



2026 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 18TH, 2026

BEING A GENUINE SHEPHERD
IN AN AI WORLD

KEEP IN TOUCH
WITH US
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87th Annual OAPCE Conference
Celebrating parent engagement, voice, and partnership

A Day of Parent Engagement, Voice, and Partnership

A celebration of faith, community and Catholic education

LOCATION

St. Francis Xavier Secondary School, DPCDSB

DATE

April 18, 2026

Parents, educators, trustees and community partners from across Ontario came together for the 87th Annual Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education Conference.

The day was a powerful celebration of parent leadership, collaboration and advocacy in Catholic education.

This year's conference invited us to reflect on our role as genuine shepherds in an AI world - a message that felt timely and deeply relevant for today's families.

Attendees noted the welcoming atmosphere and the strong sense of shared purpose that defined the day.



Guiding Families in an AI World

Through the keynote presentations of Lucy Colangelo (ShineOn) and GianCarlo Brotto (PaveEdu), parents were challenged to think not only about technology itself, but about how we guide our children in using it.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Lucy Colangelo

ShineOn

A practical and encouraging message on helping children build healthy relationships, habits and resilience while navigating digital life.



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

GianCarlo Brotto

PaveEdu

A timely reflection on artificial intelligence, focus and human formation, reminding parents that guidance shapes how technology is used.

[Presentation Summary >](#)



A shared message of intentionality

Whether discussing screen time, social media or AI tools, the message was clear: how children use technology depends greatly on the guidance they receive.

"where focus goes, behaviour follows."

Grounded in Catholic teaching, the sessions reminded families that technology can serve great good when guided by wisdom, faith and a strong moral compass.



Conference Highlights & Practical Takeaways

The conference offered participants opportunities to learn, reflect, connect and strengthen the partnership between home, school, parish and board.

1 Parent Voice & Leadership

- Engage in thought-provoking sessions focused on parent voice in Catholic education
- Strengthen partnerships among home, school, parish and board

2 Breakout Sessions

- School council leadership and effectiveness
- Communication and engagement strategies
- Student well-being and achievement

3 Networking & Collaboration

- Connect with fellow parent leaders and council members
- Share ideas with education partners and board representatives

4 Key Messages from Speakers

- Parent engagement as a cornerstone of student success
- Inclusive, faith-centered communities
- Advocacy rooted in collaboration and respect

Shared Purpose

Attendees consistently noted the welcoming atmosphere and the strong sense of shared purpose that defined the day.



Special Recognitions & Awards

OAPCE Volunteer Parent Award

Ron Cooper, DPCDSB

Legacy Leadership Award

Lucy Goncalves, OAPCE Communications Secretary and Director

Lifetime Award

Sharon McMillan, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association



Thank You to Our Hosts and Volunteers

- St. Francis Xavier Secondary School (DPCDSB) for hosting and creating a welcoming space
- The planning committee, volunteers and student ambassadors whose efforts ensured a smooth and successful event
- All attendees who contributed their time, voices and passion

With Gratitude to Our Vendors & Sponsors

OAPCE extends sincere gratitude to the vendors, sponsors and community partners whose support helped make the conference experience meaningful and welcoming.



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Looking Ahead

The 87th Annual Conference reaffirmed OAPCE's commitment to empowering parents, supporting faith-based learning environments and advocating for excellence, inclusion and student well-being.

1

Empowering parents

as partners in education

2

Supporting faith

in learning environments

3

Advocating for students

with excellence and inclusion

**Together, we are stronger.
Together, we lead.
Together, we support our children.**

For more information about OAPCE initiatives and upcoming events, visit

www.oapce.org