

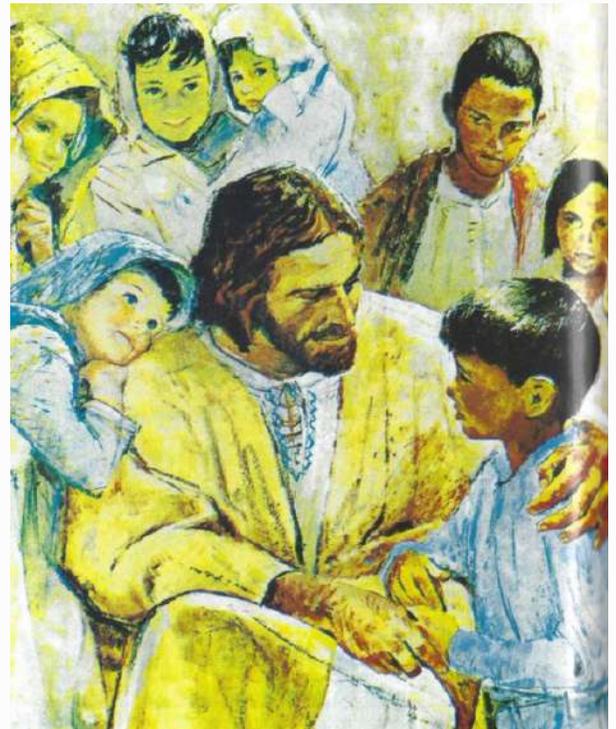


PARENTS4PARENTS PRESS

*Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education-
June 2021 Newsletter*



**"Children, let us love not
in word or speech but in
deed and truth."
– (1 John 3:18)**





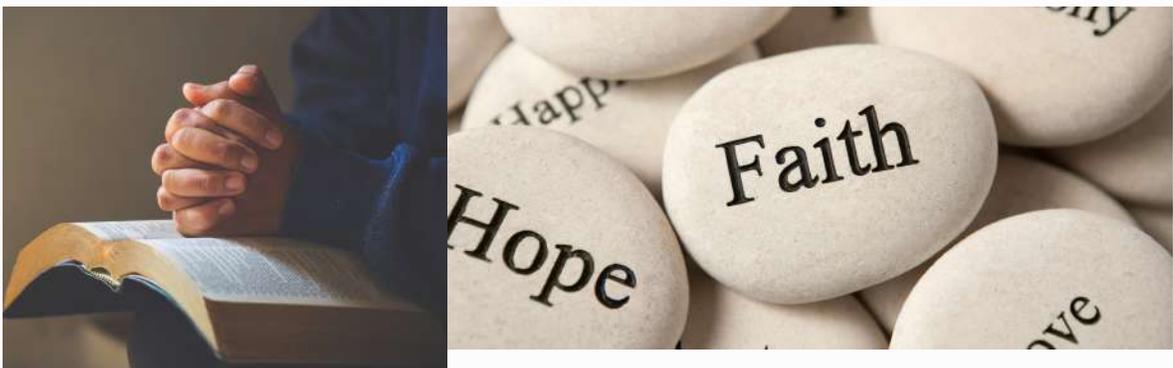
faith message

In honour of the Feast of the Sacred Heart on June 11th Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, has released a new pastoral letter on the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This is a significant reflection on one of the most sacred symbols in the Catholic faith and what it can teach us in these difficult times.

“Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who glory in the Heart of your beloved Son and recall the wonders of his love for us, may be made worthy to receive an overflowing measure of grace from the fount of heavenly gifts.” (Collect prayer of the Mass of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart)

“For raised up high on the Cross, [Jesus] gave himself up for us with a wonderful love and poured out blood and water from his pierced side, the wellspring of the Church’s Sacraments, so that, won over to the open heart of the Saviour, all might draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.” (Preface of the Mass of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart)

“Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28-29)





executive director message

Annalisa Crudo-Perri, OAPCE Executive Director

We made it!! This has truly been a year for the record books. In some ways, it has been the most memorable and challenging year of our lives. We recognize how hard this year has been for our teachers, students and of course, our families. It is sad that some of our children will not get to say goodbye to their friends, teachers. Our graduating children will not get their traditional in person celebrations once again. We are truly grateful for all the efforts that have gone into navigating this last year of school. Whether your children were in face-to-face, hybrid or remote learning as parents we juggled and faced many challenges.

