

Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education Regional Meeting Highlights



FALL 2023

Introductory Prayer:

This story is a story about liberation. In a society concerned with power and status, society of the day, the child. In the first century, children had no status. They were chattels that belonged to their father. The closest friends of Jesus, the disciples, were quick to dismiss children from the gathering of the grown-ups. Jesus's indignation is evident. To his disciples he says, “Let the little children come to me”...The discipleship of equals, he says, must include children and serve their needs if we want Jesus in our midst.

For us to call ourselves “the Church,” we must seek the unaccustomed stance of Jesus. It is to stand, to preach, to serve, and to play from the bottom up – at eye level with a child - so therefore, we must advocate for all children on behalf of all parents.

Mark 10:13-16.



Commissioning Service

Currently, in our schools, parents have a unique opportunity to participate more fully and completely in the education of their children by becoming actively involved in Catholic school parent councils. Through school councils, parents have a huge and positive impact on the lives of all children enrolled in Catholic schools and on Catholic school systems, and consequently on the fabric of society. The active collaboration of parents with boards and parishes will transform schools into communities of faith formation that inspire students to search for truth and live virtuously. The Catholic school is not simply an institution in which children are educated. It is primarily a “community of believers,” bound together by faith in the Holy Trinity, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and devoted to the teaching of students for the life of the world. Parents are a vital ingredient of this “community of believers.” Catholic teaching has always upheld that parents are their children’s primary teachers of the faith. Parental involvement in schools is essential for children to thrive and mature as disciples of Jesus.



OAPCE - Who are we what do we do!

Our Mission

To Engage, Advocate, and Enhance through the strength of Our Collective Voice.

Through our connection to home, school and church, OAPCE collaborates with local and provincial education partners to strengthen the parent voice.

Our Vision

OAPCE is the voice of parents that promotes and protects publicly funded Catholic Education in Ontario.



WE ARE THE ONLY CATHOLIC PARENT ORGANIZATION REGULATED

BY THE Ministry of Education IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

TO REPRESENT THE CATHOLIC PARENT VOICE in Education Act, REg. 612:

Section 3(1)8 of Ontario Regulation 612/00 which regulates School Councils states when outlining the composition of school councils: *“One person appointed by an association that is a member of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education or Parent Partenaires en Education, if the association that is a member of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education or Parent Partenaires en Education is established.*

OAPCE is the voice of parents that promotes and protects publicly funded Catholic Education in member Catholic School boards in the province of Ontario.

How do we do it: **ENGAGE-ADVOCATE-ENHANCE!**

- ⦿ **OAPCE is a vital connection between the Ministry of Education, Catholic district school boards in Ontario, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO), the Institute of Catholic Education (ICE) the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA), the Catholic Principals Council (CPCO), the Archdiocese, regional parent's associations, school councils, and other valuable parent groups as a prominent advocate for Catholic education excellence, parental rights and student success.**
- ⦿ **Provide support to publicly funded English Catholic education in Ontario by soliciting input, analyzing and communicating results and information on matters affecting it.**
- ⦿ **Provide education and training for parents regarding school council operations, increasing parental involvement, improving student performance, faith development for themselves and their children and other matters related to education and the Catholic faith.**

How do we do it: ENGAGE-ADVOCATE-ENHANCE!



Ensure the highest quality of education for each child according to their physical, mental, social, and spiritual needs by working with the Ministry of Education in forums, workshops, and/or working groups. Ensure that our faith is infused in all that is in Catholic schools.

Provide for the welfare of children and youth and the care and protection of children by working with our partners in Catholic education to ensure the Catholic faith is modeled and infused in the curriculum and learning environments.

This year we have taken on a much larger advocacy and engaging role in our obligation to uphold parental rights, parents as first educators and to ensure that our Faith is infused in all that we do in Catholic Education. We will be launching our new OAPCE Ambassador program for those parents interested in involving themselves more in OAPCE!

How does the information flow provincially to you:

**Ministry of Education and Other Catholic Education Partners
(EDU, ICE, ACBO, CPCO, OCSTA et al)**



**Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education
(OAPCE)
Directors**



**Regional Affiliates
(OAPCE Toronto, OAPCE DP, OAPCE York, OAPCE Halton, etc)
ALL OAPCE Liaison Representatives**



PIC'S and Parent Council's

What do OAPCE Liaison representatives do?

Voting Parent Member on School Parent Council.

Be a point of contact for information sharing between OAPCE and the School Parent Council.

An OAPCE liaison rep provides all information received from their Regional Director, and OAPCE provincial to their school community.



Participate in OAPCE meetings, events/conferences. Share all information with your community & provide feedback when requested.

Help with OAPCE Call to Action.

How do these groups work together?

