

# Regina Catholic School Division Director's Communiqué

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*"Go Make a Difference – Love Your Neighbour as Yourself"*



## A Message from Domenic Scuglia, Director of Education

I want to begin by again expressing my gratitude toward all employees of the Regina Catholic School Division. This is truly a wonderful group of individuals who together create an effective and innovative culture. Each of you contributes in a different, but special way. Regardless of your responsibility; classroom teacher, administrator, custodian, teacher librarian, office manager, technical analyst, coordinator, lunchroom supervisor or other support, your work is distinct and helps make a difference in the life of a child. I pray that each of you realizes your worth, and feels appreciated.

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.*

*Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

We anxiously await notice for the government to define "transformational change" for all schools in our province. My commitment, and that of the Board and Senior Administration, is to minimize the impact of any reduction on the work in the classroom. We pray that, whatever comes along next, we are given the resources to continue to provide the same quality Catholic education we are known for.

Some of the highlights of the past month include:

**Planning Official Blessings.** Senior Administration and the Principals of Sacred Heart Community School, St. Kateri Tekakwitha School, St. Nicholas School and École St. Elizabeth are working together to ensure the blessings by Archbishop Don Bolen are the special moments they are meant to be.

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The blessing dates are:

- o Sacred Heart Community School – June 23rd @ 9:45 am
- o St. Kateri Tekakwitha School – September 19th @ 9:30 am
- o École St. Elizabeth – September 20th @ 9:30 am
- o St. Nicholas School – September 22nd @ 9:30 am

**Scholantis Update.** Content migration is underway as we prepare to transition to the new website. While the “go live” date is still uncertain, the project is moving along, and excitement about the capabilities is mounting.

**Provincial French Second Language Education Week (February 6-10, 2017).** Our French Immersion schools all celebrated in different ways, including guest readers, a French Improv tournament for elementary schools held at Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School, and traditional French games.

**Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week (February 12-18, 2017).** Shows of gratitude from many CSCCs were shared at the school level, which is a good sign that parents appreciate very much the gift of Catholic Education. The Board and Senior Administration hope you all enjoyed the small treat we shared, and see that we truly feel ‘fortunate’ to have such a dedicated staff.

**Aboriginal Story Tellers’ Week (February 13-17, 2017).** Our First Nations, Métis and Inuit Coordinator Joanna Landry worked with traditional storytellers to arrange for many classrooms to spend time hearing stories. This is one more way we are working toward Truth and Reconciliation, and is always a treat for a class to learn in this way.

**Moving in Faith.** Planning is well underway for the 8th annual event. Sunday, May 28 at noon we begin our celebration of faith, family, and movement at the Canada Games Athletic Complex. This event is free for participants thanks to the sponsorship collected, another sign of the appreciation our community has for the gift of Catholic Education. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

**Provincial Red Cross Pink Day.** Though the official Pink Shirt Day was declared provincially for February 22, our schools all marked the day in some way the week prior to the holiday break. Many schools received free t-shirts thanks to generous sponsors who see the importance of supporting our efforts to foster Catholic discipleship and prevent bullying. While the day itself was acknowledged, the work done to specifically mark this day is minor when we look at the big picture of how our schools are helping to encourage kindness and acceptance. As we nurture Catholic discipleship in our schools, we know our faith permeation is strong enough that these lessons are taught every day of the school calendar.

March is now here, and we often think about Saint Patrick, shamrocks and lucky charms. Saint Patrick’s explanation of the Holy Trinity by using a clover with three leaves is legendary. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three, and also one supreme being. While commercialism makes March 17th a fun day of green, there are deep lessons to learn.

*Lent is a time for reconsidering our feelings, for letting our eyes be opened to injustice, to open our hearts to those suffering. ~Pope Francis*

With that, we step into Lent, a season of prayer, reflection, penance and fasting. It is the time we as Catholics take to focus on the sacrifice our Lord Jesus Christ made to save us all. We began with Ash Wednesday on March 1, 2017, and continue our Lenten journey into April. I pray that as Catholic educators, you can express the great joy that comes following 40 days of Lent. It is the joy of everlasting life and our faith in Christ that makes those 40 days so special.

