

Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

November 2025



Fall 2025 Newsletter

The Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC) is a statutory committee of the Durham Catholic District School Board. Our goal is to make parental engagement a priority by providing ongoing support on a system-wide basis and promoting communication and dialogue between school councils, the Board and members of the community.

Message from DCPIC Chair

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers

With the 2025–2026 school year well underway, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning families across our Durham Catholic school communities. On behalf of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC), we look forward to supporting meaningful connections between home, school, and faith throughout the year.

DCPIC began the year with our Annual Commissioning Mass, where we welcomed Catholic School Council chairs, co-chairs, and principals, and shared reflections on the valuable feedback from last spring's Parent/Guardian Survey, which continues to help shape



our direction for the year ahead.

DCPIC is committed to working alongside school councils and families in support of student well-being, learning, and faith formation. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend our monthly meetings, follow us on social media, or [visit our webpage](#) to stay informed and engaged.

We look forward to a meaningful year ahead, and to working together in faith and partnership.

Yours in Faith,

Christine Santos
Chair, Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Faith Formation

Commissioning Mass

This Fall, DCPIC held its annual Commissioning Mass to welcome new and returning Catholic School Council chairs, co-chairs and principals, as well as the committee's new parent representatives.

Following an inspiring Mass presided over by Rev. Jim Kelly, attendees heard greetings from Gerard Winn, Director of Education, and Monique Forster, 2024-2025 Chair of the Board. Katharine Stevenson, Superintendent of Education, spoke to attendees about this year's Spiritual Theme, [*Blessed are the Peacemakers*](#). Finally, Christine Santos, DCPIC Chair, summarized the 2024-2025 Parent Survey Results, while Melissa Bevan, DCPIC Vice-Chair, led groups in thoughtful roundtable discussions.

It was a great way to begin the year! We look forward to working together with our Catholic School Councils to continue supporting DCDSB students and families.



Information for Sharing

Introducing Your 2025-2026 DCPIC Members

Welcome to the new and returning DCPIC parent and community members for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Christine Santos, Chair
- Melissa Bevan, Vice-Chair
- Michelina Dos Santos, Secretary
- Pius Sudarith Vasanth Francis - Parent Member
- Lucia Lacorte - Parent Member
- Tosan Ekoko - Parent Member
- Robert van den Berg - Parent Member
- Maria Greaves-Cacevski - Parent Member
- Sharlyssa Carmichael - Parent Member
- Abigail Nazeath - Parent Member
- Kaylin Smith - Parent Member
- Michelle de Lyon - Parent Member
- Terry-Lynn Razac Huggins - Parent Member
- Bodih Makebeh Bekieh - Parent Member
- Bruno Madre Deus - Parent Member
- Edward Racho - Parent Member
- Andrea Gagliardi - Community Representative
- Annie MacPherson - Community Representative
- Renjith Xavier - Community Representative

2024-2025 Parent Survey Results

Each school year, DCPIC conducts a survey of parents, guardians and caregivers, to determine what topics and information are most important to the communities we serve. That information is then used by the committee, as well as Catholic School Councils, when planning events and sharing resources.

Highlights from this year's survey include:

- 807 responses received from families within DCDSB.
- Families would like to receive regular information about academic support, life skills and future readiness, and digital safety and technology.
- The types of faith supports that would be most helpful to families are regional celebrations connecting home, school, and parish, family craft nights, and digital faith tools.

[Click here to view the survey results.](#)



Grade 1 French Immersion Registration

Registration for a September 2026 start in Grade 1 French Immersion at DCDSB is now open!

To complete the application, login to your OSAS account, and select “French Immersion New Application”.

Registration for Grade 1 French Immersion is open until Friday, January 16, 2026.

[Click here for more information about French Immersion at](#)

[DCDSB.](#)

Check Out Our New Webpages!

We had a makeover! Our new webpages are now available for families to explore. Learn more about our committee, check out our resources, and review past newsletters, surveys and more.

[Please click here to visit our new webpages.](#)



Follow Us on Social Media



Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) @dcpic.ca for up-to-date information, tips, and news for families.

We'd love for you to join our DCPIC social media community!

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Parents and guardians are welcome to attend our Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Meetings. Our meetings are held in-person at the DCDSB Catholic Education Centre, starting at 7:30 p.m. on the dates below.

- January 8, 2026

- February 12, 2026
- March 5, 2026
- April 9, 2026
- May 7, 2026
- June 4, 2026

Website: dcpic.ca

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