

Fall 2018

REGIONAL CATHOLIC

Parent Involvement Committee (RCPIC)

Welcome Back

Message from the Director of Education

On behalf of the senior leadership of the district, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for all of you that have agreed to serve on our Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Council. You have volunteered to be the voice of parents at the regional level and this is important for our district as we continue to discern a way forward that ensures improved outcomes for kids (and their families) and helps to reinforce their faith formation that starts with parents and the parish.

As you deliberate upon the ways in which you may be able to support improved outcomes for families, I would ask you to consider Kenneth Leithwood's research on 'the family path' and its importance for improving achievement.

The highest leverage ways in which a parent can improve outcomes for their children can be categorized as such:

- Expectations
- Communications
- Social Capital

'Parental expectations' (among all forms of parental involvement in schools) has the greatest impact on student achievement by a large margin. (Jeynes 2005) Simply put, people tend to rise or fall to the level of expectation that is given to them. Consider ways in which parents can help one another to understand what appropriate parental expectations may look like and how to implement them in the daily lives of families.

Parent communication with their children regarding school is almost as important. For instance, providing supportive yet firm approaches to parenting relative to school expectations can have a significant impact on outcomes for students. (Jeynes 2005) Consider finding out what the characteristics are of effective parent communication in the home and assist your fellow parents with how this may come to fruition in the home.

Lastly, parent social capital which 'includes the power and information present in parents' social relationships that can be used to leverage additional resources is also a high impact reality on student achievement. (Leithwood & Patrician 2005) Building relationships and broadening the social groups of parents to develop networks of support are important for your plans moving forward.

For a short video overview of these ideas go to ... [Parents Supporting \(Co-producing\) Learning](#).

As you explore ways to improve outcomes from students, I would ask that you consider narrowing your own learning to include some of the research notes earlier and to work with your parents and your school principal to come up with ways to use these three aspects of the family path to help our students achieve. In closing, I wish to thank you for considering leadership among your peers – we will advance our goals of improving achievement if we all work together.

Chris N. Roehrig – Director of Education

Twitter: @ChrisRoehrig

Message from Colin Phee, Chair, RCPIC

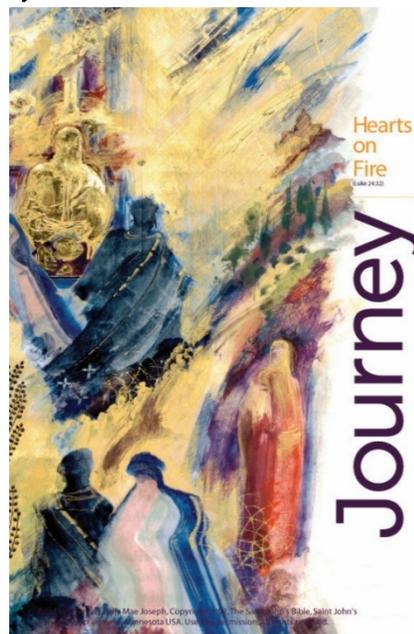
It is my honour to serve as the RCPIC Chair. This year we will continue to work closely with Catholic School Advisory Councils to promote and share effective practices that engage parents and guardians for the benefit of student achievement and well-being.

We have already communicated with Catholic School Advisory Councils asking for feedback on the following:

1. What goal would you like to be a focus for your Catholic School Advisory Council this year in relation to student achievement and well-being?
2. How can the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee support you in achieving this goal?

Our first RCPIC meeting will be taking place on Monday, October 29, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board - Catholic Education Centre at 322 Fairview Drive in Brantford and we hope to see you all there. All are welcome!

Thank you ~ Colin Phee



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Throughout the Board

EQAO Update: Numeracy

The district results from the Primary and Junior Education and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments (2017-18) highlighted scores that are above the province in five out of six categories- Primary Reading, Writing, and Mathematics and Junior Reading, and Writing. The district plans for student achievement will continue to focus heavily on identifying and closing gaps in the area of Mathematics while not losing sight of the need to continue to set high expectations for learning in the area of Literacy.

The Student Achievement team has identified the need to focus on *Essential Practices* in three key areas- Assessment for Learning, Literacy, and Numeracy. These evidence-based *Essential Practices* will form the foundation of all district and school-based professional learning opportunities for educators this year.

The district will continue with its plan in the area of Measurement this year. Teachers of grades 2 and 5 will participate in three learning modules related to the developmental progression of concepts and skills of Measurement and will enhance their learning about how those concepts and skills connect to the *Ontario Mathematics Curriculum*. Further time will be spent on effective instructional approaches that are known to foster student learning in this area.

