

Regina Catholic School Division Director's Communiqué

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"Go Make a Difference – Love the Lord with all your mind"

A Message from Director of Education, Rob Currie



You tell us that to love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete: it means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served, to serve him concretely. And you are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus. –Pope Francis

While providing a quality Catholic education, we have made a focused effort to make a difference in our world. This focus has led to countless volunteer hours, much community involvement reflecting servant leadership, and many significant charitable financial donations.

As we collectively prepare for year-end assessments and activities, we also reflect on the vast learning opportunities and celebrations experienced during this exciting school year. Our students are our gifts. I thank our students for their hard work. Their leadership and service to others demonstrates the future is bright. I thank our parents who have placed their trust in the Regina Catholic School Division's staff members to teach their children and enable them to reach their full potential. I thank our staff members for providing learning environments that have enabled students to receive a quality Catholic education. I also thank the Senior Administration team, the Board of Trustees, and the Regina Clergy/Religious for their dedicated work to serve and guide our school communities.

I welcome Mr. Domenic Scuglia, the new Director of Education, who has started with the Division on May 30, 2016. We look forward to the future with his faith-filled leadership as our Division continues to help students realize their true potential.

As a faith-filled learning community, many significant contributions have been made, authentic learning has been realized, and people have come to fully realize God's presence. Enjoy this special month of June. We started the year encouraging all to Go Make a Difference – Love the Lord with all your Mind. Indeed, a difference is and has been made. Thank you!

God Bless!



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Moving in Faith, May 15, 2016

We were all witnesses on Pentecost Sunday as we celebrated the giving of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church. That same day, we shared friendship and faith with one another at our 7th Annual

Moving in Faith. Together we raised \$ 1,563 for the Marian Centre. Thank you to all 1,200 who participated. Without those who came to "move" with us, we wouldn't have much of an event. Our

sponsors also played a great role in the day, and we thank them for all their support.



Golden Shoe Winners - Congratulations!!!

Deshaye Catholic School, St. Augustine Community School, École St. Pius X, Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School, & Jean Vanier School.

He's Here!

Domenic Scuglia is here and settling in to the Regina Catholic School Division. He has hit the ground running, plans to visit schools in the coming weeks to get to know school based administration and staff.

Welcome to the RCSD family!

Pictured: Current Director of Education Rob Currie, incoming Director of Education Domenic Scuglia, and Board Chair Frank Flegel.



Technology in the Second Language Classroom

Mme Hynd's Grade 6 French Immersion students at École St. Andrew entered the library excited about the prospect of meeting internationally renowned French author Gilles Tibo. The students had completed an extensive study about the author and were looking forward to having an opportunity to meet and dialogue with him. What made this meeting unique was that the students were sitting in the school library but M. Tibo was speaking from his home office in Montréal, Québec, via video technology.

This creative use of technology to bridge the gap between distances, provided a highly enriched and authentic literacy-based learning opportunity for the Grade 6 students. They came away with a deeper understanding and meaning of M. Tibo's many literary works and a new curiosity to discover more. A very special Merci! to M. Tibo who was excited to meet the students and took the time to answer all of their questions.



Congratulations to Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School's Murray Wright, the new City of Regina Fire Department Chaplain!



Cooking Up RCSD

On April 30, four students from Michael A Riffel Catholic High School's Food Studies program, taught by Joanne Gelowitz, traveled to Saskatoon to compete against eight other teams from around the province, in a contest called Cooking Up Saskatchewan. They finished in second place, winning \$300, and really enjoyed the competition. They are already looking forward to next year's event!

Titanic Triumph

It was a TITANic triumph for the O'Neill 2016 badminton team as they captured a ninth consecutive city championship on Sat. April 30. Congratulations to these four Titans who were Provincial finalists: Johnna Parenteau & Daren Ibon, Kaitlyn Rydzik & Liam Schmidt. Congratulations to Cindy Chung (Girls Singles) and to Trang Dong & Sara Kowalski (Girls Doubles) who won bronze medals in Humboldt at Provincials on Sat. May 14.



Keeping Cool For a Good Cause

St. Josaphat School's Franchesca Fellner (Grade 1 teacher) and Susan Neiles (grade 1/2 teacher) took initiative for a fundraiser to help out in Fort McMurray through a popcorn sale and freezie sale. Through the generosity of the school community, \$1685.05 was raised. With the government matching donations, St. Josaphat families actually contributed \$3370.10 towards the families in need in Alberta!!! Way to go St. Josaphat!!



Fancy Tables

Students at Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School recently received new cooking tables and stools in their Food Studies classroom. The new tables are easier to work with and clean. Teacher Lynsey Baumgartner is thrilled with both the changes in her classroom and how well students have adapted to the new work areas.

Heritage Fair Winners

Heritage Fairs projects are as diverse and compelling as our students. Congratulations to the École St. Pius X students who presented at the Regina Regional Heritage Fair:

Hannah Cooke; Luke Benham and Wesley Carter; John Camplin and Henry Bristol; and Brynn Cullen and Mya Grabarczyk.