*God bless,  
Dom*



## Award of Excellence

The Canadian Forces Liason Council presented to the Regina Catholic School Division a provincial Award of Excellence for efforts made to support Canada's Reserve Force. It was presented at Government House on Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

## Food Bank

by Deb Bresciani

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the "Kitchen Party" that the Regina Food Bank hosted to introduce their greenhouse project. It was amazing. In addition to this project, a Food Bank truck will be introduced this month to deliver food to those who cannot get to the Food Bank and have a commercial kitchen for preparing meals from food that is donated. They are doing amazing work! They thanked our school division for all of the support we have given over the years. Laura reminded me that they do give tours and have a space in which meetings and retreats could be held. I know that Miller High School has used the space for retreats. If you haven't had a chance to see the Food Bank, recently, I would highly recommend that you call and book a tour!



## Father Mau Visits

Father Mau Paul Nguyen visited Mrs. Kowalski's grade 2/3 classroom and Ms. Neal's grade 4/5 classroom at Holy Rosary Community School to answer any questions the students had. The best question Principal Markus Rubrecht heard about was, "Do clouds taste like cotton candy?" Clearly this child wanted to know more about the layout and flavours in heaven.



## High Stakes!

Aeliesha Brooks from the Canadian Mental Health Association is pictured here in Deshaye Catholic's resource centre, addressing outcomes in Math (probability) and Health (gambling; addictions). When chocolate was being bet by a few lucky students, the stakes were high as was student engagement! We are in the process of organizing more presentations to Grade 7s and 8s, as Aeliesha also discusses on-line gaming, e.g. Clash of the Clans, of which most of these students are very aware.



Hawaiian Day.  
St. Dominic School staff was happy to dress up for a bit of a tropical feel this winter!

## Pie Throw

St. Francis Community School students did a great job fundraising.... and the staff did a great job of being good sports. Students entered raffles for a chance to pie their favourite teachers. It was loud, messy, delicious, and lots of fun!



## The End of the Journey!

The Service & Hospitality Safety Association has presented to all our Grade 6 students (and a few Grade 5s and 7s in split classes) which means over 800 students! Danielle Bachart, SHSA Youth Safety Advisor, is shown presenting to St. Theresa students of Marc Yakichuk (seated in the background), Chelsea Chomos and Melissa Stevens. The bottom picture shows Danielle with the St. Timothy students of teacher Daniel Koskie (seated left). Our hope now is that our students will be safer at home, at school and at play, thanks to these presentations!



# Regina Catholic Schools: Transformational Change

By Miles Meyers,  
Coordinator, Catholic Education Services

Transformational Change is what we are about.

Lately the phrase "transformational change" has received a lot of attention when it comes to education. If we stop to think about that phrase for a moment, we realize that transformational change is what Catholic schools have always been about. While Catholic schools are expected to provide an excellent education for our students, we are also challenged to help students to transform more and more into the image of Jesus Christ. As Sr. Clare Fitzgerald puts it "Catholic schools exist to challenge their students to become saints."

In Regina Catholic Schools both our staff and students work hard to realize this challenge. In fact, the grade six students at Ecole St. Pius X are so aware of their call to be saints, that they have named themselves "the saintly sixes." Throughout the school year, all grade six students at Ecole St. Pius X volunteer their time to plan liturgies at their school, to assist at masses at Christ the King Parish and to do outreach for community groups. The saintly students at St. Francis School use the season of Advent as a time to do outreach for their parish and local community. All students engage in projects such as cleaning and decorating St. Cecilia Church and shoveling snow for residents around the school. The saintly sixes students (and their teachers) from across Regina Catholic schools who attend the Youth Liturgical Leadership Program learn the skills to prepare prayers, prayer services and Eucharistic celebrations

for their own school. Their faith leadership inspires other students at their school to deepen their own faith and become more saintly. Our high schools students are also striving to be saintly. A great example of this is their commitment to supporting the Canadian Catholic charity, Chalice. 6 years ago, our high schools made a pledge to financially support 20 Chalice students in Haiti for a period of ten years. This would take these Haitian students from grade 2 all the way through high school graduation. The cost for this would be \$20,000 a year. Though we were concerned that we may not be able to raise this money each year, we decided to take the plunge. We need not have worried. Over the past 6 years, our high schools have raised almost \$250,000 which has allowed them to financially support students from the Philippines as well. Our high schools students have always been willing to leap into events that will make them more saintly and the LEAP (Leave Everything and Pray) retreat is a shining example of this. In addition to their mandatory grade level retreat each year, students are invited to attend an additional retreat called LEAP. These retreats fill up quickly which leaves us facing a good problem, "how do we accommodate all the students who want to attend?" The enthusiasm of our students to become more saintly is a byproduct of our staff who wish to do the same. Each year our staff members must identify a faith goal which they wish to work on. At the

