



**Joint Educational Parent Advisory Group**  
**34 Sandy Drive, Stoney Creek, ON L8E 4X5**  
Visit us at <http://www.hwcdsb.ca/parents/jepag>

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**2009/2010  
Executive**

**Co-Chairpersons**

Luisa Conti  
905-643-6837  
Our Lady of Peace CES  
Cardinal Newman CSS

Angel-Anne Vecchiola  
905-929-0831  
St. Eugene CES

**Secretary**

Barb Watts  
905-548-0386  
Cathedral CSS

**Treasurer**

Michele Piccini  
905-628-2182  
St. Mary CSS

**Communication**

**Coordinator**

Helen MacLeod  
905-679-9352  
St. Marguerite  
D'Youville CES

**School Council**

**Liaison**

Fabio Pettorossi  
905-870-2623  
St. Mark CES

**Past Chair**

Lisa Rao  
905-679-3991  
Bishop Tonnos CSS

**November 19, 2009**

- Meeting called to order by co-chair Luisa Conti, all were welcomed and JEPAG introduced themselves.
- Opening prayer – Luisa Conti and Lisa Rao

**Mrs. Nancy DiGregorio, Superintendent of Education –  
Speaking to Our Catholic Identity**

Mrs. Nancy DiGregorio blessed us with her years of insight and experience in Catholic Education and the progression of publicly funded education in Ontario. She reminded us of the attributes that identify us as “Catholic” – much more than a school uniform:

- The Beatitudes – living the Beatitudes, with Jesus Christ at the centre of everything we say and do
- The Gospel teaches us it is our responsibility to take care of our brothers and sisters
- Our Catholic schools aim to develop the whole child spiritually, physically, emotionally
- Annual Pilgrimage – to build schools for less fortunate countries – giving back is part of who we are, it builds our character.
- Eco schools – it's God's earth – we must respect it, and care for it as we only have the good fortune to “borrow” it
- Diversity conference/camps – exemplifying our uniqueness and equality, board-wide it is our responsibility to treat all with respect
- Challenges moving forward – whether or not we will continue to have publically funded education and for how long remains a constant question; we must be prepared to answer for ourselves – why do WE choose Catholic schools for our children and are we prepared for the challenges that may come our way in our efforts to keep publicly funded Catholic education alive in our province?
- Websites – please check with the HWCDSB website for more information on Christian service hours opportunities and Confirmations.

Mrs. DiGregorio's message rings clear to all of us – our Catholic identity is a blessing in and of itself, keeping Jesus Christ at the centre of all we say and

do; moreover, we must appreciate our ability to celebrate our Catholicity in our schools – our ability to pray together, to discuss God, Jesus – the bible freely in our classrooms, to proudly display in our schools the symbols of our faith.

**Teresa Hartnett – Year of the Family**  
**December 26, 2009 – December 26, 2010**

Mrs. Teresa Hartnett, with news of the celebration of the “Year of the Family” beginning with the Feast of the Holy Family on December 26, 2009. Mrs. Hartnett reminded us that Jesus was born into a family and lived in a family for 30 of His 33 years.

- The theme for this year-long celebration:
- “Family Matters: Loving, Living, Learning...Growing in Faith”
  
- Calendars have been designed for the Year of the Family
  
- Information cards with “door openers” and “door slammers” – communication and relationship tips for parents and families
  
- Retreats will be held
  
- Posters will be distributed to the schools
  
- Family Conference will be the main event, scheduled to take place October 15 – 17, 2010 at the Hamilton Convention Centre. Programs, activities and/or care specific for children, teens, adults and families. More information to come.
  
- Members of the Year of the Family team will be available to speak or host a retreat at your school – book early!
  
- Bishop will send out a Pastoral Letter to read at the start of the Year of the Family and Prayer Cards will be provided to each parish

Mrs. Teresa Hartnett, as always, brought us the kind of information that ties our triad together – Church – School – Family; sharing her excitement and enthusiasm in our decision as parents to hold on to Christ as our foundation.

Donations – it is customary for JEPAG to make donations to Board approved charities on behalf of our guest speakers as our way of saying “thank-you”; both Mrs. DiGregorio and Mrs. Hartnett have chosen Birthright; for more information on Birthright, please visit: [www.birthright.org](http://www.birthright.org)

Door Prizes – Congratulations to Lori, Monica and George!

Next Meeting – Thursday, January 21, 2010