



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Denis Morris Catholic High School is grateful for so many blessings in semester one of the 2024-25 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/social justice 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 educationand 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. This will be Mr. Mazur's final newsletter as he is retiring at the end of semester one after a long and impactful career. As a school community, we say thank you to Mr. Mazur for his service and wish him continued blessings as he enters into the next phase of his life. On behalf of Mr. Whittard, Mrs. Williams 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



Faith continues to live at Denis Morris! As a Catholic School Community, we pride ourselves on making faith a priority in all that we do. As a school rooted in Faith, we ensure that our priorities are focused on nurturing the body, mind and soul of our students as we develop leaders of tomorrow who are formed in faith. One of the highlights of our year is our Denis Morris Pilgrimage that has been a staple of Niagara Catholic for the past 49 years. This year, we had over 300 staff and students participate and raised over \$8000 to support our sister school in Haiti and Wells of Hope in Guatemala. By taking a 5km walk on the day of the Pilgrimage, we impact our Denis Morris community and the local community through our presence and we share the why of our Catholic faith as we express solidarity with those most in need.

Another yearly highlight are the Grade 9 and Grade 12 retreats. This year, the grade 9s attended Balls Falls for their retreats while the Grade 12s were able to attend Heartland Forest. In a combination of spiritual, social and physical components, participants on the retreats were able to have a great experience meeting new friends and further developing their knowledge of their faith. We know that this

graduating class will accomplish amazing things and that the grade 9s will use their gifts and talents to help make Denis Morris an amazing place to learn and grow.

Our faith goal this year continues to be that of “Come and See” (John 1:39) which falls under the Called By Name theme from the school board. Wherever you are in your faith journey, Jesus is always calling us to come and see – to take that next step. While Jesus truly meets us where we are at, he never wants to leave us there but rather wants to walk with us and draw us closer to Him. Focusing on the scriptures where Jesus calls the first disciples, we continue to offer faith opportunities for all students to grow in their relationship with Jesus. On top of our monthly masses at St. Julia Church, we have weekly masses in our chapel which all staff and students are invited to attend in the morning. Further to that, we have an on-going bible study, social justice events and time for prayer in our regularly scheduled rosary meetings. Faith is truly alive at Denis Morris with opportunities to learn and grow and put that faith into action as we are all called to do.

As an educational institute, it is vital that we are continually preparing our students for life after Denis Morris and their spiritual life is a critical component of that. We recognize that as humans we are Biological, Psychological, Social, and Spiritual and at Denis Morris nurturing all of those 4 aspects are critical. By using the Catholic Graduate Expectations, we ensure that our graduates are not just prepared for their career but for living a life that reflects the light of Christ. The world needs strong Catholic leadership and that happens when we respond to the call from God in our lives. St. Catharine of Siena said that if you, “Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire” and Blessed Carlo Acutis – soon to be one of our newest saints next year – said, “All people are born as originals, but many live as photocopies”. We encourage our students to listen to the call that God has for their life. While that may include future priests and religious brothers and sisters or consecrated lay people, the world needs strong Catholic doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, politicians and athletes and we are proud that their journey begins here at Denis Morris.



Feeder School Day

Congratulations to the Senior Drama class and Mrs. Mozzoni's Art-Religion leaders on a fun transition day for our Gr. 4 feeder school students. Art students supported our guests in creating beautiful Christmas crafts in the cafeteria. Afterwards, students were treated to a performance of "To Be Determined", a play written, designed and performed by the Drama class. Well done to all!



DM
DENIS MORRIS DRAMA CLUB
PRESENTS
**RADIUM
GIRLS**
By D.W. Gregory

STARTS AT 7PM	THURSDAY, FEB. 27	TICKET \$10 PER PERSON
	FRIDAY, FEB. 28	
	SATURDAY, MARCH 1	

**ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE ON
SCHOOLCASHONLINE OR PAY CASH AT THE DOOR**

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE DRAMATIC
PUBLISHING COMPANY OF WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

DM's Drama Club is working hard on the school play and tickets are now available.

"Radium Girls" by D. W. Gregory will be performed at 7pm on Thursday, February 27 - Saturday, March 1 in DM's Alumni Theatre. "Radium Girls" tells the real-life story of dial-painters who became ill with radiation poisoning from the Radium-based paint they used at work, and their struggle to have their illness recognized and receive compensation for it.

