



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting of the Board

May 27, 2024

All reports for this meeting can be found [here](#).



Above: Macey Barber received her Learn Lead Inspire Award at the Regular Meeting of the Board on May 27.

Learn Lead Inspire Award

Macey Barber, James Hillier School

Each April, Macey Barber, a student in Grade 5 at James Hillier School, brings Autism Awareness Month to the forefront at her school. Her actions have had a big impact, advocating for inclusion and celebrating neurodiversity. Macey's efforts started with making and selling colourful bracelets to raise both awareness and funds, and the results of those efforts this year made a big difference for the students in the New Visions self-contained ASD class. Last month, Macey presented a collection of puzzles and games to the class, purchased thanks to her fundraising efforts. They've become big hit with the Friendship Club, a new club at the school that provides space for learners from all classes to spend time with students from the ASD class. Macey's initiative this year also included presenting educators with bracelets she crafted with the message "be you." For Macey, being herself means leading by example, building community and celebrating the diversity and strength that those with autism contribute. Her actions during Autism Awareness Month, and all year long, truly embody what it means to learn, lead and inspire.



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Student Showcases

Saige Yanover, North Park Collegiate and Vocational School

Saige Yanover is a Grade 9 student at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School in Brantford. This past September, Saige travelled to Reisa, Germany to perform with Team Canada Tap at the IDO World Tap Dance Championships 2023, a five-day event showcasing rhythm, creativity and camaraderie culminating with Saige's Junior Large Group Formation winning the silver medal for their 'Wednesday' routine. Following that, Saige auditioned for the Team Canada Tap 2024



Above: Saige Yanover, Mackinley and Bianca Hansen stand with their families at the Education Centre on May 27.

team in February and made the team. Saige is looking forward to travelling to Prague to perform at the IDO World Tap Championships in October. In addition to training with Team Canada, Saige is a competitive dancer at Studio 5678 in Brantford where she trains in tap, ballet, jazz, hip hop, lyrical and musical theatre.

Mackinley and Bianca Hansen, Oakland-Scotland Public School

Mackinley and Bianca Hansen are 10-year-old twins who attend Oakland-Scotland Public School, and have been training with Team Canada in Toronto since August of last summer to get ready for the Dance World Cup in Prague at the end of June. The 10-day competition in Prague will feature more than 9,000 competitors representing 65 countries. Both Mackinley and Bianca will be competing in five groups, two duets and a solo each. In addition to dancing for Team Canada, both students also train for competitive dance at their home studio Core Dance Project in Paris, Ontario. At Monday's board meeting, they performed their Acro duet choreographed by their home studio titled, "You Loved Me."



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Major Construction Updates

The future joint-use elementary school in Caledonia received Ministry of Education approval to proceed, the tender was released, and the project celebrated a recent groundbreaking. The project team has awarded the general construction contract to Tambro Construction Ltd.

In Brantford, a joint-use project with the City of Brantford, which will include a new elementary school in the city's south-west region, and a child-care extension at Banbury Heights School have received approval to proceed, with Grand Erie's Purchasing team moving forward to tender.

Director's Report Highlights



Above: Grand Erie learners, staff members, Trustees, senior team and elected officials were on hand to mark the official groundbreaking of a new Caledonia Elementary school on May 13.

Caledonia Elementary School Groundbreaking

Earlier this month, Grand Erie staff and students were thrilled to be a part of the official groundbreaking to commence construction of a new elementary school in Caledonia. There was a great turnout, the rain held off till the event was over, and we were honoured by the presence of a number of local dignitaries, a drumming group from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and an opening and closing address from Tehahenteh Miller of Six Nations of the Grand River. Construction begins in the coming weeks.



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United Indigenous Student Council Year-End Event

The United Indigenous Student Council held its final event of the year on Friday, May 17, with an all-day celebration at Hagersville Secondary School that included drumming, dancing, hands-on activities and crafts, special guest performances and community connections. The UISC includes representation from secondary schools across Grand Erie, comprised of learners from Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississauagas of the Credit First Nation, meeting over the course of the year to prioritize leadership, culture, community and networking. The final event was a culmination of that learning, honouring Indigenous Ways of Being.



Upcoming Event: The Rules of Lacrosse

Grand Erie is excited to be hosting a free viewing of *The Rules of Lacrosse... and the Men Who Break Them* featuring Gaylord Powless of Six Nations of the Grand River. The movie features some of the greatest names in the sport as well as Brantford legend Wayne Gretzky. The screening begins at 6 p.m. on May 31 at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School.



Epic Event

On May 22 at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Complex in Brantford, approximately 2,000 students in grades 7 and 8 took part in Epic Jobs. The annual event included professionals and businesses providing hands-on activities focused on advanced manufacturing, motive power, construction and service sectors. The event aims to introduce students to secondary-school pathway opportunities, skilled trade occupations and apprenticeship options.





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Kicking off Pride Month

Grand Erie staff members were at Powell Park in Port Dover the last weekend in May to kick off Pride Month at an event hosted by Haldimand-Norfolk Pride. The month of June celebrates diversity and inclusion while recognizing the ongoing work towards equal rights and supportive spaces for all members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Grand Erie collective priorities include building a culture of belonging to support equitable, inclusive and responsive environments for all learners.



In Memoriam

A statement was read to honour Reid Hanans, a student at Lakewood Elementary School. Reid had an energetic personality and loved to find materials in the class to build and play with. Reid was always willing to lend a helping hand to his teachers and peers. He always had a smile on his face and was a kind friend who will be missed by all. Our deepest condolences to Reid's family, friends, the Lakewood Public School community, and everyone connected to this loss.

Multi-Year Plan Stories

In 2021, Grand Erie approved a new strategic direction to guide the work that the school board is doing. At the centre of this multi-year plan is the vision to Learn, Lead and Inspire, and a mission to build a culture Learning, Well-Being and Belonging for each learner.

The following stories showcase some of the most recent stories related to the Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Learning

- **Cobblestone Hosts Amazing Race for a Family Math Adventure**
- **New Devices Empower Digital Learning, Collaboration and Skill-Building in Grand Erie**
- **World Water Day Event Provides Learners with Inspiration, Advocacy Around Water Rights**



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Multi-Year Plan Stories Contd.

Belonging

- **Art Project Raises Awareness on Red Dress Day**
- **Groundbreaking Event Kicks off Construction of Caledonia Elementary School**
- **Sixth Annual One-Stop Grad Shop Removes Barriers to Taking Part in Graduation Celebrations**