John and Henry, and Brynn and Mya moved onto the Provincial Heritage Fair; Brynn and Mya placed third in Saskatchewan!



Singing at St. Francis

The Saskatoon Opera Association made a stop at St. Francis Community School. What a fun way to bring a new genre of music and performance right into the school!



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Students exposed to inner workings of video games

Keely Bitternose has a new appreciation for the work that goes into making her favourite video games.



U of R computer science student Justin Cooney demonstrates his game Saturn Armada to Arcola Community School students Thursday during a Dragon's Den style event hosted by ISM and the U of R. ISM offers a coding class to Grade 7 and 8 students at Arcola School.

The Grade 8 student was among 20 kids at Arcola Community School who took part in an introductory computer programming course that was designed by employees at ISM Canada.

"When you're playing a game, you think, 'Oh this is just game.' You don't really think about how much effort and work people actually put into the game," said Bitternose.

This week, Bitternose and other students lent their expertise as gamers by serving as judges at a video game design competition at the University of Regina.

One of Bitternose's favourite games is Mario Kart, which also happened to be the inspiration behind computer science student Zach Horvath's winning game called Floaty Boats. The fast-paced racing game pitted the player against a number of other pirate ships controlled by artificial intelligence. Horvath, who won a \$3,000 cheque from ISM, coded it all himself.

<http://paper.leaderpost.com/paper/News/1.aspx?noRed=true>

Making Us Proud

Justin Cooney is an RCSD Home School Graduate, now inspiring the next generation of programmers.

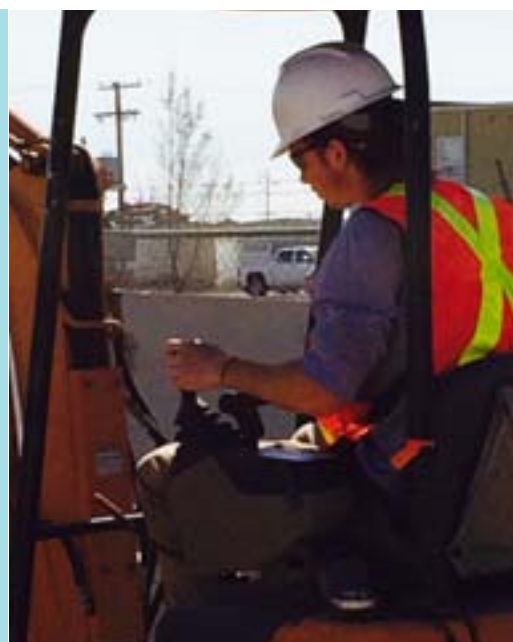


Bus Driver Appreciation

A huge thank you to Kevin Priem and Jade Barros, students from Leboldus FIAEP program under the guidance of Gail Janzen. They did an amazing job helping our Transportation Department prepare driver appreciation cards and transportation angels for each of our school, cab and Para drivers. The Transportation Department also wants to send a special thank you to Deborah Goodman and Caroline Sackville for their work on making these thank you's so special.

Career Exploration

On May 4, 2016, the Regina District Industry Education Council (RDIEC) partnered with Hundseth Power Line (HPL) Construction to provide high school students an opportunity to learn about the Power Line Technician trade. Students were provided an opportunity to perform a variety of hands-on tasks directly related to this high demand trade. The tasks included operating excavating equipment and climbing power poles. Pictured is Ryland Carlson from Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School. Students got to meet the Human Resources Manager and hear about the characteristics industries like Hundseth hope to find in future employees. She also described summer positions available to students and handed out job descriptions. Her encouragement to apply for the positions gave the participants something to seriously consider. Thank you to Hundseth and its employees for providing this experience for Regina region students. What a unique career exploration opportunity!



That's Possible Theatre

Congratulations to everyone involved in Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School's That's Possible Theatre. The final production was nothing short of amazing, and very moving for the audience.



Music & Literacy

On May 16, students in Club du Souvenir at École St. Andrew were invited by Premier Brad Wall to sing O Canada at the reveal of the newly renovated dome at the Legislative Building.

What an honour for our students to be recognised in such a way! Great job!

Making a Difference

I work as a substitute teacher for Regina Catholic Schools and have been a guest teacher at St. Angela a handful of times.

I have a 7 month old son who recently became very ill and ended up in the intensive care unit at the Regina General Hospital. When he first arrived, my husband and I were not allowed to be with him and we had to stay in a waiting room until a nurse came to get us. It was a long, lonely, terrifying time.

To our surprise though, we found comfort in posters displayed on the walls that were created by students from St. Angela. We saw messages like "Have Faith", "Be Strong" and "God is Here for You". They were so very welcome. We needed those reminders right then. We were scared and didn't know what was going to happen, but those posters shored us up. They gave us the reminder that we were not alone and we could do this.