Parents have been tested to our limits during this pandemic. We have been tested many times of the virtues that were taught this year; strength, resilience and perseverance. With the 2020-2021 school year coming to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents, administrators, teachers and all support staff for working so hard this year. Everyone has embraced these changes in an effort to continue to provide the best education they could for all our children. OAPCE, is humbled by what we, the parents, have done at home to support our children. We truly appreciate our role and will continue to advocate for all children across the province. Whether at our regional council meetings or at our Conferences, we look forward to being together again in person soon.



"The Lord is greater than the giants you face." 1 John 4:4



Virtual Conference May 14th and 15th, 2021

Once again OAPCE was pleased to engage parents across the province for our annual conference. This year's theme was **Empowering Parents**. We have 3 pre-recorded webinars available. Dr. Josephine Lombardi – “Empowering Parents to Be Experts in Humanity”, Teresa Hartnett – “Engaging and Empowering Parents: Working Together for Our Children”, Wayne Jones – “Victorious Living! Victorious Parenting”. To view the recordings click [here](#).

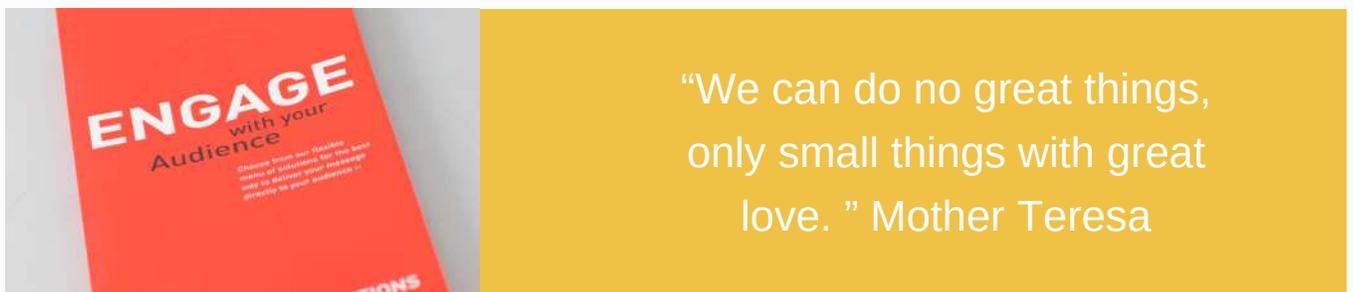
Saturday we were thankful to have Cardinal Collins join us to share his [pastoral letter on the Sacred Heart of Jesus](#). Our keynote speaker Kevin Frankish shared ways to support better mental health through good information, practical advice and, most of all, positivity. To learn more visit The Happy Molecule, at: <https://thehappymolecule.com>.

We were also pleased to provide honorary lifetime membership to several long standing supporters of OAPCE.

We honoured, outgoing OECTA President Liz Stuart. She brings a breadth of teacher activism and experience, including the position of OECTA President, which she has held since July 1, 2017. Ab Falconi, former Director of Education for York CDSB and now Executive Director of Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario. We also honoured Pat Grisoni who has been involved as a Volunteer in the HDCSB- Halton Catholic School Board community and OAPCE for several years and counting.

In addition we honoured 2 students with our Face of Mercy Award.

Emily Ferraioli and Nava Tavasoli, Grade 10 students at St. Theresa of Lisieux Catholic High School founded the Youth Climate Group to raise awareness and demand action on climate change.





Update on work done with the Ministry of Education

OAPCE has met several times with Ministry of Education staff to provide input after news conferences or recent decisions. OAPCE has also met to discuss concerns regarding the allocations and distributions of PPE Parent grants and the barriers to parents actually receiving these grant monies at the local levels.

OAPCE has participated in several Curriculum Working tables and consultations with the Ministry of Education namely Math De-streaming and Grade 10 Civics and Careers. This was in addition to continued discussions in consultation with TVO in regards to the two mandatory online courses that will begin in the fall. The work around the OAPCE table has been ongoing.

With the decision to have students remain in remote learning until the end of the school year cause difficulties for many parents, while some were content with finishing off the year remotely.

One thing that parents do agree, is that consultations on the return to school plan in September must commence now. Parents should be afforded the opportunity to provide input and plans should be communicated to parents with ample time to decide which model they are going to choose for their children's education. Advocate to your trustees and school boards to provide detailed plans for the classrooms for the fall to ensure that our children are prepared as much as possible for the 2021/22 year!



