



# YCPIC HIGHLIGHTS

Parents working together  
for education

Fall 2010

E-mail: [pbandi@rogers.com](mailto:pbandi@rogers.com)

Website: [http://www.ycdsb.ca/parents\\_students/YCPIC.htm](http://www.ycdsb.ca/parents_students/YCPIC.htm)

## Inside this issue...

Message from the Chair	1
Parent Resources	1
Best Practices for Parent Involvement	2
What's new in the schools	2
Q & A on Parent Involvement	2
Poem: UNITY	2

## Message from the Chair (Paula Bandi)

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *YCPIC Highlights*! The 2010-2011 school year is well underway. I hope all students, staff and parents have had a successful start to the school year.

The year 2010 has proven to be one of much advancement in the area of parent involvement. The Ministry of Education has introduced two new initiatives that further the government's efforts to support parent engagement in Ontario.

First, the Ontario government has now legislated that all school boards across the province must have a Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and has made an amendment to the Education Act, to indicate this. The Act explains that- "The purpose of a Par-

ent Involvement Committee is to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the board level, in order to improve student achievement and well-being."

Secondly, they have published a "Parents in Partnership: A Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools." The Policy "formally recognizes and supports a vision of parents as both valued partners and active participants, in their children's education."

The amendment and the new Parents in Partnership Policy demonstrate the importance the Ministry of Education is placing on parent involvement, in their children's education. Both the Policy and the amendment can be found on the Ministry of Education website. (See Parent Resource list below).

The York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee looks forward to open dialogue on Parent Involvement at the York Catholic District School Board. Please forward any correspondence to [pbandi@rogers.com](mailto:pbandi@rogers.com).

The YCPIC members for the 2010-2011 school year are:

- Paula Bandi - Chair
- Karen McConvey-Chapley - Vice-Chair
- Yolanda Lobo - Secretary
- Elisa Mobile - Treasurer
- Elisabeth Cacciattolo
- Rosie Cara
- David Cheung
- Gail Cheung
- Diana Corsi
- Januario De Souza
- Anita Boyle Evans
- Hanan Katerina Jibry
- James Kan
- Stephen Kerwin
- Maria Le
- Gabriella Lovisa
- Catherine Rosnuk
- Trish Rybka
- Rosanna Soda
- Helen Soehner
- Rick Tuzi
- Mario Verrilli
- Carol Cotton - Trustee
- Teresa Ciaravella - Trustee
- Fr. Michael Scorcione - Priest
- Olga Ferro - Principal
- Susan LaRosa - Director of Education

## Parent Resources (Trish Rybka)

### Websites for parents to lead to student success

1. The new Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario 2010: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement/indx.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement/indx.html)
2. York Region Anti-Bullying Coalition: [www.yorkregionanti-bullying.org](http://www.yorkregionanti-bullying.org).
3. Simple steps for your child's success: [www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/)
4. Parental Leadership James Stenson: [www.parentleadership.com](http://www.parentleadership.com)
5. Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario: [www.acbo.on.ca](http://www.acbo.on.ca)
6. Catholic Education Resource Centre: [www.catholiceducation.org](http://www.catholiceducation.org)
7. Catholic Life Coalition: [www.campaignlifecoalition.com](http://www.campaignlifecoalition.com)
8. At Home with Our Faith: [www.homefaith.com](http://www.homefaith.com)
9. Catholic Insight: [www.catholicinsight.com](http://www.catholicinsight.com)
10. Character Community Foundation of York Region: [www.charactercommunity.com](http://www.charactercommunity.com)

### YCPIC HIGHLIGHTS — CONTRIBUTORS

Gail Cheung (Editor), Gabriella Lovisa, Trish Rybka, Januario de Souza & Paula Bandi

## Best Practices for Parent Involvement (Januario de Souza)

**How Will Involving Parents Help Your Test Scores?** (From *Beyond the Bake Sale - The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*)

Engaging families in children's learning has a positive impact on student achievement. To help their kids at home, parents need to know what's going on at school. Families need to support their children's learning, both at home and at school.