Tickets are \$10 each, for cash at the door. Save \$2 on a student ticket by purchasing in advance through School Cash Online!





At Denis Morris, the BT Department offers a wide variety of courses that incorporate hands on experiences that students will be able to use throughout their life.

Majority of courses offered are part of the SHSM distinction which propels students into post secondary and apprenticeship opportunities.

SHSM Level Up!

Denis Morris SHSM students enrolled in the Trades based sectors had the opportunity to participate in LEVEL UP! Trade Fair at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre.

Nearly 200 exhibitors engaged with students at the career fair. Exhibitors ranged from post secondary institutions, unions, to possible employers. This was a great opportunity for students to engage with industry leaders about their future careers.

Students came out with a better understanding of career options available and of course the free swag!



2025 NCDSB Skills Competition

Denis Morris students will be participating in the upcoming 2025 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.

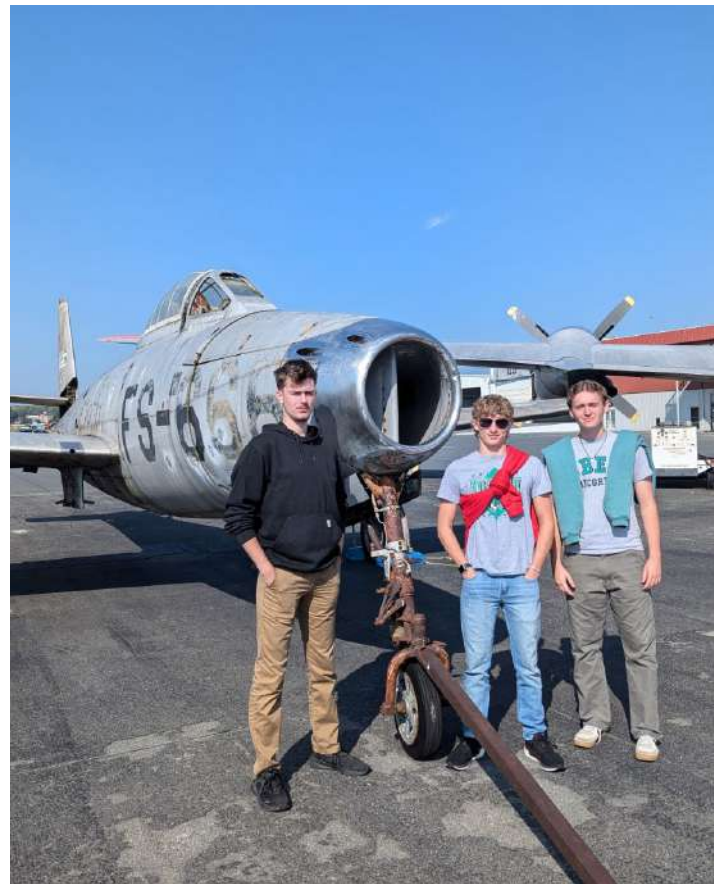
DM students will go toe to toe against students from the other 7 high schools within NCDSB, with the winners moving onto regional and provincial competitions. These competitions will be held at multiple locations including Seaway Mall, Niagara College, and area High Schools. This is a great opportunity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

Good Luck to all competitors!

Transportation Technology SHSM Field Trip

Students enrolled in the Transportation Technology SHSM program made the trek to southern Pennsylvania in September to experience many transportation-based activities. We called this the Planes, Trains, and Automobiles adventure!

Planes – students visited the Eagle Mere Air Museum which houses a living and flying collection of airplanes, airplane engines, and artifacts from the golden age of flying.



Transportation SHSM Field Trip... Continued

Trains – a visit to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. With nearly 100 locomotives and railroad cars under one roof, it was overwhelming the size of these machines!



Automobiles – Morgantown Classic Car Mall was a great experience as they had over 1,000 classic vehicles for sale. You name it, they had it!

