices.





## Activities in the Department

It has been a busy time in the religion department this semester. Students participated in reconciliation preparation with Chaplain Patricia and then reconciliation with Father Greg of St. Julia's church. Furthering their faith, Chaplain Patricia took students to the "When Faith Meets Pedagogy Youth Forum" to hear from Fr. Tony. The Grade 9s and 12s each had separate retreat days at Heartland Forest.

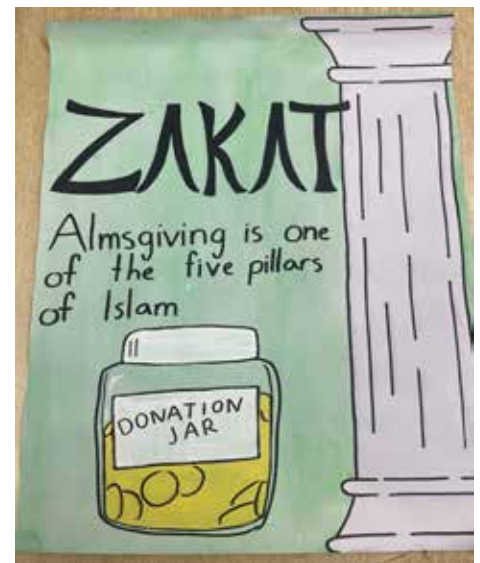
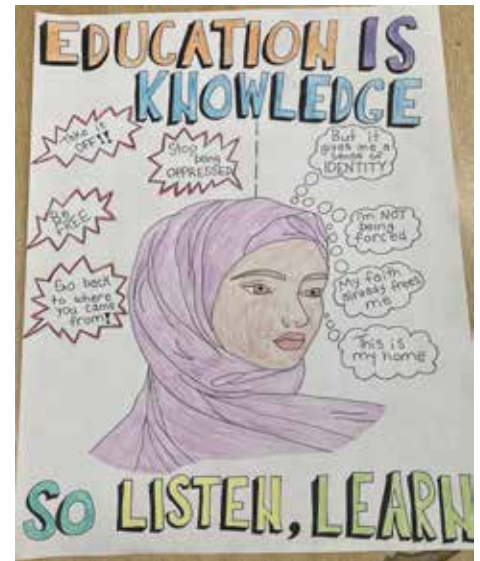
Meanwhile, in classrooms, students had opportunities for hands on experiences. In Mrs. Einhorn's class students created rope rosaries in homage to Our Lady Undoer of Knots. In Mrs. Clark's grade 11 class, the world religion students made models of Jewish symbols or significant places

and posters challenging stereotypes about Islam. Meanwhile in Mrs. Bitondo's classroom the Grade 12 students created painting depicting the Catholic Social Teachings and they now adorn our hallways.

Throughout the department and the school, students also made their presence felt as symbols of love and justice with works of service. Over the course of the semester, students collected pop tabs for St. Julia's CWL and food for our Christmas food drive. They also completed hundreds of hours of community service in our local churches and charities.

Possibly our most famous act of service is found in the pilgrimage. The

event started off with introductory assemblies. Former NCDSB chaplain Kelly Stephen brought stories of his own visits to our sister schools in Haiti to encourage students to get involved. And get involved they did. Students raised money and walked in solidarity with those less fortunate while calling to mind the Preferential Option for the poor. The pilgrimage day ended with school wide attendance at our home football game. At an event like pilgrimage it is easy to see how Denis Morris is a family and that family takes care of our brothers and sisters all over the world.







The Religion Department of Denis Morris was lucky to have a number of guest speakers visit this fall. Twice this semester, the Denis Morris Religion department welcomed the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate to speak to religion and careers classes. The first visit early in the semester focused on the vocations. The visiting Sisters spoke about their own experiences on the way to becoming a nun and welcomed questions from the audience. On their second visit in December the Soli Sisters talked about Advent. Again, students were fully engaged and peppered the sisters with questions about their daily lives and how they knew that the vocation was right for them. We are lucky to have a close relationship with the Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate.