Programs such as reading workshops, home learning packets, parent-run study centres, and career portfolio nights can all help students do better in school. Studies show that families of students from pre-school through high school are eager for this kind of information and will use it when they get home.

Make sure when your schools offer programs and activities to include some programs like these which are expressly designed to improve student achievement. These programs should help families:

- Get a clear idea of what their children are learning and doing in class.
- Promote high standards for student work.
- Gain skills to help their children at home.
- Understand what good teaching looks like.
- Discuss how to improve student progress.

Of course, schools should keep holding social events such as barbecues, family movie nights, cultural celebrations, etc. They're great relationship builders and they can be a lot of fun. We don't mean that every family activity should include a test-prep drill. Aim for balance. Almost any activity can include a link to learning.

What about parents who really don't want to be involved. There are some parents who are so overwhelmed with personal problems that they don't have the energy left for their children's education. In that case, we recommend finding another person in the child's life who can assist. This can be another family member, like a grandparent or a close family friend or neighbour.

## What's New in the Schools (Gabriella Lovisa)

This year's York Catholic District School Board Faith Day theme is: *Believe, Believe, Become*. What beautiful words to inspire us in our role as parents and as partners in our children's Catholic education.

The YCPIC strongly believes in and promotes effective parent engagement and involvement. By creating and implementing initiatives and activities, Catholic School Councils are creating a place where parents feel they belong, so that they can become empowered in their role of supporting student learning and achievement.

Look for the Multilingual Parenting Toolkits in your school. These kits have been developed to provide

resources to schools, families and agencies in a variety of languages as well as to provide activities that will involve and engage families new to Canada and new to our schools. This initiative has been funded through the Ministry of Education's Parents Reaching Out Grant.

Catholic School Councils are also using PRO grants to host guest speakers and create Parent Resource Centres. For example, Christ the King CES in Richmond Hill hosted a seminar on cyber-bullying prevention and internet safety by Paul Davis, as well as purchased library resources for parents.

Our Lady of Hope CES in Oak Ridges hosted Dick O' Brien in May with a presentation: Raising Resilient Children.

They invited area schools and had a great turnout.

This year, their Faith Committee is organizing a night for parents to come to the school to make Advent Wreaths, as well as providing one to each of the classrooms.

At Father Bressani Catholic High School in Woodbridge, the Catholic School Council will be surveying the community to identify and then respond to its needs and interests through speakers, workshops, and the distribution of information.

These are just a few examples of the wonderful work being done in our schools to encourage and promote parent involvement and engagement for the benefit of our children.

## Q & A on Parent Involvement (Paula Bandi)

**Is parent involvement important to the success of a student?**

Yes! Many studies have demonstrated that parent involvement leads to greater student success! When a child understands that education is important to their parents, they then realize that education matters and will work harder towards success.

**Are school communities aware of the importance of Parent Involvement?**

The concept of Parent Involvement Committees is a very new occurrence and it will take some time for the word to be spread and the information distributed. The YCPIC is working hard to develop ways to enhance Parent Involvement at the YCDSB.

**If I work full-time and can't volunteer at the school, can I still be an involved parent?**

Absolutely! Everyone's level of involvement is different. You can be involved by asking your child how their day

**UNITY**  
By Cleo V. Swarat

*I dreamed I stood in a studio  
And watched two sculptors there,  
The clay they used was a young child's mind  
And they finished it with care.  
One was a teacher; the tools he used  
Were books and music and art;  
One a parent with a guiding hand  
And a gentle and loving heart.  
Day after day the teacher toiled  
With a touch that was deft and sure  
While the parent laboured by his side  
And polished and smoothed it o'er.  
And when at last their task was done  
They were proud of what they had wrought,  
For the things they had moulded into the child  
Could neither be sold nor bought  
And each agreed he would have failed  
If he had worked alone.  
For behind the parent stood the school  
And behind the teacher, the home.*

went; staying current on what is going on in the school; attending school functions and participating in parent-teacher interviews.

**How can I become a partner in my child's education?**

The best way to become a partner in your child's education is by becoming an active

participant. When you first meet your child's teacher, let him/her know that you want to be a partner and would like to work with them to help provide the best educational experience possible for your child.