

PARENTS4PARENTS PRESS



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Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV



Message from OAPCE

Think Positive!


The pandemic continues to challenge us in ways we could never have predicted from navigating online learning, to homeschooling to working remotely, or not working at all. These sudden and rapid changes in the way we live coupled with uncertainty can feel overwhelming. As hard as it is, when parents stay positive, their kids can remain positive as well - it's sometimes easier said than done.

Think Positive! It will not be this way forever. This is a difficult time, but it is just that — a time. With the strength and will of God's grace, we can see and walk toward the light.

Think Positive! Recognize what we are doing well. It may be tough right now, but we have managed some things really well. Think about the physical, and mental struggles we may have encountered and look at the good way we approached and handled those challenges.

Think Positive! Remind ourselves of what is good in our life. Making a list of the good things that you are grateful for can help shift your focus.

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
Romans 15:13 ESV**



Think Positive!



ENGAGE

Virtual Indigenous Storytelling by Dr. Margaret Bingham

Indigenous storytelling focuses on the use of personal power to make the world a better place. The variety in the indigenous storytelling sessions offered can open our eyes as they give voice to Truth and Reconciliation. Indigenous storytelling creates a space that is transformative, energizing and most importantly, reaffirms for us that it is okay to care.

Check out their sizzle reel [here](#).

Voice Share Inc. Greg Frankson

OAPCE was pleased to host several meetings throughout January and February across the province. Our guest presenter was Greg Frankson a Toronto-based poet, author and educator with a focus on leadership, effective communication and diversity and inclusion issues. A two-time TEDx speaker, Greg appeared on CBC TV's Canada's Smartest Person and is the former resident poet on the CBC Radio One program Here and Now Toronto.

He also edited the critically acclaimed AfriCANthology: Perspectives of Black Canadian Poets, released in February 2022.

Greg hosted wonderful presentations that discussed how public discourse has become more vulgar and less compassionate. He offered an examination of the power of words to shape relationships, foster sociocultural understanding, and impact our mental health in both positive and negative ways. Greg examined ways that parents can model for their children how to reclaim and assert their agency through anti-racist language. These presentations provided parents with a different perspective and tools to help them foster meaningful discussions as well. You can find more info about Greg [here](#).

ADVOCATE

The Ministry of Education sought out initial feedback on a variety of topics related to the modernization of the high school curriculum, including graduation requirements, modernized learning opportunities, course types and pathways, and the curriculum review cycle.

OAPCE created a survey in Google Forms based on the Ministry of Education's questions. This survey was posted on the OAPCE Provincial website as well as emailed to our distribution list of 3500 OAPCE parents across the province. The survey was open from February 7th to 18th and garnered 290 responses.

The 290 written responses were reviewed for each question. General themes were identified among the answers in order to be able to provide quantitative data set.

Key Findings

- Many parents were not aware of the graduation requirements and those that did were not supportive of the 2 mandatory online courses.
- Regarding modernizing the curriculum many parents interpreted the question many ways. Respondents identified engagement strategies with businesses, internship programs, updating the current curriculum to reflect the current and future knowledge and skills, and consultation with post secondary institutions.
- For parents the question around course types and pathways lead to calls to get "back to basics" and "adulting 101".
- The questions related to curriculum review cycles challenged parents and many deferred to experts in their comments. The challenge was balancing the need to keep up to ever changing knowledge and skills and not overloading with too much change MOE report on survey-intro and ex summary once finalized.



ENHANCE



Over the last two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented various challenges worldwide. The Pontifical Academy for Life at the Vatican has outlined a “parallel pandemic” that has occurred. It is defined as psychosocial stress for children and adolescents that has resulted in problematic consequences for learning, family, and faith environments. To read the document **PANDEMIC AND CHALLENGES FOR EDUCATION: Children and adolescents dealing with Covid19** [click here](#).

