
DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR'S REPORT

TO: DCPIC, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOL CHAIRS AND PARENTS
FROM: ROXANNE HORWITZ
SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 2013 REPORT
DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2013

I want to begin by expressing thanks for another successful Orientation & Commissioning Mass with our principals and school council chairs/members. There were approximately 100 attendees. As this was just completed a few days ago, on October 30, it bears mentioning that it couldn't have been a success without the teamwork of this committee. There are many people who deserve the recognition for helping with the event such as:

- Orientation Subcommittee (Liz, Jim, Dyan, Tina & Dyan) for all of the planning and many hours
- All of the DCPIC members who assisted with setting up the conference room on the eve of and the day of the conference.
- Superintendent O'Reilly and Patti Ritchie for all of their support
- The various board staff members like the custodians and IT department for their assistance.
- Father Keith Wallace and Dominic Pulano for starting the day with inspiration and blessings
- Director O'Brien and Chair Valentine for their words of encouragement in person and by letter

There is a summary report of this event, and will be circulated to all the participants – principals and school council members. This report will also be available on our website shortly.

As we approach the Advent season, the committee is working towards organizing an event to help us celebrate our faith and our catholic education. In the new year, we will be continuing the series on Youth Mental Health with presentations and workshops from Kevin Cameron, Barbara Coloroso and more. In communications, we are making strides in increasing more ways to reach out to parents such as the social media. For example, the DCPIC Twitter page was recently launched. Our name is @DCPIC – please follow us as events and other information will be posted there. We are also working on the inaugural newsletter – and hope to send that out in time for the Christmas holidays.

The DCPIC wants to hear from our parents, school councils, teachers, principals, and partners in education about how we can effectively support student achievement and well-being. We invite you to visit our website at www.dcpic.ca where you can find our contact information along with other information you may find useful.

Here is the update for this month:

November Report

- Conferences
 - a) When Faith Meets Pedagogy – October 24-26 in Mississauga
 - b) People for Education – November 2 in Toronto

There were 4 DCPIC members who attended each conference and have provided a report to share with everyone. It will be discussed at tonight's meeting and posted on the website shortly.

- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)

- a) OAPCE is celebrating their 75th Anniversary with conference on May 23-24 in Mississauga.
- b) Regional Updates
 - Next regional update in January

- Great to Excellent Consultation – Ministry of Education
 - a) Last October 18, I attended the Barrie regional consultation with fellow PIC chairs, Directors of Education, Student Trustees, Board Chairs and community partners. It was an opportunity for various stakeholders to directly engage with each other and share their vision for what could make our education system better. Minister Liz Sandals welcomed all public input.
 - b) There is a community consultation process in our school board, and we have 3 locations to conduct these consultations. They are from 7 pm to 9 pm. Here are the dates and locations:
 - November 13 – Msgr. Paul Dwyer in Oshawa
 - November 14 – St. Joseph in Uxbridge
 - November 20 – Notre Dame in Ajax

- Communications
 - a) Need to enhance website and make it more useful to parents and school councils by making it easier to find information and easy to navigate
 - b) Launched Twitter and will have newsletter before year end
 - c) Still developing other methods such as Facebook and brochure

- DCPIC Representative Per School
 - a) The new list of representatives for each school is complete and will show on the website which member is assigned to a particular school
 - b) Need to do a roundtable update from each DCPIC member regarding their schools. Everyone will have 2-3 minutes to share any events, suggestions, etc.

- Presentations at DCPIC Meeting:
 - a) January 9 – EQAO , Margaret Fler, Principal, School Support & Outreach