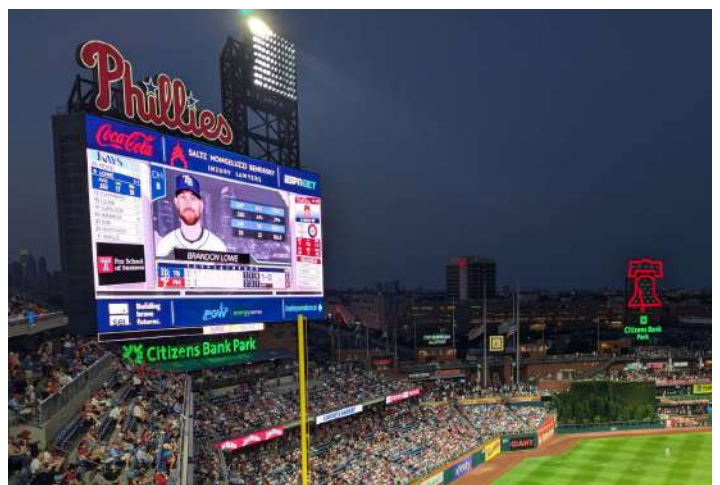


Someone Foundation Automotive Museum is one of the world's greatest collections of racing sports cars. This included vintage Bugatti's, Porches, Ferrari's, and Ford GT40s to name a few.

NHRA Nationals drag races. This event incorporates NHRA's (National Hot Rod Association) Youth and Education Services (Y.E.S.) program. Students were able to explore the sport of professional drag racing. 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.



Other highlights were the factory tour of New Holland farm implement plant and a baseball game to see the Philadelphia Phillies in action.



This was a once in a lifetime experience for the students that they thoroughly enjoyed.

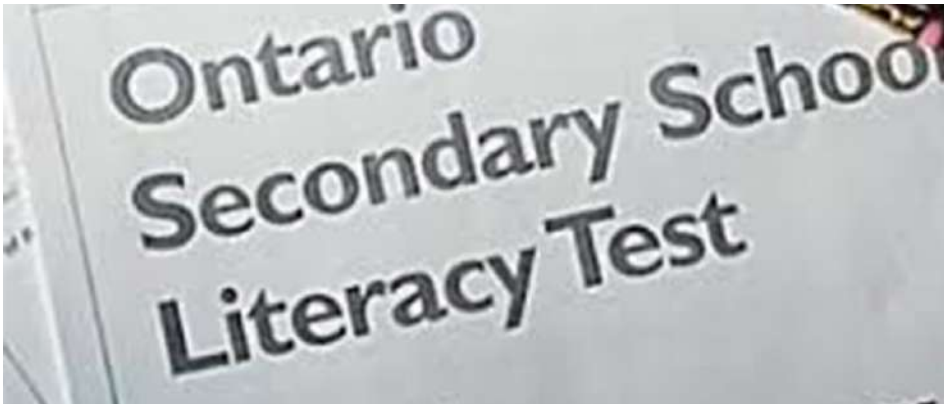
Anishinaabe Artist Moses Lunham - Painting Session



In celebration of Indigenous Treaty Week, students in Mrs Diamond-Mule, Mr. Giavedoni, Ms. Doucet, Ms. Bitondo, and Mrs. Del Priore's classes participated in a powerful virtual painting session with Anishinaabe artist Moses Lunham from the Kettle and Stoney Point First Nation.

This session provided a profound learning experience about the importance of treaties. It encouraged students to reflect on the spirit and intent of treaties while engaging their senses through painting. Thank you for your guidance Mr. Lunham.

