

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

Throughout these past few weeks, I have had the privilege of visiting many of our schools to watch the high levels of engagement by our students in their learning in our buildings. This commitment our staff makes to our students and their parents is important in ensuring that every child is valued and is allowed an opportunity to let their God given talents shine. I have been so overwhelmed by the care and creativity that is taking place in each of our schools. As the director, the school visits afford me the prospect of getting to meet students and staff in a casual, yet meaningful manner so that we can build a relationship with each other. Each school visit has offered me a unique experience and has helped me understand the special bond our staff have in supporting our students not only in their education but also on their journey of faith. We are indeed making a difference in the lives of our children by teaching them to love their neighbour as themselves.



As we transfer from All Saints Day and All Souls Day, we prepare for Remembrance Day where we help our students understand the sacrifices that have been made by other Canadians to ensure we live in a country where peace and prosperity is respected and valued. There will be events in each school to help our students understand and remember those sacrifices and pray for world peace.

On October 19th, we hosted a major event at the Queensbury Convention Center for over 800 students where positive lifestyles were highlighted and practiced. The morning began with keynote speaker Alvin Law who spoke about overcoming his challenges of being born with no arms and how he persevered to pursue his goals. The students then participated in a number of activities and finally ended the day in a prayer service. Thanks to Graham Hayes and his team for organizing this event for our students.

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The October 26 election gave us a new Board of Trustees. Vicky Bonnell, Deborah Bresciani, Rob Bresciani, Richard Dittrick, Frank Flegel, Robert Kowalchuk and Donna Ziegler were elected. We look forward to continued strong Division leadership which oversees a quality Catholic education for our students. On behalf of the Division, I thank Frank Flegel for his efficient and Christ centered leadership as Board Chair for the last year.

Our school year theme, "Go Make a Difference – Love your neighbour as yourself", speaks to the commitment to instil in our children and in each other a move to action. Our Catholic education emphasizes students realizing their full potential, while being fully engaged in their learning program. During the month of November, with the excitement and responsibilities of student assessments, co-curricular activities, our liturgical feast days, recognition of Remembrance Day, I want to thank our staff for their dedication to the vocation they have chosen to serve God's children.

As the demands of following our vocation can be challenging, we are reminded to take time for ourselves and our families. Ensuring that we maintain physical, spiritual and emotional health will allow us to gather the energy required to fully be present for our students. Each individual's wellness is significant to the students, families and colleagues, of whom we all serve.

May you enjoy a blessed and holy month of November.

God bless,
Dom



A Prayer of Remembrance

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ
we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and
thanksgivings for all whom we
remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of
your love; and bring us all,
with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Warm & Woolly

Employees from the Cooperators delivered fourteen boxes of knitted items to the Catholic Education Centre.

These beautiful items were either knitted or crocheted by approximately 10 employees at The Cooperators' head office on College Avenue. The winter accessories are beautiful and the toys are so very cute!! Thank you, The Cooperators!

Sparky's Birthday

Sparky the Fire Dog celebrated his 75th birthday in October by inviting some kids to join him for cake and gifts! Mrs. Luce's class from St. Gabriel School joined in on the fun at the Legislature. Not only did they all get a slice of birthday cake, but they also all went home with goodies including brand new smoke detectors! Happy Birthday, Sparky!



Saturday, November 5 is show time for Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School's version of *Tony & Tina's Wedding*. Dress rehearsals suggest a fantastic show!

Career Spotlight

Several RCSD students had a chance to tour the state of the art Saskatchewan Disease Control Lab (SDCL), at the U of R. Our partnership with the Regina District Industry Education Council (RDIEC) made it happen. Students learned about the vital role of the lab in keeping people safe, DNA testing, and potential careers. Thank you to Tamara Moyer, Sarina Clarke and the staff at SDCL.



Bright Futures

During October, grade 12 students have been able to visit a chiropractor, dentist, architect, and a corporate lawyer to discuss their careers. Shown here are Dr. Darren Scaper from the Chiropractic Health Centre, and Dr. Megan Meredith from Star-Lite Dental with students. Alex Li from Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School even got to do some drilling! These are tremendous opportunities for our students to gain personal insights into potential careers, and we are lucky to have such valued educational partners.



As I leave the position of trustee, I leave with the deep appreciation for all in this system. Every one of you is a compliment to the children. Every person, no matter where you work, or on what task, is part of the success our children achieve. I leave, but will always be an integral part of this family. May love, compassion, forgiveness, and dedication always be the hallmarks of this system.
God bless all of you,
Gerald Kleisinger

Positive Lifestyles

On Wednesday, October 19, approximately 800 grade 8 students from all RCSD elementary schools gathered at the Queensbury Convention Centre and Credit Union EventPlex for a day of learning through small and large group sessions. The "Positive Lifestyles" Student Conference was a chance for students to focus on ways to improve their health and well-being while growing as a community. Following an opening liturgy, Alvin Law gave the keynote address, speaking about the power of faith and a positive attitude in overcoming challenges. Students self-selected four of eleven possible breakout sessions designed to increase awareness and enhance decision making skills related to healthy, active, faith-filled living. Topics included mental health, drugs and alcohol, Zumba, body image, cultural diversity, leadership skill development and DrumFit. The day ended with a closing liturgy and a message for students to apply their new knowledge and skills to live "Positive Lifestyles" throughout the school year and into the future.