Thank-you.

Our son had a two week hospital stay, but is now healthy and strong again. We are celebrating his Baptism next month. Our world was turned upside down for a short period but all is well now. I remember those posters though. They made a difference. The students who created them made a difference.

God Bless, Katrina Grajczyk





Food for Families

May 18th was a special day for Rachel Ling's Grade 5 students at École St. Andrew. "Food for Families" took place all afternoon in their gym. Twenty-seven local celebrities came to pair up with students to paint ceramic plates. After being fired, the plates will be auctioned online to help the Regina Food Bank. Celebrity guests included Wilf Perreault, Joe Fafard, Henry Ripplinger, Rory Allen, Jack Semple, Gene Makowsky, some wrestlers, and local media personalities.



I Am Stronger

Adam Richter's grade 6 class at St. Gregory School created a video for the I Am Stronger campaign. The video emphasizes online awareness, digital citizenship, and positive online behaviours. This project was completely student-lead. They researched, collaborated in groups, scripted, filmed, acted, directed, and edited all on their own. Please [share this video](#) to raise awareness for online safety and digital citizenship.



Award Winner

Congratulations to RCSD's own Charlene Rudderham, who won the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Arbos Award. [STF article here.](#)



Best Buddies Gala

Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School teacher May Hall attended the Best Buddies Gala with several students, and even had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the LeBoldus Best Buddies Program. They all had a wonderful time.

Pictured here are two students, teacher May Hall, and Her Honour, Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield.



Pentecost Mass

On May 18th, students and staff at St. Pius X School celebrated Pentecost at Christ the King Church. The theme for the celebration was "send out your spirit and renew the face of the earth!" Father Anthony, our celebrant, spoke of Pentecost as a time to open our hearts to receive the Spirit of Christ into our midst. Thank you to all the students and staff who participated in the various liturgical ministries, and thank you to all the parents and parishioners who attended!



Graduation 2016

Grade 12 students at Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School spent some time walking the halls to break in their new grad shoes. Looking ready!



Choral Room Blessing

The new choral space at Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School is home to Riffel's Choral program, which includes concert choir and vocal jazz. The new space is a state of the art open concept that allows for open space for music creation. The space also includes practice rooms and a classroom. On April 27th, 2016 the room was officially blessed by Father Carlos of Holy Family Parish and a celebration was held with Rob Currie, trustees, senior administration, teachers, parents and students.

Art Gala

St. Gregory School hosted its first annual Student Art Gala on Wednesday, May 25th. This event provided students from PreK to Grade 8 with an opportunity to showcase visual art work targeting outcomes from the Arts Education curriculum.

Not only was there visual art displayed around the entire school but there was an Art Battle that occurred every twenty minutes in the gym. Five artists signed up under a theme and created a piece of art. Then, these art pieces were auctioned off in a silent auction that brought in \$500 towards arts education at the school.

It was a fantastic black tie event that included live music by Peter Bodnarchuk, the premier of the St. Gregory Grade 6 video entitled "I Am Stronger" and finger foods prepared and served by the Grade 8 students. It was a great event with over 300 people.



St. Gregory looks forward to hosting the second annual event next year. St. Gregory School would like to extend a special thanks to the Art Gala committee of Michelle Richter, Adam Richter, Danielle Ryhorchuk & Ken Pryputniski for their hard work and also to all of VIP guests that were able to attend. "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

~Pablo Picasso



Just Ask Kendra!

'Just Ask!' is a positive mental health promotion campaign directed by the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. Their goals are to inform and engage youth about positive mental health, encourage youth to talk about personal issues and support those who do, and to change culture so that asking questions or seeking help is celebrated as a strength rather than being thought of as a weakness. In an effort to engage the Grade 7 and 8 students at St. Joan of Arc School in the campaign, students were asked to participate in a video contest. They created videos during Health class to highlight and share the key messages of the campaign. One of our Grade 7 students was selected as one of five finalists and, following the voting period, was named the runner-up. Kendra H. will receive \$200.00 for her winning video and a pass to the Cineplex Odeon! The entire St. Joan of Arc community is extremely proud of Kendra, along with all of our students, for their efforts in bringing increased awareness to positive mental health! See [her video online here](#).

Rookie Rugby

Grade 5 students from ten RCSD schools participated in a Rookie Rugby Jamboree at the Credit Union EventPlex. Saskatchewan Rugby ran this first event of its kind in the province. Rookie Rugby is a fast-paced game that uses flag belts to eliminate the contact element of rugby, making it safe for all ages. The games were played using a co-ed format and the focus was completely on learning new skills and a new game while having FUN! Thank-you to the Regina Rugby Club!



Tweets from Pope Francis

"Each one of us can be a bridge of encounter between diverse cultures and religions, a way to rediscover our common humanity."

"I join spiritually all those taking part in special devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary on this last day of the month of May."

"Work is proper to the human person and expresses the dignity of being created in the image of God."

@Pontifex