beginning of each year, our staff meet with their supervisor to set a faith goal and they meet again at the end of the year to celebrate their achievement of this faith goal. On Regina Catholic Schools' website there is a section called Staff Faith Formation where staff can search for the latest books, workshops, classes, etc. which will help them to deepen their faith and become more saintly. In our quest to become more saintly, Regina Catholic Schools takes time each year to acknowledge the saints among us who inspire us to walk more closely with Jesus Christ. For the past 7 years on February 2nd, which is World Day for Consecrated Life, Regina Catholic Schools have sponsored a luncheon for all consecrated men and women. It is truly breathtaking to spend time with these wonderful men and women who have dedicated their lives to the Lord through such diverse ministries as prayer, teaching, pastoring, parish work, and feeding and clothing the poor. One attendee at the luncheon just celebrated her 74th anniversary of her religious profession. Such dedication to her vocation, such saintly living cannot help but inspire others.

Much as this saintly sister inspires us, Regina Catholic Schools strives to inspire our staff and students to be agents of transformational change for Christ and to "not be afraid to become the saints of the new millennium." (Saint John Paul II)

## Prayer Jam

Thank you to all involved in Prayer Jam on Wednesday, March 8, 2017. Held at Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School, this beautiful night showed off both the talent and the strong faith of our high school students, and raised money for a great cause, the High Schools for Hope project.



## Ash Wednesday

Lent began on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. All staff and students had a chance to receive ashes. This outward symbol of our faith is an important beginning of a time for reflection, fasting, and alms-giving. Each Lenten project within our schools and churches is a true reflection of what it means to be Catholic. Thank you to all who spent time planning and preparing for this big day.



Don't you hate it when you arrive at work wearing the same thing as your admin partner?  
Happy French Immersion Week!  
Principal Shawn Pearce and Vice Principal D'Arcy Brischuk of École St. Pius X



## Sacred Heart Farewell

On the evening of March 2, 2017, current and former staff and students gathered at Sacred Heart Community School to bid farewell to the school one last time. About 250 people took time to wander the halls and classrooms, reliving many memories of the past 89 years. The Sacred Heart Choir sang and there was a tribute video honoring the past. People took time to visit with old friends and colleagues and enjoy some cake and cookies. The oldest gentleman who attended was in grade 3 at the school in 1944. He even brought his class photo to share. His family had homesteaded near Moose Jaw, but the Dirty Thirties forced them to move into the city. There were lots of interesting stories from that night. Thanks to all who attended. Moving into the new Sacred Heart Community School is scheduled for April 24, 2017.





## Consecrated Life



World Day for Consecrated Life was February 2, 2017. The Regina Catholic School Division marked the day by invited many of our consecrated partners to join us for a luncheon and liturgical prayer service. To all those who serve God in this way, we thank you, and we pray for you. We would not have the same gift of Catholic Education without you.



## Celebrating French

Our French Immersion schools all had a chance to celebrate with French Flair during French Second-Language Week, February 6-10, 2017. Each school held different events to remind their communities what makes learning *en français* so special. Part of the week at École St. Mary involved a belated (to accommodate Mother Nature) French winter carnival.



Dear Principal of Sacred Heart School,  
Each year the South Saskatchewan Reading Council accepts writing submissions from Kindergarten to Grade 12 for consideration for publication in Young Saskatchewan Writers. We had over 40 submissions from southern Saskatchewan this year and we chose 14 for publication.  
**Tristain Cote-Sayer's** writing was selected and I would like to invite you to celebrate with him at our Young Authors' Night. It will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at Winston Knoll Collegiate (5255 Rochdale Blvd.) in Regina at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there.  
Sincerely,  
Lori Burton

## Why do we have to go to school? *By Tristain Cote-Sayer, Grade 8*

As a student you have probably wondered in the time of your education life, "Why do I have to come to school?" I will explain why everyone has to come to school and some of the most important parts of school. A lot of students just don't like school and I'm one of them but I will try to get some answers for those of us who keep on wondering just why oh why we all have to go to school!

