

# November

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## 2021

[ParentsEngagedInEducation.ca](http://ParentsEngagedInEducation.ca)

PARENTS ENGAGED IN EDUCATION



# SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 62

Welcome back to another edition of the Parents Engaged in Education newsletter. The weather is slowly beginning to turn colder, while school council work is heating up!

This month we continue to feature several topics that will keep you focused on the work ahead. We continue with our monthly list of parent council topics and activities. We have included a set of quick homework tips as well as reminders for parent council chairs for them to stay successful. Lastly but most importantly have a reminder as to why it is important to send your child to school with a positive attitude.

Once again, I encourage you to spend time outside while the weather is warm. Don't forget with things slowly starting to ramp up with the upcoming holiday season to make time for the best things in life.

Stay Safe,

Adrian Marmara

President, Parents Engaged in Education

[adrian.marmara@parentsengagedineducation.ca](mailto:adrian.marmara@parentsengagedineducation.ca)

# NOVEMBER

## PARENT COUNCIL TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES

*By Parents Engaged In Education*

**NOVEMBER'S MEETING OFTEN MAKES US REALIZE HOW QUICK THE SCHOOL YEAR PASSES! IT IS TIME TO START IMPLEMENTING SOME OF THE PLANS THAT WERE MADE LAST MONTH.**

There may be some carryover work in developing a long-term plan or completing the work to establish sub-committees. Remember to add this to the agenda and the council should work hard to complete these items in November.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL TRAINING SESSIONS**

Often school boards or other parent groups offer school council training sessions in November. These sessions are used as a way to empower members with the tools they need to run and participate in an effective school council. Every member should do their best to attend these sessions and events.

### **INCREASING PARENT ENGAGEMENT**

A must have topic for this month's agenda should be, "how to increase parent engagement". This should include both parent engagement at home and at school. This topic is a very important one and is critical to the role of the school council. Ideas to be discussed may include:

- Running a specific interactive event
- Having volunteers come in and read to classes in the library
- Building a community garden

## COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Communication committee could research and provide information on the various tools to assist in keeping parents informed such as:

1. Trustee newsletters and eblasts.
2. How parents can access news releases etc. from the board.
3. Link to the Ministry of Education news – <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/new/2013/1304.html>
4. Link to Ministry of Education “Parents Section” on their website at- <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents>
5. Encourage parents to visit the school website and/or social media feeds often to stay updated on school communications.

## PARENT SURVEY

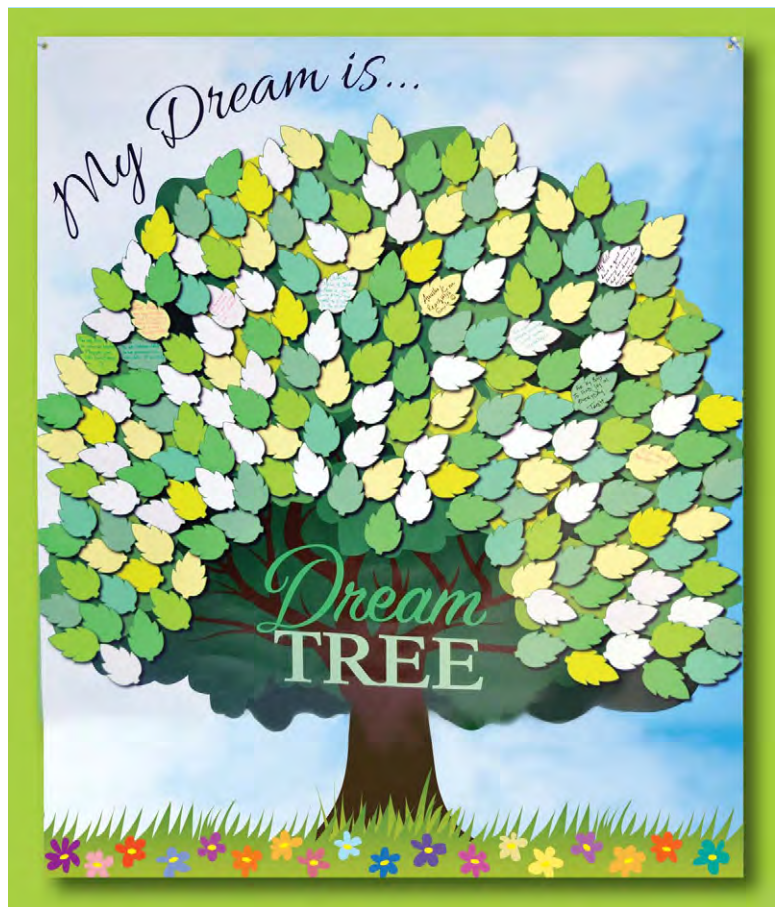
Your school council should try to determine what the viewpoints are of all parents. As a school council you will want to have a real idea of how parents would like to be engaged in their children’s education at home and at school. This is a great month to survey the parents in the school community.

