



CONTACT US

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DCPIC MEMBERS OFFICERS

Roxanne Horwitz, Chair
Tina Newth, Vice-Chair
Rose LoPresti, Secretary
Jim McGrorey, Past Chair

PARENT MEMBERS

Trevor Aitcheson
Eileen Bright
Nancy Sgro (Carpenter)
Dyan Cato
Tricia Chapman
Anita Colacicco
Sharmaine Doyle
Beth Hawkins
Liz Lyew
Paulette Palumbo

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Kim Beatty
Monique Forster
Connie Samson

TRUSTEE & DCDSB STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

Margaret Stack, Trustee
Janice Oldman, Trustee
Susie Lee-Fernandes, Principal Rep.
Joni MacLean, Teacher Rep.
Chris Szent-Ivany, Principal Rep.
Karen Ulrich, CUPE Rep.
Gerry O'Reilly, Director's Designate

MEETING DATES

September 12, 2013
October 10, 2013
November 7, 2013
January 9, 2014
February 13, 2014
March 27, 2014
May 8, 2014
June 12, 2014
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 are almost at the end of another school year. How has the school year been for your child? We hope that your child had a happy, productive and faith-filled experience at school. How has the school year been for you as a parent? We hope you had a similar experience.

This has been a very busy year for the DCPIC. A few initiatives were launched including increasing our communication outreach. We continue to attend conferences to build on knowledge and skills which allows us to bring it back to the larger parent community. Just recently, we were at the Ministry of Education's PIC Symposium. It was a great opportunity to learn about what other PICs are doing to help their communities and hear from education partners.

An exciting initiative is also underway, and that is the formation of the DCPIC Resource Centre! The location is to be determined but it will be in an existing school which is centralized. This centre will be a place for parents to find books and other resources to help with their child's education. It will be ready to open this Fall – so please come and visit us! Our gratitude to Director O'Brien and the board for this generosity as this will allow us to do our work more efficiently and we are able to reach out to parents more.

Catholic Education Week is in the month of May. The theme for this year is Serving in the Love of Christ. Let's think about the many ways we are called to serve. We can serve with faithfulness, with humility, with compassion, with justice and with joy. Each day of the week explores these different ways of serving in the love of Christ. His Holiness, Pope Francis tells us, "The path of the Lord is being in His service: as He carried out His service, we must follow Him, on the path of service. That is the real power in the Church."

On behalf of the DCPIC, I want to thank you for connecting with us this year and sharing your successes and challenges. We appreciate all your input.

Together, we have a strong parent voice as partners in our children's education. Enjoy the rest of the school year and have a fun-filled summer break with your families!

Warmest greetings,
Roxanne Horwitz
Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, Chair
Contact: chair@dcpic.ca

Please fill out our Survey!

As a parent-led advisory committee, our main purpose is to encourage, support and enhance meaningful parent involvement to improve student academic achievement and well-being.

Please complete this short survey so that we will know how to better serve parents in our community.

<http://goo.gl/FYMIJdK>

Questions about PARENTING?



Join us for An Evening with
Barbara Coloroso
Tuesday May 13, 2014
6:30PM to 9PM

Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School
1375 Harwood Ave. N.
Ajax, ON L1T 4G8
Register online:
<http://goo.gl/rnykV6>

SAVE THE DATE

October 14th - 6:30 PM - Dr. Jean Clinton -
The Developing Brain. Register online:
<http://goo.gl/6sPNKu>

Celebrating **15** Years

Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

1998-2013

15th Anniversary Gala

The Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC) is celebrating its 15th Anniversary on June 12, 2014. Throughout the school year, the committee has held many initiatives and events to mark this milestone.

The program for the evening includes a panel which will feature former and current director's designates and chairs of the DCPIC. The panel moderator is Jacqui Strachan from People for Education. The panel will focus on the history of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

The gala will also honour 46 parent volunteers in our schools. We are launching the Volunteer Recognition Award and will take place annually as an opportunity to thank parents who exemplify parent involvement within each school.

Pro Grant

Don't forget to apply for the PARENTS REACHING OUT GRANT to enhance parent engagement at your school.

