



Parent Partner

Ontario Association of Parents in
Catholic Education Newsletter

Issue 1, October 2014



Calendar of Educational Partner Meetings/Events

- Oct 4 OAPCE Board of Directors Meeting
- Oct 28 Student Achievement Division Working Table of Ministry of Education
- Nov 5-7 Ontario College of Teachers Conference

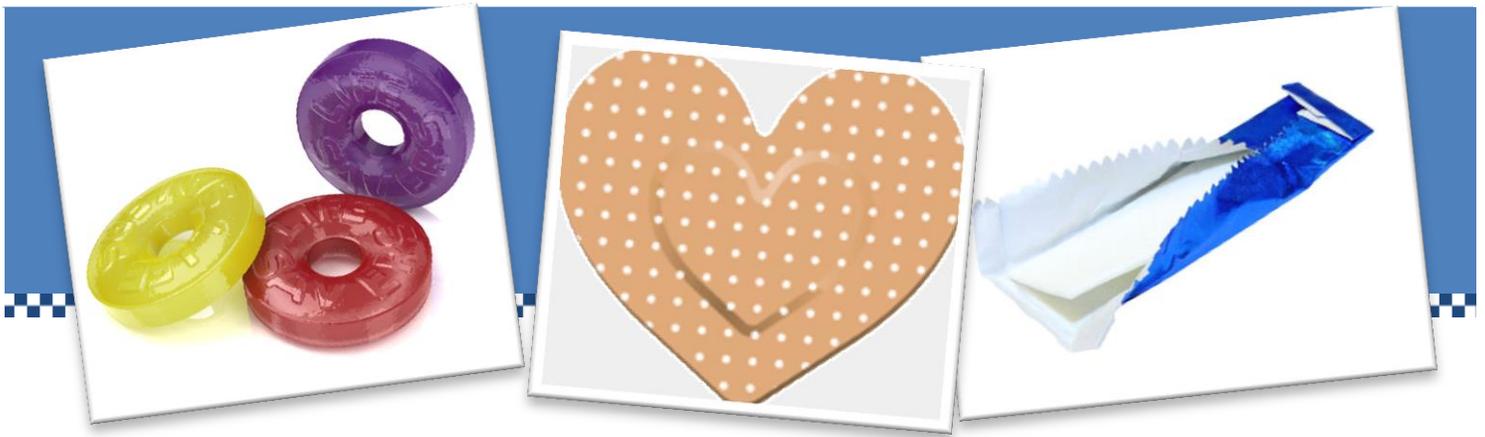
Another school year has begun, and we are almost three months into the school year! The Board of Directors have been busy working over the past two months too! A new Strategic Plan for the Association has been reviewed, edited, and finally approved. Directors were charged to take on lead roles for various action items coming out of the plan. The Board of Directors will be taking on at least five action items, which will be completed and reported on at the May 2015 AGM!

The role of the OAPCE School Council representative will be reviewed; and an aggressive promotion and education campaign will be developed to work towards a full complement of OAPCE reps in every Catholic school council across Ontario!

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I loved autumn, the one season of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it. ~ Lee Maynard



“Kids are not interested in how much you know, until they know how much you care.” ~ Dr. Ashleigh Malloy, Ph.D.

An excerpt from Dr. Ash’s Kit for Parents

Lifesaver – to keep you from drowning in everyday chores

Chewing Gum – to remind you to stick to it,
and you can accomplish anything

Band Aid – to remind you to heal hurt feelings,
yours or someone else’s

President’s Message continued...

Watch for our new website to be launched prior to 2015! We listened to your concerns and suggestions over the past year and especially at the 2014 AGM and I am confident you will find this website informative and educational! Don’t forget to connect to our Facebook page and Twitter for updated information daily, weekly, and monthly! Stay connected to Ontario’s only Catholic parent association representing parents in our province’s Catholic publicly funded schools!

Finally, take a moment to thank our Canadian Armed Forces and all those who protect our cities, towns, province and country each day; and

remember those who allowed us the freedom and security we enjoy each day in this great country. On this November 11th say a prayer for them or join your children at Remembrance Day school events, and fly our Canadian flag at our homes! #Canadastrong

Celebrating Catholic education each day!

Brian Evoy



HELP!! - I've been asked to be my School Council's OAPCE Liaison Representative

Parent's input is very important,
and this is a way to have your
voice heard

OAPCE Directors sit on working tables and committees of the Ministry of Education; they are active members of EQAO assessment, Partners on Institute of Catholic Education (ICE) and organize yearly parent engagement conferences. All the information from these, need to be passed along to our parents, so they are well informed.

The easiest way to do this is to have a Liaison Representative on all School Councils that can pass this information to the parents of their school. Your Regional Director, will contact you, and pass on the information from the OAPCE's many links to

the education system. If your Region doesn't have a Director, another Director or the OAPCE office will pass the info along.

On occasion, we are asked for input on research/surveys that are being done by one of our educational partners. In this case, we would ask that you send this info to your parents, and then send back the responses to us.

Parent's input is very important, and this is a way to have your voice heard.

So...is this an important job –Yes! Is this a difficult job – No. It will take a small amount of your time, but well worth

the opportunity to keep the parents in your school informed about the issues that will impact your children's education.



OAPCE's main purpose is communicating information about our education system to our parents

“Through a Glass Darkly”

The month of November reminds us that the Church's liturgical year is winding down. The Feasts of All Saints on November 1 and All Souls on November 2 remind us that we belong to a faith community that extends into the past and into eternal life. Our faith family includes both the living on earth and the living in the communion of saints. We are never alone - our companions on the journey encourage and inspire us to deepen our relationship with Jesus and empowered by the Spirit to change the world.