By visiting this link -

<https://www.parentsengagedineducation.ca/media/docs/resources/school-council-parent-involvement-survey.pdf>,  
you can see a sample parent survey that we have put together.

## DECEMBER MEETING

Be sure to keep a lookout next month for our December – Parent Council Topics and Activities



Parents Engaged in Education have designed a **“DREAM TREE”** banner. This vinyl banner is 5’ x 6.5’ with hundreds of blank leaves for parents and students to write their dreams.

This is a wonderful example of positive messages which will inspire the entire school community all year round.

**GREAT FOR CURRICULUM OR  
PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEW NIGHTS!!**

Our aim is to raise enough funds this year to offer priority schools in challenged communities a **“DREAM TREE”** to encourage their communities to strive for the best they can be.

While we work on this program, if your school would like to purchase a **“DREAM TREE”** for your community you may do so by contacting [Theresa.pastore@parentsengagedineducation.ca](mailto:Theresa.pastore@parentsengagedineducation.ca).

**The cost is \$200.00 plus shipping**

(This is cost recovery only,  
we do not charge in excess of our cost)



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# FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE

*FEATURING*  
**CANADA'S FIRST  
EDUCATION BANK**



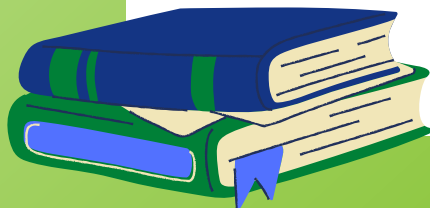
*A diverse, inclusive  
and safe space for  
ALL*

THE FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE IS LOCATED AT  
857 MILNER AVE. UNIT 104, SCARBOROUGH, ON M1B 5N6

**Our Hours of Operation Are:**

Monday, Tuesday & Saturday 10am - 3pm  
Wednesday & Thursday 12:30pm - 7pm  
Friday & Sunday Closed

**DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS, FAMILIES MUST MAKE  
AN APPOINTMENT TO COME INTO THE FAMILY SERVICE  
CENTRE/EDUCATION BANK BY CALLING: 416-546-1467**



[www.educationbank.ca](http://www.educationbank.ca)





# 12 QUICK HOMEWORK TIPS

*By Parents Engaged In Education*



**CHILDREN ARE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL WHEN PARENTS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AND SHOW INTEREST IN THEIR HOMEWORK — IT SHOWS CHILDREN THAT WHAT THEY DO IS IMPORTANT.**

**Try using these 12 quick homework tips to help your child be more successful.**

1. Know the teachers and what they are looking for.
2. Setup a homework-friendly workspace.
3. Schedule a regular study time.
4. Help them make a plan.
5. Check what needs to be done early.
6. Keep distractions to a minimum.
7. Make sure kids do their own work.
8. Be a motivator and monitor.
9. Stay calm!
10. Set a good example.
11. Praise their work and efforts.
12. If there are continuing problems with homework, get help. Reach out to your child's teacher and/or administration. Use resources such as tvoLearn or TVO mPower. Get in contact with parent support groups such as Parents Engaged in Education.

# 6 WAYS TO BE A SUCCESSFUL PARENT COUNCIL CHAIR

By Adrian Marmara

Here are some quick tips for leadership success..

