

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

PARENTS4PARENTS PRESS

CONFERENCE EDITION

JUNE 2022





We praise and thank you, Lord, for the gift of this school year.
It has been a time filled with grace and blessings, with challenges and
opportunities, joys and sorrows. The days have passed quickly.

The weeks, the months, the seasons, the holidays and holy days,
The exams, vacations, breaks, and assemblies,
All have come forth from your hand.

While we trust that your purposes have always been at work each day,
Sometimes it has seemed difficult to understand and appreciate just what
you have been up to in our school.

Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer.
Let our efforts of this past year bear fruit.
Bring all of our plans to a joyful conclusion,
And bless us, according to your will,
With the fulfillment of our summer hopes and dreams.

Watch over us in the weeks of rest ahead,
And guide each day as you have done this past year.
Help us return to school with a new spirit and a new energy.
May we continue to grow In age, wisdom, knowledge and grace.
Amen.

As we look back on this school year with deep fondness, let us have gratitude for being part of many wonderful and amazing communities. We are privileged to be a part of such a patient, joyful, faith-filled and supportive communities knowing that, no matter the circumstance, we are always looking out for one another. As restrictions begin to be lifted and these challenging times become not quite so challenging, we cannot help but be reminded of how important it is to continue to ensure that our faith is at the forefront of what we do for our children as God will guide us through whatever challenge we are faced, and that we do not do it alone but within our Catholic schools and with our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

As we wind down the year with this final month of school, wish you all a safe and happy summer.





The Ontario Association of
Parents in Catholic Education

OAPCE Conference and AGM

Reclaiming and Re-Engaging Parents as Partners

On Saturday May 28, 2022 OAPCE hosted its 83rd Conference and AGM

"Reclaiming and Re-Engaging Parents as Partners" at Bishop P. F. Reding Catholic Secondary School in Milton.

The excitement was in the air as we all gathered for the first time since April 2019 at our 80th anniversary Conference. This was a much needed opportunity to come together to reclaim old connections and re-engage to meet new ones! It was at times overwhelming for many of us to finally see one another in person and have much needed human contact and connection gathering as parents in Catholic Education.

[CLICK HERE to view the conference](#)



Our first presentation from Grandmother's Voice is a group of unified Indigenous people creating a safe, secure community that advances education, knowledge, and understanding of Indigenous cultures and practices.



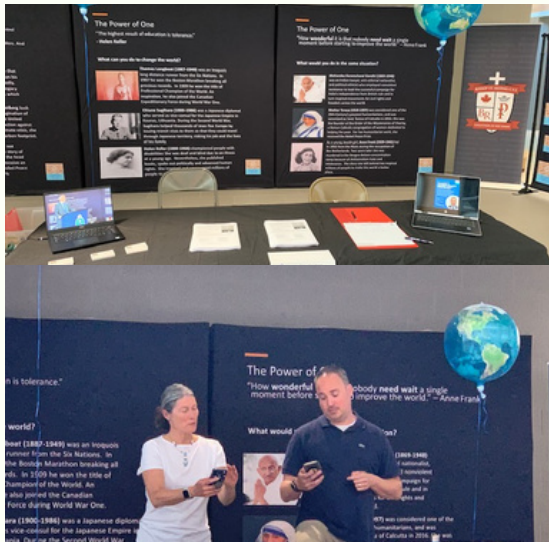
We are proud to have offered our first "Carousel of Connections" our guest presenters took to the stage to provide a brief overview of who they are and what they can offer to parents and schools. We started the day with a wonderful greeting from the Honorable Mayor of Milton, Gord Krantz and other guests



The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education

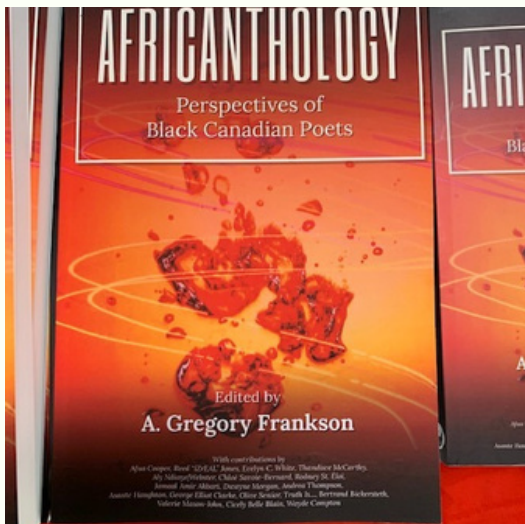
OAPCE Conference and AGM

Reclaiming and Re-Engaging Parents as Partners



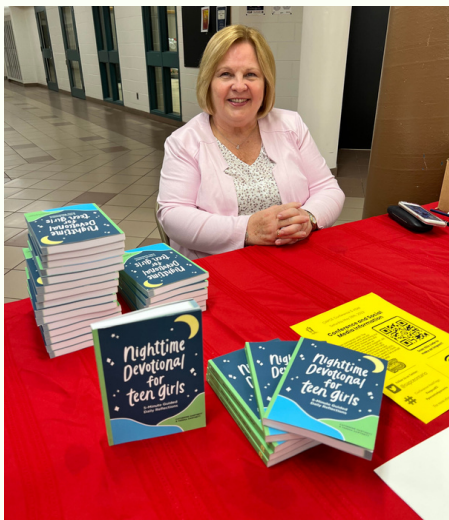
We were then joined by Dr. Neil Orłowski the Director of Education and Chair of Global Education with the Abraham Global Peace Initiative (AGPI) to present “The Power of One”. The exhibit is from the AGPI Museum for Human Rights. It was a thought-provoking, student-centric exhibit meant to inspire, and empower students around the world to stand up, speak out, and most importantly, take action to make the world a better place.

