
DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR'S REPORT

TO: DCPIC, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOL CHAIRS, STAFF AND PARENTS
FROM: LINDA DODSON TRCHALA
SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 2017 REPORT
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2017

As part of our Regional PRO Grant, funded by the Ministry of Education, the DCPIC continues to host Mindfulness sessions with Cara Southwood, mindfulness practitioner at our Parents Resource Centre in the Giffard Centre. The benefit of these sessions includes reducing stress, improving memory/creativity, increasing attention span, and reaction speeds. We have had continuous participation with this event and look forward to the coming sessions. As well, we will be having our Mind, Body and Spirit Symposium on February 11, 2017 at Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic Secondary School with our keynote speaker, Teresa Hartnett, Director of Family Ministry Office for the Diocese of Hamilton. She will be speaking about Faith and the 21st century learner.

For all the PRO Grant events and other events, please visit our website at www.dcpic.ca, for all the details.

Plans are underway for our 4th Annual Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Award ceremony. We will be honouring the outstanding parent volunteers from each of our schools on April 25, 2017 at All Saints Catholic Secondary School.

I would also like to share part of what His Holiness, Pope Francis shared regarding the Christian belief in the Resurrection of Christ and in our own resurrection in his message to the pilgrims in the Vatican's Paul VI hall on February 2, 2017:

We all have a little fear of the uncertainty of death. Each time we face our death, or that of a loved one, we feel that our faith is tested. All our doubts emerge, all our weaknesses and we ask ourselves: 'But really there is life after death ... I can still see and embrace the people I loved...?'

However, despite the fears and concerns of the community, St. Paul invites the people to hold firm to "the hope of salvation," especially "in trials and in the most difficult moments of our lives."

Christian hope is not like the everyday hopes we have, like when we hope or wish for good weather, even though we know that the weather may actually be bad.

Rather, Christian hope means to be sure that I'm on the way to something that is, not that I want to be. We should strive to live in this kind of hopeful expectation, using the image of a pregnant woman who waits in expectation to see her child.

Although this isn't always easy, we are able to learn to live with this kind of expectation that to do this requires a "humble heart, a poor heart. Someone who is full of himself and of his possessions, on the other hand, cannot place his trust in anyone but himself.

Something that touches his heart and fills him with hope, is the line from St. Paul that says: "And we shall always be with the Lord."

One nice thing: everything passes but, after death, we shall be forever with the Lord. It is the total certainty of hope.

St. Paul writes that Jesus died for us so that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. These words, are always a source of great consolation and peace.

Here is the update for this month:

February Report

- DCPIC Membership
 - a) Two available positions have opened up for parent members due to resignation.
 - b) Advertisements were placed to ensure that we fill these two positions. All parents with children currently attending our schools are eligible and are welcome to apply. For more information, please contact the office of Superintendent Leclair.

- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)
 - a) OAPCE's next quarterly meeting will be in February 25, 2017.
 - b) DCDSB will provide OAPCE a list of representatives for each school council as requested.
 - c) The 2017 OAPCE Conference location is under review.
 - d) At the January Board Meeting, we had a robust meeting (Below are some of the notes taken at the meeting)
 - Bishop Dabrowski (Bishop representative from ACBO) attended meeting – reported that Canadian Bishops go to Rome every five years as a Lumina to provide administrative and spiritual updates; including a report on Catholic Education, one-school system is always on their meeting agendas, and that funding for the Growing in Faith program is a problem for some school boards;
 - Presentation on Special Needs and a list of sacramental resources for Special Needs was provided;
 - Commitment to update the Strategic Plan and move forward with transparency and accountability; and
 - Re-energize and rebuild open, two-way communication.

- PRO Grant 2016-2017
 - a) November 2016 to June 2017 – A Year of Mindfulness lead by Cara Southwood.
 - b) February 11, 2017 – Healthy Mind, Body & Spirit Symposium
 - c) April 20, 2017 – Social Media Safety Expert Paul Davis

- Conferences/Professional Development
 - a) November 10 – Cardinal’s Dinner (Linda and Rose)
 - b) November 12 - People for Education (Linda and Kamilla)
 - c) April 2017 – Ministry of Education PIC Symposium