



NISPA

NETWORK OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS OF ONTARIO

2021-2022 Annual Report

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2021/22 Annual Report



2021/22 Board

Domenica Coppa

CHAIR

Holy Trinity School

Tanya Giaquinto

VICE CHAIR

St. Michael's College School

Krystie Robinson-Vincent

PAST-CHAIR (EX-OFFICIO)

Pickering College

Susan Ianni

TREASURER

Holy Trinity School

Kathy Vucic

SECRETARY

Appleby College

DIRECTORS

Nicol Domingues

Sterling Hall School

Bishop Strachan School

Jo Hanna

Ridley College

Jackie Sklenka

Crescent School



Thank You to our Board members who are moving on:

Jo Hanna
Jackie Sklenka

It has been amazing having you all on the team!

Thank you for your dedication, commitment and all for that you have done to help NISPA succeed over the years.

Your contributions have been invaluable!

2022/23 Board Nominations

NISPA's Nomination Committee is pleased to present a slate of Board members for election at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on May 25, 2022.

Nominees

Chair	Tanya Giaquinto
Vice Chair	Kathy Vucic
Treasurer	Susan Ianni
Secretary	Kathy Leeder
Directors	Emily Bernhard
	Nicol Andrea Domingues
	Alnar Meghji
	Krystie Robinson Vincent
Ex-Officio	Domenica Coppa

A Message from the Chair

It has been another wonderful year at NISPA! We hosted many informative and collaborative events as well as introduced some new ones. Most of the events were held virtually due to our priority to follow COVID-19 protocols. However, once it was safe to do so, we were able to plan our first ever social gathering. The Annual General Meeting was also an in person event

and was held at the Weston Golf and Country Club. It is our hope that the programming we continued to offer this year fostered NISPA's purpose which is to facilitate the professional development, networking and collaborative sharing of ideas among parent associations.

This year we also incorporated the theme of True Belonging which author, Brené Brown, defines as "the spiritual practice of believing in and belonging to yourself so deeply that you can share your most authentic self with the world and find sacredness in both being a part of something and standing alone in the wilderness. True belonging doesn't require you to change who you are; it requires you to be who you are."

We continued to value the importance of reaching out to the school communities and working collaboratively with the amazing professionals and volunteers who offered their expertise and resources. At our Welcome Breakfast, we learned about the Success Analysis Protocol used at Holy Trinity School which helped us to promote success within our teams and within our communities. In November, we worked with Ridley College to learn about Positive Psychology



and practical ways to incorporate it in our lives both professionally and personally. In January, we partnered with Havergal to learn how the digital transformation of education is evolving and its effect on students, teachers and parents.

In April, NISPA welcomed Sarah Craig, Executive Director of the Conference of Independent Schools (CIS), to share how the network supports leadership and excellence in independent school education. Anand Mahadevan, the incoming Executive Director of Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS), also joined us to explain the important role CAIS fulfills through its accreditation process.

In October, we also had the opportunity to collaborate in an interactive way at the NISPA Roundtable by discussing questions posed by our membership. At the Carousel Event in February, we worked together to create a valuable resource which included member recruitment, structure and best practices for parent associations.

We also promoted connection and the sharing of ideas among Shop Managers. Both the workshops in November and May had great attendance and participation with lively discussions. Best practices on managing shops, supplies and inventory were a few of the topics covered.

The two new events that took place this year were both held at the end of March. The first was a Book Talk on Brené Brown's book, *Atlas of the Heart* which tied in well with our theme of True Belonging. The second was the previously mentioned social event which was the first time we could meet face to face and reconnect after two long years!

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of serving as this year's Chair. It has truly been an absolute pleasure getting to know everyone and working alongside all the amazing volunteers and community leaders. Your enthusiastic support and participation at all our events have been very much appreciated.

A heartfelt thanks to the members of the Board. I am humbled by your talents, creativity and commitment to this organisation. I have learned so much from each of you and I am honoured to call you friends as well as colleagues.

I would like to extend a warm welcome and congratulations to the incoming Chair, Tanya Giaquinto. The future of NISPA is in good hands with her thoughtfulness, passion and dedication. We are lucky to have her leading the Board and the entire network.

In closing, I would like to highlight the wonderful community we have built together as well as acknowledge and thank the dedicated people who laid a solid foundation for NISPA. Despite the pandemic, we have been able to stay connected and support each other. We have not only survived but thrived. When we share and collaborate, the volunteer experience becomes more joyful fostering connection and true belonging.

I wish you and your families a very healthy, safe and happy summer. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

With deepest gratitude,

Domenica

Domenica Coppa
NISPA Chair

Treasurer's Report

In keeping with prior years, the financial statements are presented for the 10 months ending April 30, 2022. Between this date and our year end, June 30, 2022, we do not anticipate any unplanned expenses to the financial statements.