CROWDSOURCING

enhance

1st EVER Crowdsourcing Parent June 23, 2021- July 02, 2021

As we close out this school year, OAPCE is eager to gather the thoughts of parents from across the province as we fulfill our mandate to be the voice of parents in Catholic Education. We would like to invite you to contribute to generating ideas which can be shared with the Ministry of the Education and School Boards.

The intent is to crowdsource your thoughts and ideas on what things should STOP, what things should START, and what things should CONTINUE in publicly funded Catholic education across the province. We will be using “Idea Boards”. Think of it as an electronic board where you put one idea on a “post-it”.

The ideas gathered will be used to frame a report to the ministry of education with recommendations that will be the foundation of the advocacy work of our organization in the coming year.

These boards will be open from June 23rd to July 2nd, 2021.

Please be respectful of others.

We are interested in ideas being generated from fellow parents across the province. We are not interested in parents critiquing the posts of others. (this isn't facebook!!)

Theme 1-Mental Health

Thinking about children's mental health.

What should the ministry and school boards...START doing, STOP doing, CONTINUE doing?

[CLICK HERE](#)

Theme 2-Student Achievement

Thinking about **academic achievement**.

What should the ministry and school boards ...START doing, STOP doing, CONTINUE doing?

Click **[HERE](#)**

Theme 3- Virtual Learning

Thinking about **technology and virtual learning**.

What should the ministry and school boards...START doing, STOP doing, CONTINUE doing?

Click **[HERE](#)**



from the regions

OAPCE HALTON

HCDSB congratulates Pat Grisoni, a dedicated parent volunteer for receiving the OAPCE Honorary Lifetime Membership Award at the 82nd OAPCE Parent Conference.

June marks the celebration of National Indigenous History month and Pride month. A number of learning activities and events will be held across the HCBSB for student and parent communities to raise awareness and build support for safe and equitable learning environments.

Two students from St. Ignatius of Loyola CSS, representing team Canada placed second at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair, the world's largest and most prestigious high school science competition.

·Sacred Heart of Jesus CES raised \$1500 to support Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington and honour the frontline workers.

At the May Council of Chairs, OAPCE school liaisonreps were present at the meeting and participated in a breakout session, led by the OAPCE Halton Director on the topic of school council best practices.

OAPCE Halton newsletter was sent out in May to the OAPCE representatives highlighting important OACPE news/events. The newsletter also provides an opportunity for reps to connect with feedback to the Halton director on any needed topic. The OAPCE Halton Director also sends out the OAPCE Parents 4 Parents Newsletter to ensure that it reaches the reps directly.

We have 54 schools and they are contacted through the HCDSB through the Office of the Superintendent of Education. OAPCE representatives were also provided with the email contact for the OAPCE Halton Director.



“I like working with people. I believe change can only come through collaboration.”

- Alain de Botton



from the regions

OAPCE DUFFERIN PEEL

Hosted a Family St. Patrick's Day Zentangle (art to destress) event. This event had a good turnout and great feedback from parents. Resources were shared with parents if they want to continue to destress at home using Zentangle methods to create beautiful art. Parents and their children learned from the presenter that we see patterns everywhere and in this case the artwork was inspired by stain glass of St. Patrick from the church in Wildfield, Ontario (Brampton).

OAPACE Dufferin Peel hosted a regional parent webinar with presenter Elaine Uskoski as she shared her personal story and the numerous aspects of addiction including: the personal and professional toll, economic/social impact on both the gamer and their family. Two lucky winners received copies of her books.

We continue to raffle off "Pep Talks for Catholic School parents" resource books at events and regional council meetings for parents.

At the April 2021 meeting we took a few moments to canvass input from parents with a word or phrase on what parent engagement means to them. Using that input a unique word cloud was created to be displayed on the regional council FB and Twitter.

"I learned a long time ago the wisest thing I can do is be on my own side, be an advocate for myself and others like me."

- Maya Angelou

from the regions

OAPCE YORK

During the Canadian Mental Health Association for Mental Health – Mental Health Week, York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) launched a series of resources to highlight the impact of racism and marginalization on mental health including:

Many schools and school councils throughout York Catholic have been highlighting mental health supports for students and families throughout the year. For example, on May 17, 2021 the school council of Our Lady Queen of the World Catholic Academy hosted Jennifer Kolari: Going with the Flow and Kids and the Bottom Line. Jennifer emphasized the importance of building connections with our children and prioritizing those connections over correction. Teenagers are preoccupied with sovereignty and independence.

