



## OAPCE Regional Report

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**Region: Nipissing Parry Sound**

**Director: Dianne Pawlowski**

**Date: Sept-Dec 2024**

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1. On September 8, 2024 Director Pawlowski attended a virtual OAPCE meeting to discuss some upcoming plans and items.
2. On October 17, 2024 Director Pawlowski attended the virtual Board of Directors meeting for OAPCE. Some of the plans for the year were discussed including the upcoming launch of the social media accounts.
3. On November 20th Director Pawlowski attended our first *virtual* meeting of the 2024/2025 school year. It was wonderful to see OAPCE parent representatives from St. Theresa, Our Lady of Fatima, Holy Cross and St. Hubert! For those unable to join, we've attached a meeting recap for your review. Additionally, I've included links to important by-laws and policies to support you in your role as OAPCE representatives.

## Meeting Highlights

**Presentation** - *SuperParents: Unlocking the Powers of Advocacy* by Joe Perri - Advocate for your child's education like a superhero! Advocacy is vital in ensuring our children receive the best education possible while preserving our Catholic values. The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) empowers parents to become advocates not just for their children but for the Catholic community as a whole. The presentation explored the importance of advocacy and how parents can amplify their voices to effect meaningful change.

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## Encouraging Connections

- OAPCE representatives are encouraged to share activities happening within their local parish, including reconciliation and First Communion preparations. Please don't hesitate to reach out if parents are seeking more information or guidance on how to connect with their parish.
- **Cool Schools** in your Region! Want to share the good work that parents are doing in their schools send us a picture and a small description and we will post on the regional Webpage! [nps@oapce.org](mailto:nps@oapce.org)

## OAPCE Executive In Action

- Our OAPCE Executives met with new Minister of Education, Jill Dunlop, further reinforcing the strong connection between our provincial government and parents in Catholic Education
- Task force for Cellphone Ban and Vaping - we want to hear from you and will be launching a survey in the new year! Stay tuned for a feedback link!

## Save the Date...

- **Conference April 2025 in Dufferin Peel** - stay tuned for more information on dates.

## A Call to Action: Supporting Catholic Education

Parents play a critical role in sustaining the vibrancy of Catholic education in Ontario. Here's how you can contribute:

1. **Designate Your Taxes:** Confirm your property taxes are directed to the Catholic school system. This simple step ensures that resources are allocated to support Catholic education. For more information, click [here](#).
2. **Vote for Catholic Trustees:** Trustees play a vital role in shaping policies and maintaining the Catholic identity of our schools. Voting in municipal elections ensures your voice is heard in selecting trustees who represent your values. Learn more about our NPSC Trustees [here](#)

Your involvement ensures Catholic education remains a strong and effective part of Ontario's school system. Please share this call to action with parents in your school communities.

### **Social Media Updates**

- Our new Instagram account is live! Follow us at [@OAPCE85](#)
- Stay updated by following us on X (formerly Twitter) [@OAPCEONTARIO](#)
- Check out our new Facebook page: OAPCE85

### **Latest Edition of *Parent 2 Parent Press***

The latest edition of *Parent 2 Parent Press* is now available [here](#). Make sure to subscribe to OAPCE communications for updates on newsletters and events: [Subscribe Now](#).

Please share the newsletter, OAPCE recap, and welcome letter with your school community at your next CSAC meeting. Encourage at least ten parents to subscribe and help spread awareness about the resources OAPCE offers.

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### **Regional Updates continued:**

4. In November, Director Pawlowski had the privilege of celebrating Mass at my parish with Bishop Colli and was joined by our NPS Parent Representative for St. Joseph-Scollard Hall. Bishop Colli reflected on his time as OAPCE Bishop Liaison in 2007, emphasizing the enduring importance of OAPCE in fostering partnerships between parents and Catholic schools.
5. Director Pawlowski also attended the **NPSC Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting**, where updates regarding OAPCE and our progress in NPSC.

Most schools now have a designated OAPCE Representative! and we look forward to connecting with each of you in the coming months. As a sitting member on the PIC Committee, we will be assisting in the planning of our local board event this spring and will host an OAPCE information table during the event.

Our NPSC *Best Practices for CSAC Chairs* session, originally scheduled for this month, has been rescheduled to January 29th. At this event, Director Pawlowski will host a parent information booth and deliver a brief presentation for attendees. We encourage all CSAC chairs to join us for this valuable opportunity to exchange ideas and strategies.

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### **Questions?**

As your NPS OAPCE Director, Director Pawlowski is here to support you. If you have any questions about OAPCE or need assistance with school council matters, please don't hesitate to contact us. For regional updates and reports, visit our website at [OAPCE Nipissing-Parry Sound](#).

Together in faith,  
Dianne Pawlowski  
NPS OAPCE Director