



DURHAM CATHOLIC
Parent Involvement Committee

Newsletter



CONTACT US

ADDRESS

650 Rossland Rd.
Oshawa, ON L1J 7C4

DCPIC.ca

twitter.com/DCPIC

DCPIC MEMBERS OFFICERS

Roxanne Horwitz, Chair
Tina Newth, Vice-Chair
Rose LoPresti, Secretary

PARENT MEMBERS

Trevor Aitcheson
Melissa Bevan
Eileen Bright
Jon Clancy
Nancy Sgro (Carpenter)
Christina Dodds
Linda Dodson Trchala
Rachelle Ezechiels
Amanda McLaurin
Paulette Palumbo
Bernadette Santiago Tan

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Kim Beatty
Stan Karwowski
Jim McGrorey, Past Chair

TRUSTEE & DCDSB STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

Jim McCafferty, Board Chair
Theresa Corless, Vice Chair
Susie Lee-Fernandes, Principal Rep.
Joni MacLean, Teacher Rep.
Chris Szent-Ivany, Principal Rep.
Gerry O'Reilly, Director's Designate

MEETING DATES

September 11, 2014
October 9, 2014
November 6, 2014
January 8, 2015
February 5, 2015
March 5, 2015
April 9, 2015
May 14, 2015
June 11, 2015

Meetings are held in the Board Room

PIC acts as a direct link to the Director of Education and the Board of Trustees

Parent to Parent: A message from the DCPIC Chair

Dear Parents, Guardians and Partners in Education,
We celebrate Catholic Education Week during the first week in May. This year's theme is Exploring Paths of Joy. How do you define joy? His Holiness, Pope Francis tells us, "Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved." At our recent annual event of honouring parent volunteers from each of our schools, I was a witness to the abundance of joy and love that exists in our school communities. The Distinguished Catholic Volunteers are parents who have found their path of joy by serving freely and lovingly at each of their schools. I am appreciative of our board for their partnership and friendship with the parent community.

On behalf of the DCPIC, I want to thank you for reaching out to us this year and sharing your successes and challenges. We hope that the events and information from our committee is helpful to you as parents supporting their children at school and at home.

We value your input. Please complete our year end parent survey found online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/dcpic2015>. Together, we have a strong parent voice as partners in our children's education. As we look towards the summer months, I wish you and your families time to connect and recharge, and may you explore paths of joy together!
Warmest greetings,
Roxanne Horwitz
Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, Chair
Contact: chair@dcpic.ca

Demystifying Youth Mental Health Speaker Series That Big Bad World: Helping kids thrive in anxious times

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Durham Catholic District School
Board Conference Centre
652 Rossland Rd. W., Oshawa

This workshop takes a health perspective in which childhood anxiety is understood as a necessary building block of adaptation, and an essential gateway to a child's creative engagement with the world. Parents gain a perspective, at the same time as they experience the sense of mastery and competence.



GUEST SPEAKER: Alex Russell is a clinical psychologist, registered with the College of Psychologists of Ontario. He provides assessments and psychotherapy to children and adults, and consultation and supervision to schools, teachers and psychologists.

To REGISTER to attend this event, please visit.

<http://dcpic-russell.eventbrite.ca/>

E. chair@dcpic.ca

T. (905) 576-6150 ext. 2900 | Toll Free: 1-877-482-0722

Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Awards

The Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC) recently honoured 45 parent volunteers from each of our schools. The Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Award is an annual ceremony that recognizes and thanks parents who exemplify parent involvement within each school.



Pro Grant

Applications for the 2015-2016 Parents Reaching Out Grants program are now open. The last date to apply is Tuesday, May 19, 2015. Please read the program guidelines and terms and conditions prior to submitting your application.

Apply online: <http://goo.gl/rZ8C1p>

Communications

In a continued effort to provide effective channels of communication for parents in our board, our subcommittee is in the final stages of creating a DCPIC Facebook page.