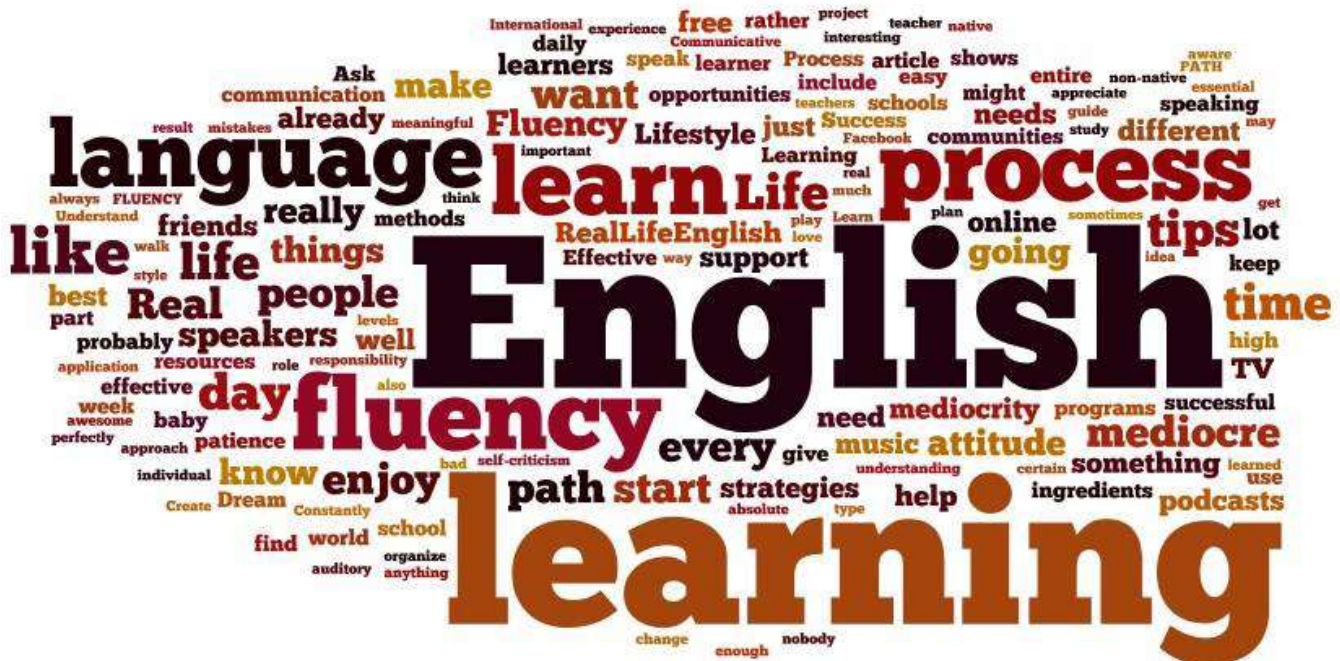
Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test - OSSLT

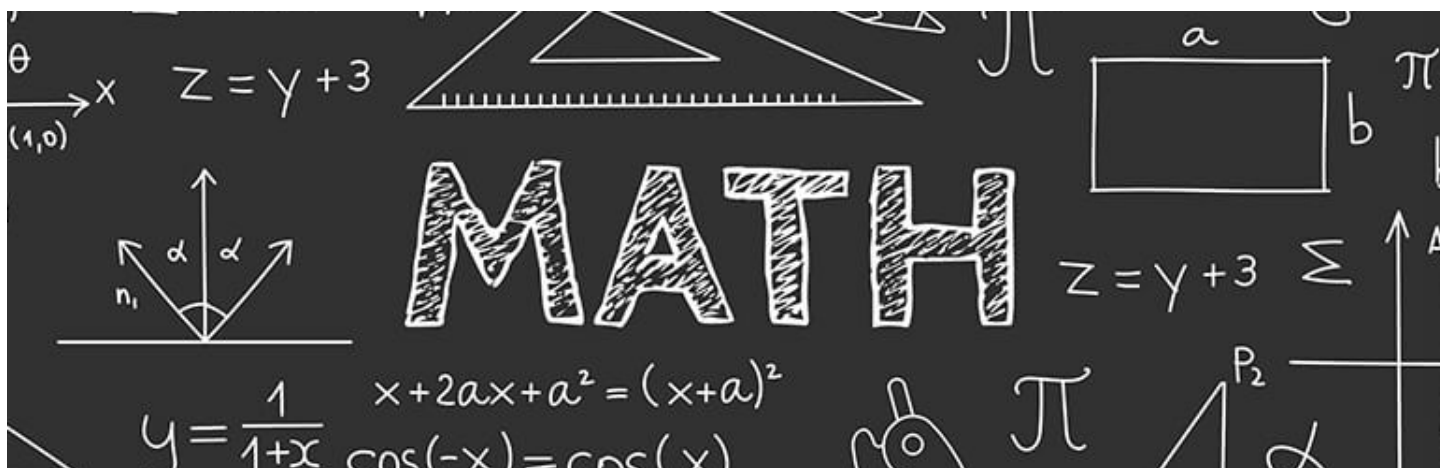


The OSSLT was a success with 80.5% of grade ten students achieving success on the first writing.

Writers not yet successful will have an opportunity to write again in the Spring.

Support sessions will be offered during late lunch and resources have been made available to families.





The Math department and the math students have been very active during the first semester of the school year 2024-2025.

Students were preparing for math contests, working in study groups, participating in class activities and studying for final exams. We also had a Mathletes team again, comprised of students who have an interest in solving math problems in a team competition format. The team participated in a board wide Mathletes competition in the fall. This semester we also had a group of grade 12 students participate in the Canadian Senior Mathematics Competition put on by the University of Waterloo. The grade 9's were busy preparing to write the EQAO math test, which was completed at the end of January.