The department also welcomed Adam Brule of the YMCA Youth Gambling Awareness Program to speak to students in Grades 9, 10 and 12. Mr. Brule

brought a wealth of knowledge on the impact of gambling on mental health. Through the program, students were made aware of the dangers of online gambling and stereotypes regarding mental health. They were also given strategies to deal with gambling and gaming. In all, over 100 students were able to participate in these workshops with the YMCA program.

Finally, the Grade 12 College and University level students welcomed Jessica Wang from the Niagara Region Sexual Assault Center to discuss the prevalence of Human Trafficking in the area. Students were surprised to learn the statistics surrounding this important issue. They were also given strategies to keep themselves safe both here in the Niagara Region and for future experiences at College and University. The religion curriculum at Denis Morris is diverse and comprehensive and tackles current issues facing our students in the light and understanding of our Catholic Faith.

## Advent Mass





## Grade 8 Day and Open House

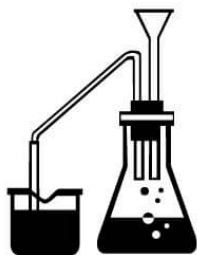


As we have come to the end of Semester 1, we are excited to share with you some of the highlights from the Science department.

Coming off of the heels of the grade 8 Open House, the Science department showcased some “hair-raising” activities by allowing incoming students to test out the Van De Graaff Generator. Students observed rats being dissected along with owl pellets.

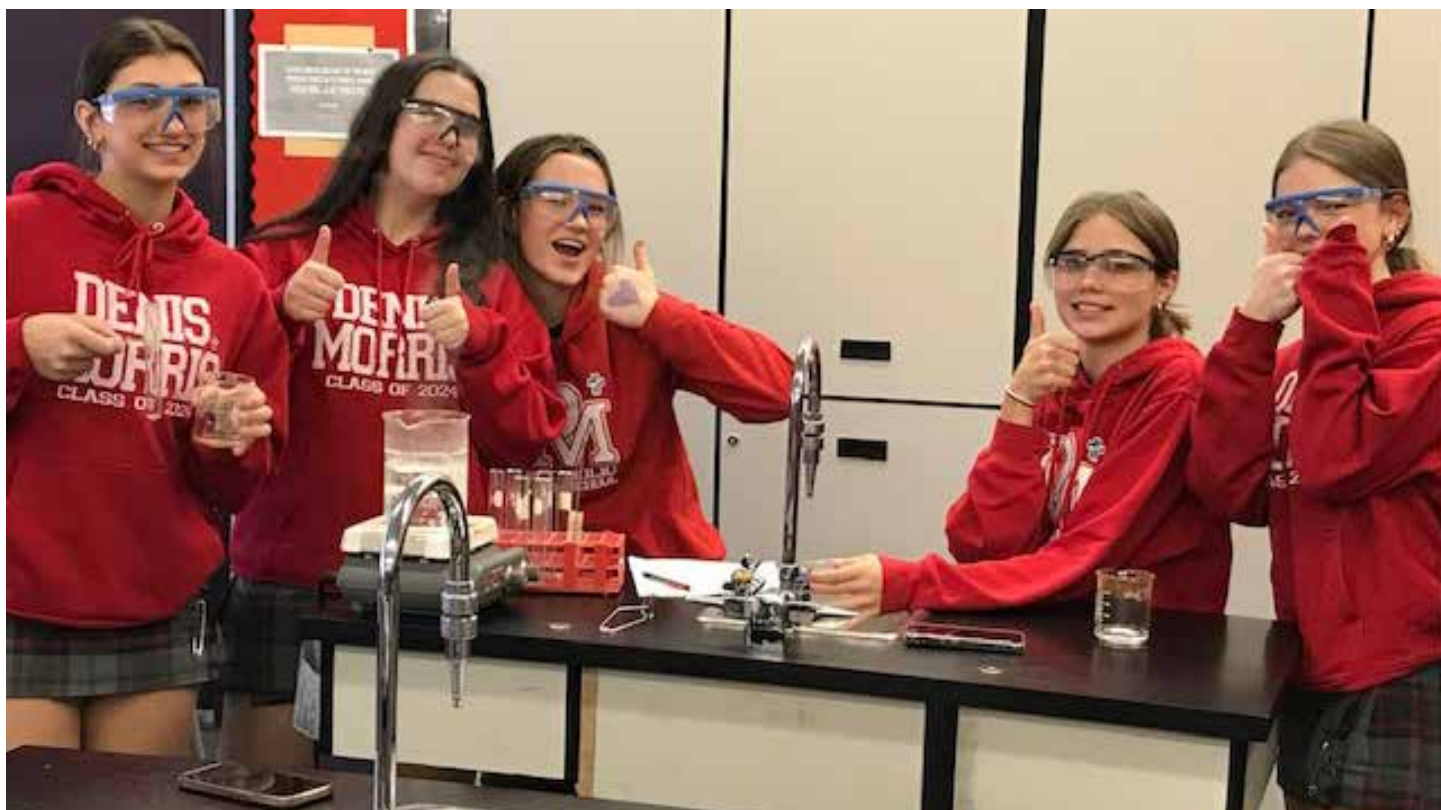
They also explored the science behind sound waves, built electric circuits, and tried their hand at coding. Students put their dexterity to the test by testing how well they could trace shapes using a mirror box.

