

2017 Conference Workshops

Workshop	Presenter	Session	Synopsis
Student Wellness and Faith: Neurology, Faith, and Inclusion	Michael Way Skinner is the coordinator of Religion, Family Life and Equity for York Catholic District School Board, in Aurora, Ontario. From Irish and Native ancestry, Michael was born the ninth of ten children in a small village in Newfoundland. As the family chef, he is the one primarily responsible for ensuring there are enough fish and barley loaves for everyone in the family. He has been a teacher for over twenty years and has extensive experience writing curriculum. Michael has a particular passion for teaching World Religions, Holocaust Education, Equity and Inclusivity and	1A, 2A	This workshop explores the neurology of the human brain and the positive impact that faith messages, faith action, and inclusive education can have on the neurological development, self esteem, resiliency and mental wellness of students.

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Lessons from the Foot of Grandmother's Rocker	for fostering religious literacy for students, parents and educators. He is a contributing author to the textbook - World Religions – A Canadian Catholic Perspective. He sits on the executive of Catholic Association of Religious Educators of Ontario (C.A.R.F.L.E.O.).	Christine Way Skinner is 1B, 2B	Rooted in stories from real family life, this workshop will look at how the teachings and traditions of the past can provide us with lessons that can help us achieve balance and perspective in a world that has made us us too busy, too anxious and too scattered to enjoy life.
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the Catholic Kids' Library. She would probably have finished the doctorate in theology she began years ago if she and her husband Michael had not begun raising a household of children. When she is not doing laundry or trying to find inclusive, compelling and creative ways to pass on the church's 2000 year old traditions, you can find her looking at art, reading, gardening or trying to convince her children that they really do love to play board games with her.

Social Networking Safety

Paul Davis brings 26+ years of IT knowledge and expertise to his speaking engagements – he has presented to over 252,000 students from

1C, 2C

Topics include: Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, etc.), Digital Trails vs. Digital footprints, Texting, Sexting, Cyberbullying, Smartphones/Handheld Devices, Online Gaming, Passwords and Image Distribution.

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Grade 4-12 in Ontario, Alberta to Quebec to Nevada in over just 4 years! Relating to kids as a Father himself, and to parents as a professional both presentations are targeted so that each audience leaves with a wealth of knowledge and empowerment for their respective age level!
Socialnetworkingsafety.net

Youth Speaks!

Una Wright

Founder / Team Coach for YouthSpeak which was inspired by her own family's experience with mental health challenges. She has been training at-risk/resilient youth in leadership and public speaking skills for over 20 years and believes that giving a voice to life challenges brings pays-it-

1D, 2D

Youth Sharing Personal Stories: trained youth speakers share their experience with mental health challenges. Followed by a discussion with a focus on how their own parents were helpful and what they could have done differently, and exploring a range of solutions. A Tip Sheet composed by the youth will be used as a tool to guide the conversation.

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forward to empower, provide hope and inspire change. Trained youth speakers, through sharing their lived experience, provide workshop participants with raw, real and relatable information to draw on in their relationships with their own youth.

**Our Children,
Our Hope -
Healthy in
Mind, Body and
Spirit**

**Teresa Hartnett,
Director of Family
Ministry Office**

Teresa Hartnett works as the Director of Family Ministry for the Diocese of Hamilton. She has degrees from McMaster and Brock Universities and a Masters in Religious Education from St. Augustine's Seminary through the University of Toronto. She is also certified in a variety of family and

2E

What we do will impact their future and who they become. This workshop will look at the ways that we can help our children grow to be strong in body, mind and spirit!

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marriage programs. Her experience with numerous agencies and committees gives her extensive knowledge in faith, school, family, communication and parenting issues.

The New OAPCE – Parents as Partners

Annalisa Crudo-Perri has been a parent advocate for over 10 years which has led to her role of OAPCE Provincial Vice President and OAPCE Toronto President

1E

OAPCE is a leader in advocacy for Catholic Education in the province. This workshop will answer the questions and discuss:

1. Who is OAPCE
2. What parents need
3. How to get parent support for your students.
4. How to communicate to parents.
5. Using parents as partners.

But I don't Know How to Paint

Nick Biagini attended Neil McNeil High School in Scarborough. He attended

1G, 2G

Nick will guide you through the process and give you the tools of recreating a selected painting, and inspire you to

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University of Toronto receiving an Honors Degree in 1984. He received a B. Ed from York University in 1991 and completed a Masters in Education degree from York in 2001. Nick is a self taught artist who was painting primarily in oils but since his return from Sicily, he has switched over to acrylic. This he feels makes his work more environmentally friendly. He has had many successful exhibitions in Toronto and has completed many commissioned works in Canada, South America and Europe. Today Nick is a Principal with the TCSDB and he shares this passion for painting with the many

create your own unique masterpiece using painting as a strategy to bring out the real you. Materials will be provided. You will amaze yourself at your own talent and lead you on the path of de-stressing through art.

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wonderful students and teachers who have allowed him the opportunity to bring out their inherent creativity through the act of painting. Nick is now the artistic director of Biagini's Colours where he teaches painting classes to students from grade 3 and beyond.

**Special
Education:
Experience the
Learning**

Bruno Pileggi is a Literacy Resource teacher with the Toronto Catholic School Board and an Instructional Leader for York University teaching additional qualification courses for teachers. He has worked in the area of special education for many years servicing children and their families in the area of Autism,

1H, 2H

This workshop will explore a Variety of ways to engage students with special needs through play based activities. You will be given the opportunity to experience the classroom through the eyes of the Exceptional Learner. Engage Parents by first Engaging yourself.

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education and mental health. He also supported families as Senior Manager for TCDSB Parenting and Family Literacy Centres.

2U Concert Presentation

Errol Lee is a multi-award winning singer-songwriter and hugely youth conscious advocate. He grew up in very difficult and challenging circumstances; however, he has used those experiences as lessons in how to live a life of character. Errol Lee's unique performance style seamlessly weaves singing and dancing into a comprehensive educational experience that transcends the 'cool barrier'. His ability to captivate and inspire

1J, 2J

This 2U Concert Presentation Workshop supports wellness and achievement. You will be engaged and inspired as we look at this important commandment of Jesus, to discover how God loves us passionately so we may discover how to love others compassionately.

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audiences of all ages has
made him an asset to the
educational community.