



# PARENTS4PARENTS PRESS



## INSIDE NEWSLETTER

- OAPCE Opening Message
- Faith Message
- Engage
- Advocate
- Enhance
- Parent Partner Spotlight
- Ministry Resources
- Family & Faith Zone
- OAPCE Book Nook

## Thankful for Catholic Education

As we enter the month of Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the many blessings that Catholic education has bestowed upon our children and families. This time of year offers us an opportunity to reflect on the values of gratitude, compassion, and community that lie at the heart of Catholic teachings. OAPCE continues its mission to support and advocate for the parents and guardians of children in Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools, ensuring that these values remain strong. Together, let us give thanks for the gift of Catholic education and the role it plays in shaping our children's faith, integrity, and character. We wish all our families a blessed Thanksgiving filled with peace and joy.

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# FAITH

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OAPCE

Fall 2023 message from the Liaison  
Bishop

✠ Yvan Mathieu, SM

With the beginning of the school year 2024-2025, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) embarks on its 86th year of existence. And as we enter a new phase of the Association's history, the Gospel reading of Sunday October 6 (27th Sunday in ordinary time) is reminding us of the educational responsibility of the whole Church:



People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16)

As parents who believe in and promote Catholic education, we too bring our children to Jesus. We do want them to be touched by Jesus, the risen Lord. We want them to be in contact with his healing power. We want them to know who he really is. We want them to know that his Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has the power of changing our lives for the better. We want Jesus to touch their heart and introduce them to life, eternal life.

However, there are many obstacles that prevent our children to be touched by Christ today. At the time Jesus walked among us, the disciples tried to keep children away from Jesus. Today, many believe that children do not have to be exposed to the Gospel, to the Catholic values. In Ontario, we can count on the presence of a publicly funded English Catholic system of education in the Province of Ontario.

OAPCE is here to support our Catholic system of Education and advocate for you. We believe that parents play a crucial role in the education of their children, and we encourage you to get involved and be a part of your child's educational journey. As parents, you are the first and most influential educators of the children God gave you in his love.

As we journey with our children on the path of faith, let us learn from them to be disciples of Christ, "for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." (Mark 10:14) A child is totally dependent on his parents to survive. He or she is totally open to God's action in his/her life. No wonder Jesus declares: "Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." (Mark 10:15)

As we embark in this new school year, let us learn from our children how to receive the Gospel and live accordingly. May the way we live our faith in love and hope inspire our children. And may our commitment to our children's education make the difference in our school boards, our schools and our families. A blessed school year to you all!

✠ Yvan Mathieu, SM

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# HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS LEO

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We extend our warmest congratulations to Archbishop Francis Leo on his appointment to the College of Cardinals. This significant milestone reflects his unwavering dedication, leadership, and deep commitment to the Church. As he embarks on this new journey, we offer our prayers for his continued strength and wisdom, and we wish him every success in this blessed role. May his service continue to inspire and uplift all those he leads. Auguri!



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## ENGAGE

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During your Parent Council meetings, don't forget to appoint an OAPCE Liaison Representative. This role is crucial in maintaining a strong connection between OAPCE and your school community, holding a vote and advocating for Catholic education.

Once appointed, your principal should inform the board, and you can also email us at [oapce@oapce.org](mailto:oapce@oapce.org). We'll follow up with a welcome email and details on upcoming regional meetings, either in person or via Zoom.

For more details, click the button below.

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## ADVOCATE

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The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) is a recognized parent organization that advocates for and supports Catholic Education in the province of Ontario. Established in 1939, OAPCE works to provide information and resources to parents, as well as representing their interests at various Ministry of Education initiatives and working tables.

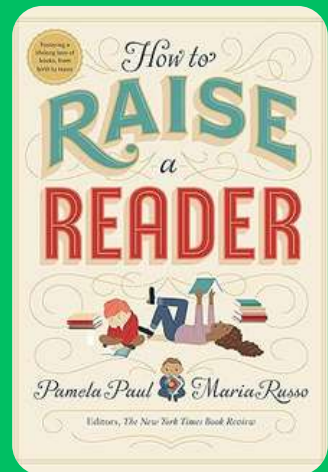


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## ENHANCE

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As a new school year begins, parents often wonder how to support their children to become better readers. There are many reasons to read. Reading provides entertainment and escapism, knowledge about the world around us, and even helps to improve language and literacy skills.



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Music has long been a powerful tool for teaching and connecting with people, especially children. Faith-based music holds a unique ability to instill spiritual messages and create a deeper connection to religious teachings. One of the most profound examples of this is the song "Our Father," made famous by Sister Janet Mead in 1973.



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## PARENT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT & RESOURCES

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### Ministry of Education Resources:

Requirements for Guest (Third Party) Speakers and Presentations in Ontario Schools

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### Ministry of Education Resources:

On June 6, the province issued Policy/Program Memorandum No. 170 – School Board Communication with Parents which outlines requirements and provides direction to school boards on communication with parents, to strengthen service standards and ensure consistent and reliable information is made available to parents across the province. Starting in the 2024-25 school year, school boards will be required to:

provide parents with information to support their active engagement in their child's education. Also develop and comply with a protocol setting out standards for acknowledging and responding to parent inquiries.

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**MediaSmarts is Canada's bilingual centre for digital media literacy. A registered charity, MediaSmarts has been conducting research, developing resources and advancing digital media literacy since 1996.**

**Research and evaluation – We conduct and disseminate original research that informs our resource development and policy issues related to all media.**

**Education – We create free, bilingual educational resources for educators, parents/guardians, and the general public, and provide internationally-regarded digital media literacy expertise.**

**Awareness and outreach – We work in partnership with organizations to advance digital media literacy in Canada and elsewhere. Learn how to get involved with our work.**

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## FAMILY & FAITH ZONE

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EWTN (Eternal World Television Network) is a global, Catholic Television, Catholic Radio, and Catholic News Network that provides catholic programming and news coverage from around the world. EWTN Family Celebration Toronto recently hosted the annual live global broadcast of the EWTN Family Celebration which was attended by Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Thomas Collins, and a host of Catholic celebrities regularly seen on EWTN broadcast and internet channels, with the theme, "Stand Firm in the Faith".

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### Faith and Wellness:

A Daily Mental Health Resource – Secondary Edition offers a collection of high-quality, everyday mental health practices to enhance students' social and emotional skills. These practices are rooted in the Catholic Faith and align with the Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations (OCSGE).

The resource was produced by School Mental Health Ontario and the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA). The practices are evidence-informed, co-created with teachers and school mental health professionals and have been vetted by youth. The practices align with Ontario's curriculum and are designed to help Catholic teachers model and teach social-emotional skills and create and sustain mentally healthy classrooms.

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## OAPCE BOOK NOOK

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Welcome to the Book Nook, a special section where we recommend inspiring and faith-filled books for parents and families. Each month, our newsletter highlights resources that can support and nurture faith-based learning and personal growth. Explore our carefully curated selections to deepen your connection to faith and family values.

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