



Director's Report

October 2025

Grand River Public School Celebrates Grand Opening



Students, families and staff from the newly opened Grand River Public School were on hand October 6 to cut the ribbon that officially marked the milestone of completion on the major building project many years in the making. Grand River Public School is now home to the Herons – a name chosen by the school community. Through a collaboration with the artist Raymond Skye, a member of the Six

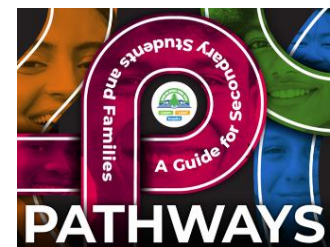
Nations of the Grand River, it now has a visual identity rooted in a deep appreciation for the natural world and its teachings.



You Belong... at a Grand Erie Secondary School

Grand Erie secondary schools offer welcoming environments, myriad opportunities and supportive communities dedicated to helping learners reach their full potential. The secondary team has taken

that message on the road this month, connecting with families at regional fairs, and organizing the Grand Pathways events, meant to help those new to secondary plan successful next steps.



Marking Truth and Reconciliation

Schools across Grand Erie took part in meaningful learning around Truth and Reconciliation Week. Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School hosted its annual Every Child Matters football game, with the Thunderbirds taking on the Delhi Raiders. The game has become a tradition at the school as part of its ongoing commitments to Truth and Reconciliation, with educational programming, cultural connections, and donations through ticket sales directed to the Woodland Cultural Centre. It concluded a week of reflection in Grand Erie and learning opportunities which continue throughout the year.



Boosting Made-in-Canada Manufacturing

Through a unique program, called Career-Ready with CTMA: Expanding Opportunities, the Canadian Tooling and Machining Association is providing hands-on training in precision metalworking to hundreds of educators at 157 high schools across Ontario. The program also furnishes classrooms with

high tech shop-standard milling machinery and tooling. The teachers in turn are confidently training their students – 25,000 of them to date – to program and use the equipment, setting them up for rewarding careers in manufacturing.



Breaking ground on Cobblestone Expansion



Construction is underway at Cobblestone Elementary School, adding approximately 18,300 square feet of space to the Paris school to make way for eight new vibrant classrooms with an additional 184 student spaces and a four-room addition providing 64 licensed child-care spaces. In late September, school and board staff, families, students, Trustees and community partners gathered in the gym to escape the rain to celebrate the progress.

Back in the Winners Circle at Norfolk County Fair

Staff and students at Delhi District Secondary School reclaimed the Young Canada Day title at this year's Norfolk County Fair, breaking a two-year losing streak after more than a decade of wins.



GEPIC Speaker Series

Co-presented on October 23 by the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee and the Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee, families took in the latest informational speaker series. The virtual event *Food as Relationship* explored food as a living expression of relationship with land, community and treaty responsibilities. Guest speakers included author James Whetung and community builder Chandra Maracle.

Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope

Students across Grand Erie laced up for Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope this fall, and Paris Central School had its best-ever year, with the community raising \$7,000 for cancer research.



Brant Food for Thought



This month, Grand Erie celebrated its ongoing partnership with Brant Food for Thought. The virtual programming supports children and youth in school-based nutrition programs with universal access to nutritious food choices during the school day.

Program Supports Social, Emotional Learning Needs

Thanks to a \$35,000 donation from SC Johnson, the YMCA's Beyond the Bell program provides recreation, academic support, nutritious snacks and opportunities for social connection after school. The program is currently being delivered at Princess Elizabeth Public School in Brantford, at no cost to families.



Special Olympics Empowers Inclusion

This month, Cayuga Secondary School hosted its first annual Special Olympics bocce tournament. The Special Olympics school programming supports inclusive recreational opportunities for learners.



Grand Erie Graduations



Learners celebrated secondary-school graduations this month, with ceremonies taking place across the region. Teacher candidates also marked the milestone, with future educators in trades-based courses graduating from Bachelor of Education programs.