



NISPA

NETWORK OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS OF ONTARIO

2022-2023

Annual Report

Table of Contents

Board 2022-2023	4
Board Nomination	6
A Message from the Chair	7
Treasurer's Report	10
Marketing & Communications	12
Events	14
2022-2023 Event Highlights	18
Our Members	20
About NISPA	21

2022-2023
Annual
Report



2022-2023 Board

Tanya Giaquinto

CHAIR

*Appleby College
St. Michael's College School*

Kathy Vucic

VICE CHAIR

Appleby College

Susan Ianni

TREASURER

Holy Trinity School

Kathy Leeder

SECRETARY

St. Michael's College School

DIRECTORS

Emily Bernhard

Country Day School

Krystie Robinson-Vincent

Pickering College

Alnar Meghji

*Havergal College
Upper Canada College*

Nicol Domingues

*Bishop Strachan School
Sterling Hall School*

EX-OFFICIO

Domenica Coppa

PAST-CHAIR

*Holy Trinity School
St. Andrew's College*

2023-2024 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 17, 2023.

Nominees

Chair	Kathy Vucic
Vice Chair	TBD
Treasurer	Susan Ianni
Secretary	Clodagh Wilson
Directors	Emily Bernhard Nicol Andrea Domingues Krystie Robinson Vincent
Ex-Officio	Tanya Giaquinto PAST-CHAIR

A Message from the Chair

Dear fellow NISPA members,

I am honoured to welcome you to this year's AGM. We, the NIPSA Board members, would like to thank you for your continued support and participation in all our virtual and in-person events.



This AGM is an opportunity for us to reflect on the achievements of the past year and set new goals for the future of NISPA. We encourage all of you to continue actively engaging in the discussions and contribute your valuable insights and ideas, to work together so NISPA can support you.

This year we were able to provide a combination of both in-person and virtual events that fostered NISPA's purpose to facilitate the professional development, networking and collaborative sharing of ideas among parent associations and guilds while creating connections with each other. We used Brené Brown's definition of connection "as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and

valued; when they can give and receive without judgement; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship."

We organised a total of nine events, five being in person and four virtual events. A big thank you to St. Michael's College School, Appleby College, Hillfield Strathallan, St. Andrew's College and

Trinity College School for hosting virtual and in-person events for 2022-2023. If you would like to read more about this year's events, please refer to the Events and Event Highlights section of the annual report. Looking forward to next term, we are excited for 2023/2024 where we will be working with more schools to bring you exciting professional development, networking and collaborative events.

Historically, NISPA organised a Marketplace with shop managers from our member schools. However, during the pandemic Marketplace was put on hold. In its place, we were able to hold virtual workshops for the shop managers where lots of support and idea sharing took place. Moving forward, Marketplace will be replaced with continued workshop opportunities for the shop managers with a focus on two in-person events being hosted by school uniform and spirit wear suppliers.

I am so excited that we were able to meet in person this year for many of our events and forever honoured to have the privilege to be part of a Board that worked together to organise and provide these opportunities for connection. It was great to meet and work with so many smart, intelligent, driven, resilient volunteers and school and community leaders. Your support and enthusiasm to be a part of our events and to support each other has been amazing and I am grateful.

This year could not have happened without the ongoing support and dedication of the NISPA Board Members. I am indebted to your dedication and enthusiasm to NISPA and I have learned from all of you. As I worked with each one of you, I have been challenged and was better for it. You are not colleagues, you are friends and I will cherish the time that I spent with each of you. A huge welcome to Kathy Vucic who is the incoming Chair of NISPA and the future of NISPA is in good hands. NISPA will continue to grow and thrive under her amazing leadership, dedication and enthusiasm. Thank you Kathy for taking this leadership role and I look forward to seeing all the great things you will do.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those NISPA board members that came before me and to our future members. This is a community like no other. We work together to provide opportunities for school member PAs and Guilds to come together, while volunteering time at our respective schools. NISPA's foundation that was laid before us has allowed for these connections to grow. Let us continue to work together with a spirit of cooperation, collaboration and mutual respect towards achieving our common goals.