All of these activities were part of a very successful Open House. Future Reds also had the opportunity to make and launch rockets during their visit to the school in November.





## Chemistry & Physics



This semester, grade 11 Chemistry students studied acids and bases. They titrated acids to determine the equivalence point of the titration.

The grade 12 Chemistry students studied Organic Chemistry. In the lab, they mixed alcohols and carboxylic acid to

produce an esterification reaction. The students observed that this experiment resulted in many fruity smells.

On the Physics front, students had a blast creating and launching rockets. A great semester was had in the Science department; we're excited to see what the second semester holds!





## **It's the Law!**



Students getting prepared for their Mock Trial in Mr. Fusarelli's grade 11 Law class.

## **Future Careers Presentations**



Students presenting their future careers for the Career Job Fair in Mr. Fusarelli's Careers class.





Mrs. Gordon	Program Chair	Ext 2320
Ms. Bronilla	Secretary	Ext 2130
Mrs. Murrell	Guidance Counsellor	Ext 2323
Mr. O'Rourke	Guidance Counsellor	Ext 2325
Mrs. Royer	ERT (Grade 9 & 10)	Ext 2182
Ms. Petrullo (Sem 1)	ERT (Grade 11 & 12)	Ext 2181
Mrs. Leighton (Sem. 2)	ERT (Grade 11 & 12)	Ext 2181
Mr. Battista	Special Education Classroom	Ext 2316
Mrs. Petroff-Torossian	Special Education Classroom	Ext 2316
Mr. Pullar	Success Teacher	Ext 2324
Mr. Di Paolo	Success Teacher	Ext 2324
Ms. Gilliss	Child and Youth Worker	Ext 2322
Ms. Matijevic	Cooperative Education	Ext 2324

Do you know what career path you are interested in? If you answered yes or no, how would you like to test drive your future career? You can do that through Cooperative Education! It provides students with a wide range of learning opportunities in a safe, culturally responsive environments in our community, outside of school. This program allows students to earn credits while completing both related curriculum along with gaining valuable skills through experiential learning. A student can earn two or four credits depending on their schedule and type of placement.

If you are interested in learning more about Cooperative Education or becoming a Specialist High Skills Major, please see Mrs. Matijevic in Student Services.

Should students needing social emotional assistance, a day of problem solving, coping strategies or simply need a quiet space to recharge and regroup, they can see me to chat. I am located in our school library. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at extension 2322.



