

Chief Executive Officer's Report



CEO Report

June-September 2026

We Lead Forward



Graduation Ceremonies



Congratulations to our Grand Erie graduates! We are proud to celebrate the achievements of students across our system. Pictured here are graduates from the ceremonies for Grand River Public School and Project SEARCH as they mark this important milestone and look ahead to exciting new opportunities.

James Hillier Foundation Scholarship

Two Grand Erie District School Board students have been named recipients of this year's James Hillier Foundation scholarship awards, recognizing their academic achievement, extracurricular leadership, and future potential in science, technology and research fields.

Andrew Song, a North Park Collegiate and Vocational School student, and Zorawar Singh, who attends Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, each received the scholarship, valued at \$28,000, established to honour the legacy of Dr. James Hillier.



Schulich Leaders Scholarship



Arpan Khera, a Grade 12 student at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School, has been awarded the [Schulich Leaders Scholarship](#), one of Canada's most prestigious undergraduate STEM scholarships, valued at \$100,000.

Khera will attend McMaster University this fall where he plans to study mathematics and statistics.

Influencers give BCI student a boost in winning Boughner scholarship



Emma Martin, a graduating student at Brantford Collegiate Institute will be fulfilling her dream of pursuing a post-secondary education in the fall with financial support after winning the \$25,000 James Boughner Scholarship.

Educational Assistant Micro-Credential

Congratulations to our first Educational Assistant Cohort who completed our in-house micro-credential. We value learning at every level of the organization.



Summer Institute Bus Tour

As part of summer institute, this immersive, full-day learning experience explored the rich histories, cultures, and contemporary realities of Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) on a guided bus tour.



Summer eLearning

Summer learning was a tremendous success in 2026, with a record number of students taking advantage of opportunities to earn credits, explore career pathways, and get ahead in their studies. More than 6,200 students enrolled in secondary summer school, representing a 10% increase from the previous year, while maintaining an outstanding 91% course success rate. From Co-operative Education placements and Specialist High Skills Major experiences to reach-ahead credit opportunities for incoming Grade 9 students, summer school supported a wide range of learner needs and goals.

Focus on Youth



With the support of the Ministry of Education, Grand Erie proudly facilitated summer employment, training, and mentorship opportunities for 24 secondary students from the Brant/Brantford area. Participants engaged in paid employment readiness training, which included youth engagement strategies, workplace health and safety standards, resume development, and certification in First Aid and CPR.

MCFN Three Fires Homecoming Pow Wow



The Three Fires Homecoming Pow Wow and Traditional Gathering is an annual celebration hosted by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN). The name “Three Fires” reflects the traditional alliance among the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. The gathering features drumming, singing, dancing, arts, crafts, traditional foods, and opportunities to learn and share in culture.



Summer Learning in Assistive Technology Program

Students and staff members in select elementary schools engaged in building competence and engagement through building skills in using assistive technology tools.

OYAP Summer Learning

Over 100+ participants enrolled in 12 OYAP Skilled Trades Camps this summer with a focus on green industries, construction, small engines, and hospitality. All camps were designed to build student confidence and self-esteem while students actively learned new skills. Camps were designed to promote student awareness and interest in pursuing skilled trades opportunities in their secondary and post-secondary education.

Camp SAIL 2026

Camp SAIL 2026 hosted 100 learners in Grades 2 to 4 across (4) four Grand Erie elementary schools through engaging literacy and numeracy programming, and partnerships with community organizations, including the local library, fire services, and Scientists in School.



Mental Health & Well-Being



Throughout the summer, Mental Health & Well-Being staff continued to support student engagement, family connection, and successful transitions into the new school year. Attendance postcards were shared to maintain connections with students and families and to support ongoing student engagement, while

groceries were delivered to multiple families weekly. Backpacks containing school supplies and essential resources were also provided to help students transition successfully into the new school year. Social workers provided individual outreach and family support to help remove barriers and connect families with community resources.

Professional Learning Series



To kick off the 2026-27 school year, Administrators from across the system engaged in a variety of professional development that support them in leading their schools.