I wish you and your families a wonderful summer full of joy and happiness. I look forward to seeing you again in September.

All the best,



Tanya Giaquinto
NISPA Chair

Treasurer's Report

In keeping with prior years, the financial statements are presented for the 10 months ending April 30, 2023. Between this date and our year end, June 30, 2023, we do not anticipate any significant unplanned expenses to the financial statements.



NISPA's net income for the period ended April 30, 2023 is \$2,196. This consists of \$13,000 in revenues from membership fees. Expenses totalling \$10,804 consists of computer and technology expenses, online and in person event costs, marketing materials and administrative fees. It is expected that we will end our year with a small loss of approximately \$1,500 after final expenses are paid out.

Despite this deficit, NISPA remains in a strong positive financial position with assets of \$11,955 (consisting of cash and prepaid expenses) at the end of the current period. This balance is expected to be approximately \$8,230 by the end of June to begin the new fiscal year.

Revenues for the current year remain strong. We have 26 schools who are active members of NISPA. The membership fees are used to provide high quality, timely and relevant events throughout the year. Events included in person and online events for our Parents' Associations and Shop Managers.

This year we focussed attention on reviewing some of our computer services. After detailed research and analysis by members of our Board, we have made some upgrades and changes

to some of our services for our membership platform, payment processing and web hosting services. We are confident that these changes will provide us with better services for NISPA at competitive rates moving forward.

These initiatives will continue to 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. We look forward to welcoming all our members back for the upcoming fiscal year in 2023-2024.

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 and in-person events as well as speaker notes from each of these NISPA events. This included our in-person Welcome Breakfast in September, our virtual Fundraising Workshop in October, a virtual Shop Managers Workshop in November, the Positive Education Panel Discussion held in-person in November, as well as two winter virtual events – the Volunteer Workshop in January and the Governance Workshop in February, a second Shop Managers Workshop held in-person in April, as well as our last two events to be held in-person with the Gala Fundraising Committee Workshop in April and our AGM in May.

The newsletters also contained book recommendations, social media links for TED talks as well as other websites and Apps that are useful for parents. We featured photos and information about our upcoming NISPA event host schools and provided interesting facts about some of these member schools as well. We are also very excited about including information about member school events that are open to the public where we can share and promote these events within our NISPA membership.

WhatsApp Groups – This year we are excited to offer two new WhatsApp groups for our NISPA membership. We have a NISPA Members group as well as a NISPA Shop Managers group. This platform allows our members to stay in touch with one another and for the NISPA Board to share updates and photos from our events. We hope to encourage more members to join our WhatsApp groups in the future to allow for further collaboration and communication opportunities!

Member School Events – We are looking forward to featuring your school events that are open to our NISPA members! 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.

Membership Platform – This year we are also developing a new membership platform that will hopefully permit a more stream-lined membership registration and payment process. Please look for information on this membership renewal process over the next few weeks.

Social Media – Over the course of the year, we have continued to maintain active accounts on all major social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. These accounts were used to inform members about upcoming workshop and speaker series details, as well as, engage the NISPA community through relevant content in organic posts.

The NISPA Board discussed creating a plan for the next term to increase followers across all platforms. We look forward to expanding our reach in the year to come.

Events

As the pandemic restrictions were lifted, NISPA was able to hold in-person events and virtual events. This provided an opportunity for member Parent Associations and Guilds to participate in workshops, speaker presentations and learn about fellow school programs. As a result of the success of the hybrid platform in meeting the needs of our membership, it will continue for the 2023-2024 school year with our Welcome Breakfast and AGM being in person.



On Tuesday, September 20th, NISPA was happy to host our first in-person Welcome Breakfast since 2019. It was held at St. Michael's College School where the excitement was high with 17 schools represented. A big thank you to St. Michael's College School for opening its doors to host this event and showing its support for all NISPA members. This year NISPA's theme was about creating connections. Connection creates conversations,

community and engagement while supporting and encouraging change. We saw this happen during the past two years as PAs and Guilds created connections in a challenging environment that didn't allow for in-person events.