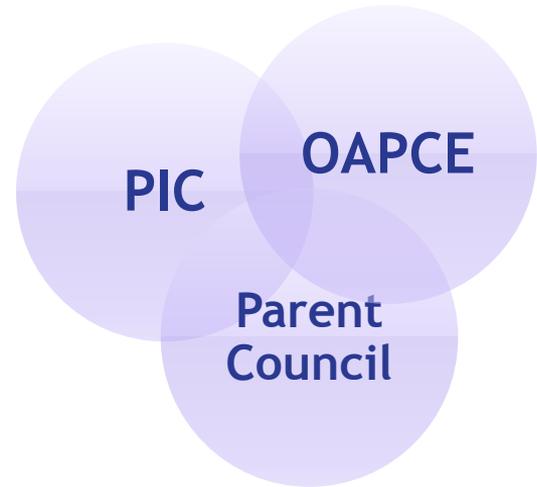
Parent Engagement groups organize, participate, promote, support, and enhance the school environment & aim to inform parents.

Receive and disseminate information down into the school councils and all parents.

Keep parents “in the know” on important policies, procedures, and current events or changes

Send information back up the “education chain”

Work in partnership to promote events such as guest speakers and conferences.

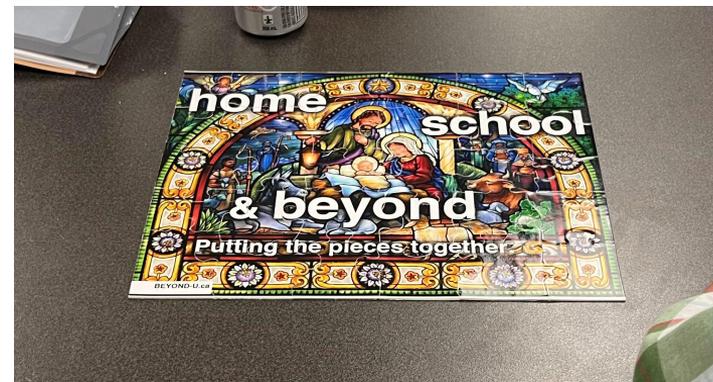
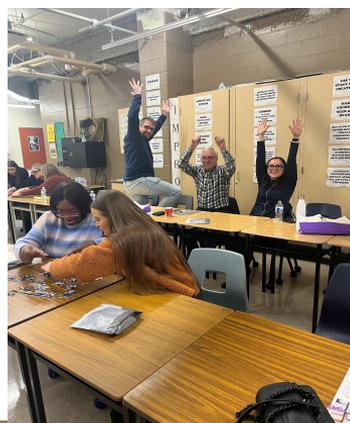


Home, School & Beyond Presentation Highlights

“We are at a crucial and critical time when we have to come together to put the pieces of Catholic Education together and to find ways to ensure that the parents’ voices are heard”. J. Perri, Co-Ed for OAPCE, began his presentation with an engaging “Puzzle-building” exercise in which parents worked together to solve the big picture.

Catholic Education is going through a challenging time with the many different issues, concerns and items that our children are facing each day, we remain committed that parents are their child's first educator and want to work with partnership with all individuals at the schools to help ensure their children achieve success, while ensuring our children are learning through a Catholic lens.





OAPCE Liaison Reps CALL TO ACTION!

For All Newly Appointed OAPCE Liaison Representatives And Anyone Interested:

- Get 10 Parents to Sign up & Subscribe for OAPCE emails & information
- Get Parents to Scan & Share the OAPCE Parents4Parents Newsletter
- Attend Regional Committee Meetings OR Sign up & Attend Virtual Check'n'Connect Meetings with all parents across the province!
- Visit our new and fresh website oapce.org
- Fill in surveys and consultations shared from OAPCE Provincial and/or your Regional Directors.

Sign Up



OAPCE 85 in 2024!

Engage -Advocate - Enhance

Our theme this year is “Celebrate OAPCE 85: A Yearlong Celebration of Change, Commitment, and Catholic Education”. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary of OAPCE, we recognize the importance of parent leadership in shaping the entire education landscape in Ontario. As part of our celebration, we are excited to unveil our new logo, symbolizing our unwavering dedication to families in Catholic education.

Stay Connected: Visit the new OAPCE website www.oapce.org to access the launch of our new and engaging blog series. OAPCE is thrilled to introduce its freshly launched website, coinciding with a significant milestone – the celebration of our 85th anniversary! This newly revamped digital hub is designed to empower parents with a wealth of resources, essential information, and advocacy tools while emphasizing the critical role parents hold as the primary educators of their children. Stay tuned for information on our upcoming 85th Anniversary AGM and Conference! in 2024!



OAPCE Regional committee meetings provide the voice for parents in Catholic Education across the province!



ENGAGE
ADVOCATE
ENHANCE

