



**Nurturing Human Rights, Dignity, and Respect:
The Significance of Family Education in Ontario
Catholic Schools.**



Exploring the significance of Family Life Education in Ontario Catholic schools, our latest blog post highlights the nurturing of compassion and respect. It underscores the collaborative synergy between schools, parents, and the community, enriched with insights from OAPCE leaders. Central to the narrative are the crucial roles of educators and principals, and we're excited to present new resources from the Institute for Catholic Education for parents. Immerse yourself in this crucial aspect of your child's educational journey by discovering these in-depth materials on the OAPCE blog.

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FAITH MESSAGE

JANUARY 2024





In the Faith Resources section, ✠ Yvan Mathieu, SM, Liaison Bishop, extends heartfelt New Year wishes to OAPCE members, invoking blessings from the scriptures and emphasizing the timely message from the Gospel of Saint Mark. Bishop Mathieu encourages Catholic parents to welcome Christ into their homes through prayer, shared meals, and reflective conversations, intertwining daily life with spiritual growth. He underscores these practices as gateways to living the mission Christ entrusted to us, transforming ordinary moments into profound opportunities to experience God's kingdom. As 2024 unfolds, Bishop Mathieu's guidance inspires us to open our hearts and let our daily actions become a living proclamation of the good news, nurturing a year rich in faith and unity.

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ENGAGE

Mark your calendars for a momentous event! We cordially invite you to an enriching all-day conference, a spiritually uplifting mass, and a splendid gala dinner. Celebrate with us at "OAPCE 85: A Celebration of Change, Commitment & Catholic Education."

 17 Dates: Friday, April 12 & Saturday, April 13, 2024

 Locations: Monsignor Percy Johnson SS, Etobicoke, and Sandman Signature Hotel, Toronto Airport

We are honoured to have the Holy Mass led by Archbishop Francis Leo. Adding to the excitement, we are thrilled to announce Karl Subban as our keynote speaker. Don't miss this opportunity to engage, learn, and celebrate the milestones of Catholic Education.

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REGIONAL MEETINGS



Please join us for one of our upcoming virtual regional meetings in February!

Title: Parent's Insight: Exploring the Benefits and Drawbacks of ChatGPT and AI Technology

Summary: This parent workshop aims to explore the impact of ChatGPT and AI technologies in schools. We'll delve into the benefits, such as personalized learning and efficient assistance, while also addressing concerns like privacy, potential biases, and the need for responsible student use. Join us for an insightful discussion on how these tools shape the educational landscape and what it means for your child as a digital citizen.

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ADVOCATE

Advocacy is the driving force behind the continuous enhancement of Catholic education, with the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) championing this essential cause. As the primary advocates for their children, parents play a crucial role, engaging actively in school councils and maintaining open lines of communication with educators. This ensures that the unique needs and potentials of each child are recognized and nurtured. Additionally, advocacy extends beyond individual efforts, embracing the collective strength of the community to support and uphold the values inherent in our faith-based education system.

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ENHANCE

Are you passionate about Catholic Education and eager to deepen your involvement? If you're already serving as an OAPCE Representative at your school and you're looking for ways to make a more significant impact, this is your opportunity. Embrace the role of an OAPCE Ambassador and represent your region! We're on the lookout for dedicated parents willing to dedicate some of their time to champion our mission and vision. As an ambassador, you'll play a crucial role in spreading OAPCE's message, organizing regional meetings, contributing to our conferences, and driving various other initiatives. If you're ready to take this step and contribute more actively, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to us at oapce@oapce.org for further details!

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PARTICIPATE IN OAPCE'S PARENT SURVEY

Your answers to this survey are important to ensure that the focus of OAPCE is aligned with your needs and to provide the Ministry of Education with data that they frequently request from us. To effectively preserve Catholic education and advocate for its continued support, we need to hear your feedback. Additionally, by demonstrating the power of our numbers, we can show the collective voice of parents in Catholic education. Your participation in this survey will contribute to our ability to advocate on your behalf.

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PARENT SPOTLIGHT: SPECIAL EDUCATION AND YOUR CHILD

Dive into our Parent Partner Spotlight & Resources for a trove of educational tools! Unleash the excitement of learning with the NBA's game-changing educational resources, featuring new activities and mascots every Tuesday. Additionally, for parents of children with special needs, Easter Seals offers an extensive resource page, encompassing everything from starting school to navigating high school and mastering Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Their enriched blog section provides invaluable insights, making Easter Seals Kids at School an essential platform for information on school-related issues for children with physical disabilities. These resources are designed to enlighten and empower your child's educational journey.



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PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



CANADIAN CONFERENCE
OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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In our Partner Resources, we highlight the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB)'s pivotal Pastoral Letter on social media, "Let Your Speech Always Be Gracious." Released on the liturgical memorial of Saint Francis de Sales, this letter delves into the significant influence of social media in modern society. Grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, it addresses social media's advantages and challenges, offering a framework for moral contemplation and introspection. The letter outlines seven essential commitments for ethical social media engagement: verifying accuracy, seeking broader perspectives, upholding human dignity, nurturing curiosity in dialogues, differentiating intention from impact, prioritizing real-life interactions, and managing online time wisely. Concluding with thought-provoking discussion questions, the Pastoral Letter serves as a guide for individuals and groups aiming to reflect on and improve their social media presence.

FAMILY AND FAITH ZONE

In our Family and Faith Zone, under Faith Resources, we're gearing up for the delightful occasion of Family Day on Monday, February 19. It's the ideal opportunity to strengthen family ties and craft cherished memories together. If you're searching for creative ways to celebrate with your elementary or high school students, look no further! Destination Ontario has put together an incredible array of suggestions to make your Family Day unforgettable. Dive into their list of activities and start planning your special day!



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OAPCE BOOK NOOK

Dive into enriching resources for personal and spiritual growth with Adam Grant's "Hidden Potential," offering insights into fostering character skills and advocating for child-centred education. Enhance your child's faith journey with engaging activities and practices outlined in "Faith Engagement with Your Children," from creative Bible story interactions to meaningful family prayers and community service. Additionally, enrich your understanding of the Catholic education landscape with the "Beyond the Bell Podcast" by the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, offering a diverse range of topics and perspectives for parents and caregivers, available through your favourite podcast platforms or directly on their website.



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