Kimberley Bailey and Dan Lumsden discussed parent engagement at St. Mike's through advancement and through student programs within the school. Their perspective for these programs was based on parent engagement being defined as the degree to which parents invest their time, energies and knowledge for positive school outcomes and partnership.

In October, NISPA hosted a virtual workshop on Fundraising. Over 40 PA and Guild members participated in this event which was an opportunity for them to share their fundraising and friendraising initiatives and their successes and challenges. The session was divided into two parts with opportunities to answer questions in breakout rooms and return together to share ideas about friendraising and fundraising and answer any further questions.

NISPA provided two events for the shop managers which replaced the annual Marketplace event. The first event held in November, the shop managers from different NISPA member schools came together virtually to discuss their successes and challenges in response to changing uniform protocols. Shop managers discussed if schools returned to pre-covid schedule of events and merchandise sales. There were also discussions on supply chain challenges, price increases, preferred uniform suppliers, top items that sold this fall and new and interesting products.

Also in November, Appleby College hosted an in-person event on Positive Education. The event was very well attended and received by NISPA members. Wellbeing has been a guiding principle at Appleby College since 2013.

Andy Jelinek, Diana Dodd, Theresa Blake, and Amanda Sobol presented the benefits of Positive Education. All schools have their issues with social norms, especially after Covid, but they gave great insight into what little steps can be taken to bring a positive change to one's mindset and focus on a person's wellbeing. As a result, the Advisory Program has been built around the key elements of Positive Education.

Appleby Prefects Madhav, Kate, and Zaydan highlighted the success of implementing Positive Education into the Appleby curriculum. They acknowledged the challenges all students face and explained how Positive Education provides them the tools needed to manage these stresses which fosters success in a supportive environment.

After the holiday break, in January NISPA hosted an online Volunteer workshop in conjunction with Hillfield Strathallan College. Bianca Barton, Alumni Relations Officer, spoke about how she works with the Parents Guild to achieve connectedness within the whole school community; past, present, and future. The Hillfield Guild strives to connect with parents at every opportunity, from a welcome letter to new families, to handing out business cards with meeting dates at drop off, to an Alumni Committee which continues the legacy connection with the school, “No connection is too big or too small”. Bianca stated that “Presence Matters”, the personal connection is so much stronger than just another email. Many members shared their volunteer challenges, ideas, and successes.

In February, NISPA hosted an online presentation by guest speaker Christina Becker (MBA). Christina spoke about Governance as Leadership, Pillars of Good Governance, and the Role of the Parents Association within this framework. This interactive presentation featured a discussion on governance and strategizing tips for Parent Associations. There was a lot of information shared and free resources are available at www.canadian-nonprofitacademy.com.

Our next event in April, NISPA co-hosted a second Shop Managers event and this was an in-person workshop hosted by DGN Kilters in Mississauga. This was truly an exciting day since it had been over 3 years that the shop managers have met in person. The steering committee – Andrea, Stephanie, Patti and Rosanna and Nicol, our NISPA board member organized this event. The shop managers were given a tour of the production facility as Peter, from DGN Kilters explained the business and customer service model.

The following week in April, St. Andrew`s School Guild hosted an in-person event to introduce St. Anne`s School, all girl school in Aurora to the NISPA membership. Kevin McHenry, Head of School St. Andrew`s and Sabrina D`Angelo, Head of School St. Anne`s School explained the pathway of creating a new all girl school from an idea on paper to actualization. There are currently 38 girls attending this school year, the first Cygnets class. This fall St. Anne`s School will be welcoming 170 students grades 5-10. Congratulations St. Anne`s School! Wishing you all the best.