## 1. BE OPEN TO NEW IDEAS

“Our school council has always done it this way in the past” is the ultimate motivation-killer. Take advantage of new input and new perspectives. Be willing to hear others point of view and to let people try things out.

## 2. MASTER THE ART OF DELEGATION

Don't be afraid to delegate tasks. Sometimes it is not possible to do everything on your own. Have faith that others want and can complete tasks.

## 3. DO NOT ASK TOO MUCH OF YOURSELF

Remembering to give yourself a break is essential to the long-term success of your group.

## 4. DO NOT ASK TOO MUCH OF PEOPLE

Avoid creating situations where volunteers are spending long hours on completing tasks and assignments. This can be especially bad for new parent volunteers. You do not want them to burn out or to decide not to volunteer in the future.

## 5. DON'T FORGET TO SAY THANKS!

Show recognition for volunteers, teachers, the principal and school support staff. A little appreciation goes a long way.

## 6. MAKE IT FUN!

Parent Council meetings can feel very formal and a bit overwhelming to newcomers. Be sure to infuse your group and your meetings with laughter and smiles to help make it likely for parents to come back.





# SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL

WITH A

POSITIVE  
ATTITUDE

*By Theresa Pastore*

RECENTLY WHILE WORKING WITH STUDENTS THAT STRUGGLED WITH BEHAVIOR THAT AFFECTED THEIR PERFORMANCE IN SCHOOL, I WAS TAKEN ABACK BY A CONVERSATION I HAD WITH A YOUNG MAN (A GRADE FOUR STUDENT). HE WAS HAVING A VERY BAD DAY. I SAT DOWN WITH HIM TO ASK IF I COULD HELP HIM HAVE A BETTER DAY. I TRIED TO IDENTIFY WHAT THE PROBLEM HE WAS DEALING WITH WAS ON THAT PARTICULAR DAY. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS FRUSTRATED BECAUSE HE HAD PUT HIS HAND UP TO GET SOME ASSISTANCE IN MATH. THE TEACHER DID NOT IMMEDIATELY RESPOND TO HIS REQUEST FOR HELP. HE REACTED BY DISRUPTING THE CLASS WITH AN OUTBURST. I ASKED HIM IF WE COULD THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO HANDLE THE SITUATION. THIS WOULD HAVE AVOIDED THE DISRUPTION TO THE CLASS AND GET HIM THE HELP THAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR.

## **“MY MOM DOESN’T LIKE MY TEACHER ANYWAY”**

He responded by telling me that “he didn’t care about his reaction because his mom doesn’t like his teacher anyway”. In his opinion, this meant that he didn’t have to like her either. It also empowered him to not respect her or the other students in the class.

I am not a trained social worker, psychologist, or an expert in child rearing. I am a mother who has volunteered in the school system for over 25 years. I have noticed an ever-increasing problem with behavior that results in students struggling to achieve their best results in school. One of the things that I have always been very aware of since my children began their educational journey, is that they absorbed my attitude towards teachers and school in general.

**ONE DAY AS WE  
WORKED ON MATH  
TOGETHER AND HE  
WAS STRUGGLING,  
I SAID CASUALLY  
“DON’T WORRY  
I HATED MATH MY  
WHOLE TIME IN  
SCHOOL”.**

## **OUR CHILDREN ARE LISTENING**

There were certainly times throughout the years that my children were in school where I had disagreements with teachers, principals and board or ministry policies. I came to realize how quickly my son picked up on my attitude. One day as we worked on math together and he was struggling, I said casually “don’t worry I hated math my whole time in school”. When it came time to do math in

class the next day, my son proudly told his teacher he didn’t need to do it. He said, “because my Mom doesn’t like math either”. When the teacher shared this with me the next day, I was really taken aback. I did not realize how much of an impact a comment that just rolled off my tongue, would have on my son’s attitude at school.

## **SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE**

As parents, the most valuable thing we can do to support our children’s education and mental health is to send them to school with a positive attitude. Can you imagine that the child whose parent says that they do not like their teacher, goes to class ready to learn? Do they work effectively with their teacher and others in the class? If a child knows their parent has a negative attitude towards their teacher or school, do we really expect that they will form a good relationship with them that allows them to flourish?