They need to pull away from us to figure out who they are. With teenagers the connection you have with them is all you have, and it is the relationship that you have cultivated with them that will help them to self regulate when they are faced on their own with sketchy circumstances. Jennifer touched upon the influence of the hormones: dopamine, oxytocin, serotonin, and adrenaline on the brain.

Subsequently, parents fill in the role of a substitute prefrontal lobe by helping their teenagers through co-regulating. The podcast “The Mental Health Comedy” with Jennifer Kolari can be found on the website [here](#).

On June 1, 2021 YCDSB released a message including a prayer to the York Catholic community to voice its solidarity with the First People members in our community and across our nation as we grieve the remains of the 215 children found at the site of a former residential school for First People children in Kamloops, British Columbia. The message provided a reminder and reassurance that “Every Child Matters.”





from the regions

OAPCE Waterloo

WCDSB has highlighted their students from their schools and how they are our “Beacons of Hope”.

A beacon is a source of light or inspiration, a lighthouse or other signal for guidance. Hope is defined as someone or something on which hopes are centred; a promise of good things to come. to read more, click [here](#).

Stress and Anxiety Boot Camp for Grades 4 to 12

As part of ongoing efforts to support Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) students and families, staff are offering two free interactive, fun information sessions about stress and anxiety and how they can be managed. These one-hour workshops — scheduled over two weeks in the summer — will help students and their families to learn and develop more ways to manage stress and anxiety.

Huron Brigadoon CES

New School- The Board of Trustees approved recommendations to change the boundaries for Blessed Sacrament,

John Sweeney, Our Lady of Grace, and St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Elementary Schools (CES). The purpose was to establish a boundary for the new Huron Brigadoon CES in advance of its opening, which is anticipated September 2022.

Youth Impact Survey

Youth in Waterloo Region between the ages 9 and 18 have the opportunity to participate in the Youth Impact Survey. The Youth Impact Survey was developed in partnership WITH young people in Waterloo Region and asks well-being questions on a variety of topics. The survey included questions about belonging, mental and emotional health, security, protection and other topics. This is an opportunity for young people to feel valued, heard and included.

Catholic Education Week – Nurturing Hope

Fr. Joseph de Viveiros, introduced us to this year’s theme of Nurturing Hope through <https://www.wcdsb.ca/nurturing-hope/> Social media was utilized by sharing how you are #WCDSBNurturingHope.



from the regions

OAPCE Toronto

The TCDSB shared the new three-year 2021-2024 pastoral plan.

Walking with Christ

With Eyes of Faith and Hope; With Hearts of Kindness and Love; With Minds of Justice and Peace

At our OAPCE Toronto meeting in April we hosted a discussion about Math de-streaming at the TCDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). The Q&A is always very informative, for everyone in attendance as we are allowed to dive deep into the material with board departments in the hope of improving our children's Catholic educational experience.

The last OAPCE Toronto meeting in June for all the Parent Council Chair and/or OAPCE Reps had Director of Education Dr. Brendan Browne attended to discuss the return to school plan for the Fall - parents also participated in a round table discussion of our challenges this past year, successes and strategies plans for the next school year.





Education Partners–Spotlight

Catholic Principals’ Council of Ontario (CPCO)

We thank outgoing President, Blaine MacDougall for his partnership this past year in working with us. Blaine has been a steadfast advocate throughout this turbulent year and thank him for his advocacy.

The CPCO has a newsletter called the Associate goes out to their entire network on a bi-weekly basis throughout the school year to take a look at it click [here](#).



Ontario Catholic School Trustee

Association (OCSTA) Congratulations to President, Patrick Daly who was elected President of the Canadian Catholic School Trustees’ Association during the Annual General Meeting on June 4, 2021. The Canadian Catholic School Trustees’ Association (CCSTA) is a national organization promoting excellence in Catholic education throughout Canada.

Ontario English Catholic Teachers

Association (OECTA) Thanks to outgoing President Liz Stuart for her continued advocacy for the past several years, Liz has been committed to supporting parents and OAPCE in her tenure and wish her well as she returns back to the classroom in the Fall.

“Individually we are one drop;
but together we are an
ocean.” – Ryunosoke Satoro



items on the radar

OAPCE is committed to supporting the re-opening and recovery plan for schools across the province.

The OAPCE Board of Directors will be meeting to close off the end of this school year.

Plans are in place to meet over the summer to continue to advocate as school board across the province finalize plans for reopening.