Students have been working all semester peer tutoring math after school at the homework help program held in the library and have been actively engaged in classroom activities all year long in their math courses.



World Religions Trip



Grade 11 religion students had the pleasure of attending the World Religion trip this November. Students under the care of Mrs. Shannon, Mrs. Ostaszewicz and Mrs. Clark travelled to the Congregation B'nai Israel and Jewish Community Centre, the Masjid An Noor and the Cham Sham Buddhist Temple. At each location the students were treated to guest lectures by members of the religious community. They had the

opportunity to see and touch religious artifacts and learn about the history of each place of worship within the Niagara Region. The trip was attended by almost 100 students and staff. This example of experiential learning is so valuable to students in grade eleven. The trip itself supports the Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity and fulfills the Vatican's call for interreligious dialogue.



Christmas Cards



The Religion Department spent the month of November creating Christmas Cards for the seniors in our community. Students were thrilled to have an opportunity to express their creative side while connecting with some of the elders in the community.

After hearing about a campaign from local radio station 105.7 to bring Christmas cards to those vulnerable in our area nursing homes, Religion department staff saw the effort as a great way to remember the real “reason for the season”.



Over the course of three weeks, students in all classes wrote heartfelt messages and decorated cards and envelopes. Mrs. Shannon brought cards to Chippawa Creek at Bella Care Residence in Niagara Falls and Mrs. Clutterbuck brought a selection of cards to the Loyalist Retirement Residence here in St. Catharines. The remaining cards were added to the Radio Station Campaign by Mr. Vinc. Staff and students hope the members of the golden age find Christmas a little more joyful with the kind words of from Reds Nation.



Grade 8 Day and Open House



We are excited to share the highlights of our recent Grade 9 Open House. It was a fantastic evening filled with engaging activities and demonstrations that showcased the incredible work our students have been doing in their science classes. Here are some of the exciting activities that took place:

Our visitors were thrilled by the Van de Graaff generator demonstration. This fascinating device, which generates static electricity, allowed students and guests to experience the wonders of electrostatics firsthand. Hair-raising fun was had by all as they learned about the principles of electric charge and static electricity.



In the biology lab, students demonstrated their skills and knowledge through a rat dissection. This hands-on activity provided an in-depth look at mammalian anatomy, helping students understand the complex structures and systems that make up living organisms. It was an eye-opening experience that highlighted the importance of anatomy in the study of life sciences.

Our budding electricians showcased their understanding of electric circuits. Through various interactive setups, they demonstrated how circuits work, the role of different components, and the principles of electricity. Visitors had the chance to build their own simple circuits and see the practical applications of what our students have been learning.

One of the most popular demonstrations was the “elephant toothpaste” experiment. This exciting chemical reaction, which produces a large foamy substance, captivated the audience. Students explained the science behind the reaction, including the role of catalysts and the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide. It was a fun and educational way to explore chemistry.

In the physics section, students used a sound cannon to demonstrate the properties of sound waves. By visualizing sound waves and their effects, they helped visitors understand concepts such as frequency, amplitude, and wave propagation. The interactive nature of this demonstration made it a hit with both students and parents.

We are incredibly proud of our Grade 9 students for their hard work and enthusiasm in preparing for the Open House. Their dedication to learning and their ability to share their knowledge with others is truly commendable. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our event. We look forward to more exciting scientific adventures in the future!



Chemistry & Physics

As we approach the end of the semester, we are thrilled to share some of the incredible projects and experiments our Science students have been working on. This semester has been packed with hands-on learning experiences that have brought science to life in our classrooms.

