



Director's Annual Report 2022-23





Director's Message

Collectively, we are building something special in Grand Erie. A learning community with a commitment to well-being and belonging. Places where students, staff and the community are inspired to grow and achieve.

The 2022-23 school year was one of many achievements, large and small, that continued to build momentum on this journey. I am pleased to present this report that captures just a sample of the exciting things that happened in our district. These achievements are the result of the whole system working together, building together, sharing the same mission, and committing to learning, leadership and inspiration.

We were pleased to welcome Julie White, Peter Ashe and Regan Vankerrebroeck to Superintendent roles, and together with the rest of the Senior Team, commit their experience, passion and leadership to Grand Erie. I am grateful to our Senior Leadership Team, our Board of Trustees, Administrators, educators and support staff for your collaborative commitment to our mission to build a culture of learning, well-being and belonging to inspire each learner.



Joanna Roberto

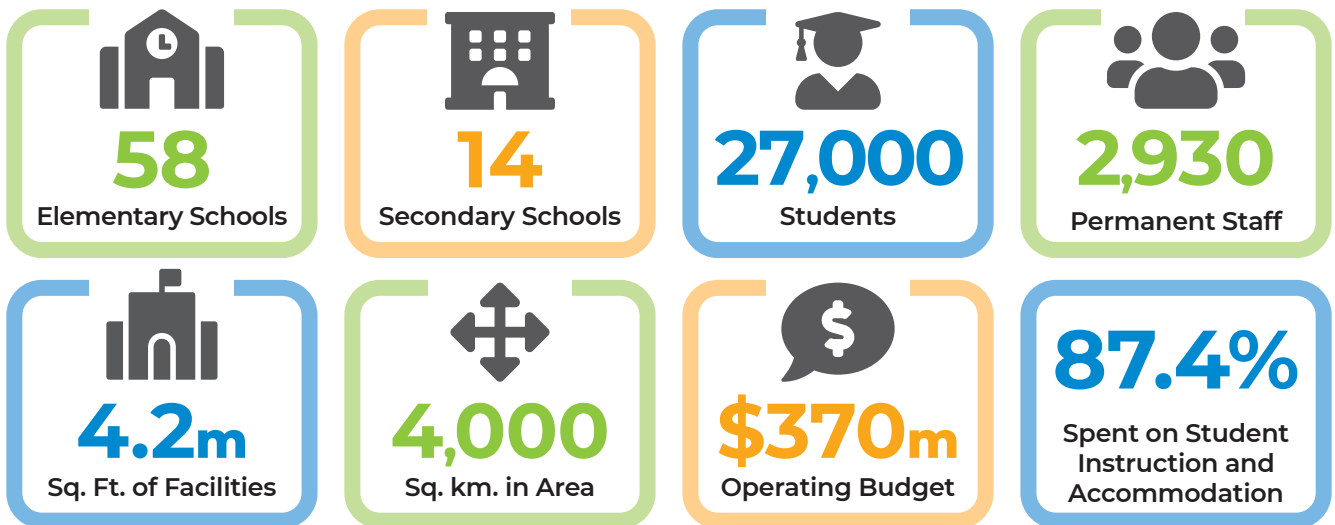
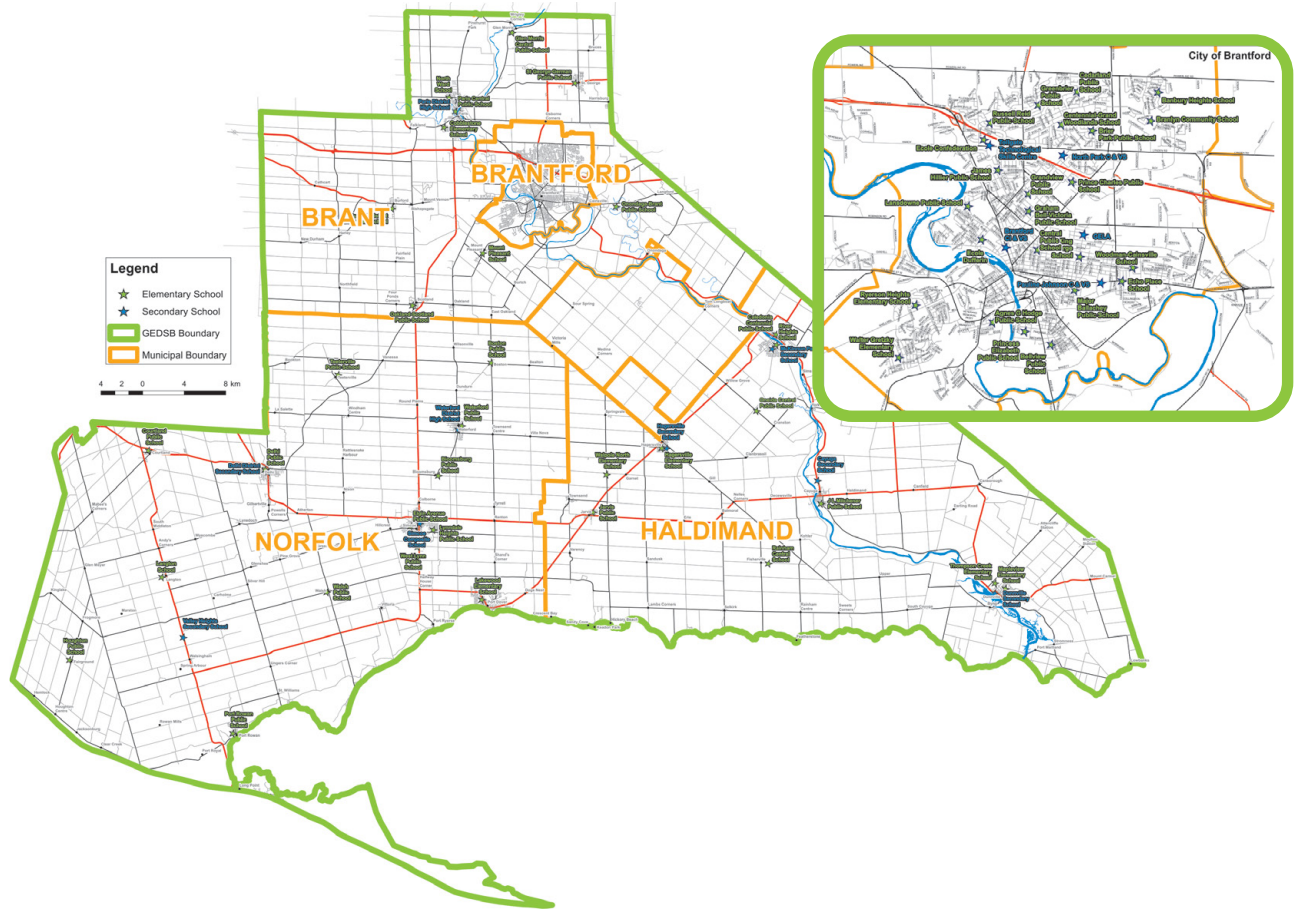
Our Multi-Year Strategic Plan

