



OAPCE Conference Workshops 2010

Theme: *Sharing the Good News*

Keynote Speaker: “Dr. Ash” leigh Molloy

Sharing the Good News

This keynote will explore the importance of "Sharing the Good News" in our role as Catholic parents today. In that role we are called to be God's messengers. We are called upon to build a school community where **all** are welcomed and feel that they **belong**. This sharing requires us to lift the words from the pages of scripture and imbed them into our daily lives. Service to other through our actions transforms these words and makes them flesh enabling us to share the good news.

About Dr Ash:

“Dr. Ash” leigh Molloy is currently Director of Transformation Education Institute where he consults and presents at international conferences on varied educational topics with a special focus on diversity issues as seen through the lens of inclusion. He is an author and internationally renowned speaker who has appeared on radio and TV. He presents at conferences worldwide. He cites course lecturing at the University of Turku, Finland, Oslo University in Norway, and presentations at the Bermuda National Conference, the World Congress Conference in Ireland held in Dublin City and the Global Summit Conference in Washington, D.C. is especially memorable. He was a Canadian presenter at the World Down Syndrome Congress in Vancouver in 2006.

“Dr. Ash” ’s career roles include: principal and system-wide administrator within the Catholic publicly funded school system of Toronto. He has taught at elementary, secondary and college levels and currently teaches special education courses (A Q) with York University (Toronto). In his previous position as a Coordinator, he applied his vision of equity among diverse cultural groups in the city by organizing an annual international education symposium for secondary students as a means of building bridges of understanding and respect for differences. He also expanded the international languages program to reflect the changing linguistic demographics of the community. His efforts were instrumental in forging linkages among community groups in the world’s most multicultural city (as designated by the United Nations in 2004).

Dr. Molloy is involved with the disability community and works tirelessly on their behalf. His community service includes his role as President of the Down Syndrome Association of Toronto, as Canadian representative on the Down Syndrome International World Congress, and as the current representative for Down Syndrome Toronto on the T.C.D.S.B Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). He also serves as a Board member with the Ontario Coalition for Inclusive Education. Dr Ash’s service initiatives have included working with Special Olympics and as Chair of the Annual GALA for DSAT a community fundraising event.



“Dr. Ash” is currently co-chair of the International Committee for TASH; a social justice international organization based in Washington DC which promotes equity, opportunity and inclusion for people with disabilities. He also serves as president with the Council for Exceptional Children Ontario (CEC). He is a member of ASCD (the Association of Supervisors for Curriculum Development) APSE (Assisting Persons Seeking Employment), MTSA (The Michigan Transition Services Association), AERA (the American Educational Research Association) and the National Resource Center (N.R.C.) for Para educators.

Lecturing to student teacher candidates at York University, to graduate students at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (University of Toronto), early childhood students at Seneca College and teaching several courses in the paraprofessional program at George Brown College is done as part of his dedication to improving the quality of education provided to students with special needs. “Dr. Ash” has spoken and presented to numerous school districts.

“Dr. Ash” has been involved with numerous humanitarian outreach projects serving countries such as Ghana where he was awarded honorary citizenship, Malawi, the Philippines, Mexico and Ecuador. He has received numerous awards from community groups, national organizations, and political leaders (Irish P.M.) for his work in education from the governments of countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

With a Ph. D. in Special Education, focused on diversity and inclusive education, “Dr Ash” received the Order of Ontario Medal from the Lieutenant Governor for leadership in education and humanitarian outreach in 2006. This prestigious honor is presented to a select few who are seen as role models for others to emulate as citizens. Recipients are seen to have demonstrated through their work a desire to build a better community for all. In 2007, “Dr. Ash” was designated as Educational Leader of the Year by the Council for Exceptional Children (C.E.C.)

In 2008 he was inducted as a Princeton Award recipient recognizing “Dr. Ash” as a global leader in the education category. In 2009 “Dr. Ash” received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Education from the Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) for his dedication to Catholic Education.

