
DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR'S REPORT

TO: DCPIC, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOL CHAIRS, STAFF AND PARENTS
FROM: ROXANNE HORWITZ
SUBJECT: OCTOBER 2014 REPORT
DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2014

It is that time of year again – elections. This year we have 11 parent member positions that are up for election. We have advertised in multiple ways and hope to attract many parents in joining the DCPIC. This committee is essentially a committee that is led by parents for parents. The DCPIC can have up to 16 parent members and up to 3 community representatives. The non-voting members of the DCPIC are the director (or designate), a trustee, a principal, a teaching staff and a non-teaching staff.

This month, on October 29, the DCPIC will be hosting the Annual Orientation and Commissioning Mass for principals and school council chairs/members. This yearly tradition allows a rich dialogue between principals and school council chairs (or members) in how we can work together to make our schools that much better. It also serves as an opportunity for school councils to exchange ideas and share best practices.

Also this month, on October 14, we will be hosting an event with Dr. Jean Clinton, a renowned expert on child psychiatry. Her presentation will focus on the Developing Brain: Why Kids do the Things They Do. Please join us at St. Mary's in Pickering at 6:30 PM. This is a free event for all parents in our school board.

Here is the update for this month:

October Report

- Orientation and Mass Commissioning
 - a) Plans are underway to host this annual event with school council chairs and principals
 - b) The date will be on Wednesday, October 29.
 - c) This is an opportunity for school chairs and principals to work together and provide a networking session.
 - d) Jacqui Strachan will be our keynote speaker, and serve as facilitator for the table discussions.

- Subcommittees
 - a) At the August planning session, 6 subcommittees were identified. They are:
 - Communications
 - Faith Formation
 - School Council & Parent Outreach
 - Budget
 - PRO Grant
 - Policy (including Bylaws)
 - Nominations (only valid until October 9)

 - b) Every DCPIC parent and community member is asked to serve on at least one subcommittee.
 - c) We are able to invite other parents or community members to join our subcommittees. It is a great option for those wishing to focus on a particular area, and who may not be able to do the level of commitment as DCPIC members.

- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)
 - a) OAPCE had their quarterly meeting on October 4, which I attended. There were three important guests invited and presented to the group. They were:
 - James Ryan, President of OECTA – He discussed the importance of Catholic education and how it is relevant and needed today. The partnerships that could happen locally with each chapter of OECTA with parent groups. Also discussed the difference with Catholic Teachers Guild
 - Garfield Dunlop, PC Education Critic – He welcomed feedback and ideas from parents and encouraged future dialogue. He is new to position and will be looking more into the role of PICs as outlined in legislation. He assured that Catholic education is supported by his party.
 - Dr. Ashleigh Molloy, renowned speaker on Catholic education, lifetime member OECTA, former superintendent / principal – He presented in a lively, entertaining way that kept the group engaged. He discussed welcoming schools and partnerships that need to occur for student success. He shared many resources for parents.
 - b) The OAPCE conference will take place on May 24-25. It will be in Pembroke, Ontario
 - c) As the appointed member for OAPCE, I will be attending the Student Achievement Division Working Table for 2014-15 on October 28.

- PRO Grant 2014-2015
 - a) Jim McGrorey is leading this subcommittee. We have been approved for \$22,500 and it will focus on youth mental health and targeting the audience in our secondary grades. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

- DCPIC Representative Per School
 - a) The division of schools by committee member will need to be revised with new incoming members, outgoing members and the upcoming election in October.

- Upcoming Conferences
 - a) When Faith Meets Pedagogy – October 23-25 in Mississauga
 - b) Ontario College of Teachers – November 5-7 in Toronto
 - c) People for Education – November 8 in Toronto
 - d) Ministry of Education PIC Symposium – April 2015 in Toronto
 - e) OAPCE – May 24-25, 2015 in Pembroke, Ontario