

Regina Catholic School Division

Director's Communiqué

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"Let Your Light Shine"

A Message from Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia



"The answer is to try to help others." — Terry Fox

September has been an eventful month for staff in Regina Catholic School Division, in fact in any school across Canada. The jostle and flurry of beginning a new cycle of learning and growing is always exciting for our chosen vocation – caring, loving and teaching God's children as we prepare them in faith and knowledge for their futures. The 2017-2018 school year is shaping up to be another success.

Some of the most powerful moments of the month were the solemn blessings and grand openings of our three new schools. Each of the six events were unique and well planned, performed smoothly and reflective of the Gospel values of Regina Catholic Schools. Despite holding three of each of the blessings and openings, each was distinctive and carried its own personal message of the saint for which they were named. St. Kateri Tekakwitha School opened alongside their public school neighbours, and kicked off the show for all the Regina schools. At École St. Elizabeth, the community was largely already established, and after mapping the way within the new facility, the atmosphere has settled into a familiar feel. St. Nicholas School, meanwhile, chose to begin the year with St. Nicholas in mind, with giving and sharing their gifts as a priority. Archbishop Donald Bolen led a liturgy at each school, blessing each community, every cross in the building, and all individual rooms in the new schools. His homilies each explored the namesake of the schools, giving students his perspective of St. Kateri, St. Elizabeth, and St. Nicholas.

As a division, we have decided to commemorate Orange Shirt Day on October 2nd as September 30th fell on a Saturday. Once again, our staff and students joined in solidarity to remember and support our Indigenous sisters and brothers who were denied their identity, rights and freedoms in residential schools. Schools all across Regina held Terry Fox events to raise awareness and money for cancer research.

As we begin the month of Thanksgiving, I trust the message of our commitment to reconciliation the Archbishop delivered to us at our Opening Mass will stay with us all. May each paper turkey replica and artistic representation be created with the love of Christ and the sense of welcome and belonging that was the intent of Thanksgiving Day. We all have much for which to be thankful.

Blessings and peace to all of you!

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St. Kateri Opening

St. Kateri Tekakwitha School was opened by the ministry of Education along with its sister school, École Harbour Landing School. Principal Monica Norris helped lead the event, which was the first of three Grand Openings for the Regina Catholic School Division.



St. Nicholas Opening

St. Nicholas School had a kindergarten and grade 8 student cut the ribbon to officially open the school. Director of Education Domenic Scuglia, MLA Laura Ross and RCSD Board Chair Donna Ziegler all helped with the honours. The ribbon cutting was just one part of the Grand Opening. Each school also unveiled the government plaque, which will hang forever in the new schools.



St. Elizabeth Opening

École St. Elizabeth also hosted a Grand Opening. With an already assembled school community coming over from the now closed École St. Andrew, they got a little creative with a Roughrider-esque "Bring Em Out" entrance for all the dignitaries. This was followed by speeches, a ribbon cutting, and a plaque unveiling.





God Bless St. Kateri Tekakwitha School





God Bless École St. Elizabeth





God Bless St. Nicholas School





Club du Souvenir

In 2014, Club du Souvenir gifted the crew of HMCS REGINA with a 20'X40' Rider Balle Ensign. The crew makes several trips to Regina and always makes Club du Souvenir/St. Andrew-St. Elizabeth a priority stop. This time, the crew was in Regina on September 23rd and extended an invitation to the Club du Souvenir to join them for educational events and a BBQ. There was also a giant Rider flag hung from firetruck ladders!



Confederation Park Panels

Interpretative Panels installed in Confederation Park near the New Mosaic Stadium feature art by Regina students, including many Regina Catholic School Division artists. They are based on the four core themes of people, place, citizenship, and creativity. Visitors to the park will learn many things about Regina and its history. The topics to be reflected throughout Confederation Park include *The Making of a Country-Canada and Confederation-- Relations between First Nations and the State; Regina's Diversity at the time of Confederation; Exhibition Grounds; and Current Perspectives of Confederation.*



Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School students at the Urban Outreach Agriculture Project through the Food Bank. Thank you for your dedication to this project!



Thank You FCC!

Kim and Jenn with Farm Credit Canada (FCC) presented St. Michael Community School principal Dean Schwebius with a cheque for \$1000 to go towards the nutrition program! What a generous gift.

Safety Education

On September 12, the Service & Hospitality Safety Association and many of its partners came to Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School for the official provincial proclamation of Youth Safety Education Day. An assembly encouraged students to be safe in their jobs both present and future. The school heard from Regina's Chief of Police Evan Bray, the Deputy Mayor, and Sgt. Ernie Louttit, a retired police officer. The assembly ended with several songs from a local band, and swag bags were given to all the students and staff! Shown here is Constable John Duff presenting an award to one of three students who won prizes.



Congratulations

The winner of "Organise me!" is.....
Shelan Schnell at St. Nicholas School!