## Course Selection Process 2024-25

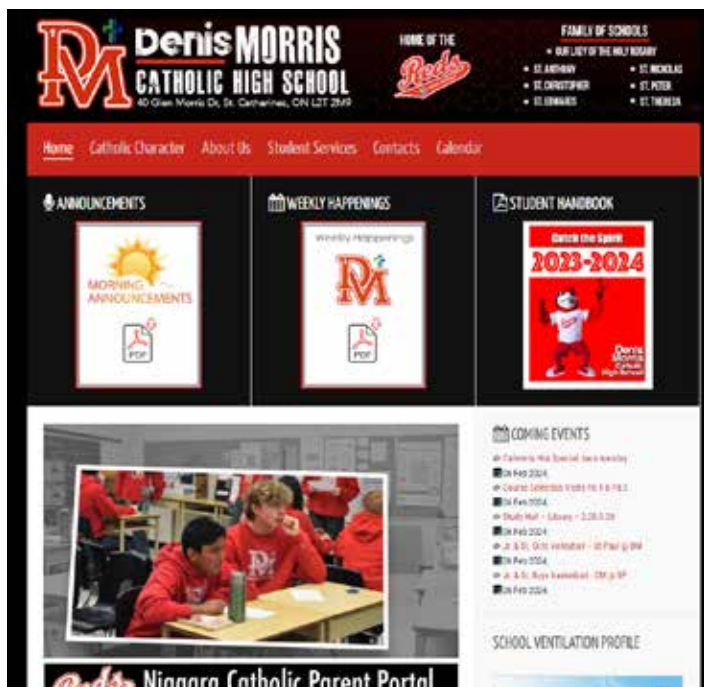
Grade 9 – 11 students will be selecting their courses online again this year using myBlueprint. Course selection will take place using the myBlueprint high school planner feature. This can be accessed through the NCVLE at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) under the 'Students' tab on the homepage. All of our students have been shown how to do this.

The course selection process will take place during February 5th-22nd. All period one classes will be visited by a Student Services Counsellor during the week of February 5th-9th and given information on course selection. To complete the course selection process students are also required to pay the \$55 Activity Fee using School Cash Online.

Students wishing to return for Grade 12B (additional year or semester after graduation) should make an appointment with a Guidance Counsellor to register for courses for next year ASAP as courses will fill up quickly.

## The DM School Website

We encourage you to visit the Student Services section on our DM website or the grade level NCVLE classes. These areas contain information, important dates and links to many sites that will help you with post-secondary planning and applications. Here you will also find helpful information and links regarding community service opportunities, programs and resources available through Student Services.



Visit us at - [www.denismorris.ca](http://www.denismorris.ca)

## Grade 12 Potential Graduates

We have completed our individual Exit Plan Interviews with all our grade 12 students to help them make plans for life beyond Denis Morris. Each grade 12 student has been given a copy of his/her transcript information (September) in order to assist them with post-secondary planning and to ensure they are meeting graduation requirements. We have a Grade 12 Grad NCVLE class set up where numerous virtual links and scholarship opportunities are posted for students to access.

## University / College Application Process

In October, we presented information on the online application process for Colleges and Universities in Ontario. All Grade 12's were invited to the DM Alumni Theatre for the presentation and step-by-step instructions for the application process were distributed.

In November we also held an evening for parents to come to learn more about the application process.

## Important Dates to remember!

January 15, 2024 - Ontario University Application Deadline (for equal consideration)

February 1, 2024 - Ontario College Application Deadline (for equal consideration)

May 1, 2024 - College Offer Acceptance Deadline

June 3, 2024 - University Offer Acceptance Deadline





## SHSM - Specialist High Skills Major

Specialist High Skills Majors let students focus on a career path that matches their skills and interests while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students receive the SHSM seal on their diploma when they: complete a specific bundle of 8-10 courses in the student's selected field; earn valuable industry certifications including first aid and CPR qualifications; gain important skills on the job through cooperative education placements.

