



A Celebration of Change, Commitment & Catholic Education.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Catholic Education Week
- May 14, 2024: Advocacy Day at Queens Park
- Ontario to tighten regulations on cellphone use in schools
- Archdiocese Year of Prayer
- Book Nook
- Celebrating 'wins' from OAPCE Conference

### OAPCE's Position Paper: 'Empowering Parents and Preserving Catholic Education: Ensuring Student Success and Well-being in Ontario'.

Discover the essence of Catholic education in Ontario with OAPCE's latest position paper, "Empowering Parents and Preserving Catholic Education." Learn about the critical role parents play and dive into insights from the 2023 OAPCE Parent Survey. Join us in shaping the future of education. Read more and make a difference today!



## FAITH

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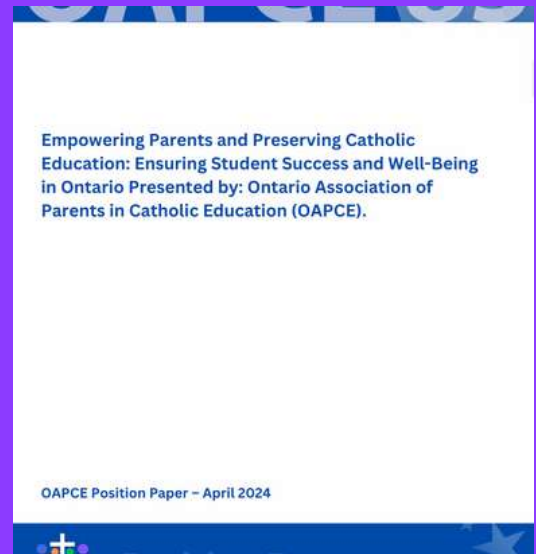
As we reflect on the recent celebration of Catholic Education Week, it's essential to recognize the enduring value of Catholic education. Rooted in the theme of #CEW2024, "We are Called to Love," the prayer shared encapsulates the core ethos of Catholic education. This prayer emphasizes the transformative power of love in action, guiding individuals to embody principles of justice, mercy, faith, hope, and joy. It serves as a reminder of the profound impact that Catholic education has on shaping individuals and communities grounded in love and compassion.

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## ENGAGE

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The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) presents its latest position paper, emphasizing the vital role of publicly funded Catholic education and the significance of parental involvement. The paper explores Catholic education's essence, drawing insights from the 2023 OAPCE Parent Survey to address community challenges and priorities. It calls for engagement to understand the transformative impact of parental involvement, student well-being, and faith formation. OAPCE invites stakeholders to join efforts in preserving Catholic education, fostering collaboration, inclusivity, and excellence in schools and communities, ensuring student success in Ontario.



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## ADVOCATE

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The Friends and Advocates of Catholic Education (FACE) hosted a Lobby Day at Queen's Park on Tuesday May 14th where the Co-Executive Directors of OAPCE and all the Catholic Partners met with MPPs and other Catholic partners to express the importance of Catholic Education. The Archbishop of Toronto, His Grace Francis Leo as well as the Minister of Education was in attendance as well as Student Trustees and other politicians. It was an opportunity to connect with all partners in Catholic Education and to hear the commitment from everyone to ensure that the Gift of Catholic Education remains prevalent in Ontario today.



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## ENHANCE

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Ontario is prioritizing student learning by implementing cell phone restrictions in classrooms starting in the 2024-25 school year. These measures include informing parents about restrictions, strengthening enforcement procedures, and investing \$17.5 million in resources for student well-being. The policy includes banning social media on school networks and devices, with exceptions granted by educators. Stakeholders, including health experts and advocacy groups, support the initiative, recognizing its potential to enhance the learning environment. The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) advocates for controlled smartphone use in high schools and restriction in elementary schools.





## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

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Pope Francis inaugurated the Year of Prayer ahead of the 2025 Jubilee, urging believers to deepen their spiritual connection. The initiative calls for rediscovering the transformative power of prayer in personal lives, within the Church, and globally. Central to this year-long journey is the Jubilee Prayer, expressing longing for God's Kingdom and commitment to fostering transformation. As pilgrims of hope, believers are called to spread the joy and peace of faith, anticipating a future illuminated by God's glory.

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## FAMILY & FAITH ZONE

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In today's fast-paced world, balancing family faith formation and navigating the digital landscape can be challenging. "Everyday Family Faith" offers practical activities for daily discussions and integration of faith into everyday life, while "Digital Minimalism" provides insights into managing the impact of digital distractions on well-being. Both resources advocate for intentional living, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing meaningful activities and fostering deeper connections within families.



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## 2024 OAPCE CONFERENCE

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OAPCE's April 13 conference at Monsignor Percy Johnson Secondary School in Etobicoke was a resounding success, thanks to attendees, sponsors, and vendors. Featuring engaging keynotes, workshops, and networking, it sparked discussions and exchanged innovative ideas for advancing Catholic education in Ontario.

Now, dive into the highlights and relive the excitement. Whether you attended or not, discover the memorable moments that continue to resonate within the educational community.

Join us in celebrating our collective achievements and keeping the conversation alive!



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## OAPCE BOOK NOOK

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Everyday Family Faith by Sandy Swartzentruber is a pocket-sized resource guide for families looking to focus on daily faith formation. The guide provides activities for discussion about Bible verses, prayer life, how to integrate faith in a fun-filled way with your children, and more from Monday to Sunday!

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