

# PARENT COUNCIL TOOL KIT – RESOURCE LIBRARY

## Parent Councils – what we do...

Parent Councils play a vital role in the education system in Ontario. They provide a forum through which parents and other members of school communities can contribute to improving student achievement and well being and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

The Board believes that relationships between its schools and their communities can be enhanced through the establishment of local Parent Councils which serve as an ongoing mechanism for effective two-way communication and consultation between the school and the school community. Every school in our district has a School Council.

Parent Councils also have the opportunity to arrange opportunities for councils to network to develop ideas, learn about Board/provincial initiatives, and share challenges, opportunities, and effective practices. Parent Councils are given the opportunity to provide feedback on programs, policies, principal profiles and profile for the Director of Education, to name a few.

## Parent Councils help:

- empower and support parent involvement and engagement in our schools;
- represent a parent voice in Ministry and school board consultations;
- seek parent input on ministry and school board consultations;
- increase, facilitate and support communication between parents and the school board;
- provide opportunities for parents to develop useful skills to support their student;
- provide and support professional development opportunities for school councils; and
- act as a resource for parents and school councils on parent engagement and involvement.

To find out more about your Parent Council, please visit the council section of your school's website.