SHSM's are for those Grade 11 and 12 students who are: heading for apprenticeship training, college, university or the workplace; wanting to identify, explore and refine their career goals and make informed choices about their next steps after secondary school. Students taking a SHSM, have the opportunity to: gain important skills on the job with actual employers, at skills training centers and at school; earn valuable industry certifications such as: First Aid, CPR and WHMIS qualifications.

### Denis Morris currently has 11 SHSMs

Aviation, Arts and Culture, Business, Construction, Health and Wellness, Hospitality and Tourism, Horticulture and Landscaping, Information and Communication Technology, Justice/Community Safety and Emergency Services, Manufacturing and Transportation.

Please see Student Services if you have any questions or wish to register for this great program.



## SHSM Benefits and Components

### Sector Specific Academic Major and Required Credits Bundle

### Two Cooperative Education Credits

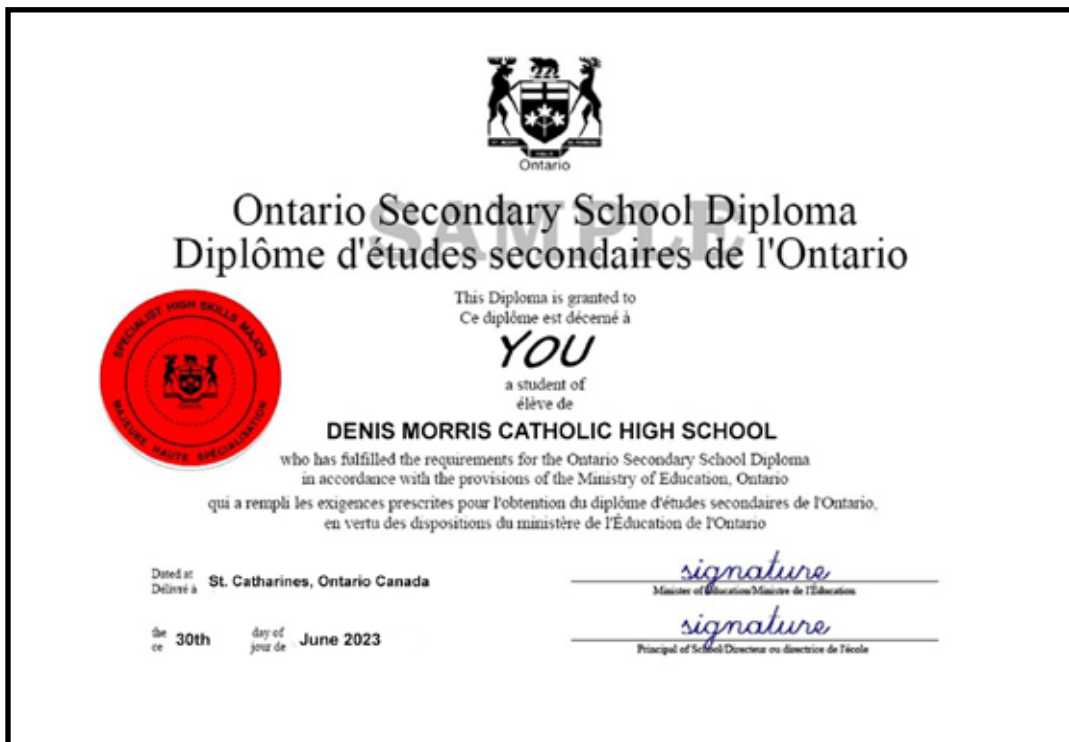
School Delivered or Continuing Education

### Sector Recognized Certifications

CPR, Standard First Aid, WHMIS,  
Other Sector Specific

### Experiential and Reach Ahead Opportunities

Career Fair, Skills Competitions,  
Interviews, Conferences, Workshops,  
Tours, Events, Performances,  
Job Shadowing



## DM Hockey Highlights - Lady Red's



The Lady Red's Hockey team is gearing up for our remaining regular season games, and the playoffs. We had a good showing in both tournaments we participate in. Keep up the effort ladies. The ladies record in the so far in league play is 2 wins and 1 loss. The ladies will round out their regular season with a home game vs. St. Francis on February 14th at 3:00 at the Thorold Arena with playoffs to start the week after. Be sure to check out these talented young ladies.

