



DURHAM CATHOLIC
Parent Involvement Committee

Newsletter



CONTACT US

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DCPIC MEMBERS OFFICERS

Linda Dodson Trchala, Chair
Jon Clancy, Vice-Chair
Rose LoPresti, Secretary

PARENT MEMBERS

Trevor Aitcheson
Bibi Ally
Karolina Baker
Melissa Bevan
Richard Damianopoulos
Christina Dodds
Josephine-Dora Spitale
Ken Lyons
Amanda McLaurin
Christina Melick
Paulette Palumbo
Rodney Romain

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Kim Beatty
Tom Brennan
Melanie O'Neill

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.
Bob Camozzi, Director's Designate

MEETING DATES

September 10, 2015
October 8, 2015
November 12, 2015
January 7, 2016
February 4, 2016
March 10, 2016
April 7, 2016
May 12, 2016
June 9, 2016

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 thank our previous Chair, Roxanne Horwitz, for her outstanding dedication to the Durham Catholic Parent Committee (DCPIC), Durham Catholic District School Board, Parent Engagement, and to the various groups she contributed to. We are sad to announce that Roxanne has stepped down as Chair, but are excited for her and her family with their new endeavour! I personally would like to thank Roxanne for her guidance and support. May the Lord bless you and keep you! As I take on the role as Chair, I would like to express my gratitude and I look forward to working with such outstanding members of DCPIC. I would like to introduce our Executive Officers to you:

Linda Dodson Trchala, Chair
Jon Clancy, Vice-Chair
Rose LoPresti, Secretary

As we gather this Advent season to prepare the way of the Lord for His coming as our King and Saviour. I would like to reflect on the symbolism of the Advent wreath. The Advent wreath is probably the most recognizable Advent symbol. The shape of the wreath is circular, without beginning or end, and symbolizes God's unending love for us that he sent his only Son into the world to redeem our sins. As we go into the Advent season we need to reflect as a community; like the Advent wreath, we are part of a circular connection that is home, school, and church. This circular connection makes us a wonderful partnership in our children's education – in Catholic education.

Within the Parents in Partnership: A Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools (2010) from The Ministry of Education it states, "When parents are involved in their children's education, everyone benefits – students, parents, teachers, schools and communities. Great schools can become even better places to teach and learn, and student achievement often improves." Taking part in your children's education can take many different forms. You can be

involved by asking questions about your children's day at school, volunteering at the school, reading to your children at night, attending school council meetings, or retweeting messages from your children's school. The Ministry of Education states that one part of their Plan of Action is to "Foster increased parent engagement through ongoing communication about what their children are doing in school and how parents, guardians and caregivers can further contribute to their learning."

What do you, as parents, guardians and caregivers, require to contribute to your children's education? How can DCPIC help you? Please let us know and our committee can bring your recommendations to the Board and to the Ministry of Education.

The Durham Catholic Parent Committee exists to support parents and their children's learning at home and school. We understand that parents are key partners in the education system and help voice this partnership by providing advice at the Board level.

We look forward to fostering student achievement and well-being in conjunction with the Board. We all share the common goal of wanting our children/students to succeed. We want to remind you of what Pope Francis stated, "Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!" Let's dream of great things going forward!

On behalf of the DCPIC, I want to wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and throughout the New Year!

Warmest greetings,
Linda Dodson Trchala, Chair
Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Contact: chair@dcpic.ca



School Council and Parent Outreach

The School Council and Parent Outreach Subcommittee, has been busy last few months. We organized our Annual Commissioning Mass and then a School Council Bootcamp run by Jacqui Strachan from People for Education to help keep our School Councils fit and running effectively. We look to continue our momentum into the New Year by adding new material and information to our DCPIC School Council Handbook. We will also continue to achieve personal contact and representation within our school community and providing parents with the opportunity to express feedback and information through our surveys and committee.

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.



2015 DCPIC Commissioning Mass

Faith Formation

The Faith Formation Sub-Committee is committed to providing parents with information and tools to ensure that they have the resources to help families grow in their faith. On Thursday December 3rd, our committee held a Family Advent Craft Night at St. Monica's Catholic School. This Year's Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Awards will be held on April 12, 2016. School Councils are encouraged to start thinking of those nominations!

Members of DCPIC are encouraged to grow in faith through the attendance of conferences, liturgy and prayer. Recently, members of our committee attended the When Faith Meets Pedagogy conference. The keynote speaker was David Wells, Directory of the Vicariate for Evangelisation in the Diocese of Plymouth, England.

This year's theme was Embraced, Centred and Gathered in God's Family, which was inspired by Pope Francis' declaration of the Year of The Family.

Pro Grant:Focusing on Online and On-Demand Parent Engagement Resources

This year the Pro-Grant Subcommittee will be producing a series of live and on-demand videos to provide parents with assistance engaging in their child's education. The first series of webcasts are being planned for early 2016, with a focus on core curriculum topics such as numeracy and literacy. Following these live webcasts parents will be able to watch the recordings and refer to materials through the new DCPIC website launching in spring 2016.

If you have any suggestions for additional webcast topics email vicechair@dcpic.ca



School Council BootCamp 2015

Policy/By-Law

The mission of the 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 are currently reviewing our DCPIC By-Laws to help us reflect on being current with the changes within our school community. We also review the Board's Policy and Administrative Procedures throughout the school year. As a regulated body of the Ministry, one of our functions is to provide information and advice on parent engagement to the Board. If you want to share your voice, come and be part of our subcommittee!

You can give your input on the Board's Policy and Administrative Procedures that are up for review by going to www.dcdsb.ca, then go to the "Board Policy Input" button at the bottom of the page, and then click on the button. Review the Policies and Administrative Procedures. Give your input to any or all of the Policies and Administrative Procedures by sending an e-mail to policyinput@dcdsb.ca.

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 is Looking for a new Parent Member! Go to our website, dcpic.ca and click on the Volunteer Opportunity button for more information

Communications

This year, the Communications committee will be reviewing our current channels of communications. This includes our Newsletter, available by print and web versions in Spring and Winter, email campaigns to school council chairs and public event notifications, Twitter - @DCPIC and our just launched Facebook page - facebook.com/DCPIC.ca. Please visit us and like our page!

This year will also see our website upgraded and relaunched as part of the DCDSB initiative to upgrade its Board and school websites to incorporate new technology and accessibility standards. Stay tuned to find out how parents and community members can give public input.



St Mary's Choir at DCPIC Commissioning Mass

Prayer

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming. Prepare our hearts and remove any sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

DCPIC'S AREAS OF FOCUS

- Communications
- Faith Formation
- School Council Outreach (Parent Engagement)
- Policy/By-laws

We are always interested in your thoughts and ideas, and 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.