The OAPCE is proud to have a Director who is such an educated humanitarian, educating us all every day. And....we Thank you Dr. Ash for all you do for our parents and for being a voice that rings loud and clear for our children.



Workshops

Raising Children in the Faith - Tips for Parents

Christian parenting in the twenty-first century is certainly not for the faint-hearted. How do parents mediate faith with integrity in an ambivalent world, where the Christian imperatives are seldom evident? At the baptism of our children we pledged to train them in the practice of the faith, confident that the Spirit of Jesus empowers us to fulfill this task. The objectives of this workshop are as follows: (1) to provide a safe forum where parents name the “practiced faith” into which they are training their children and (2) to identify the best practices that may awaken their children’s conscience, expose them to the faith of the Church, lead them to community, nurture private and public prayer and inspire children to service for the life of the world.

Presenters: Michelle Mucci-Kirley, Brian Evoy

Michelle Mucci-Kirley

A Catholic laywoman, a wife, a parent, a minister and a theologian. Michelle is married to Sean Kirley, a teacher, and is the mother of two sons, Michael, 18 years old, and Peter, 15 years old. Her love for theology inspired her to enroll at the Faculty of Theology, St. Michael’s College (TST & UofT) where she received an M.A. and Doctorate. Michelle has ministered in a parish setting for twenty-five years, as a lay pastoral minister in areas of adult education, counseling, crisis response, family and children ministry, liturgy coordination and planning, justice, youth ministry, sacramental and school ministry and developing and implementing programs to the needs of Catholic families today. Michelle is deeply committed to the renewal of the church and the full incorporation of all the people of God, especially the young and women, into the life and mission of the Church; she is a passionate advocate for the rights of the laity and a keen promoter of the authentic partnership of family, school and parish.

Brian Evoy

Brian has been Involved with the Catholic school system in the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board for many years. He is married to Adrienne, and has three children spanning from college, high school to elementary. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and Education degree from Queen’s University and he is a graduate of St. Lawrence College in Management Development. Brian is an active member of the community, former city councilor, and participant in many volunteer organizations. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and a member of the St. Joseph’s Parish Council. Brian has been chair on two different school councils since their introduction, and he is currently chair of St. Paul’s Catholic School Council, and Regiopolis-Notre Dame High School Council. Brian is the current Past President of the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education for which he has served in many capacities including many Ministry of Education and Catholic partner’s tables for over ten years.

Talking About Mental Illness (TAMI)

This workshop is geared to parents of high school students (preferably grades 11 and 12). Our mission is to bring about positive change in young people’s knowledge about mental health and reduce the stigma that surrounds mental illness.

Presenter: David Carmichael

David Carmichael

David is a former teacher living in Niagara and the father of two daughters. He has suffered from depression since his teenage years and therefore became involved with CMHA. In 2006 David founded a public speakers group to help promote public education and decrease the stigma regarding mental illness. In 2007 David became the founding member of the TAMI (Talking About Mental Illness) program in Niagara and he is currently the program coordinator. David has over 15 years of dedicated experience as a client, Board member and CMHA Niagara employee, and he enjoys helping to dispel stigma and raise the awareness of mental health issues.



Catholic School Council Training

Presenting a framework for an effective school council, this workshop covers the structure, roles and responsibilities of council members and how to run an effective council meeting. Included will be the 10 key elements necessary to get your council off to a flying start at the beginning of every school.

Presenter: Ian McDermott

As a member of school councils, regional committees and a Director for the OAPCE, Ian has an extensive knowledge of effective councils. He brings his experiences from Burlington where his children have had the blessing of being educated in our Catholic Schools.

HIGH on LIFE- A pro-active response to drug and alcohol use

This is not just another “**don’t do drugs**” program...where the goal is to simply scare teens away from drugs and alcohol. This program has a positive message and within the message, teens can see for themselves that there are healthy alternatives to a life involving drugs and alcohol.

