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## DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

### CHAIR'S REPORT

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**TO:** DCPIC, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOL CHAIRS, STAFF AND PARENTS  
**FROM:** LINDA DODSON TRCHALA  
**SUBJECT:** JANUARY 2017 REPORT  
**DATE:** JANUARY 12, 2017

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Happy New Year to you and your family! I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas with friends and family.

As we look forward to this new year, our committee will begin this year preparing for our Healthy Mind, Body and Spirit Symposium and Who is in control? You or your iPad? Presentation by Paul Davis, funded by the Ministry of Education. The two PRO Grant funded events will take place on February 11, 2017 for the symposium and April 20, 2017 for the presentation. There will be more details available shortly as they become finalized. Details will be available shortly on our site at, [www.dcpic.ca](http://www.dcpic.ca).

One of our mandates of this committee is to communicate with and support local Catholic school councils in the Durham Catholic District School Board. As part of this communication, we provided each school council with our School Council Binder. This binder requires an update due to our new website. We were hoping to have this ready at the beginning of this school year but due to some delays we are now looking at the spring. I would like to encourage our committee members to come together to make our School Council Binder the wealth of information it is meant to be for our school councils.

Lastly, I wanted to share part of what His Holiness, Pope Francis shared in his message For the Celebrations of The Fiftieth World Day of Peace, January 1, 2017:

*Jesus himself lived in violent times. Yet he taught that the true battlefield, where violence and peace meet, is the human heart: for "it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come" (Mk 7:21). But Christ's message in this regard offers a radically positive approach. He unfailingly preached God's unconditional love, which welcomes and forgives. He taught his disciples to love their enemies (cf. Mt 5:44) and to turn the other cheek (cf. Mt 5:39). When he stopped her accusers from stoning the*

*woman caught in adultery (cf. Jn 8:1-11), and when, on the night before he died, he told Peter to put away his sword (cf. Mt 26:52), Jesus marked out the path of nonviolence. He walked that path to the very end, to the cross, whereby he became our peace and put an end to hostility (cf. Eph 2:14-16). Whoever accepts the Good News of Jesus is able to acknowledge the violence within and be healed by God's mercy, becoming in turn an instrument of reconciliation. In the words of Saint Francis of Assisi: "As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that you have greater peace in your hearts".*

We need to remember that we are brothers and sister of one another; we need to care for each other just as Jesus himself did.

- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)
  - a) OAPCE's next quarterly meeting will be January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
  - b) Each school council is asked to have an OAPCE representative as per legislation.
  
- PRO Grant 2015-2016
  - a) November 2016 to June 2017 – A Year of Mindfulness lead by Cara Southwood.
  - b) February 11, 2017 – Healthy Mind, Body & Soul 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 & Kamilla)
  - c) April 2017 – Ministry of Education PIC Symposium