

Fall 2016

REGIONAL CATHOLIC

Parent Involvement Committee (RCPIC)

Welcome Back

Message from the Director of Education

The Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and all local Catholic School Advisory Councils figure prominently in our present and future plans. The reason for this is simple – effective schools have high levels of parent engagement. It is with this in mind that I express my gratitude to you, on behalf of the senior administration of the Board, for your commitment of time, energy and prayer in order to improve outcomes for students and families.

Improving customer service and enhancing parent and community engagement are goals that have been articulated in our Strategic Plan 2015-2018 (posted at bhncdsb.ca). We are approaching the halfway point of the implementation of our plan that has led to numerous enhancements to our ability to provide services to families and to improve engagement. Some of the initiatives that we have been actively pursuing include:

- SchoolCash Online for school-based purchases;
- SchoolConnects for automated phone/text messages to improve timely communication;
- Online subscription services for transportation updates, school newsletters and information from the Board;
- Social media presence on Twitter to showcase highlights of important events; and
- Online regional meetings between RCPIC and local school councils to roll out major initiatives.

As always, we are looking for ways to improve our service to families. The local Catholic School Advisory Council serves as an effective venue to improve our relationships with parents. In closing, we look forward to working together in support of improving outcomes for students and families. When we work together, we increase our ability to make sure that our schools can be places to learn where our students who are created in the image and likeness of God can reach their potential.

Chris N. Roehrig – Director of Education
Twitter: @ChrisRoehrig

“Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8



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Message from Edith Heleniak, Chair, RCPIC

On behalf of the BHNCD SB Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, I would like to welcome all of you back to another exciting year, supporting the Catholic education of our children. We are looking forward to working together to ensure a successful year for all of our students; your voice is important to us.

Our first meeting is **Monday, October 24, 2016 at 7:00 pm** at the Catholic Education Centre in Brantford. We encourage you to bring a friend!

Have a wonderful and blessed school year ~ Edith Heleniak

Parents Reaching Out Grants (PRO)

Many school councils have applied for Ministry of Education Parent Reaching Out grants to support school based initiatives focused on engaging parents. The following are grants approved for this school year:

- Holy Cross** – Bringing Math to Families
- Holy Family** – Calm, Alert and Learning
- Jean Vanier** – Building Capacity in Self Regulation
- Notre Dame, Caledonia** – Parent Resource Night
- Our Lady of LaSalette** – Building Strong Parent/Child Connections
- Resurrection** – Belonging to a Community of Learners
- St. Basil** – Math at Home
- St. Cecilia's** – Family Games Night
- St. Frances Cabrini** – Fostering Awareness of Emotional Well-Being
- St. Leo** – Math and Physical Literacy Family Night
- St. Patrick, Brantford** – Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies
- St. Patrick's, Caledonia** – Parent Resource Evening: Putting Pieces Together

Regional PRO Grant

Grant for 2016-17

Last fall, we surveyed our Catholic Parent Councils in order to identify topics you would be interested in learning more about. The feedback we received indicated a significant number of our school communities wanted to know more about how parents could best support their child's mental wellness. Following the receipt of your feedback, our steering committee went to work, preparing and submitting a Regional Grant Proposal that reflected the needs you expressed to us. We are pleased to announce that we were successful in obtaining this grant and look forward to sharing more information with you at our first Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting on Monday, **October 24th at 7:00 p.m.** at the Catholic Education Centre in Brantford. Additionally, I would like to thank the parent team who assisted in the creation of this grant proposal, Edith Heleniak, Colin Phee and Stephane Rouleau.

Throughout the Board

What's New in French Immersion

The BHNCD SB is excited to announce that it is currently offering French as a Second Language education to students starting in Grade One in nineteen of our Elementary Schools with the expansion of primary French in Holy Cross, Sacred Heart (Paris), and Sacred Heart (Langton) this 2016-2017 school year. In addition to our two existing French Immersion Dual Track schools Jean Vanier Catholic Elementary and St. Leo's Catholic Elementary School, our board is offering an Early French Immersion program at two new schools this year including St. Joseph's School in Simcoe and Sacred Heart School in Paris. Our high school students at Holy Trinity in Simcoe have the opportunity to choose Extended French with Religion offered in French this year. Assumption College High School offers a course called "French for Beginners" along with a modified course that is making FSL language learning inclusive for a variety of new language learners. Students from all three high schools, St. John's College High School, Assumption College High School, and Holy Trinity High School have the opportunity to take the DELF exam in May. The DELF (*Diplôme d'études en langue française*) is the official French language diploma recognized around the world. As an official certification of second-language proficiency, the DELF tests the ability of students to use French in real-life situations. We are excited to be providing French language learning opportunities for our students in BHNCD SB and look forward to the successful continuation and expansion of these programs.

The Renewed Math Strategy (RMS)

The RMS is a Ministry strategy that focuses on supporting all mathematics learners from the Early years to Grade 12. This strategy takes the latest research regarding best teaching practices in mathematics combined with what has been learned through the successful journey of improving literacy achievement among elementary and secondary students, and applies that knowledge to better support outcomes in mathematics.