NISPA's net income for the period ended April 30, 2022 is \$8,495. This consists of \$15,000 in revenues which represent membership fees from 30 schools. Expenses totalling \$6,505 consists of computer and technology expenses, speaker engagement payments, event costs and administrative fees. It is expected that the overall year end net income will be approximately \$2,450 after final expenses are paid out.

NISPA remains in a strong positive financial position with assets of \$15,832 (consisting of cash and prepaid expenses) at the end of the current period. This balance is expected to be approximately \$9,787 by the end of June to begin the new fiscal year.

Last year, our Association was committed to reviewing our revenues, in particular our membership fees, and implemented our first major increase this year. These higher fees not only include our regular monthly events but also include attendance for all members at our AGM as well as exclusive workshops for the shop managers of our member schools.

We believe this fee increase was necessary in order for us to maintain our financial sustainability. We are so appreciative to all our member schools for embracing this change which will allow us

to continue delivering high quality, timely and abundant programming throughout the year.

These initiatives will position NISPA as the premiere association for independent school parent associations in Canada and ensure NISPA continues to be able to focus on its mandate to provide strong networking and professional development opportunities and events to its members.

For the upcoming fiscal year 2022/23, NISPA will begin planning events and is hopeful and excited to expand our program offerings to include in person events at our member school locations when safe to do so based on guidelines issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada and Public Health Ontario.

Susan Ianni

NISPA Treasurer

Marketing & Communications

Newsletters — Our newsletters this year were sent quarterly in the Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. These newsletters focused on summaries of our virtual events and speaker notes from our numerous virtual events this year. This included our Welcome Breakfast in September, NISPA Connects events in October and November, Shop Managers Roundtable (November) and Workshop (May), Guest Speaker Event in January, NISPA Carousel event in February, NISPA Collaborative event with CIS-Ontario in April and our AGM in May.

The newsletters also contained book recommendations as well as social media links for TED talks as well as other websites and Apps that are useful for parents. We are also really excited about being able to return to our NISPA Newsletters including information about member school events that are open to the public where we can share and promote these events within our NISPA membership.

Member School Events — Hopefully with more schools being able to welcome parents and families, as well as community members back to in-person events on their school campuses we will be able to help advertise these for you!

If your member school is hosting an event that is open to the public we would love to help share these events with our NISPA member schools. You can email the details of your school events to communications@nispac.ca for inclusion in our Newsletters and our Social Media platforms.

Social Media Summary — It has been exciting year for NISPA's social media for 2021-2022. Our theme this year was True Belonging and to celebrate we shared your school events on our social media platforms along with sharing information on our speakers and workshops.

Krystie Robinson-Vincent
Marketing and Communications Chair

Nicol Domingues
Social Media Chair

Events

With the pandemic strict COVID-19 protocols and safety measures still in effect in all Ontario schools, NISPA had to continue to conduct all its events virtually. Nonetheless, this provided NISPA with new opportunities and a chance to engage even more of its members. Attendance at all events was high, more so than in previous years. The Zoom platform gave everyone an

opportunity to join in from the comfort of their home or office, and participate in workshops, roundtables, and speaker presentations.



On September 28th 2021, we hosted our Welcome Back Breakfast featuring Guest Speaker Helen Pereira-Raso, Head of School at HTS and Keynote Speaker Sandra Herbst. Sandra led us in a protocol called Success Analysis Protocol. It focused on the successes we have all achieved and the sharing of these experiences.

In October of 2021, we hosted our virtual NISPA Connect and Roundtable event on the 26th. At this event, we shared how PAs are navigating events, community engagement and fundraising initiatives while following COVID protocols and restrictions. Moreover, the long-term effects of the pandemic and how PAs are adapting to this new reality were discussed.

On November 23rd, 2021 we held a Guest Speaker event with Sue Easton, the Assistant Head of Wellbeing, Service and Global Learning at Ridley College. This event was co-hosted with Ridley College. Sue discussed the importance of supporting wellbeing at schools through positive psychology. She covered how positive psychology and positive education work together to help develop flourishing students. She shared Ridley's definition of Flourishing

which includes 6 Pillars: Positive Emotions, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning, Achievement, Vitality.

As well, we hosted our first Shop Managers' Workshop of the 2021-2022 year on November 24th, 2021. This was a wonderful event where our NISPA member school shop managers discussed back to school challenges/successes for fittings and sales. Online sales, inventory management, and store openings was also discussed.

In January of 2022, NISPA hosted another fantastic Guest Speaker event co-hosted by Havergal College. Discussed on January 25th, 2022, we welcomed Garth Nichols, Vice-Principal of Strategic Innovation and Design at Havergal College who presented our group with a discussion about HC-X, Havergal's innovation hub for future-ready programming. His work is focused on course development in three areas: in JK - 6, a course on ecological learning focusing on building students' relationships within their community and with the land; in Grade 5 - 8, a course on Digital Wisdom focusing on ethics and values in a digitally mediated world; and, in developing a Grade 9 transdisciplinary course that immerses Grade 9 students in identifying and exploring the challenges and opportunities of their future. The course challenges students to draw upon diverse skills, approaches and research to design and plan a way to engage in the issue of their choosing that is sustainable for all.

