



Parents Working Together
for Education

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YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

YCPIC HIGHLIGHTS



WINTER 2016-17

Message from the Chair



On behalf of our YCPIC, I would like to extend warm greetings to all our families, and provide a few updates regarding our initiatives for the upcoming year. We are grateful for the solid support provided by our Board, schools and YCPIC members, as this creates a partnership that strives to enhance student achievement in over one hundred YCDSB schools!

On October 15th and 24th, 2016, YCPIC hosted a Parent Workshop entitled, "Connected Parenting" at Father Bressani CHS in Woodbridge and Sacred Heart CHS in Newmarket respectively. Our guest speaker, Social Worker and Child/Family Therapist Jennifer Kolari, taught parents strategies for maintaining a solid relationship with children and fostering the positive

influence that can sometimes be challenging. Both events were registered to capacity, and the parental feedback was stellar!

On November 1st, YCPIC hosted an Orientation Workshop at St. Theresa of Lisieux for 50 CSC parents representing a number of our schools throughout the Board. Information regarding CSC goals, Executive roles, PRO Grant submission, and running effective meetings was presented in order to support CSC members.

Parent engagement is a powerful factor in supporting student achievement. The focus of YCPIC is to support our Catholic School Councils in this endeavor, and to offer advice to the decision makers in our Board, all in the best interest of student success. Our YCPIC has committed to a number of initiatives to accomplish these goals this year.

The second half of this school year promises to be as informative and productive for YCPIC as the first. We will be planning our Annual Conference for the spring, utilizing funding from the Ministry of Education's Regional PRO Grant. Our sub-committees are hard at work, looking at strategies to continue to support parent engagement through communication, outreach and education. Please stay tuned for more information.

D. Psaila, YCPIC Chair

Message from the Director of Education



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As Director of Education, I am proud that York Catholic continues to be one of the top-ranked school boards in the province has earned the highest graduation rate of all English language Boards in Ontario. Key to the success of our Board is the high level of parent engagement in our schools.

Our schools invite parents and guardians to many events throughout the year including science fairs, literacy evenings, French cafés, Christmas concerts, Masses, Catholic Education Week events, guest speaker presentations, parent-teacher interviews, and so much more. When parents are involved in their children's education and attend these type of events, you send your children a strong message that you value their education by making time for it, despite how busy our schedules can be. This plays a large role in teaching children that they too, should value their education and make time for it.

Study after study confirms that parent engagement is vital to student achievement, and that it plays a major role in determining a student's overall success throughout their educational career, from Kindergarten to Grade 12, and beyond. As the Director of Education, a former administrator and teacher, I have had the pleasure and honour of connecting and collaborating with many parents in support of student achievement. Parents contribute to making our schools places of excellence and Catholic School Councils (CSCs), on a local level, and the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (YCPIC), on a regional level, play an integral role.

Jennifer Kolari Workshops @



Patricia Preston, Director of Education; Donna Psaila, Chair YCPIC @ Father Bressani Catholic High School



Father Bressani Catholic High School



Fr. Bressani CHS & Sacred Heart CSS



On October 15th and 24th, 2016, YCPIC had the opportunity of sponsoring two Jennifer Kolari workshops entitled, “Connected Parenting”, to help parents learn a technique to manage difficult episodes in our children’s lives. Jennifer Kolari’s presentations were informative and humorous. She demonstrated the technique of mirroring as a means to de-fuse a potentially troublesome situation in dealing with our children. Her technique is rooted in empathy and focusses on demonstrating understanding of the other person’s feelings, in this case, our children.

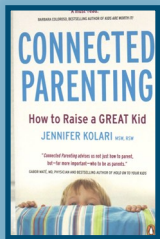
Jennifer Kolari demonstrated the mirroring technique and broke it down into the CALM components as follows:

CONNECT – Give your undivided attention, using eye contact, body and voice to match the urgency of the message your child is trying to give you.

AFFECT – Make your response match the “affect” or outward display of emotions that your child is expressing.

LISTEN – Really listen. Paraphrase, clarify, summarize and wonder out loud to let your child know that you really have heard.

MIRROR – The above three components will result in mirroring, which creates a moment of deep connection between you and your child.



Each of the parents who attended one of the two workshops received a copy of one of Jennifer Kolari’s books, which are entitled “Connected Parenting” and “You’re Ruining My Life”. These workshops were made possible by the Ministry of Education’s Regional Parents Reaching Out Grant, and YCPIC graciously acknowledges its support.



— D. Psaila-Chair YCPIC, E. Polin-De Luca



Sacred Heart Catholic High School



Catholic Education

**FORWARD
TOGETHER**

In Christ. In Community.

Walking Forward Together

L'éducation catholique: *Aller de l'avant ensemble*

Catholic Education Week Prayer

God of Mercy,

You have taught us that where two or three are gathered in your name, you are here with us.

You call us to grow in our knowledge of you, into relationship with those around us and with the world you have created.

Deepen our faith as we walk together in understanding and hope.

Lead us to a future that realizes your kingdom of peace.

May your love continue to light the path we walk.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus,
our brother and guide.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION:
**WALKING
forward
together**

Amen

L'ÉDUCATION CATHOLIQUE:
**ALLER
DE L'AVANT
ensemble**

Message from the Director of Education

...cont'd from page 1

In October, YCPIC, once again, hosted two very successful parent conferences. Thanks to Ministry funding via the Pro grant, YCPIC invited Child and Family Therapist, Jennifer Kolari, back to present to parents at Father Bressani CHS in Woodbridge and Sacred Heart CHS in Newmarket. Over 250 parents attended each conference, our largest crowd to date! Both conferences served to engage parents and encourage their involvement in supporting ongoing student achievement.

In November, YCPIC also hosted a successful Orientation Event for new CSC Chairs, Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Secretaries at St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS in Richmond Hill. The work YCPIC does in supporting and guiding local Catholic School Council members is most appreciated.

As we move forward in 2017, I look forward to continued collaborations with YCPIC and with our York Catholic parent community.



YCPIC MEMBERS—2016-2017



York Catholic
Parent
Involvement
Committee



From left to right, front row:

Sonja Da Silva: Patricia Preston, Director of Education; Marion Menezes; Maria Komljanc; Mary Giardina

From left to right, back row:

Emanuela Polin-De Luca; Rosanna Soda; Maurizio Ruberto, Treasurer YCPIC; Donna Psaila, Chair YCPIC; Deven Sandhu; Januario de Souza, Secretary YCPIC

Absent from photo:

Agatha Fallone Cretaro, Vice Chair YCPIC; Andrew Santos; Brenda Psihalos; Deven Sandhu; Johnson Irimpan; Karen Sortino; Maria Komljanec; Martina Saverino; Meeta Kirkham; Meghan Jackson; Menaka Kulendran; Nancy Rigato; Patrizia Faraone; Rosanna Soda; Sabrina Onorati; Sonja Da Silva; Tony Lorini; Nancy Di Nardo, Superintendent; Olga Ferro, Principal; Maria Marchese, Trustee; Teresa Ciaravella, Trustee; Jimmy Au-Yeung

YCPIC HIGHLIGHTS CONTRIBUTIONS: Emanuela Polin-De Luca (Editor), Patricia Preston, Donna Psaila