Applications for the 2014-2015 Parents Reaching Out Grants program are now open. The last date to apply is Friday, May 16, 2014. Please read the program guidelines and terms and conditions prior to submitting your application.

Apply online: <http://goo.gl/1DL7qZ>

Events for Parents

The DCPIC continues to provide free activities and presentations for parents as another resource for student success.

In February, the Family Literacy Fair with celebrated authors, Ted Staunton, Richard Scrimger and Mireille Messier facilitated reading workshops with children and parents to foster a love for reading. Several literacy partners such as booksellers, French programs and early learning provided materials to the audience.

In March, a presentation on how Boys and Girls Learn Differently by Michael Reist highlighted the key differences in gender learning. Mr. Reist shared tips with parents on how to effectively engage and communicate with our children.

In April, world-renowned security and threat assessment expert Dr. Kevin Cameron shared his approach to parenting and elaborated on the principle that family dynamics is crucial to the safety and mental health of our children and families. Using practical examples and humorous anecdotal references, Dr. Cameron offered useful strategies for parents to improve communication with spouses and children. Parents in attendance for all these events had an

opportunity to ask questions specific to their own situations. Parents attending these events found the presentations informative and relevant to their daily lives as illustrated by the positive feedback offered by them.

The DCPIC was able to provide childcare, also free of charge, to parents attending the March and April presentations.

The DCPIC also hosted a movie event "Faith and a Film" on April 19th, 2014 at the Landmark theaters in Whitby. The film presented was "The Son of God". Thank you to parents that attended, making the event a great success.

Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Nomination Deadline: May 15th

To recognize our dedicated parent volunteers and commemorate 15 years of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC, formerly known as Regional Council), we are launching the Volunteer Recognition Award. The 2013-2014 award recipients will be announced at the 15th anniversary dinner gala on June 12, 2014.

The DCPIC Volunteer Award nomination process will take place annually as an opportunity to thank parents who exemplify parent involvement within each school. We leave the selection of the award recipient to each school council.

Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week will be held May 4-9, 2014. The theme for this year is entitled "Serving in the Love of Christ". Each year the Catholic community of Ontario engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Education Week.

The scriptural passage that directs this year's theme is: "I am among you as one who serves." Luke 22:27 The prayer chosen in this edition is the closing prayer in the "Serving with Joy" booklet that can be found on the Ontario Catholic Trustee Association website. This prayer also marks the end of the weeklong celebration and includes all the sub themes that are to be celebrated throughout the week. The sub themes are Serve with faithfulness, Serve with humility, Serve with compassion, Serve with justice and Serve with joy.

Please check with your schools for more information. Talk to your principal and find out what specific activities your school is participating in for Catholic Education Week.

Source: <http://www.ocsta.on.ca/resources/catholic-education-week-resources/>

Prayer

O God, our Loving Creator,
O Jesus, our Master Teacher,
O Holy Spirit of Wisdom,
Of all the gifts You give us, the greatest is love

Open our eyes to see, our ears to listen, our minds to learn, our hearts to be accepting of others and our hands to be more giving towards those in need: the lost, the lonely, the lowly and the least.

You are among us as one who serves.

Each day, we desire to serve prayerfully with faithfulness, so that we may come to a deeper awareness of God's loving presence.

Help us to serve honourably with humility on this earthly journey leading to eternal life.

Teach us to serve genuinely with compassion that we may see the face of Christ in all we meet. Strengthen us to wisely serve You as we build a world of justice and dignity for all.

May Your example inspire us to serve one another gratefully and Joy in the promise and hope of eternal life.

We ask this as friends and followers of Christ, our Lord.

DCPIC AREAS OF FOCUS

Communications
Faith Formation
School Council Outreach (Parent Engagement)

Subcommittees

Faith Formation

Beth Hawkins, Chair

Communications

Nancy Sgro (Carpenter), Chair

School Council Outreach (Parent Engagement)

Tricia Chapman, Chair

PRO Grant

Jim McGrorey/Connie Samson, Co-Chairs

Orientation

Budget

Anniversary

Kim Beatty, Chair

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 for the 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.