Next we had a presentation by John Del Grande on trustee elections in October 2022 titled “Calling engaged parents: Join your local school and become a Trustee Candidate”. John Del Grande who was an elected Trustee for the Toronto Catholic District School Board for 11 years (2003-2014) representing constituents in the Ward 7 community and directly represented the parents, staff and students of 24 elementary & high schools.



Greg Frankson, Ontario Certified Teacher, is a Toronto-based poet, author, educator, and community activist. He focusses on leadership, effective communication and diversity and inclusion issues. You can watch Greg Frankson for an examination of the power of words to shape relationships, foster sociocultural understanding, and impact our mental health in both positive and negative ways. He examines ways that parents can model for their children how to reclaim and assert their agency through anti-racist language.

Dare to be Youth Charity (DTBY) is a movement dedicated to empowering high school students and young adults (14-24) in the Halton/Hamilton region and beyond. They believe in the power of community as a key component of thriving and wellness. Their aim is to connect youth, facilitate opportunities for dialogue, and help them build the skills to truly thrive.



Parents as Partners: Let's Rebuild, Restore and Renew together is a wonderful presentation delivered by Teresa Hartnett, the Director of the Family Ministry office of the Diocese of Hamilton. Teresa's presentation focuses on how parent engagement is the core of our children being successful in Schools and how we can get back to this important element in Catholic education.

To wrap up our conference we were presented with valuable tools and resources from Paul Davis on Social Media Safety for our children, and as parents how we need to make sure that we are making the important decisions regarding our children's social media presence. Please follow Paul on his social media channels [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



This year we had four wonderful individuals that were given the OAPCE Honorary Lifetime Membership awards. This award is given to a person who promotes and advocates for Catholic Education as well as supports OAPCE in its mission and vision. A special congratulations to:

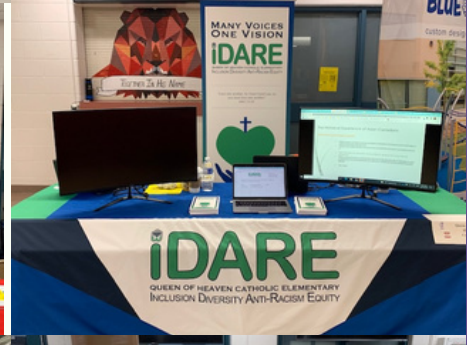
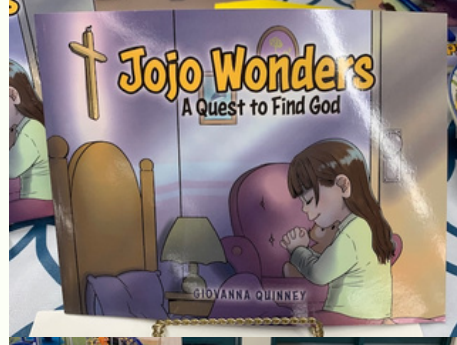
Pat Daly,
Director of Education
Halton Catholic District School Board



Mary Giardina,
OAPCE Director for YCDSB

Denice Garell-Teti,
OAPCE Director for HCDSB

Mary Licata, Parent,
long standing OAPCE Dufferin Peel Executive member.



A special thank you to everyone who came out to make it a successful conference! We are already looking at venues for our 84th next year!

IMPORTANT

As we approach the Fall Elections in October of 2022 of our Municipalities, please ensure that you are registered as a supporter of Catholic Education on the [MPAC website](#). It is very important to ensure that you have the correct school support for the purpose of voting in a school board election. It is a 5 minute task that will ensure that you are contributing to Catholic Education. You must request Separate School voter or you are not contributing to Catholic Education or can vote as a Catholic supporter!

<https://voterlookup.ca/home.aspx>

Ending With Grace

Lord and Teacher,
As we seek to end our year
With the grace you so generously provide.
We give thanks for the students, staff and parents
To this year of nurturing and growth.
We affirm all the positive moments,
Of insight, of the excitement of learning,
Of accomplishment, of creativity,
Of laughter, of a sense of community.
We recognize the times of struggle,
Of difficult work, of misunderstanding,
Even of failure-we give these
To you for transformation,
So they can become seeds
That will find fertile soil.
As we head into the summer,
May we take with us
The knowledge that
You will keep us all
In your embrace so
We may rest and be restored
And so we can continue in
The ongoing discovery
of your Love.