I'll start with some basic questions that I have found the answers to and have had some help with. Is it the law to attend school? This is a question that many of you probably haven't thought of but it is something that directly affects you. The answer is "Yes." It is the law to attend school but only until you're 16 years old. You've probably said to yourself "It would be better if I just stayed home all the time!" The reality is that the schools are responsible for ensuring your safety and we can call social services if you don't come to school enough", explained Mr. Magnusson, Principal of Sacred Heart. Now you might think that if you live in a remote area you won't have to go to school but, you're wrong. The school boundaries in a remote area might be bigger but there will still be a school to attend. I know this because when I was younger I lived on my reserve and went to a school in a town about a ten-minute drive away. If you think you can just move to some place with no school you're wrong as there are 15,500 schools in Canada alone.

Who runs our school division? Just how many people does it take to run our school? The Ministry of Education is in charge of giving directions to the school boards and the school boards are in charge of hiring the Director of Education for their Division. The Ministry of Education plans what subjects the schools have to teach, and how many hours they have to be taught. Teachers plan their class schedule around that. For Sacred Heart it takes about fifty people to run our school, which includes the teachers, the support staff, the Principal, the Vice Principal.

So finally, I'm going to talk about why school is important to attend. First off, let me give a brief history of education. It has been here since ancient Greece, Rome, Jesus's time, and the early Indigenous people Mr. Magnusson told me. Education is very important in our generation because you need at least your grade 12 diploma to get a good paying job. School can be beneficial both socially and emotionally. You might make some really good friend who can support you in hard times. If you attend a Catholic or religious school, they will help you understand and teach you about your religion.

Here is some information that

helps with why school is important. People go to school because they love to learn and be around other people, or they want the knowledge to be able to get their dream job. "A lot of people still believe they can make it in life without an education. I believe you can do well with hard work and a good attitude but education is still the number one piece for doing well in life." said Mr. Magnusson. In school the subjects that you will need to learn such as Math and English will teach you the thing you will need to know in order to get the jobs you want.

So do you still believe that school isn't important or have you changed your mind? My opinion on school is that it is mostly boring but important because it is the reason why people are educated.

Interesting Facts: According to Stats Canada last year 84% of grade 12 students graduated in Saskatchewan. Closer to home, according to Maclean's magazine last year in North Central Regina 7 out of 10 students graduated from grade 12 on time. That number is higher than it has been in previous years.

## Red Cross Day of Pink February 22, 2017

Thank you to those who made donations to allow many of our schools to celebrate Positive Discipleship on Red Cross Day of Pink.

At École St. Andrew, former Roughrider Luc Mullinder spoke to Grades 3 to 6 about the importance of friendship, positive relationships and teamwork. Also present were Leanne Tourney and Shawna Bailey of Joyce Tourney Remax who provided 180 t-shirts to St. Andrew students.

Holy Rosary Community School students were treated to t-shirts by Degelman Industries.

St. Timothy students benefitted from a donation made by Trent Dickin from Carpet Superstore.

And the Hill Ave Business Association sponsored the purchase of 30 Red Cross pink day shirts for École St. Pius X.



## Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"Let us never forget to pray for each another. Prayer is our greatest strength."

"Being a believer means learning how to see with eyes of faith."

"How often in the Bible the Lord asks us to welcome migrants and foreigners, reminding us that we too are foreigners! "

"Do not underestimate the value of example, for it is more powerful than a thousand words, a thousand "likes", retweets or YouTube videos."

"Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death."

"Fasting is not only about abstaining from food. It also means sharing food with those who are hungry."

"Let us strive to fast during Lent with a smile, rather than a long face."





## Dr. Seuss

A huge thank you to the United Way, and the many volunteers who participated in Dr. Seuss Day at St. Michael Community School. Nothing makes reading more special for a child than an adult taking the time to show they care, and reading is important.

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."*  
Dr. Seuss

## Winner, Winner, Coffee Cup?

If you've made it this far, congratulations! There's a lot going on in the Regina Catholic School Division. So as a reward, we're giving away a couple of these sleek RCSD Mugs. Just send an e-mail to [events@rcsd.ca](mailto:events@rcsd.ca) and you're entered into a draw to win! Good luck, and God Bless!



## Month at a Glance - March 2017

PCL/Staff Meeting and Teach Professional Day (No school for students) is March 16.

Teachers' Convention (No school for students) is March 17.