Our Multi-Year Strategic Plan has been embraced across the district. From board-level award programs to school-based student recognition programs, Grand Erie knows what it means to Learn, Lead and Inspire. Our vision and mission continue to support our work, inform new initiatives, and support students and families. It infuses everything we do with positivity and purpose. We continue to bring the vision and mission to life across Grand Erie, to create new opportunities for growth and connection.





Grand Erie by the Numbers





Board of Trustees

Thank you to our Trustees for their leadership and support of learning.



Susan Gibson
CHAIR



Brian Doyle
VICE-CHAIR



Greg Anderson
TRUSTEE



John Bradford
TRUSTEE



Rita Coliver
TRUSTEE



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STUDENT TRUSTEE
INDIGENOUS



Maggie Baker
STUDENT TRUSTEE
SOUTH



Tatyana Zebroski
STUDENT TRUSTEE
NORTH



The Grand Erie Board of Trustees approved its 2023-24 operating and capital budgets on Monday, June 26, 2023. As a result of increased enrolment and revenues, Grand Erie's operating budget is approximately \$369 million, up \$14 million from the 2022-23 operating budget. This is allowing Grand Erie to maintain positive momentum from the previous year, enhance educational experiences and invest in classroom resources.



Student Trustees were active across the district, including leadership of the Student Senate. In April, the Student Trustees brought student leaders together for a day of learning, networking, and inspiration through a keynote by technology entrepreneur Anthony Lacavera. Hosted at Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, the event brought together members of each of Grand Erie's secondary school senates and the United Indigenous Student Senate, and was structured around exchanging ideas and identifying impactful changes to improve student life.