The team would like to thank the wonderful parents, and our Administration team for their continuous support. Bring on the playoffs!!!

### **Members of the 2023/ 2024 team include:**

Molly Armstong, Maggie Bell, Sophia Carile, Angelina DeDivitiis, Candelaria Gras, Reese Grossi, Chloe Hutton, Mel Langkamer, Mya Lorenzo, Elyse Naphin, Darci O'Neill, Taylor Pirri, Maddie Rouse, Sienna Read, Reese Shigwadja and Kaylen Stover.





## Flag Football - Congratulations & Good Luck



Angel Adeboye, Kennady Forster and Chloe Hutton, all grade eleven students at Denis Morris, will head to Florida the week before semester one exams to play in an international competition that will host over 400 teams. The ladies will join their team to battle groups from across the United States, and countries like Mexico, Panama, and China. All of the action will play out on 48 fields at the ESPN Wide World of Sports at Disney World and the finals of each age group will be broadcast live on ESPN.

Congratulations to Angel, Kennady and Chloe on their hard work and dedication on the field and in the classroom. We wish the ladies and their team great success on the international stage and know that REDS Nation will be cheering them on from home!

Congratulations to three of our Reds who have been selected for the Niagara Nitros 17U women's team to represent Canada and Ontario at the World Championships for Flag Football in Orlando, Florida in January 2024. This is a great accomplishment at a time when the sport of flag football is growing rapidly in this area and around the world. In fact, flag football was just announced as a showcase sport for men and women at the 2028 Olympics to be held in Los Angeles.

## Tennis

This was an exciting tennis season, on the both junior and senior side.

Our lone senior representative, Nathan Gabriel started the season on the high note easily winning Zone 2 Championships in the boys singles division. Unfortunately, he had a very close match in the first round at SOSSA that didn't turn out in his favour. After losing the first-round match, Nathan won the consolation draw finishing 5th at SOSSA. His season fell short this year, but we have our eyes on OFSAA next year!

On the junior side, the turnout was amazing! Our girls doubles team - Adele Kushner and Maddy Ormsby, and boys doubles team - Domenico Patittucci and Tristan Snopkowki, fell short after their opening round wins at Zone and didn't qualify for SOSSA. Our



boys singles player, Roman Kutiepv, came second at Zone and qualified for SOSSA. The highlight of the season was our mixed doubles team, Eden Haist and London Perdue, who won Zone 2 Championships and also qualified for SOSSA where they finished second overall.

Coach Matijevic would like to congratulate all tennis team members for a fantastic season and is looking forward to next season and seeing everyone back on the courts. In the meantime, keep training, hitting and practicing!

## DM Rowing

Another season has started for the DM Rowing program. The hard work in the mornings is starting to pay off for our students as they enter the Indoor Ergatta portion of the season. With two competitions completed and a few more to come we can see progress being made across the board.

Shanelle Burcher and Josh Vandervart both won gold in Hamilton, with Daniel

Hunt coming home with a bronze. At the DM Novice Sprints many of our novice rowers got their first experience of high school competition. It was an excellent learning experience for them. Madeline Ormsby and Domenico Patitucci won their events, while Luka Bosnjak came in a close second. All of our competitors performed really well and we look forward to seeing more success in the events to come.

Please come out and join us for our Pasta Night on February 17, from 4-7 at Club Roma.

## AROUND DM

### ECO Club



The hydroponics garden growing strong, providing fresh herbs to the Culinary classes. Next semester, we will be planting lettuce greens and tomatoes for the DM students to enjoy!



The worm condo was set-up to create nutrient-rich vermicompost to help our spring plantings produce veggies this summer.



Members of the Eco club helped put the St. Julia Church gardens to bed for the winter.