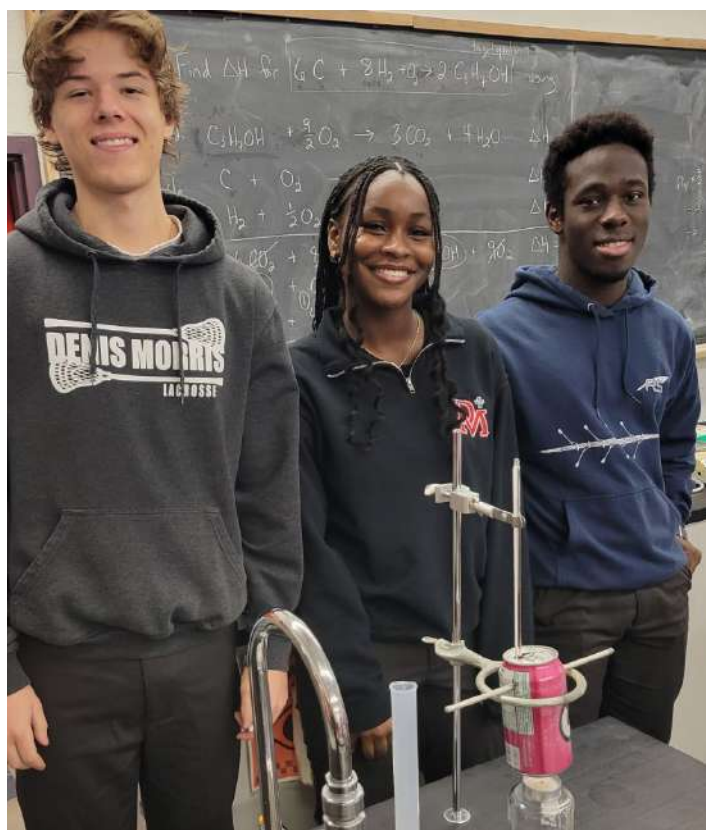
Our budding engineers in grade 11 Physics have been hard at work designing and building rockets. This project not only sparked their creativity but also provided a practical application of Newton's Laws of Motion. Students learned how these fundamental principles govern the movement of their rockets, from launch to landing. The excitement was palpable as each team tested their designs and made adjustments to achieve the perfect flight.



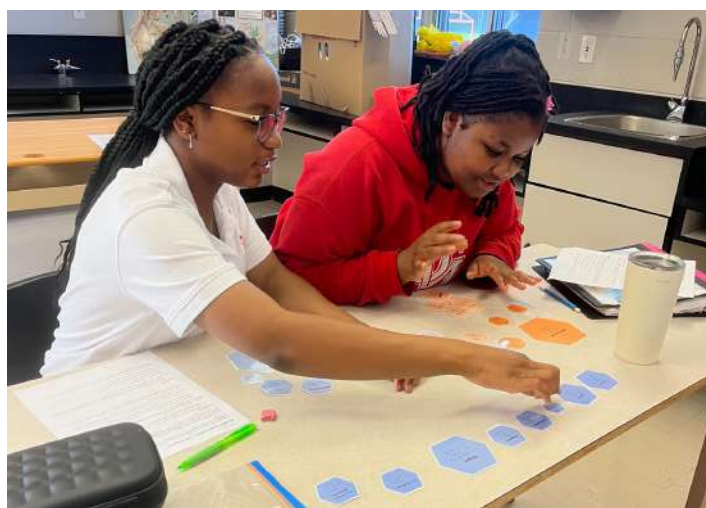
In our grade 10 Science class, students had the opportunity to dissect sheep's eyes. This hands-on activity allowed them to explore the anatomy of the eye and understand how light is processed to create vision. By examining the lens, retina, and other structures, students gained a deeper appreciation for the complexity of our visual system and the science behind optics.



The grade 12 chemistry lab has been buzzing with activity as students conducted calorimetry experiments. By measuring the heat of chemical reactions, they learned about energy transfer and the principles of thermodynamics. This lab not only reinforced their theoretical knowledge but also honed their skills in precise measurement and data analysis.



In grade 9, our exploration of space has taken students on a journey through the cosmos. From learning about the solar system to understanding the life cycle of stars, students have been captivated by the wonders of the universe. This unit has sparked many questions and discussions, encouraging students to think critically about our place in the vast expanse of space.



We are incredibly proud of the hard work and enthusiasm our students have shown this semester. Their curiosity and dedication to learning are truly inspiring. We look forward to more exciting discoveries and achievements in the coming months.

Co-operative Education



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 Co-operative Education!

Co-operative Education provides students with a wide range of hands-on learning opportunities in the workplace with one of our community partners. This program allows students to earn credits while gaining valuable employability skills through experiential learning. A student can earn two or four credits depending if it is a full-day or half-day co-op.



The DM Co-operative Education program is open to students in grade 11 and grade 12 and allows students to participate in meaningful placement learning experiences that help prepare students for the next stage of their lives, whether in apprenticeship, college, university, community living or the workplace. Co-operative Education is an essential component of the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) requirements for any of the sectors available at our school.