Learning Elementary

Accomplishments

- Increased early literacy skills using Early Literacy Assessment Tools
- Deployed 2,500 laptops to achieve 1:1 device-to-student ratios at a number of schools
- More than 250 educators completed Math Additional Qualifications courses

Social Studies Summit at Onondaga-Brant

A three-week investigation and research projects on complex issues affecting the planet and people culminated in the signature Social Studies Summit at Onondaga-Brant. Projects were conducted in two phases: a deep-dive inquiry into the topic they chose, and then a trade show-style presentation of those findings, engaging peers with infographics, 3D models, Kahoot quizzes and lively discussions about what they found.



New Literary Tools for French Learners

Grand Erie was able to significantly expand professional learning and resources for teachers and students in all French as a Second Language programs. French learners now have an influx of literacy tools and reading materials to develop their skills and engage them in a variety of ways.



248

program days supported
by Grand Erie for
elementary schools
through Outdoor
Education and Heritage
Education learning

“Great program that links to curriculum! Hands on experience for kids that helps them learn! My students really enjoyed the outdoor learning experience.”

EDUCATOR



Learning Elementary

Princess Elizabeth Students Explore 3D Printing

The Grade 8 class at Princess Elizabeth Public School explored 3D printing to learn, lead and inspire in their own ways, designing and producing keychains with each of the components of Grand Erie's multi-year strategic plan's vision emblazoned on them.



Walter Gretzky Elementary Ranks First in Read4BCHS Program

Walter Gretzky Elementary School secured the top spot in Read4BCHS, a program to inspire a love for reading and raise funds for the Pediatric Acute Referral Service Clinic (PARS) in the Brant Community Healthcare System (BCHS). With 5,841 minutes read and \$1,695 raised, the school ranked first place in both categories, making this their second year as a top fundraiser.



Charley Lauchlan, in Grade 6 at Lakewood Elementary, received a Learn, Lead, Inspire award thanks to the inspiring artwork she creates using a variety of media.

New outdoor learning space for Kindergarten at Mapleview Elementary School.





Learning Secondary

Accomplishments

- OSSLT results improved 6%
- 80% of re-engaged students graduated or continue engagement
- Increased the number of students enrolled in Specialist High Skills Major programs by 28%

Prestigious Scholarships

Grand Erie secondary students were the recipients of some prestigious scholarships and awards, including the James Hillier Foundation Scholarship and a President's Entrance Scholarship, valued at \$50,000 from Western University, a second James Hillier Foundation Scholarship, valued at \$20,000 for the University of Waterloo, a Distinction award in the University of Waterloo's Fryer Math Contest, and the James F. Boughner Foundation Scholarship, valued at \$25,000.



Innovative PSW Fast Track Program

Grand Erie launched a new Personal Support Worker (PSW) fast track program to support career development for adult learners. With a blend of learning styles, the program takes adult learners from the classroom to the workplace in six months. Students learn about building healthy relationships, the healthcare industry, active living, mental health, child development, and gerontology, the scientific study of old age and the process of aging.



Principal Jeff Allison Honoured with Leadership in eLearning Award

Principal Jeff Allison was awarded the "Leadership in eLearning Award" at the 2023 Ontario eLearning Consortium (OeLC). Jeff was recognized for his support and guidance in developing eLearning programming in Grand Erie and across Ontario.





Learning Secondary

State-of-the-Art Tech Education Space

In June, students at Cayuga Secondary School, cut through a ribbon to officially unveil the school's upgraded technological education learning space, made possible through a donation from Stelco and the CWB Welding Foundation. The new industry-grade welding equipment and machinery supports exploration of skilled trades and new opportunities for students.



Kelly Scores Touchdown Signing Five-Year Football Contract

Jack Kelly, Grade 12 student at Paris District High School, ended the year with a touchdown when he signed a five-year football contract with Western University, where he'll start his post-secondary journey after completing the final credits of his secondary school diploma at PDHS.



DEL F (Diplôme d'études en langue française) French Proficiency Certification

77

Students challenged
DEL F exams

10

Secondary schools
participated

17

Doubled the number
of Grand Erie educators
qualified to conduct
and evaluate DEL F
exams

Well-Being

Accomplishments

- Published multiple resources and guides for staff and communities including the Guide to Supporting Students with Anxiety, The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and Grand Erie's Mental Health Strategy
- Developed new processes that better connected Social Workers and Child and Youth Workers to students in classrooms and schools

Social Justice Series

Staff delivered a Social Justice series to students in a variety of schools across the district to support learning and positive classroom communities. Student feedback included: "I learned how much having rights is important...and also to respect other's opinions," and: "I learned sometimes I don't give the other person a chance to talk if they did something that hurts me."