Presenters: Dr. David Barry and Rhiannon Burkholder

Rhianon Burkholder

Rhianon has worked for (formerly) Hotel Dieu Hospital and Niagara Health System for over 20 years. For the last decade she has worked in Addiction Services. The program High on Life is one that was brought to Niagara as a pro active approach to drugs and alcohol use among teens. Rhianon has 3 teens currently attending Catholic school and she is passionate about providing our youth with some understanding and knowledge of drug and alcohol use. She believes in giving everyone the option of a healthy choice.

Dr. David Barry

Dr. David Barry is the Manager of Outpatient Addiction and Withdrawal Management Services for the Niagara Health System. Previously, he was the Executive Director at the Alcohol & Drug Treatment Centre (Niagara). Dr. Barry has worked for over fifteen years in various settings within the addiction treatment system in both Canada and the United States. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Toronto, a master’s degree in Consumer Behaviour from the University of Guelph and a doctorate in Environment and Behaviour Studies (Environmental Psychology) from the University of Missouri – Columbia.

Friends and Advocates for Catholic Education - FACE

This workshop will highlight the challenges and opportunities for Catholic education in the 21st century with a focus on community engagement. Lou will present an overview of the FACE project, its goals and the importance of parent engagement.

Presenter: Lou Rocha

Lou Rocha was designated Project Manager for Friends and Advocates for Catholic Education in October 2008. Prior to taking on this position, he was the Executive Director of the Catholic Principals’ Council of Ontario -CPCO (2000-2008). Lou is a graduate of the Toronto Catholic board as are his wife and their three children. Lou’s educational experience includes 28 years as a teacher, principal and vice-principal with the Toronto Catholic District School Board. His undergraduate degrees are from St. Michael’s College and York University. Lou earned a Master’s degree in education administration from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. He has been active in building organizations throughout his career and he is committed to using those experiences in his role with the FACE. Project. Through his career he has received awards from the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE), the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA), the Toronto Principals’ Association, the Toronto Catholic athletic association and the Catholic Principals’ Council of Ontario. He has been active in the music ministry at Annunciation Church in Toronto for the past 19 years. His pastimes include golf, travel and home renovations.



Facebook 101

A comprehensive presentation that covers all aspects of Facebook including the importance and specific criteria of adding friends, how to minimize predator and stranger risks, the impact of a students' Facebook profile and the newest basic, advanced and hidden privacy settings.

Presenter: Chris Vollum

An Oakville-based resident and recognized authority on Facebook & Twitter, Chris' grade eight daughter wanted to join Facebook because "everyone else was on it." As Chris researched Facebook's philosophy toward both user privacy and the handling of user-posted content on Facebook, he was shocked at the significant level of security and privacy flaws that the social networking site exhibited

Catholic Trustees – On Your Side, At your Service

There is much to celebrate in Catholic education when we focus on the purpose of our existence – bringing Christ to life in the lives of our students. The focus is the same for a trustee as it is for parents involved at the school council level – why then can't we just get along?

Presenter: Kathy Burtnik, Chair - Niagara Catholic District School Board

Kathy Burtnik is a Mother of 5, grandmother of 1 and a A trustee since 1994. She is also the Chairperson for the Niagara Catholic District School Board and a director on the Ontario Catholic School Trustee Association (OCSTA). Kathy is a long time volunteer coach of high school and club rowing as well as a member and supporter of many charitable organizations. She is extensively involved on many board committees – SEAC, regional catholic school council, policy, negotiations, ARC, boundary review, school closure Board member, First Ontario Credit Union

Online Courses and Resources: An Enriching Way to Learn

Do you have a child or teenager looking for a different kind of learning experience? Perhaps your son races through work that others struggle with and you want to keep him challenged. Maybe your daughter turns off during face-to-face lessons or zones out when class isn't practical or immediately relevant. If this sounds like one or your kids then check out the e-learning courses and resources the Ministry of Education provides free to all provincially-funded school boards. Come see our more than 18,000 learning resources in the Ontario Educational Resource Bank at www.ontario.ca/elearningontario. We'll have you and your kids clicking along in no time.