BHNCDSB will continue to focus on *assessment for learning* and will ensure that educators are getting to know their learners in a variety of ways so they can best tailor their instruction to meet the precise learning needs of all students, in all subject areas, from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Overview of Year One: Hearts on Fire ~ Journey

The 2018-19 school year marks the first of our three-year Board Spiritual Theme rooted in the story of the **Road to Emmaus** found in the Gospel of Luke. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus journeys with his disciples. He shares the story of our faith with them and teaches us to accompany one another. The art of accompaniment is about taking the time to walk alongside one another. This gentle invitation of friendship and respectful listening leads to transformation. As members of this Catholic community, we practice accompaniment by helping one another to realize that God's story has always been designed to connect with our stories. Our own unique stories have greater purpose and meaning by knowing and living the story we share in Christ. Our faith is an incredible love story about an encounter with God. As we journey through our lives, even though we do not see Jesus, we know that he is always walking with us. This knowing enables us to share the

love of Jesus with others and offer encouragement to all those along our path.

As a result of our encounter with Christ on our journey of faith, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called to share our joyous experience with others. We live the Emmaus experience in our school communities as we witness to the Risen Lord by serving God and others. We will continue to emphasize the importance of building an interior prayer life, providing a preferential option for the poor and supporting the faith formation of staff and student leaders. Resources and training dedicated to improving our ability to be Catechists and strengthening home, school, parish relationships to accompany students and families with great respect, patience and love will be a focus this year, welcoming all to recognize Christ at the depth of awareness to which he invites us.

In our district, we will continue to practice Christian Meditation in all of our schools. We will also introduce other forms of prayer including Lectio Divina and Visio Divina, along with liturgy training, in order to raise the profile of Sacred Scripture and prayer in the lives of our students and staff. Prayer Retreat days and Catholic Leadership Retreat Days for Elementary and Secondary students will be offered this year. Opportunities to support staff faith development and well-being this year include: "Renewing the Promise" Unpacking the Pastoral Letter, Social Justice Outreach Experience Days, Paint Night on Tap and Trail Blazing.

In September 2018, the new Religious Education program, "Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ" was revealed to our Grade 5 Teachers. All Grade 5 Teachers participated in an in-service day and received their classroom resources. The Board has purchased both print and digital resources for our Grade 5 classrooms. Elementary Faith Fairs during Catholic Education Week (May 2019) will showcase student work from this new program. In October, our Elementary Schools will participate in "Go Purple Day" to raise awareness of the important role communities play in preventing child abuse. The focus of this day for our schools is to make the connection between our Board theme of "Journey" and the importance of child protection. Teachers in all schools will be provided with activities to explore with students how God calls us to accompany one another on our journeys of faith.

Finally, pre-departure sessions in preparation for our Guatemala Global South Encounter are underway. Seventeen Secondary students from all three of our high schools, along with chaperones will depart for Guatemala January 25, 2019 and return February 3, 2019. Our Elementary and Secondary Social Justice Teams are already reaching out both locally and globally to support various social justice initiatives.





STEM: Growing Innovators Update

BHNCDSB is excited to announce the expansion of its K-8 STEM: Growing Innovators program. This program is designed to expose all students to challenging learning that is designed to promote critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity and innovation. Last year's ten pilot schools explored learning around design and engineering and introductory lessons in coding.

This year we will expand on the successes as ten STEM teachers share curriculum connected lesson pathways that integrate coding, design and engineering skills to solve real world problems.

All students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 will receive focused STEM instruction aimed at changing how students think and what they are capable of. The Growing Innovators program aims to build resilience and make every student a "Maker", capable of imagining a bright future where they can actively change the world around them.

This work is intended to support and enhance the Board's essential practices in mathematics, literacy, and assessment. The STEM Consultant K- 12 will work with schools across the district to support integration of these ways of thinking into classroom instruction across the board.



WAYS TO ASK QUESTIONS...

There is value in how we ask questions to deepen our children's thinking.

Consider using open questions such as:

- ✓ Tell me more about...
- ✓ What did you notice...?
- ✓ What are you wondering about...? How can you find out about...?
- ✓ Tell me about the learning that you think has been the most important for you...
- ✓ What moves you forward in your learning/helps you to learn? What holds you back?
- ✓ What do you think you need to learn next? What are your (short or long-term) goals?

Important Dates

Regional Catholic PIC Meetings (7pm-9pm)

October 29, 2018 – Catholic Education Centre

February 25, 2019 – Catholic Education Centre

May 13, 2019 – Catholic Education Centre

System-Wide School Council Meeting 7pm

Adobe Connect Sessions

November 28, 2018 & April 10, 2019

Parent Involvement Resources

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/PIC_EN.pdf

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement/PE_Policy2010.pdf

http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/Parent_Engagement/Parent_Engagement.html