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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:** ROXANNE HORWITZ  
**SUBJECT:** MAY 2014 REPORT  
**DATE:** MAY 8, 2014

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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."

The Ministry of Education's PIC Symposium was held on April 25 & 26. It is an annual event that is hosted and funded by the Ministry for all 72 PICs across the province. We continue to attend conferences to build on knowledge and skills which allow us to bring it back to the larger parent community. This year we were able to send 4 DCPIC Parent Members. This is a great event as it is an opportunity to meet other PIC members and learn about their PICs. But it is also another opportunity to learn what is going on in our schools by way of speakers, presentations and workshops. There is also an abundance of resources at the vendor/display areas.

This year we were one of the few PICs that had a display table. It was a success! Many PIC members came by to talk about all our initiatives, and it was great to share best practices and exchange ideas with them. I was able to share all of our communication strategies which included our branding. Our display table stood out from the PICs and it will serve us well for future events.

Personally, I have attended this symposium in the past four years, and I always learn something new. I have had the most interesting conversations, and have listened to outstanding speakers. Sometimes you need that inspiration to keep doing what we're doing, and this symposium certainly provided that!

Here is the update for this month:

#### May Report

- Conferences
  - a) Ministry of Education's Annual PIC Symposium – April 25 -26,2014
    - Successful event with report above
  - b) OAPCE 75<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary
    - 10 people are attending from our board
    - May 23-24 in Mississauga
    - Registration is now open online [www.oapce.on.ca](http://www.oapce.on.ca)
- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)
  - a) OAPCE is celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with conference on May 23-24 in Mississauga. Cardinal Collins will be officiating mass.
  - b) Regional Updates
    - Focus on next year's annual conference which will be in Pembroke
    - Discussions on logistics of travel to Pembroke, expected attendance

- Working Title of conference next year is “Poor No More”
- Subcommittees
  - a) Report from each subcommittee and discussion items will be discussed at each meeting
  - b) Recently reached out to school councils and school communities to join our subcommittees, in order for us to continue our work
- Upcoming DCPIC Events
  - a) May 13 – Barbara Coloroso at Notre Dame CSS
    - 3 books will be on sale at special discounted price
    - Barbara will be signing books at event
  - b) June 12 – 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – more info to follow
    - The Anniversary Subcommittee has plans well underway
    - 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm
    - Volunteer award is called the Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Award
    - Honouring 46 parents from each of our schools
    - Panel discussion with past and present of DCPIC
  - c) October 14 – Dr. Jean Clinton at St. Mary CSS (re-scheduled date)

For more details on these events, please refer to our website at [www.dcpic.ca](http://www.dcpic.ca)