Presenter: Rose Burton Spohn

Rose Burton Spohn joined the e-Learning Ontario team in March 2005. She was an English teacher and guidance counselor with the London District Catholic School Board for almost fifteen years, Rose was a student, teacher, writer, and project manager of Catholic e-learning courses before moving to the Ministry of Education. Her current work assignment allows her to offer professional development sessions across the province.

Students & the Law

This workshop will focus on how different pieces of legislation, including the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Provincial Statutes, can impact youth, families and schools

Presenter: Nadine Wallace - Niagara Regional Police

Nadine Wallace was a police officer for over 20 years, working as a front-line officer, school resource officer, bail officer, enhanced domestic violence investigator and now as the Service's Youth Justice Co-ordinator.



Sexuality and Fertility Awareness for Teens

Do you cringe at the thought of talking to your teen about sex? This workshop will provide parents with a fresh, positive and Catholic outlook on human sexuality and fertility. We will address common concerns of teens and parents in today's sexually explicit culture.

Presenter: Michelle Griepsma

Michelle Griepsma lives in Lindsay with her husband Jim and their four children. She is a Creighton Model Fertility Care Practitioner and has worked with engaged couples through Diocesan Marriage Preparation Programs for 15 years. She has been a guest speaker for women's groups and classrooms throughout the province sharing her enthusiasm for enhanced fertility awareness and appreciation of the Church's teaching on human sexuality.

Teacher – Parent Partnership

Parents as partners are an essential relationship for our schools to facilitate. This session will provide a perspective on the teacher parent relationship from a newly graduated teacher and from an experienced school administrator. It definitely takes two to TANGO!

Presenter: “Dr. Ash” Leigh Molloy and Christina Poto

Please see the keynote speaker description for the biography of “Dr. Ash” Molloy.

Christina Poto

Christina is an educator within the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB), exhibits her passion for teaching and her desire to impart knowledge in her everyday interaction with her students. With an Honours degree in English from York University, and a Bachelor of Education from Niagara University in Ontario, Christina's most recent accomplishment includes the completion of Special Education with York University. Following this experience, Christina has sought out opportunities to become actively involved with the Down Syndrome Association; participating in the Annual Christmas party and writing articles for the monthly newsletter. Presently, Christina is working in collaboration with “Dr. Ash” to promote the initiative of “Parents as Partners”, and aspires to continue advocating in favour of this current issue in education.

Positive Intervention

Positive Intervention explores how we use the knowledge of individuals with Special Needs and Positive Behaviour Supports to reduce and even avoid physical crisis behaviour. This workshop focuses on the important fact that as educators, parents and those who care for and about individuals with Special Needs we have both the power and responsibility to modify environments so as to keep everyone safe.

Presenter: Ed Mahoney

Ed Mahoney is a Special Education Resource Teacher with the Hamilton Wentworth Catholic School Board whose role it is to support students and teachers in the classroom. Ed teaches this program at Mohawk and Conestoga College and provides qualification courses for OECTA.

Family Devotions in the Home and at School Council

Beyond fun-raising in your school, the Ministry of Education defines your advisory role in it's handbook but what defines the role of the 'Catholic' school council? It is their Catholic identity. Syl will introduce you to two projects that promote parental involvement and engage Church participation.

Presenter: Syl Roach

Syl Roach has been involved as a parent volunteer in Catholic education for 22 years. She served in her children's schools' CPTAs, (now Catholic School Councils), both as a member and as a chairperson, and she continues to be involved on the Niagara Catholic District School Board's FACE Project. She helped establish the Regional Catholic School Council as a vehicle for the schools of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to network. She served as the Regional's chairperson for four years, and she continued her work on its Catholic Education Advocacy Committee. She is a member of St. Thomas' Aquinas CWL in St. Catharines, and she offers the Rosary Circle and Teaching Mass programs to the students and families of the local Catholic School. Syl is dedicated to Catholic Education, and she is passionate about the difference it can make in a child's life.