



# SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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## EXCITING MONTH

October is an exciting month at Parents Engaged in Education beginning with the DREAM BIG SCHOOL COUNCIL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM which took place in Toronto on October 5, 2019.

This symposium was a great opportunity for school council leaders from across Ontario to network and learn together. This full day event at the University of Toronto provided participants with samples and

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templates to support the effective operations of school councils.

Microsoft partnered with us to offer this first-of-its-kind session that connected the samples and templates with software that would bring school council operations into the 21st century.

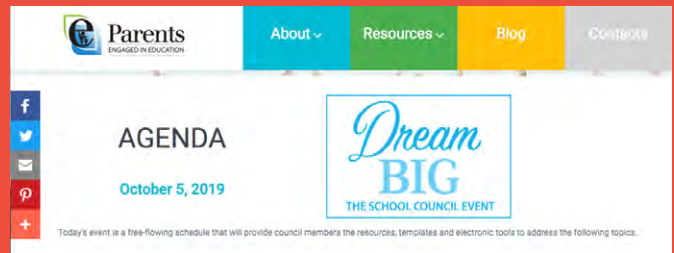
We have provided the samples and templates on our website for the use of council members who were unable to attend the event in person. The link and photos are provided in this newsletter.

The changing leaves shuffles in the fall beauty that is Ontario!! Time for families to get outside and enjoy the changing seasons.

Theresa Pastore, Executive Director, Parents Engaged in Education

*Theresa Pastore*

Executive Director,  
Parents Engaged in Education



The templates and sample documents from the DREAM BIG SCHOOL COUNCIL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM are now available at:

[www.parentsengagedineducation.ca/dreambig](http://www.parentsengagedineducation.ca/dreambig).

Keep checking back on this page as we will be posting the tools and tips from Microsoft within the next couple of weeks. We hope you will find these documents valuable to you in your role as a school council member.

Parents gather to learn, network and work together with other school council members in Ontario at the DREAM BIG SCHOOL COUNCIL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM on October 5, 2019.





The vendors at our DREAM BIG SCHOOL COUNCIL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM made this event so special with their support of parent engagement in Ontario!! Our event photography company was Photoworks and we greatly appreciate their great work which depicts this great event. We thank all vendors for their support.



**DREAM BIG -  
TOGETHER  
WE CAN MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE!!**





# PARENTS AND TEACHERS GETTING OFF TO A GOOD START

The start of a new school year is both exciting and challenging for parents and teachers. New relationships have to be formed and it is important that they get off to a good start.

Below are some quick tips for both parents and teachers to think about as they begin the new school year.

- Establish an effective communication strategy that works for both parties at the beginning of the year.
- Parents can make more informed decisions and support their children better when they have complete and accurate information regarding classroom and school expectations.
- Parents like to feel they have a voice and that is respected when it comes to their children's education.
- Helping parents understand the curriculum will assist them in working with their children to support their academic progress.
- Setting high attainable expectations means that teachers and parents can support students in taking more responsibility for their learning and encourage them to strive to increased academic success.
- When teachers make sure parents are aware of any issues which challenge a child's learning, it allows them to work as partners to address the situation and improve it before negatively affects the student's performance.
- Parents talking positively about the new school year and their new teacher will establish an optimistic attitude in their children.
- Reviewing the curriculum that will be taught in the new grade will assist parents in supporting their children during the school year. Although curriculum documents can be quite lengthy it is worth skimming through information provided at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum>



# SENDING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

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.

## **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.

**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.**

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.

Find more resources on our website – [www.parentsengagedineducation.ca](http://www.parentsengagedineducation.ca)

If you haven’t already done so, we encourage you to surf our website. We have a great list of links to other valuable parent engagement resources on our links page. If you are looking to find more articles like this one, check out the rest of our blog or visit our brochures page. We are constantly trying to add new content for parents to enjoy.



# ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND SCHOOL COUNCILS IN ONTARIO

## Resources for parents: Education experts

Want to learn more about teacher supply and demand or social media boundaries in the classroom?

Invite one of our experts to come and speak at your next school council meeting.

Learn more at [oct-oeo.ca/speaker](http://oct-oeo.ca/speaker)



Ontario  
College of  
Teachers

Setting the  
Standard for  
Great Teaching



Is your child struggling in school?



Don't hire a tutor!  
Contact us to get  
your child help at school.



### Make a Difference

You can make a difference in your child's future. The **Talk With Our Kids About Money** program uses fun activities to engage kids in discussions about money matters that are relevant to their lives. Free resources to help - organized by the age of your child.

A PROGRAM OF  
**CFEE** CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION  
FONDATEUR CANADIENNE D'ÉDUCATION ÉCONOMIQUE

SUPPORTED BY  
**Scotiabank**



Resources are available at **no cost** via the website go to:  
[talkwithourkidsaboutmoney.com](http://talkwithourkidsaboutmoney.com)



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ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT PARENT ENGAGEMENT  
AND SCHOOL COUNCILS IN ONTARIO

# BECOME A PEIE AMBASSADOR

AND BE A PART OF YOUR CHILD'S  
SCHOOL COMMUNITY



**Parents**  
ENGAGED IN EDUCATION  
*Ambassador*

*A P.E.I.E. Ambassador will...*

Promote the mission of the organization.

Share the organization's resources with their school community.

Work to engage other parents with their children and their school.

Be their child's biggest  
CHEERLEADER in school!

*For more information, visit*  
**ParentsEngagedInEducation.ca**

 **Georgian**

**Ontario's #1  
co-op college**

GeorgianCollege.ca



**Parents**  
ENGAGED IN EDUCATION

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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.

Follow us on twitter  @parentengagcons