Our next event was held on February 23rd, 2022 and was our Carousel Event entitled Creating a Collaborative Resource for Parent Associations. Here we discussed PA recruitment, structure, and best practices. Members were asked to fill out a survey prior to the event to facilitate the sharing of information.

In April we featured a Collaborative Event with CIS-Ontario and welcomed Sarah Craig, Executive Director of CIS-Ontario and Anand Mahadevan, incoming Executive Director of CAIS. On April 26th, 2022 Sarah shared what CIS does and how it works with CAIS and Head of Schools.

NISPA hosted several other events including:

- Book Talk — March 20, 2022 where we discussed *Atlas of the Heart* by Brené Brown
- NISPA Social — April 6th, 2022 at Safari Bar and Grill

The Annual General Meeting will be held in person this year on May 25th at the Weston Golf and Country Club. Jesse Jones is the keynote speaker and will be discussing NISPA's theme of true belonging and how connections are so crucial. Jesse Jones is steadily becoming one of Canada's go-to connectors and media personalities. Known for his thought-provoking, inquisitive and approachable conversation style, Jesse gets to the heart of important conversations taking place across the country by creating a safe and non-judgemental way into the topics on the minds and hearts of Canadians.

NISPA would like to thank all its members for their support. It was yet another year full of uncertainty but we somehow managed to navigate through these uncharted waters together. We were able to deliver a robust and meaningful program with a variety of topics and speakers. NISPA would also like to thank all our speakers who contributed their time and expertise to help improve our work as parent leaders. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for a new and exciting 2022 school year!

Kathy Vucic
Secretary

2022/23 Event Highlights

September 28, 2021

Welcome Back Breakfast

Guest Speaker: Helen Pereira-Raso, Head of School - Holy Trinity School

Keynote Speaker: Sandra Herbst

October 26, 2021

NISPA Connect and Roundtable

Moderators: Domenica Coppa, Tanya Giaquinto

November 23, 2021

Supporting Wellbeing at your school through Positive Psychology.

Guest Speakers: Charmaine Bellefleur (Family Guild President) and Ed Kidd (Headmaster), spoke and introduced Ridley College.

Keynote Speaker: Sue Easton, is the Assistant Head of Wellbeing, Service and Global Learning at Ridley College.

November 24, 2021

Shop Managers' Workshop

Moderator: Jackie Sklenka

January 25, 2022

The Digital Transformation of Education

Guest Speakers: Havergal Parent Association PA Co-Chairs, Alnar Meghji and Lisa Windover, spoke about their PA and introduced their Principal, Dr. Katrina Samson

Keynote Speaker: Garth Nicols, Vice Principal of Strategic Innovation & Design at Havergal College

February 23, 2022

Carousel Workshop: Creating a Collaborative Resource for Parent Associations

Moderators: Domenica Coppa, Tanya Giaquinto

March 30, 2022

Book Talk – *Atlas of the Heart* by Brené Brown

April 6, 2022

NISPA Social at Safari Bar and Grill

April 26, 2022

Collaborative Event with CIS Ontario

Guest Speaker: Anand Mahadevan, Incoming Executive Director of CAIS

Keynote Speaker: Sarah Craig, Executive Director of CIS Ontario

May 4, 2022

Shop Managers' Workshop

Moderator: Jackie Sklenka

May 25, 2022

AGM @ Weston Golf and Country Club

Keynote Speaker: Jesse Jones

Our Members

This year NISPA would like to highlight all our member schools showing our appreciation of your continued support. Since 2021/22 was a year with virtual programming, NISPA decided to honour and feature all of our member schools.

Albert College
Appleby College
Ashbury College
Bayview Glen
Branksome Hall School
Crescent School
De La Salle College "Oaklands"
Greenwood College School
Havergal College
Hillfield Strathallan College
Holy Name of Mary College School
Holy Trinity School
Kingsway College School
Montcrest School
Pickering College
Ridley College
Royal St. George's College
St. Andrew's College
St. Clement's School
St. John's Kilmarnock School
St. Michael's College School

St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School
Toronto French School Canada's
International School
The Bishop Strachan School
The Country Day School
The Sterling Hall School
The York School
Trinity College School
Upper Canada College
Villanova College

About NISPA

Founded in 1989 by a small group of parent leaders, **NISPA** has grown to become Canada's largest organization dedicated to independent school Parents' Association leaders and representatives.

Our mission is to provide parent leaders of independent schools with professional development, shared practices, and a support of a community peer network.

Despite its evolution over the past 30 years, NISPA remains a **100% volunteer-run** organization in the spirit of its founders who believed that strong volunteer leadership leads to **better outcomes for our children**.

Website <https://nispa.ca>

Email communications@nispa.ca

Facebook @nispaontario

Instagram @n_i_s_p_a

Twitter @nispaontario