Learning Around Self-Regulation

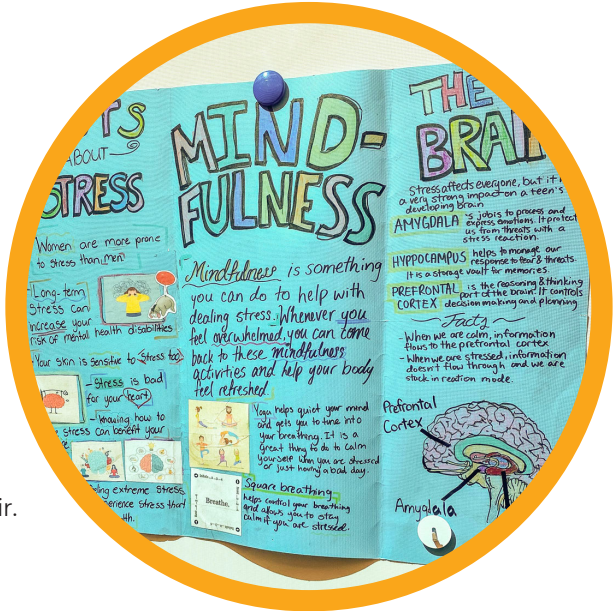
Learning around self-regulation – for Administrators, staff and students – was a highlight throughout the year. Feedback from an Administrator following a student-focused 6-week program at their school: "Thank you for the incredible work that you did in the classroom over the past 6 weeks. The "Helping Young People Learn Self-Regulation" program was absolutely fantastic. Students were interested, engaged, and genuinely dedicated to learning, and I have seen them using the information and strategies you have given them in social and recess situations."



Well-Being

Grade 8 Students Examine Stress and Coping Strategies

Grade 8 students at Russell Reid Public School were asked to define stress, examine chemical imbalances in the brain, differentiate between types of stress, and learn about coping strategies. The rest was up to their imagination. 13 groups of students used a wide array of interactive media, including slide decks, videos, songs and dances, word searches, stress-relieving toys, mental health resources and more, and then presented their findings to peers in multiple grades through a Stress and Wellness Fair.



Students Led the Way During Mental Health Week

As Mental Health Week kicked off in May, students led the way in determining the types of resources and activities their school communities needed to prioritize well-being. The Wellness Out Loud event saw more than a hundred students in attendance from Grand Erie secondary schools, gathering for a day of learning before returning to their schools to plan and implement Mental Health Week happenings. Student leadership groups from each school led sub-committees to plan the various aspects of the event, including a circuit of workshops, a Wellness Walk that could be replicated in schools, an array of resources and wellness-related swag to take back, and a well-being marketplace that brought in a number of community organizations to share information.



Belonging

Accomplishments

- Completed and rolled out the Equity Action Plan
- Grand Erie's Safe and Inclusive Schools team launched an equity training series for staff grounded in the recently developed Inclusive Language Guide
- Trained all teaching staff in anti sex trafficking protocol

Time to Huddle up

Burford District Elementary student Breanne Pike shared her perspective about a school assembly featuring Toronto Argonauts members. "Time to huddle up and do something about bullying," was the message from Boris Bede, a player from the Argos and Jason Colero, and Argos' staff member who shared his experiences of being bullied as a youth. The CFL team has worked with other professional sports teams and Canadian organizations on bullying prevention so that schools can learn about racism, discrimination and bullying awareness through their Huddle Up program.



New Multi-Faith Prayer Room

Early in 2023, North Park Collegiate and Vocational Institute dedicated a room in the school as a multi-faith prayer room. Having a dedicated space available to pray is building a better school community; the prayer room is helping to educate both students and staff about different cultures, and the students using the space are feeling more comfortable expressing their faith. Said a student: "This space has provided us all with an opportunity to ask questions and have meaningful, respectful conversations."



Belonging

The Anti-Racism Project

The Anti-Racism Project cast a candid light on issues of racism, discrimination, unconscious bias and systemic barriers to inclusion by sharing a series of videos featuring conversations with students, staff and families. A version of the videos was rolled out to staff members for contextualization in professional practice, and features a series of questions for reflection at the conclusion of each. The video series is part of larger efforts in Grand Erie, which last year launched an equity advisory group, and subsequently an Equity Action Plan.