WE Schools Profile

The Social Justice group at St. Josaphat had a busy 2016-2017 year leading school-wide initiatives and assemblies to raise awareness about important social issues. They have worked hard to partner with several local organizations and address issues surrounding food insecurity in their community. Throughout the year they organized school wide food drives through the FCC Hunger program for the Regina Food Bank; the Social Justice Team also collected food for hampers



over the winter. One of the most memorable moments for educator Jaylene Brass was their volunteer trip to Souls Harbour Rescue Mission. Thirteen members of the group spent three hours helping out with the Mission's staff.

For Vice-Principal Jaylene Brass, it was a special trip as she saw the students' excitement when they could see their hard work making an impact on people's lives. Through these experiences she could see a passion developing in her students to become activists and take on more leadership roles; as a result Jaylene is excited to find more ways to incorporate volunteer opportunities into the Social Justice group's programming. For their global initiative, the students took the lead on researching a variety of organizations that they could support. This research process was a great experience for the students as it encouraged them to learn about a variety of social justice issues that organizations are addressing. In the end the students decided to support the Lucky Iron Fish, an organization which looks to address the fact that 1/3 of the world's population is iron deficient. This health project resonated with students as it showed how small innovative modifications and tools can have a big impact in people's lives.

After a successful first year with the WE School program the Social Justice team is looking forward to getting further involved in how they can make positive changes locally and globally.

Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"Charity is more authentic and incisive when it is lived in communion."

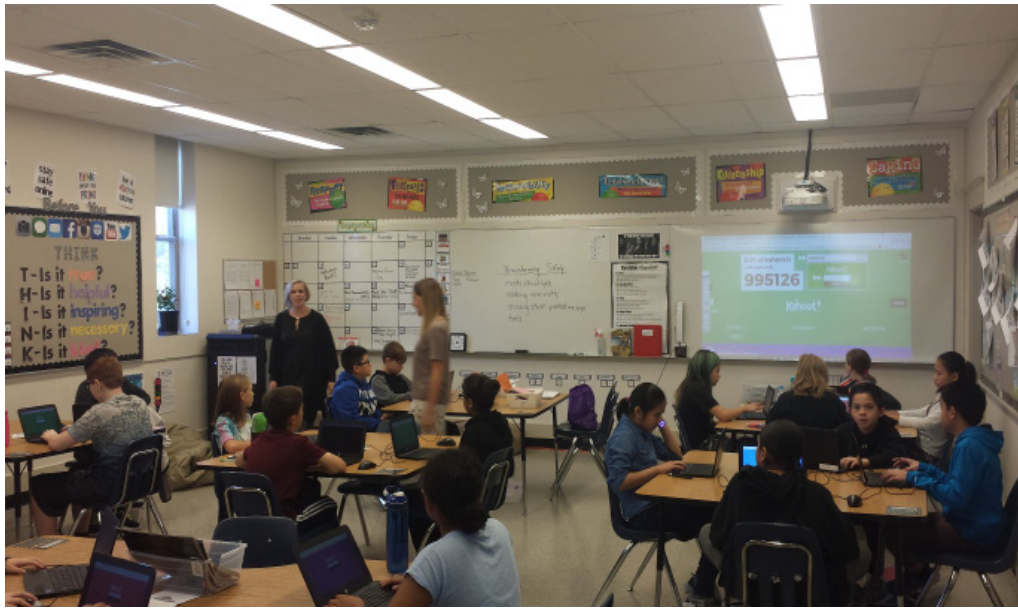
"Joy multiplies when you share it!"

"Hope is the virtue of a heart that does not close itself in darkness or remain locked in the past, but looks towards the future."

"War is the negation of all rights. Let us pray for those who have the responsibility to avoid war between peoples."

"Truth is an inseparable companion of justice and mercy."

"Our guardian angel is a friend we do not see, but whose presence we feel. He accompanies us on our earthly journey to heaven."



Safety First

The Service & Hospitality Safety Association is one of RCSD's partners. They have once again committed time, and considerable resources in the form of prizes for our students, to discuss safety at home and at school, to every Grade 6 class in our school division! On September 28, Keri Rieger from the SHSA presented to both Holy Rosary and Deshaye Elementary Schools. Here, Keri is shown with Danielle Zatylny, Grade 6/7 teacher, and her Holy Rosary Community School class.

Raiders Bring Home GOLD!

Congratulations to Tammy Schultz and Samantha Stom-Anthony's Special Olympics Adult Soccer team the Raiders who won gold at the Special Olympics Summer Provincial Games in Moose Jaw. Next stop for the team is the 2018 Special Olympics National Summer Games in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Good luck, Raiders!



Month at a Glance - October 2017

Monday, October 2 - RCSD Orange Shirt Day Events
-Feast of the Guardian Angels
-Public Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 4 - Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi

Thursday, October 5 - TPD, No School for Elementary Students

Friday, October 6 - Teachers' Institute

Monday, October 9 - Thanksgiving Holiday

October 15-21 - Education Week

Wednesday, October 18 - Feast Day of St. Luke

Tuesday, October 31 - All Hallows Eve / Halloween