Our consumerist culture already exposes us to the artificial glitter foreshadowing a season, which does not belong to the world. Though melodies of Christmas carols fill the air, tempting us to buy trinkets and gadgets, the liturgical year invites us to wait. Sunday, November 30 is the beginning of Advent. To the hurrying culture of busyness and shopping, the Church says: wait! But wait for what? Advent beckons us to wait so that we may learn to see the face of Jesus in the unlikely places of our life...in the beauty of a wrinkly baby...in the frailty of a dying grandma...in the dissension of our broken world...in the friendships of teenagers...in the confusion of drug-addiction...in the debilitating depression of youth... in the communion of faithful families...in the disillusionment of broken dreams and betrayals...in the harmony of faithful communities...in the sadness of the man and the woman sitting on the ground waiting for some unexpected gesture of generosity...in the joyous laughter of happy children...in the anguish of abandoned children...in the coziness of our warm and comfortable homes...in the arid and cold terrain of war-torn communities...in what is beautiful... but more so, to see Jesus, in what appears ugly and unappealing to our human eyes.

Advent is not a romanticized “feel-good” time about a 'meek and mild' little baby boy of long ago who never cried, but only smiled. Advent dares us to become the kind of people who wait for the one who has come ... the one who has stayed with us hidden in the fragility of humanity. Are we ready for the Holy one? Is there room in the inn of our heart and our life? Can we see Jesus in our human brothers and sisters? Advent calls to re-learn the ancient art of waiting and seeing the one who pitched a tent within our humanity. So look around, the Word is made flesh and lives with us!

God of surprises and wonder,
come and visit the dreariness of my life
come and visit the joy of my existence.

Teach me to see
Teach me to love
Teach me to wait
Teach me to do justice

Inspire my failing dreams and show me hope.
Tenderly hold my weary heart and teach me mercy
Touch my dim-seeing eyes and
teach me to see your beauty,
your goodness and your truth in the paradox of our world.
Amen.



~Michelle Mucci-Kirley
(OAPCE Spiritual Advisor)

Who are Our Education Partners?

James Ryan, the Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association President, was our guest at the last Board of Directors meeting. He spoke to us about OECTA, one of our education partners.

He shared with us that there are 600,000 students in Catholic Education in Ontario, and almost 50,000 teachers. OECTA represents these teachers with: advocacy for the profession, advocacy of Catholic Education, training of Religion courses, and government relations (lobbying and collective bargaining).

He feels that the struggle to keep Catholic Education in our province has made us stronger, but warns that there are still threats, and we must remain diligent.

What can we tell someone that is

questioning the fairness of Catholic Education? No, it's not fair, but goes back to Catholic Education in the beginning of Canada. It's not fair to protect English and French language, not fair to protect Aboriginal rights, but we don't just protect individual rights in Canada, but group rights as well. We have the best Education system in Canada, why change that?

We will be inviting other Education Partner representatives to upcoming Board of Director's meetings, so stayed tuned in upcoming newsletters.



ONTARIO ENGLISH
Catholic Teachers
ASSOCIATION



Ontario
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



OCSBTA
Ontario Catholic
School Business
Officials Association

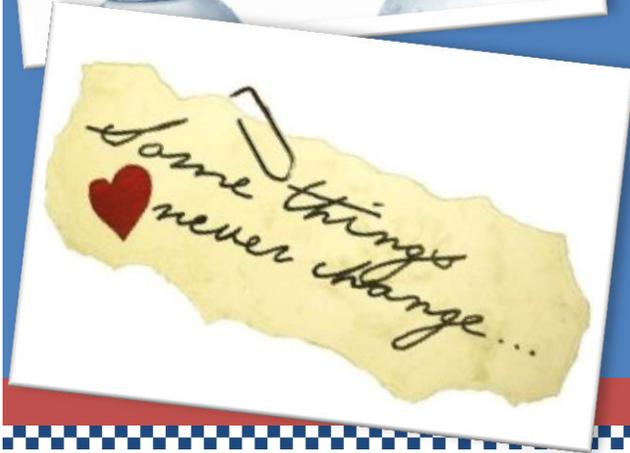
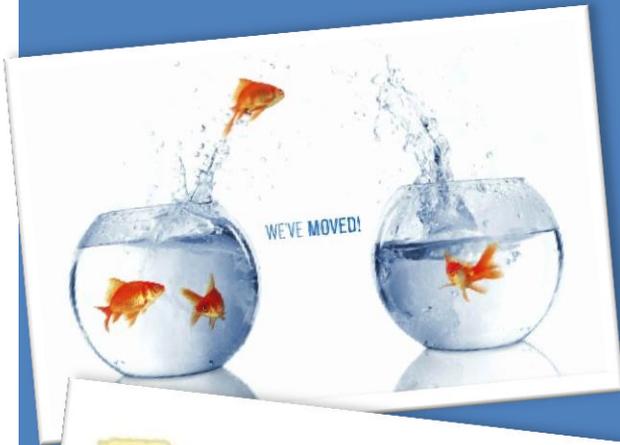


Ontario Catholic Supervisory
Officers' Association

A faith-centred learning community of leaders called to serve and share the future of Catholic Education.



THE CATHOLIC
PRINCIPALS' COUNCIL
OF ONTARIO



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We are the voice of
parents and guardians
of children enrolled in
the Publicly Funded
English Catholic
System of Education in
the Province of
Ontario.