Greetings! I look forward to serving OFHSA. I am privileged to serve alongside a committed and passionate Board of Directors.

Congratulations to the OFHSA award nominees and recipients, all outstanding students who demonstrate the ideals of exemplary citizenship.

Once again, the OFHSA Conference and Annual Meeting was enjoyed by all who attended. Congratulations to the OFHSA Conference Planning Committee and the Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations who were dedicated to ensuring conference was a time to make and renew connections. Please wear your 'superhero cape' with pride as your continue to reflect on the role Home and School has in promoting "The Best For Each Student."

This has been a remarkable year for OFHSA. The support of our members at the Conference and Annual Meeting was overwhelming. As we continue to embark on a strategic direction for OFHSA that better serves the needs of our members, yet fulfils the provincial parent voice of OFHSA, please stay tuned!

Through your involvement with your Association, I hope that as the school year concludes you reflect on the fun times and memories in supporting the school community. In addition, as this school year winds down, please take time to celebrate accomplishments and thanking those who have volunteered.

As we wrap up another year of service, I reflect back on the more than 100 years the Federation has served public education and communities. It is this dedication to championing schools, students and families that continues to be our focus.

Looking ahead, whatever your plans are, know that you have made a difference!!

Kindest regards, Arlene Morell
Qualities of leadership, congeniality and willingness to serve the community are present in many students.

The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. wishes to recognize these students who demonstrate exceptional qualities in these areas.

OFHSA’s 2017 - 2018 Citizenship Award Winners

Amber F., Gr. 6

Amber has been active at her school with choir, track and field, as a kindergarten helper and with the technology club.

Outside of school, Amber’s love of performing has her participating in a drama team. She is also very involved at her church, from decorating to Sunday School teacher. Amber has also participated in Earth Day cleanups around her community. She finds volunteering is a positive experience where she learns a great deal from the people around her.

Her motivation comes from her parents and friends. She says learning to care for others and be willing to give her time to causes makes her a better citizen.

Katelyn N., Gr. 7

Katelyn is active within her school with Dance Club, choir and Student Council. For the past three years, she has helped the Home and School Association with Green Team, at the Craft Show snack bar and during Fun Fair.

In her community, Katelyn has become a Coaches’ Assistant with the Thamesford Skating Club, working with younger skaters. She is trained in first aid for horses, which helped her gain confidence while riding. Katelyn is also a children’s craft volunteer at Pow Wow days at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology.

Her teacher says she is reliable, responsible and always eager to take on extra work. She is a friend to all and a great role model at school.

Lacy S., Gr. 8

Lacy has been involved as a pizza lunch helper, kindergarten helper and has participated as a leader in the Me to We group for two years. Outside of school she helped with the Santa Claus parade.

She says her motivation to volunteering is how much she cares for others and helping others encourages her to continue finding other ways to help out and keep the caring going.

One supporter says Lacy’s most impressive quality is her non-judgmental kindness toward her peers. She is always willing to help solve conflicts or be a friendly ear to anyone who is struggling.
We congratulate all of our Citizenship Award winners.

You’ve all worked hard and done amazing things!

Your hard work, dedication and generosity of spirit will take you anywhere you want to go in life.

Hailie has been active at Home and School events for more than four years, beginning in her elementary school. She has participated in Student Council, dances, library helper and is a member of the concert band.

She says that her activity of planting trees with ReForest London was a great experience as she met other like-minded people who value the environment as she does.

Hailie’s urge to volunteer comes from her wanting to give back to the community, learning new things and meeting new people.

At school, Hailie is seen as a role model, with a great attitude, positive energy, and always willing to help with anything asked of her.

Emma is involved in many aspects of her school. She is a leader in the Student Parliament, helping to organize activities such as bake sales, semi-formal, Remembrance Day ceremony, and was also a Canadian Student Representative on a Vimy Ridge 100 trip.

Emma participated in a Leadership Course in Grade 10 learning topics such as safety, citizenship, and leadership. She put these skills to use at Camp Dare with her peers, giving her confidence to place trust in others and spread kindness and support.

Outside of school Emma is very involved with SARI as a sidewalk/leader and an exercise rider, which combines her passion for horses with a program for those who benefit from it. She has also participated in the Santa Claus parade and picked up teddy bears from the ice at the London Knights’ Teddy Bear Toss game.

Emma says that it’s her search for purpose beyond herself and the fulfillment of personal morals and values that motivates her to be involved in her school and community.

Various school staff describe Emma as conscientious, kind and giving, with a gentle personality and she’s approachable to students. She participates in class and around the school and is always willing to help the other students achieve the best they can.
The OFHSA Educator Award is presented to an educator who has demonstrated, in an exceptional way, their support for parental involvement in education through the Home and School organization.

The Colonel R.S. McLaughlin Memorial Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service to education by fostering cooperation between parents and teachers and by promoting understanding between the Home and School.

Congratulations to this year’s recipients!

OFHSA’s Educator Award Winner

The Educator Award recipient for 2018 is Allison Arnone from Claude E. Garton Public School in Thunder Bay.

This teacher was instrumental in keeping the Home and School Association active in this school. She arranged a meeting to bring in the members of younger students in the school in order to form an executive for the following year. She worked with them very closely to help the newest members become relaxed and happy to be part of the Association.

Allison has been a great asset to both the school and the Home and School Association. She is always smiling and makes time for students, always looking for ways to make things work in the best interest of the students, parents and staff.

OFHSA’s McLaughlin Award Winner

This award is specific to people who have shown interest and been a support to the Federation. Over the past six years, Angela has been part of three Conference committees, held the position of Leadership Workgroup Leader and was a representative of Hamilton-Wentworth Council.

Angela has always been an active advocate for ‘The Best for Each Student’ with her continuous efforts at many schools by providing information or volunteering at events.

During the many years Angela has spent volunteering at the Federation level -- leading workgroups, conference planning and providing help to Associations looking for guidance -- she has been there with a smile on her face and a flash drive in her hand.

Angela believes in the values of OFHSA and continues to work closely with all levels of the Federation.
This year, Conference took a different format than we were accustomed to, having taken place over two days rather than the usual three. Friday night we welcomed Home and School members from across Ontario, as well as local community members and guests. The vendor’s market was well received and gave an opportunity for Associations to see some fresh fundraising ideas.

Saturday brought us all together for workshops, food and networking. There was a great sense of connection in the room while members were decorating their superhero capes and discussing their journey through OFHSA. In the workshops, members listened to presentations and engaged in good discussions afterwards.

It was very nice to see familiar faces, as well as many new faces. We look forward to Conference 2019!

Submitted by Sarah Thomson

#OFHSAconf2018
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@OFHSA1916

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OFHSA’s BOARD OF MANAGERS FOR 2018 - 2019

Your Executive Leaders for the 2018-2019 school year are as follows:

President: Arlene Morell
president@ofhsa.ca

1st VP: Sarah Thomson
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2nd VP: Gene Meyers
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Past-President: Sandra Binns
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