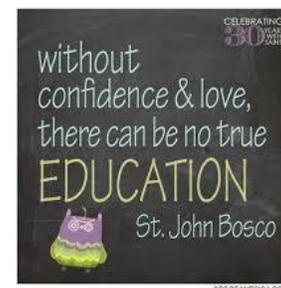
As a result of the RMS, BHNCD SB plan for Numeracy for 2016-2017 strives to embed the following key objectives:

- Increased student achievement, well-being and engagement in mathematics
- Increased principal and educator math knowledge and pedagogical knowledge
- A whole-school approach and whole-department approach to learning about mathematics and student learning in mathematics
- System support for all schools as they develop, implement, and refine their goals for numeracy
- Increased parent engagement in their children's mathematics learning

To achieve these objectives, all elementary school Educators, Early Child Educators and Special Education Resources Teachers, and all secondary school Mathematics' Department Heads, and Educators of Grade 9 and 10 Applied Mathematics, will participate in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) throughout this year which will be dedicated to numeracy development.

Educators of grades K-2 will focus on developing their understanding and that of their students as it relates to building foundational concepts of Number Sense. Educators of grades 3-6 will focus on building their understanding and their students' understanding in the area of multiplication. Our Intermediate educators will be engaged in learning more about applications of multiplication and developing those concepts back in the classroom with their students.

Intertwined in the plan is the emphasis on "assessment for learning" in Mathematics. Our goal is for educators and administrators to hone in on identifying their students' strengths and areas of need so they are better prepared to meet the precise learning needs for all of their students. In this respect, we can ensure that all PLCs will be anchored in student learning and a commitment to improving student achievement in mathematics.



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Tutors in the Classroom

BHNCDSB has been fortunate to receive funding from the Ministry of Education that has enabled us to offer the *Tutors in the Classroom* program for a number of years. Last year proved to be our most successful year yet and saw us hiring 12 Tutors in the Classroom, that in turn supported 12 elementary schools across the 2015- 2016 school year. Last years' tutors were so successful that we are seeing the return of five tutors for the 2016- 2017 school year and are currently in the process of interviewing and hiring additional tutors to serve the needs of our schools. Once hired, tutors receive training at the board level to ensure that the strategies they use while working with learners are in alignment with what is happening in the child's classroom and in the school at large. Tutors also engage in regular check-ins with both the classroom teacher and system level supports to ensure that the program is running smoothly and to monitor that the work is in fact having an impact on student achievement.

Tutors in the Classroom is a program that places postsecondary students enrolled in Ontario colleges and universities as 'tutors' to support the literacy and numeracy initiatives in primary classrooms. These postsecondary students are enrolled in programs that focus on child development and learning strategies and have a passion for playing an integral part in the growth and well-being of children. Postsecondary student tutors are a valuable resource, offering additional supports to students in the area of literacy and numeracy and in modelling the importance of lifelong learning.

The *Tutors in the Classroom* program has dual benefits, within BHNCDSB and the larger community. It benefits our primary learners and educators as they provide valuable support to our youngest learners in those critical years. At the same time, BHNCDSB is fostering the development of our tutors who, in the very near future, will be entering the child development or education field. Through this opportunity, tutors gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the educational world, while strengthening their communication, collaboration and assessment skills.



OCTOBER 5, 2016

DAVID HAAS is highly regarded as one of the preeminent liturgical music composers in the English-speaking world.

HE HAS:

- composed and produced over 50 collections of original liturgical music, which are sung and prayed throughout the world.
- written familiar liturgical songs used in parishes such as *Blest Are They, You Are Mine, We Are Called, and We Have Been Told.*
- authored more than 30 books in the areas of liturgy, liturgical music, youth ministry, catechesis, prayer, and spirituality and has served as a consultant to several catechetical and educational publishers.

SPONSORED
Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board

Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2016
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
St. Pius X Church
9 Waverly St., Brantford
Freewill offering

DR. JOANN LEAVEY

Wednesday
October 26, 2016
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Catholic
Education Centre
322 Fairview Dr.
Brantford

FREE ADMISSION

This workshop will provide a deeper understanding of mental health issues facing students and will offer compassionate-loving strategies to assist them in their well-being.

JoAnn Elizabeth Leavey is a psychologist, nurse practitioner, writer, poet, musician, pilot, and life enthusiast who has lived and worked in Vancouver, London, and Toronto. She has spoken in over eleven countries, motivating and teaching people how to help youth and others living with mental health problems.

Sponsored by:
Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board
Praxis of Faith Series 2016-17

Important Dates

Regional Catholic PIC Meetings (7pm-9pm)

October 24, 2016 – Catholic Education Centre
February 27, 2017 – Catholic Education Centre
May 15, 2017 – Catholic Education Centre

System-Wide School Council Meeting 7pm

Adobe Connect Sessions
November 29, 2016 & April 11, 2017

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



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