

FEBRUARY 2023

PARENTS4PARENTS PRESS

Official Newsletter of The Ontario Association of
Parents in Catholic Education - OAPCE

Message from OAPCE

Peter 1:3 "Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope."

We have such a wonderful and renewed hope and joy because of Christ in our lives. For so many of us, the dawn of the New Year represents so many great new opportunities and possibilities, new hopes, new dreams, new resolutions.

Peter's message is so beautiful for all of us who are followers of Christ. We have a new life, and a new and living hope. It is why we can testify daily of the goodness of God in our lives.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the year that's past.

We pray that this new year continues to be an opportunity for renewal and growth in our lives. Lord, continue to build our faith and trust in you.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

We pray that we will keep our eyes, and heart fixed on You, O Lord.

As an OAPCE Board of Directors and with all our OAPCE Liaison representatives across the province, we hope to keep our goals and resolutions for the year and that our aspirations shall be done with peace and humility in your name.

Amen

This issue:

Message from OAPCE
PAGE 01

Message from the Liaison
Bishop
PAGE 02

OAPCE Parent Conference
PAGE 03

Parents4Parents
1Pager
PAGE 04

The Family Zone
PAGE 05



oapce@oapce.org



[@oapceontario](https://twitter.com/oapceontario)



[@oapceontario](https://www.facebook.com/oapceontario)



oapce.org

Message from the Liaison Bishop

✠ Yvan Mathieu, SM



Message from the Liaison Bishop

BY ✠ YVAN MATHIEU, SM

Dear members of the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE),

First of all, I offer you my best wishes for the new year that just began.

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Num 6:24-26)

On December 31, 2022, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI passed away. His life, his teaching and his death are a great inspiration to all of us. At the General Audience of January 4, Pope Francis spoke of his predecessor as “a great master of catechesis”. “Jesus, the risen Crucified One, the Living One and the Lord, was the goal to which Pope Benedict led us, taking us by the hand. May he help us to rediscover in Christ the joy of believing and the hope of living.”

Taking our children by the hand so that they may discover in Christ the joy of believing and the hope of living, this is precisely the mission of Catholic parents.

The last words Pope Benedict pronounced were “Lord, I love you”. What a nice way to conclude one’s life. May we teach our children how much God loves them. May we also teach them to answer him using the same words: “Lord, I love you”.

May 2023 be a year of blessings for all parents, all children, especially those involved in Catholic education. Assuring you of my prayer and blessing,
+ Yvan Mathieu, s.m.





The Ontario Association of
Parents in Catholic Education

Parents 4 Parents 1Pager

RECLAIMING AND RE-ENGAGING PARENTS AS PARTNERS

PARISH

- Have masses at church with parents/families and then have coffee in the church hall afterwards.
- Ask Parents to participate in school masses by attending, singing or reading.
- Host Fundraising events at church - i.e., bazaar, raffles, markets.



SCHOOL

- Family games! Focus on any game that also supports mathematics learning. Allow parents to share their favourite games, may even be a new game from another country which also teaches about other cultures and traditions!
- Books for Breakfast. Parents are invited to have breakfast while hearing an author read their work (and enjoy breakfast together) before school. Love of reading is encouraged, parents meet more parents and get tips on children's literature.
- Do a twist on the coffee mornings – rotate volunteers through a schedule as parent ambassadors to be outside the school at drop-off and pickup times to greet parents they had not met, introduce themselves as members of the council, and invite folks to the next gathering (and wear something that identifies you, a vest, same colour, school spirit wear).



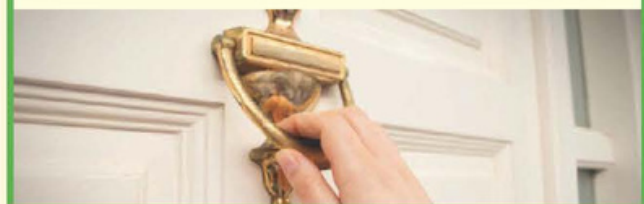
ONLINE

- Use online presence to build relationships with local businesses and politicians - tweet other businesses who are supporting the school in events and donations.
- Create a QR code for events so parents can scan to find out info.
- Create followers on social media accounts by inviting community members, past parents and alumni.



COMMUNITY

- Ask for donations from local businesses and provide them advertising at events, school newsletter or online.
- Reach out to the neighbours and local community - have parent council members knock on neighbours beside the school and invite them to parent council meetings - builds community, in turn neighbours can help at school!
- Movie night! Family movie nights with snacks before and after so families would mingle and children would connect their parents with their friends' parents. The extension to this, once families are comfortable, let the parents gather in another room as the children watch a movie under supervision of volunteers and of course, invite close neighbours and community members - what is better than watching a movie at your local school!



THE FAMILY ZONE

PRACTICAL SMARTPHONE STRATEGY

Paul Davis
Social Media & Online Safety

[CLICK HERE](#)

HOW TO BOOST A CHILD'S CONFIDENCE

Sara Westbrook
This is what I know

[CLICK HERE](#)

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

