

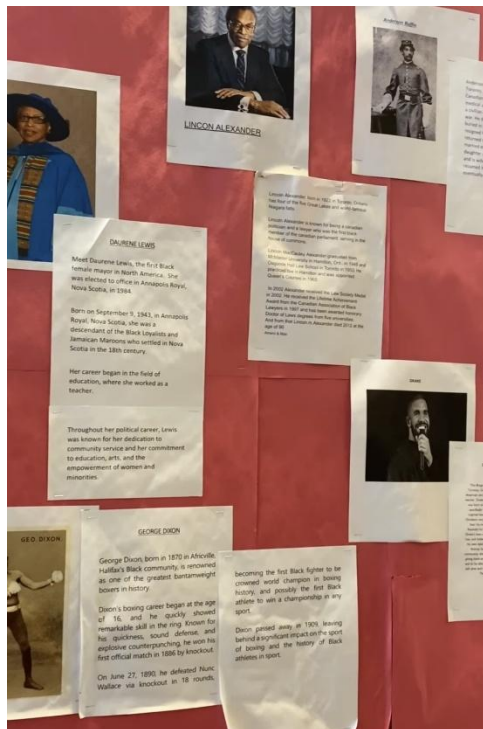


Director's Report

February 2026

Leading the way in anti-racism education

Atala Andratis, System Leader for International Education, Equity and MLL, is this year's recipient of the Leadership in Education award, presented by Harmony Movement. The award recognizes individuals in administrative and academic roles who demonstrate exemplary leadership in promoting inclusion and equity in education, and for fostering a deep sense of belonging for students and staff alike.



Black History Month honours Black brilliance across generations

February is Black History Month, and this year's theme honours 30 years of celebrating Black brilliance across generations, highlighting the nation builders, visionaries, experiences and legacies of Black communities in Canada. This month, schools are sharing resources and learning to deepen our collective understanding of Black history, systemic barriers that Black communities continue to face, and the positive impact on Canada as a nation.

Innovation Hub event invites families to explore, create and play

Families with students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 took part in hands-on event at the Innovation Hub recently, with activities aimed at introducing young students to STEAM learning. The Explore, Create, Play! event included a green-screen photo booth, engineering building stations, a music sound lab and other opportunities to foster curiosity, imagination and a love of learning.



GEPIC event empowers at-home learning

The latest in a speaker series organized by the Grand Erie parent Involvement Committee invited families to hear from Dr. Cathy Marks Krpan presenting *But That Is Not How the Teacher Does It!* The empowering session shared meaningful, stress-free ways to support K to Grade 5 mathematical thinkers at home.



James Hillier Public School students receive *Power of the Pen* award



For 31 years, the Hamilton Public Library has hosted *Power of the Pen*, a contest open to students between the ages of 12 – 18 across the region to submit original poetry and short stories. Submissions are judged by a panel for originality, style, general presentation, spelling and grammar. This year, students in grades 7 and 8 at James Hillier Public School took on the challenge *en Francais*, with Oliver Prang and Oliver Kronwald receiving a first and second prize in their age category for their French language works.



Student Trustees head to conference

Student Trustees Prabhsidak Singh, Ryleigh Staats and Harper Thompson, pictured with Superintendent Regan Vankerbroeck, headed to a conference recently hosted by the Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA-AECO). The OSTA-AECO hosts annual events aimed at building leadership capacity and connections with other student leaders each year.

Preserving Truth: The Mohawk Institute as International Site of Conscience

Tim Johnson, president of the Niagara Academy for Indigenous Relations, and Rick Hill, educator of Indigenous culture and histories, histories, joined system leaders to share the project they co-lead a project team to facilitate the monumental task of transforming the Mohawk Institute into a permanent visitor experience. The session explored the curation and development of the Woodland Cultural Centre's newest exhibition, learning how the team navigated the deep history of Canada's Indian residential school policies to create a space that honours survivors while educating the public on the institutional legacy.



Donation warms up Lakewood's winter carnival

The Port Dover Tim Hortons franchise made Lakewood Elementary School's annual winter carnival sweet with a hot chocolate donation treat.

Mohawk Chapel tours invite staff to learn, reflect and connect

Grand Erie is hosting professional development opportunities at St. Paul's H. M. Royal Chapel of the Mohawk, as part of a half-day session led by Six Nations Tourism. The session provides a unique chance to connect with the National History Site and supports site-based learning to broader themes including treaties, the role of the church in colonization, and the ongoing contributions of the Haudenosaunee people.



Kickstart events underway



Kickstart to Kindergarten, an annual series of regional, interactive events to help families with little learners prepare for successful starts to school, are underway across Grand Erie. Kickstart to Kindergarten aims to connect families with educators and resources in preparation for the milestone.

Photo by the Brantford Expositor

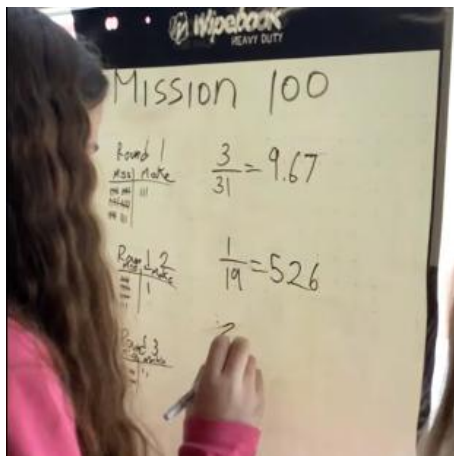


STEAM exploration for littlest learners

On January 29, Kindergarten to Grade 3 families were welcomed at the Innovation Hub for a night of STEAM exploration! From the green-screen Photo Booth to little-engineer building stations and the music sound lab, students and families explored, created and played together. Thanks to everyone who joined us for an evening celebrating curiosity, imagination, and joyful learning!

Kickstarting online engagement

Grand Erie's Communications team is visiting Kindergarten classrooms across the district to bring to life these vibrant, empowering learning spaces for online audiences. Coinciding with Kickstart to Kindergarten, and supporting the ongoing registration process, the content gives families the information they need and the inspiration to get excited about the milestone of starting school. Check them out on [Instagram](#).



Math learning on 100th school day

It may have seemed like a typical Monday morning, but in Grand Erie, the 100th day of school was a chance to connect math concepts to the number 100. At Lynndale Heights students shared a card game with us where they collected data in relation to 100 using fractions, ratios, decimals, percentages and more.

Drama class levels up with board game plot twist



Waterford District High School is changing how students experience the arts. Teacher Jason Mayo has introduced a first-of-its-kind specialized drama course built around Dungeons & Dragons, blending acting, storytelling, teamwork, and creative design into one immersive semester-long experience. The result is a full-credit drama course where students spend the semester developing original characters, creating costumes and props, writing scripts, and performing short scenes inspired by the game.

Touchdown, Kindergarten



Oakland-Scotland Public School's Kindergarten class celebrated the Super Bowl in early February with a day full of learning and fun. They learned about football and the rules of the game, made predictions and graphed their thoughts, played football-themed addition and subtraction games and competed in a Super Bowl Bingo tournament.



Art call invites students, staff to interpret *Learn Lead Inspire*

Staff and students across the Grand Erie community are invited to interpret the district's core vision – Learn Lead Inspire – and what it means to them through art. Submissions are being accepted for original works in traditional and digital formats that can be displayed throughout the district. The call for works will culminate with an in-person event later this spring.