The second half of the morning was focused on St. Andrew's College's successful Gala that has been raising funds for different goals. A panel of four gala committee members was moderated by Cailey Stollery, President of SAC Guild. They answered many questions discussing the costs of running a gala, identifying and securing sponsors, how to determine the price of tickets, silent and live auctions and some of the challenges and successes in organizing and implementing a successful gala. There was lots of discussion with the NISPA members asking questions and contributing their own gala successes and challenges adding to the already great conversation.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in person at Trinity College School on May 17th. Brent Hurley and three students will be the keynote speakers and they will be discussing The Power of Partnership: The Parents' Guilds Relationship with TCS and their commitment to Co-Curricular Programming. The students will discuss the positive impact on their experience at the school. We will hear the Bell players perform in the Davies room as breakfast is enjoyed, before the start of NISPA's AGM and TCS's Parents Guild event.

NISPA is thankful for all the support from their members for this year especially as we transitioned from a virtual platform to a hybrid platform of virtual and in-person events. It was a year full of positive energy as we came together to share ideas, challenges and successes as we returned to our schools full time to welcome our parents and students. We are thankful to the schools that hosted our events and to the speakers that contributed their time and expertise to help and support our parent leaders. We are looking forward to the 2023-2024 school year as we welcome our existing members along with new member schools. Have a wonderful summer with family and friends.

2022-2023 Event Highlights

September 20, 2022

Welcome Back Breakfast

Guest Speaker: Pat Daly, Head of School - St. Michael's College School

Keynote Panel Speakers: Daniel Lumsden, Community Engagement and Learning Lead, Co-Department Head, Geography, Head Football Coach at SMCS; Kimberley Bailey, Director of Advancement & Alumni Affairs at SMCS

October 26, 2022

Fundraising Workshop - Virtual Event

Moderator: Tanya Giaquinto

November 16, 2022

Shop Managers Workshop - Virtual Event

Moderator: Nicol Andrea Domingues

November 23, 2022

Positive Education Panel Discussion

Guest Speakers: Andy Jelinek; Teacher, Social Science; Director, Parent Relations; Jennifer Latimer; President of ACPA; Fraser Grant '87; Head of School and Deputy Principal Appleby College

KeyNote Panel Speakers: Diana Dodd, Director of Positive Education; Theresa Blake, Director of Positive Education; and Amanda Sobol, Director of Positive Education and English Teacher at Appleby College

Moderator: Kathy Vucic

January 26, 2023

Volunteer Workshop - Virtual Event

Guest and Key Note Speaker: Bianca Barton, Hillfield Strathallan College's Alumni Relations and Parents Guild College Liaison

Moderator: Tanya Giaquinto

February 23, 2023

Governance Workshop - Virtual Event

Guest and Key Note Speaker: Christina Becker MBA, Becker Associates

Moderator: Tanya Giaquinto

April 20, 2023

Shop Managers Workshop

Guest and Keynote Speakers: Paul Martin, VP Sales and Customer Service; Mike Canhas, Owner

Moderator: Nicol Andrea Domingues

April 26, 2023

St. Anne's School and St. Andrew's Gala Fundraising Committee Workshop

Guest Speakers: Kevin McHenry, Head of School St. Andrew's College; Sabrina D'Angelo, Head of School, St. Anne's School.

Keynote Speakers: St. Andrew's Gala Committee Members and Cailey Stollery, President of St. Andrew's Guild

May 17, 2023

Annual General Meeting

The Power of Partnership: The Parent's Guild Relationship with TCS and their Commitment to Co-Curricular Programming

Guest Speaker: Stuart Grainger, Head of School Trinity College School

Keynote Speaker: Brent Hurley, English teacher, Assistant Head of Senior School-Student Life, Department of Senior School Academics.

Our Members

NISPA would like to highlight all our member schools showing our appreciation of your continued support. The schools in bold have worked with NISPA this 2022-2023 year to host either a virtual or in-person event. Thank you to all those schools who have hosted an event and to all those members that participated and supported each other.

Albert College

Appleby College

Ashbury College

Bayview Glen

Branksome Hall School

Crescent School

Greenwood College School

Havergal College

Hillfield Strathallan College

Holy Trinity 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

LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nispa-ontario-690544240/>