The Vatican statement first identifies the positive resilience exhibited by youth to look towards the future despite the difficult conditions that COVID-19 has presented. It also has identified four areas to examine for the healthy re-entry of children into society to take place: 1) The reopening of schools, 2) the safeguarding of family relationships, 3) education towards a universal Christian connectedness and 4) the re-thinking of pastoral care for young people to address questions about God and the pandemic.

The Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) supports the position of the Vatican to help address potential areas of concern and the need to help parents, schools, churches, and communities to ensure academic, social, and emotional success of children and youth.

The OAPCE Board of Directors have met to discuss how OAPCE can better aid parents and other family members, such as grandparents, who play an important role in the development of home, family, and faith. As a working partner with the Ministry of Education (MOE), OAPCE is committed to helping identify issues such as learning loss and student engagement and advising the MOE about concrete solutions that come from our BOD as well as from our collective Catholic parent communities across the province.

OAPCE hopes that by engaging and advocating together with our partners to solve these problems, we can aid in mitigating serious long-term consequences in learning outcomes, absenteeism, and deficiencies in socio-emotional intelligence, for example, and enhance a brighter future for all.



Parent Partner Spotlight Ministry of Education

Details for mandatory online learning announced / Preview portal launched for 2022-23 courses

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic School Trustee?

Catholic School Trustee Workshop hosted by the Catholic Conscience. This organization is Canada's non-partisan organization for Catholic civic and political leadership and engagement. Their mission is civic evangelization through Catholic social teaching: forming citizens in the full breadth of our faith's social vision, and thereby forming our Catholic community into a diverse, influential, and gently persuasive family of voices within Canadian civil society and politics.

In the lead-up to Ontario's municipal elections in October 2022—including elections for Catholic school board trustees. This workshop is presented in partnership with the St. Monica's Institute for Education and Evangelization and the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association. More info can be found [here](#).

On February 1 2022, the province launched a [preview site for online courses](#), all delivered by TVO/TFO, so that students can begin exploring and choosing courses for the fall of 2022. The Ministry of Education also released [Policy / Program Memorandum 167](#) (PPM) mandating that students earn a minimum of two online learning credits to receive an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. The PPM also mandates that school boards provide a procedure that allows families to apply to opt out of the requirement.

Looking Forward to the Lenten Journey 2022

Pope Francis has described Lent in many ways — as a time of recovery, renewal and conversion, a time to receive the love of God and rediscover the direction of life. Looking forward, this 40-day season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving begins again on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022, and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday, April 14, 2022. The season of Lent as a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's resurrection at Easter. It is an opportunity for the faithful to undertake the practices as a means to know Christ better and follow His will more faithfully.

Lent is also the time for the baptized to renew their baptismal commitment, through these three pillars of Lent 1. Prayer, from the heart;
2. fasting from those things that interfere in strengthening a relationship with God; and
3. Almsgiving with compassion for those in need will make the Lenten journey a fruitful period of renewal.

Lamentations 3:25-26

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.



Prayer for Ukraine

God of infinite mercy and goodness, with grateful hearts we pray to you today for Peace. You offer us your peace continually (Jn.14:27) and constantly remind us that peacemakers are blessed, “for they shall be called children of God” (Mt.5:9). May your voice resound in the hearts of all, as you call us to follow the path of reconciliation and peace, and to be merciful as you are merciful.

We pray to you for the people of the Ukraine who are experiencing conflicts and deaths. Bless the leaders with wisdom, vision and perseverance needed to build together a world of justice and solidarity, and to break down walls of hostility and division.

To you we entrust all families and pray that they may never yield to discouragement and despair, but become heralds of new hope to one another in this challenging time.

May you continue to inspire all of us to oneness of heart and mind, to work generously for the common good, to respect the dignity of every person and the fundamental rights which have their origin in the image and likeness of God impressed upon every human being.

Grant eternal rest to the dead and quick recovery to the wounded, we pray through Christ our Lord, Amen!

Prayer adapted from: Pope JPII's Prayer for Peace.