If you are interested in learning more about Co-operative Education, please see Mrs. Matijevic or Mr. Filipetti in Student Services.

Girls Flag Football



Niagara Catholic District School Board held the inaugural season of High School Girls Flag Football this fall. Flag football is one of the fastest growing sports in the country and outside of school, over 1200 elementary and high school aged boys and girls play the sport with Niagara Youth Flag Football on the weekends. It was an obvious choice to bring this future Olympic sport to Niagara Catholic.

With the support of community partner Niagara Youth Flag Football, eight

teams across the board played two games weekly throughout the month of October, culminating in playoffs and finals during the final week. Here at Denis Morris, almost fifty girls tried out for the varsity team this year. Coaches Erin Clark and Rebecca Shannon, eventually whittled the group down to fifteen players representing all grades. The girls battled hard all season and even participated in a cross-board tournament with DSBN the first week of November. In the spring, the senior girls will have the opportunity to show

off their skills in front of College and University coaches from across Ontario and Western New York as the sport is now exploding across post-secondary campuses as well.

Special congratulations go out to grade nine Denis Morris student, Isabelle Phengpacdy who was scouted and recruited by Niagara Youth Flag Football to join their National Championship winning girls travel team following her skilled play this season.



Jr. Boys Basketball



The Jr. Boys Basketball team had an amazing start to their season and finished the first half with a record of 12-2, winning the Eden Junior Basketball Showcase and the AN Myer Invitational Tournament.

The boys enter the second half of the season with a league record of 3-1, hoping to go undefeated in their final three games, with their sights set on a Zone championship and a chance to compete for a SOSSA championship.

Good luck to our Junior Reds!

Tennis

We had a very successful season thus far, with the finale happening this June when two of our senior athletes will be competing and representing us at the OFSAA Championships.

Our Grade 12 student, Nathan Gabriel, and our grade 9, Molly Mencfeld, both had an amazing fall season. They competed in the boys' and girls' singles draws respectively, and they finished the fall season undefeated! Nathan and Molly won the Zone 2 Championships as well as SOSSA Championships. This is an extremely impressive achievement for both athletes but especially Molly, who as a grade 9 student is playing at the senior level. We are incredibly proud of both of their performances and are very excited to see how far they can go at OFSAA this spring!



Our senior boys' doubles team, Tristan Snopkowski and Everett Douglas, had a good day at Zone 2 Championships winning two of their matches, but they weren't able to qualify for SOSSA.



On the junior side, our girls' singles player, Onyechi Obioma had a great day in her high school tennis debut during Zone 2 Championships, but was also unsuccessful qualifying for SOSSA.



Our boys' singles player, Roman Kutieпов, came second at Zone 2 Championships and qualified for SOSSA.



The highlight of the junior team was our mixed doubles team – Eden Haist and London Perdue, who for the second consecutive year won Zone 2 Championships and also qualified for SOSSA where they finished second overall.

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

To Nathan and Molly – Good Luck at OFSAA. Go get 'em, Reds!

REDS Proud!



We are incredibly proud of 9 of our Grade 12 French students who wrote the DELF... a prestigious European proficiency test. All 9 students successfully pass the test!

Way to go, Keira Fretz, Isabella Lopez, Mae Yungblut, Ashley Chiezza, Malcolm Hauber, Ava Boese, Milana Ruggi, Adriel DelaPaz and Jordan Foget
REDS PROUD

ECO Club

Coming off of our 2024 EcoSchools Platinum Certification, Eco Club has kept busy promoting sustainability and the importance of making environmentally responsible choices.

Our 2 hydroponic gardening systems have produced salad greens and cherry tomatoes, raising awareness about ways to reduce chemicals in our food.

Our worms have been hard at work composting food scraps to ensure that we divert as much as possible from landfills.

To improve indoor air quality, members of the Eco club transplanted clippings from existing indoor plants to spread the benefits of cleaner air to more classrooms/offices.

Our Eco bulletin board was also recently updated to promote water conservation at home and at school. Up next, will be a Battery Recycling campaign set to start in February!



Art Club

Art club students show off their hard work on the Grape & Wine Parade float!



Art club meets every Wednesday after school in room 139 - all grade levels are welcome!

Art club students had fun decorating the Christmas float for the Thorold Santa Claus Parade!



