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## DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

### CHAIR'S REPORT

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**TO:** DCPIC, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOL CHAIRS, STAFF AND PARENTS  
**FROM:** LINDA DODSON TRCHALA  
**SUBJECT:** FEBRUARY 2016 REPORT  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 4, 2016

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We are half way through the school year, and we have done many things and we have many more to do. We kicked off the year with our Annual Commissioning Mass of Principals and School Council Chairs/Members and then added a new event for our School Councils called, Bootcamp – For School Councils. If any of our School Councils, parents or school community missed the Bootcamp – For School Councils, it is now able to view on our homepage at [www.dcpic.ca](http://www.dcpic.ca).

As part of our Regional PRO Grant, funded by the Ministry of Education, the DCPIC will host Literacy and Numeracy (webinar/in person) Events, we have confirmed Dr. Lynda Cogan as the keynote speaker for the Numeracy event and in the final stages of securing a speaker for the Literacy event. We will have sessions within the months of March and April. More details will be available shortly on our site at, [www.dcpic.ca](http://www.dcpic.ca), as they become finalized.

Lastly, I want to share part of what His Holiness, Pope Francis shared in his Lenten message:

*For all of us, then, the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year is a favourable time to overcome our existential alienation by listening to God's word and by practising the works of mercy. In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy – counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer – we touch more directly our own sinfulness. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated. By touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering, sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need. By taking this path, the "proud", the "powerful" and the "wealthy" spoken of in the Magnificat can also be embraced and undeservedly loved by the crucified Lord who died and rose for them. This love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness and love that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches. Yet the danger always remains that by a constant refusal to open the doors of their hearts to Christ who knocks on them in the poor, the proud, rich and powerful will end up condemning themselves and plunging into the eternal abyss of solitude which is Hell. The pointed words of Abraham apply to them and to all of us: "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them" (Lk 16:29). Such attentive listening will best*

*prepare us to celebrate the final victory over sin and death of the Bridegroom, now risen, who desires to purify his Betrothed in expectation of his coming.*

*Let us not waste this season of Lent, so favourable a time for conversion! We ask this through the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, who, encountering the greatness of God's mercy freely bestowed upon her, was the first to acknowledge her lowliness (cf. Lk 1:48) and to call herself the Lord's humble servant (cf. Lk 1:38).*

Here is the update for this month:

### February Report

- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)
  - a) OAPCE's next quarterly meeting will be in February 19 & 20, 2016.
  - b) DCDSB will provide OAPCE a list of representatives for each school council as requested.
  - c) The 2016 OAPCE Conference will take place on May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. It will be in Toronto. Mass celebrated by Cardinal Collins.
  - d) At the January Board Meeting, we had Michael Pautler, Executive Director from Institute for Catholic Education join us to talk about the Ontario Health & Physical Education (HPE) Curriculum. (Below are some of the notes taken at the meeting)
    - 24 of the 27 expectations (90%) have already been addressed in our Catholic schools through our existing Family Life Curriculum, approved by the Bishops of Ontario;
    - All of the expectations will be covered in the Fully Alive program (religion class);
    - "In Catholic schools, Ontario's new HPE curriculum is an opportunity for parents and teachers to talk to students about a distinctively Catholic view of human life, sexuality, marriage, and family." Institute for Catholic Education - we should look at it as a positive thing so we can talk to our children and students. There are 4 strands in the religion program. In our Catholic schools the sexual male and female is given in religion class.

We also had Ruth Flynn from the Parent Engagement Office of the Ministry of Education join us to give us an update. (Below are some of the notes taken at the meeting)

- The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) worked with select boards to develop and assess a Math Kit for elementary package (Dr. Lynda Coglan), they are now available through the School Boards;
- Collaborated with Ontario Human Rights Commission - gave a student perspective;
- New this year – building futures: a day of learning & resources for teacher candidates (how to engage parents);
- Parent Engagement Office wants input on what they can do going forward.

- PRO Grant 2015-2016
  - a) We have received approval for \$15k for our initiative on webinars this year. Planned for March and April 2016. Focus on Literacy and Numeracy.
  - b) Dr. Lynda Coglan, B.Sc., B.Ed. (Toronto), M.Ed. (OISE), Ph.D. (Toronto), Faculty of Education at Queens University will be the keynote speaker for the Numeracy Event.
  - c) The keynote speaker for the Literacy Event will be finalized in the coming weeks.
  
- Conferences/Professional Development
  - a) October 22-24 – When Faith Meets Pedagogy (attended by Kim, Amanda & Richard)
  - b) October 24 – CPF Ontario (attended by Linda & Christina D.)
  - c) November 5 – Cardinal’s Dinner (attended by Linda and Roxanne)
  - d) November 7, 8 – People for Education (Nov 8 PIC Chairs/networkers – attended by Linda & Roxanne)
  - e) April 2016 – Ministry of Education PIC Symposium
  - f) May 6-7 - OAPCE