This new initiative will add to our communications network which currently includes a website DCPIC.ca, twitter feed @DCPIC, newsletters and email programs.

Please visit DCPIC.ca to watch for news of our Facebook page launch as well as upcoming DCPIC events.

Policy/By-Law

The mission of Policy/By-Law Subcommittee is to review Durham Catholic District School Board's Policies and Administrative Procedures that are reviewed on a regular basis and give feedback that is optimal for student achievement and well-being.

We also review our DCPIC By-Laws at least every three years; this is a requirement of our by-laws and it helps us reflect on being current with the changes within our school community.

We invite you to give your input on Policies and Administrative Procedures that are continuously being reviewed throughout the school year. Please go to

www.dcdsb.ca and then go to the "Board Policy Input" button at the bottom of the page. Click on the button. Review the Policies and Administrative Procedures. If you have input to any or all of the Policies and Administrative Procedures, send an e-mail to policyinput@dcdsb.ca and give your input in the form of an e-mail.

Please note the input deadline at the top of the page. The more input the Board has, the better our Board will be in the future!

DCPIC Events for Parents

The DCPIC Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Subcommittee took on an amazing project this year. Our goal was to provide information to parents and guardians about Mental Health in our schools. Our grant was one of the highest awarded from the Ministry of Education, which speaks volumes about the Board and the Ministry's concern for youth mental health.

We began a series of events under the Demystifying Youth Mental Health (DYM) umbrella, and we planned 5 events. The list includes: 1) Dr. Sandra Mendlowitz speaking about anxiety in January; 2) Dr. Bruce Ferguson speaking about working together to make our kids successful in February; 3) Elevated Grounds provided a theatrical-based presentation about mental health in March; and most recently 4) Mini-Conference with several presenters and keynote speaker Ann Douglas on April 18th.

All feedback received has been positive and the information we have been able to provide has been excellent. DCPIC has one final event planned for this year focusing on helping kids thrive in anxious times.

Registration is through Eventbrite, and the direct link can be found on the DCPIC and DCDSB websites.

Faith Formation

The mission of the Faith Formation Subcommittee is to continue to promote positive and supportive relationships between home, school and parish and to find ways to help our students and families grow in their Faith. Our last event was the Easter Craft Night on March 31st held at Blessed Pope John Paul II.

Children and their families first listened to a brief liturgy about the Lenten season and the significance of Easter. They then rotated between five different craft stations with their families. The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all.

School Council and Parent Outreach

The Student Council and Parent Outreach Subcommittee, has focused on achieving our strategic goals all year. Beginning with our Annual Orientation & Commissioning Mass earlier this year, the development and distribution of the official DCPIC School Council Handbook to school councils, and ongoing email updates from DCPIC Chair Roxanne Horwitz to School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs about our latest news and events, to ensuring that each DCPIC member has been assigned 3-4 schools to achieve personal contact and representation, and providing parents with the opportunity to express any feedback or information from parents through surveys and our members.

We look forward to continuing to partner with parents, our school board, and community members, to remain involved in our children's education and their future.



You Are Invited!
Grand Opening and Blessing
Parent Resource Centre
Tuesday, May 26 at 6 PM
Giffard Centre
1003 Giffard Street, Whitby
All parents and students are welcome.
Refreshments and books available.



Prayer

God of kindness and mercy, each day we desire to serve You with faithfulness.

Help us to serve You with humility as we walk gently on the earth.

Teach us to serve You with compassionate hearts and hands.

Strengthen us to serve You as we build a world of justice for all.

May Your example inspire us to serve joyfully in the love of Christ.

Amen

DCPIC AREAS OF FOCUS

Communications
 Faith Formation
 School Council Outreach (Parent Engagement)

The DCPIC is always interested in your thoughts and ideas, and would welcome an opportunity to seek your feedback on ideas and events that we are considering in providing to our Durham Catholic school community.

Subscribe to our mailing list by visiting our website, dcpic.ca and filling out the form on the bottom of our homepage.