New Police Programs

Grand Erie completed a review of police presence and programs in schools, which included input from more than 5,500 students, 300 staff, 800 community members and representatives from the police services. As a result of the review, police programs in schools will be continuing with changes to better align with curriculum expectation, enhancements and new program offerings, including PROSE (Police Resource Outreach Supporting Education).



Indigenous Education

Accomplishments

- Strengthened partnerships with Federal schools through jointly planned activities and collaboration on professional development
- Moved Nations/Newstart programs to Six Nations Polytechnic to enhance student experiences
- Increased number of Indigenous language courses to 18, available to any Grand Erie student in Grades 7 and up

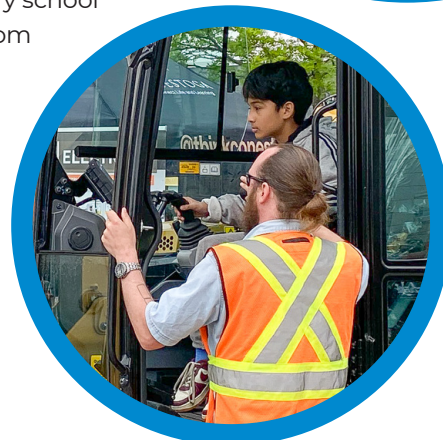
Leadership, Lacrosse and Climate Change

Over the course of the school year, the Indigenous Education team delivered a multi-session Speaker Series with a focus on land-based learning. More than 500 employees, students and community members participated in these sessions, which included a Leadership, Lacrosse and Climate Change talk at Pauline Johnson that reached more than 200 people from the Brantford community.



Grade 8 Students Unite

Grade 8 Students from both Grand Erie and the Federal Schools at Six Nations who would be attending the same secondary school were partnered together to connect online and learn from each other. Building on these relationships, all these students met in person to participate in an Epic Jobs fair (promoting hands-on exposure to skilled trades) and enjoy team-building games led by a Grand Erie secondary school leadership class.





Indigenous Education

Students Celebrate Success at Indigenous People's Day Event

On June 21, Indigenous secondary students across the district participated in Indigenous People's Day events hosted by Six Nations Elected Council in Ohsweken. They participated in activities celebrating student success, and provided students who may not have the opportunity otherwise, to participate in an important cultural event in the local Haudenosaunee community. Grand Erie staff were also able to participate in a community event where cross-cultural learning occurred and relationships were fostered.



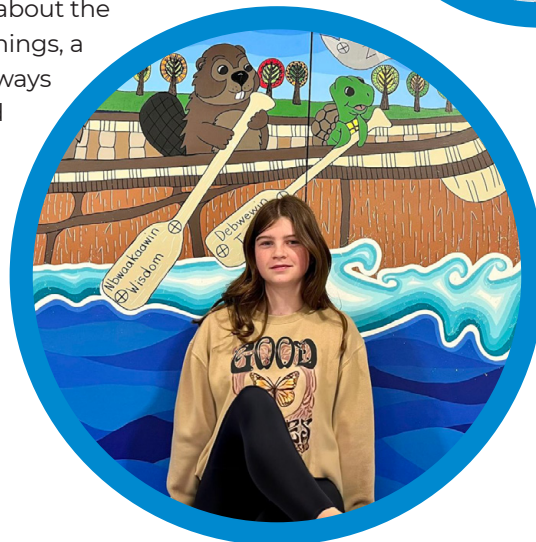
Indigenous Allyship Award

The 2022-23 recipient of the Indigenous Allyship Award for Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation was Natalie McNeil. Natalie, a student at Hagersville Secondary School, displayed leadership in her roles with the board-wide United Indigenous Student Council (UISC) and as captain of the girls lacrosse team. Natalie plans to study cosmetology in a post-secondary school and open her own business.



Mural Project at J.L. Mitchener

J.L. Mitchener Public School students learned about the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) Seven Grandfather Teachings, a set of core values that come from Indigenous ways of knowing. The year-long learning culminated in a large-scale student-created mural project that now graces the halls at the school, unveiled at the school's final assembly of the year.