A more effective strategy when your child encounters an issue at school, would be first, to help them learn to advocate for themselves. Secondly for them to resolve the issue (with your support) in a positive manner that actually elevates them to work hard and achieve more.

Since there is so much negative media attention surrounding education funding and school system changes, it is difficult for our children to avoid hearing about them. This certainly does not have a positive effect on their enthusiasm for school and learning. As parents, the best approach in discussing these issues or answering questions your child may have, is to let them know that these are adult issues. Reassure them that if they work hard they can do well in school and achieve their dreams, regardless of what is happening.

One thing is certainly true, and you don’t need to be a professional to identify it, our children have much more stress than most of us had when we were young. The best gift we can give them is our support to build resiliency and a positive attitude towards school and life.



# Webinar: Indigenous Ways of Knowing in Teacher Education and Teaching Standards

Want to develop ethical ways of engaging with Indigenous cultures, histories, perspectives? Learn about our work to further respect Indigenous Ways of Knowing as culturally responsive practices in teacher education and teaching standards.

This free webinar is open to educators, teacher candidates and members of the public.

Monday, Nov. 29, 2021

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Register now at [oct-oeeo.ca/nov29](https://oct-oeeo.ca/nov29)



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de l'Ontario

Ontario's Teaching Regulator  
L'organisme de réglementation  
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ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT PARENT ENGAGEMENT  
AND SCHOOL COUNCILS IN ONTARIO

ONTARIO ENGLISH  
**Catholic  
Teachers**  
ASSOCIATION

**We're all  
in this *together.***



**Stay strong,  
stay safe.**



Unity is our strength.  
Education workers,  
students, parents,  
and families will  
get through this  
together.

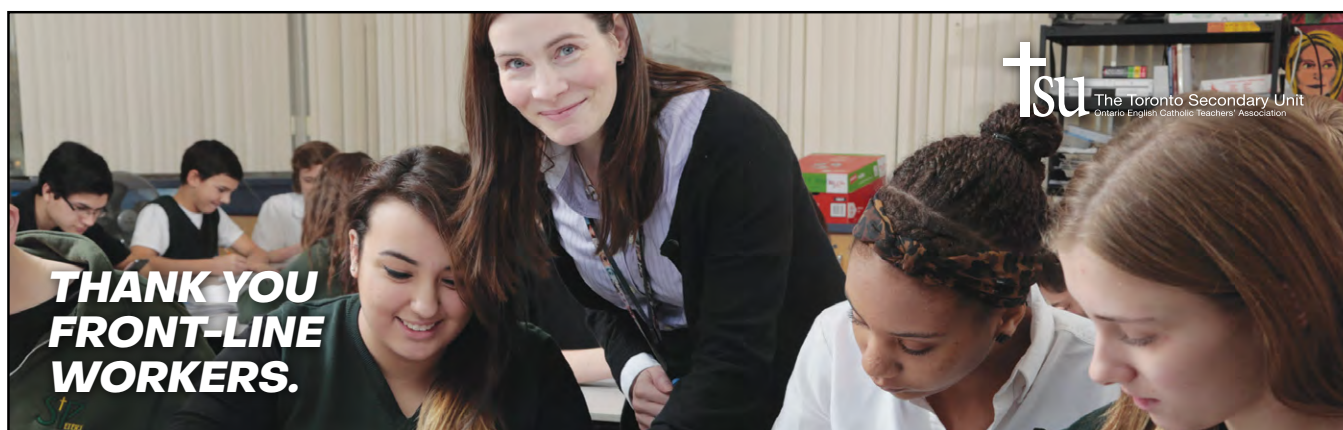
## ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND SCHOOL COUNCILS IN ONTARIO



# THANK YOU

To educators and parents for everything you are doing at home  
We stand with you as your partners in learning

[nelson.com/learningonline](https://nelson.com/learningonline) **NELSON**



## Parents

ENGAGED IN EDUCATION

Parents Engaged in Education is a not-for-profit organization formed by experienced school council members to provide resources and skill building opportunities for parent leaders across the province.

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[info@parentsengagedineducation.ca](mailto:info@parentsengagedineducation.ca)

**647-408-2091**

Follow us on twitter  @parentengagcons