The Information Technology Services team brought staff together to build connections, share ideas, and align priorities for the work ahead. The session provided an opportunity to reflect on collective purpose, explore opportunities for collaboration, and strengthen the commitment to supporting teaching, learning, and operations across Grand Erie.

Blanche E. Williams Public School



Blanche E. Williams Video

International Students



Grand Erie welcomed 13 International students from Spain, Switzerland, Mexico and Japan during an orientation session. The Grade 11 and 12 students are eager to start their placements at Grand Erie secondary schools.

Welcome Back!



Over the summer months, significant work took place at several schools across Grand Erie, including North Park Collegiate and Cayuga Secondary School. These improvements helped prepare learning spaces for the year ahead, and it was wonderful to welcome students and staff back this September. Excitement is building across Grand Erie schools as we begin another school year filled with learning, growth, and opportunity.

Technology and Innovation Hubs

Beginning in September 2026, Grand Erie officially launched designated Technology and Innovation Hubs at Cayuga Secondary School, Simcoe Composite School, and North Park Collegiate & Vocational School. The Technology and Innovation Hubs will provide students with expanded access to cutting-edge technology programs and specialized learning spaces that reflect emerging industry needs. Each hub will also feature an Innovation Hub, where students can explore advanced STEAM technologies such as robotics, coding, 3D printing, drones, and digital media, inspiring the next generation of creators, innovators, and problem-solvers.



Welcome Back Assembly

A Welcome Back Assembly reminded all students and staff that they "Belong @ J.L. Michener!"

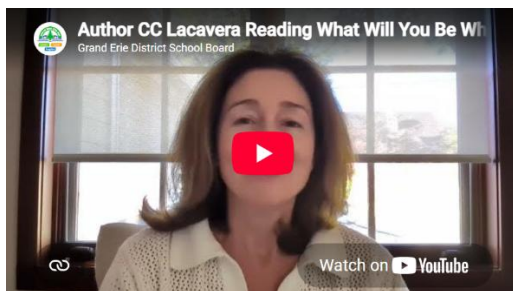


Valley Heights Secondary School Environmental Recognition

At Valley Heights Secondary School, conservation and education go hand in hand. Students have opportunities to connect directly with nature through environmental education programs and the school's Environmental Club.

In 2024, an Ecological Inventory and Management Plan was completed for the property, identifying opportunities to protect, restore, and enhance biodiversity while supporting future education initiatives. Guided by this work, the Grand Erie District School Board and its partners are helping ensure that the natural features of the property remain healthy and resilient for future generations.

Author CC Lacavera: What Will You Be When You Grow Up



Starting school for the first time is one of the most significant milestones for children and their families. This year, Grand Erie is pleased to feature the picture book, "What Will You Be When You Grow Up?" by author C.C. Lacavera.

Hagersville Elementary School Playground Fundraising

Thanks to a generous \$5,000 boost from the Hagersville Firefighters Association, the effort to build a brand-new playground for Hagersville Elementary School is gaining strong momentum. The local community have now raised more than \$18,000 toward the new equipment.



PA Days



Across Grand Erie, staff came together to engage in meaningful learning, collaboration, and professional growth. These photos highlight teams from across the district sharing ideas, building skills, and strengthening their commitment to student success.

Inspiring Visit with the Equity Council at Simcoe Composite School



Thank you to Simcoe Composite School for the visit and opportunity to meet with inspiring Equity Leads! You are making a difference.

Grade 9 students in Brantford are Finding their Voice Thanks to a New YMCA Program

Grade 9 students in Brantford are finding their voice thanks to a new YMCA program.

More than 80 Grade 9 students at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School participated in the YMCA's Youth Achievers Program.

The program helps young people develop essential life skills through interactive learning, mentorship, and community connection. Through weekly sessions focused on topics like adaptability, resilience, leadership, study skills, communication, and relationship building, students gain tools they can apply to their everyday lives.

New Project SEARCH Interns Begin Their Journey at Norfolk General Hospital

Norfolk General Hospital and the Norfolk Hospital Nursing Home are pleased to welcome (5) five new interns to Project SEARCH this fall.

The interns are secondary students from high schools across Norfolk County. Over the school year, they will complete three work placements and will also take part in classroom learning.



Larger Than Life