Professional Development

Accomplishments

- 88 system educator and support staff participated in Instructional Coaching Institute
- 319 educators participated in Additional Qualifications courses including reading, math, special education, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples, and French
- Delivered 14 learning sessions hosting 145 participants during Summer Learning Institute for staff
- Monthly Administrator meetings focused on school improvement efforts which included data literacy, evidence informed decision making, instructional leadership, instructional coaching, measuring and monitoring impact on teacher practices and student achievement



51

LeadGEDSB participants explored and developed characteristics and skills of effective leaders



21

New Principals and Vice-Principals, along with their mentors, attended learning and collaborated to support new Administrator growth plans

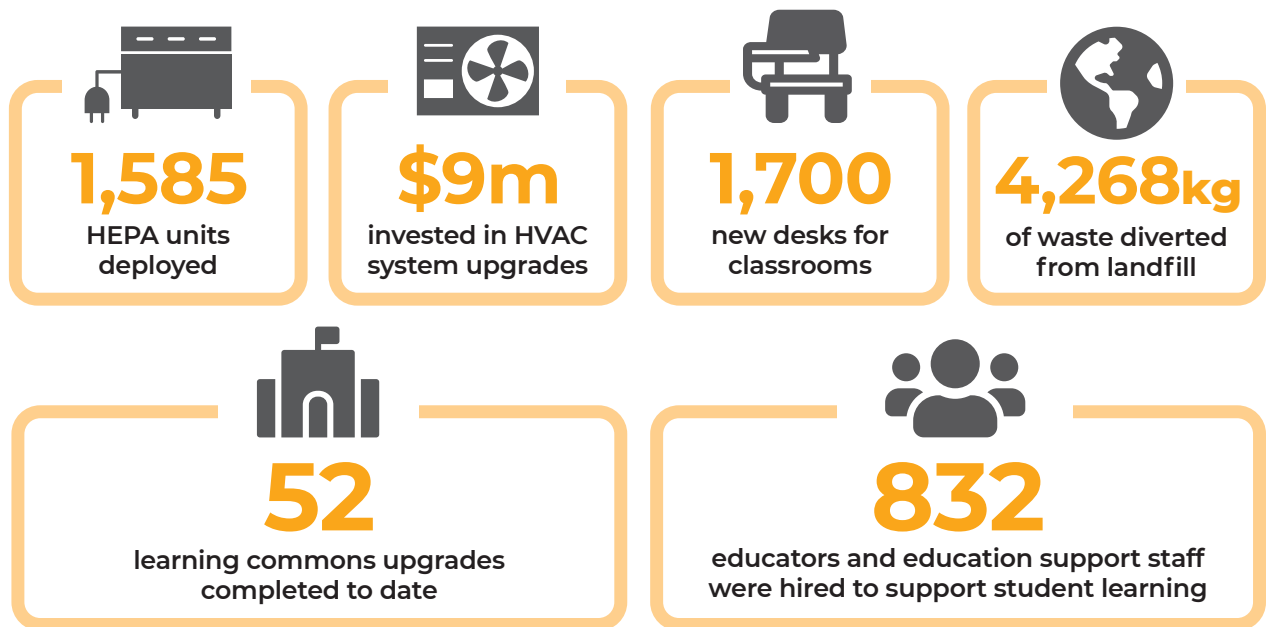
“Opportunities to collaborate with colleagues around making our school improvement focus precise has helped me to evaluate the data and identify a specific urgent student learning need.”

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR



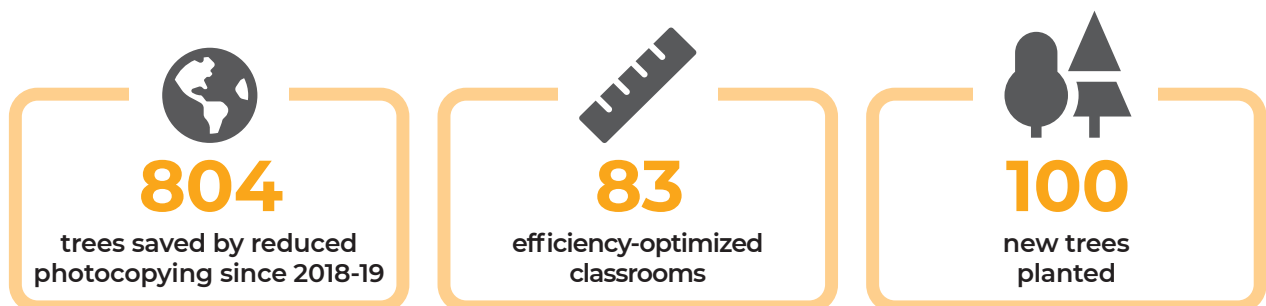
Support Services

All Grand Erie departments and support service groups have goals and strategies that align their functions with the mission to build a culture of Learning, Well-Being and Belonging. From facility upgrades to inclusive hiring practices to deploying new technology tools, teams across the district brought their best everyday in support of schools and students.



A Focus On Environment and Climate Action

Grand Erie has worked hard over the years in helping address climate issues by reducing its environmental footprint. From paper-saving initiatives to classroom EcoSchools projects, we are having an impact.





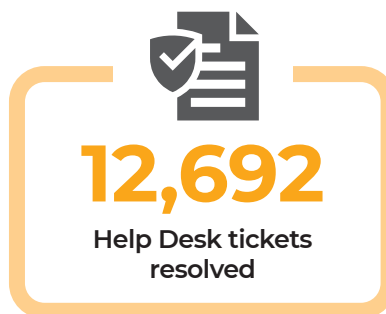
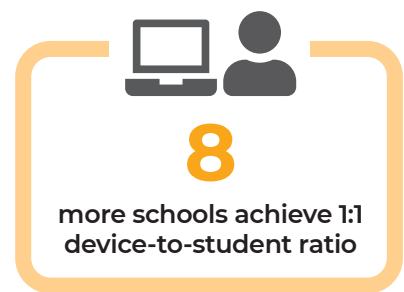
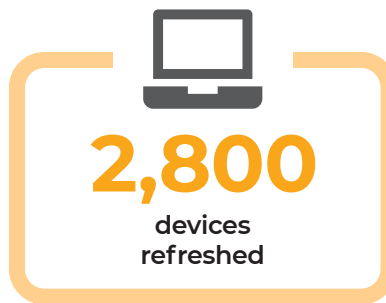
Support Services

Grand Erie Schools Achieve Environmental Accolades

This past year, 13 schools participated in EcoSchools, a curriculum-linked program designed to nurture environmental learning and embrace sustainability. Together, students determined focus areas, goals and action plans to track their progress. Activities included community clean-up events, waste sorting, tree planting, diverting textile waste and more. Six participating schools received platinum or gold certification.



Information Technology



Major Modernization Projects Completed

Two significant modernization projects were completed, featuring improvements to Princess Elizabeth and Seneca Central Public Schools. Princess Elizabeth received a renovated gym, front entrance and other interior enhancements, while Seneca Central's project featured an addition to the front entrance, improved accessibility and several classroom specific upgrades.





Community Connections

Accomplishments

- The Board approved the addition of a Trustee representing the interests of students from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Completed a review of Police in Schools that incorporated feedback from staff, students, school families, community groups and police services

Grand Erie Builds Partnerships with Community Businesses

Building partnerships with community businesses supports learning for students and helps train the next generation of needed skilled employees. Two Brantford Collegiate Institute students combined secondary credits with on-the-job experiential learning to get a leg up on post secondary career opportunities. Emily received hands-on experience with a speech pathology service, while Stephon advanced his apprenticeship credentials with a heating and cooling company.



Naming Celebration for Edith Monture Elementary School

A community-focused name search, and a community-inspired event led to teachable moments at the re-naming celebration for Edith Monture Elementary School. The school's name recognizes the contributions and legacy of Edith Monture, an Ohsweken-born World War I veteran who was the first Indigenous woman in the country to become a registered nurse, and the first Indigenous woman and registered band member to gain the right to vote in Canada. The school was previously named for Egerton Ryerson, the educator and influential historic figure now considered one of the main architects of Canada's Residential School system.





Community Connections

Professional Learning for Communities

Through the Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee, Grand Erie offered multiple opportunities for community members and parents/caregivers to learn from experts in such areas as resiliency, (with Dr. Hanley Dafoe), cyber-bullying (with Dr. Danielle Law), belonging (with Dr. Jean Clinton) and inclusion (Shelley Moore).

Supporting Parents and Caregivers

In the summer of 2023, Grand Erie offered a new program to help parents and caregivers support students who may be experiencing anxiety about the return to school. Two virtual presentations were presented, as well as email consultations with Social Workers and Child and Youth Workers from Grand Erie.



Dr. Hanley Dafoe



Dr. Danielle Law



Dr. Jean Clinton



Shelley Moore



Grand Erie District School Board

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