Thank you, sponsors!!!



Warm Welcome

École St. Pius X officially welcomes three full classes of kindergarten students at Christ the King Parish with Father Antony. The students were all blessed, as were their new kindergarten t-shirts.

Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.
Isaiah 40:11



Safe & Hospitable

This year, the Service & Hospitality Safety Association has committed to delivering their messages about safety at home and at school to all of our Grade 6 students. They have a wonderful presentation, accompanied by prizes for many students. Shown here are St. Andrew's Amanda Mushumanski and Sara Hynd with their students, and Deshaye's Maria Bachiu and Monica Kalynchuk with their students. As a province, Saskatchewan has a poor safety record, especially with respect to people aged 14-24, and this will only improve if our young people lead a change for the better!





Thank You, PotashCorp!

In donating a further \$50,000 to RCSD nutrition programs this year, PotashCorp has now generously given \$230,000 since 2014. Schools spend the money in slightly different ways, but the goal is always the same: to provide good nutrition to our students. PotashCorp Community Investment Manager Rhonda Speiss presented a very big cheque to Leshawn O'watch and Amara Prive at St. Francis Community School on a recent tour. Thanks, Rhonda!

Terry Fox Walk

Each year the students, staff and community of École St. Pius X begin the year raising funds for the Terry Fox Foundation. This year the entire community came together to raise an unbelievable grand total of \$8011.50 that will go toward Cancer Research. Funds were raised in multiple ways with many students creating their own projects. The goal set at the beginning of the year was \$5100.00, but École St. Pius X really went the extra mile to make a difference in the battle against Cancer. Way to go, St. Pius!!



A Refreshing Idea

Congratulations and thank you to the two grade 4 St. Matthew School students who spent the weekend before their Terry Fox Walk raising funds by operating an iced tea stand. They raised \$50.10, which they contributed to the collection for the Terry Fox Foundation. Well done, young ladies!

Patrollers of the Month

Forty-three students from Grade 6, 7 and 8, make up the St. Joan of Arc's School Safety Patrol team. These dedicated, responsible, and motivated students were named Patrollers of the Month in October, and given a special assembly of recognition, a Pizza Hut lunch and a few games of Dodgeball over the lunch hour. Special guests included members from the Regina Police Service, CAA, Regina Pats, Rainbow Cinemas, University of Regina women's volleyball team, and Constable Janet Klemp, St. Joan of Arc's SRO.



I Hear What You're Saying

....I REALLY DO!

St. Augustine Community School is excited this fall with the addition of Sound Field Systems in all Kindergarten to Grade 3 classrooms. With the use of a wireless microphone headset and a speaker tower, the teacher's voice is effortlessly amplified. Research in Sound Field amplification has found:

- Improvement in Academic Achievement
- Improvement in Student Attention, Behavior & Engagement
- Decreased Vocal Strain & Fatigue for Educators!



Sneak Peek

At Sacred Heart Community School, learning continues as usual. Next door, construction continues. Trustees, Senior Administration, and Principal Dave Magnusson and Vice-Principal Gilles Dauphinais toured the new building recently, guided by Superintendent of Facilities Rodd Hoffart. The combination of modern learning spaces and pieces from the original Sacred Heart building is stunning. Staff and students begin the move in March!



Push Ups for Food

Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School amazes us every year with the generosity of staff and students for their annual food drive. Fundraising included the following:

- a push-up-a-thon
 - a student who always dresses sharply (but without a tie on casual Thursdays and Fridays!) agreeing to wear jeans,
 - several students promising to shave their heads, including a grade 12 student who has hair so long, she can sit on it.
- In total, Riffel Royals gave 35,000 pounds of food!

Harvest Lunch

St. Catherine Community School grew an amazing garden over the sunny summer months, and recently harvested what they'd grown. Adding in a few things from the store, staff and students worked together to host a Harvest Lunch. What a wonderful meal to be a part of, with homegrown onions, carrots, potatoes, and even the herbs! Well done, green-thumbed St. Catherine students!!!



OktoberFest

They took a little time out from usual class work at Jean Vanier School to host a good old fashioned OktoberFest, complete with a polka band. So much fun, we can't wait until next year! Way to add some joy to the month, Jean Vanier!



St. Gregory School ends each week with a Friday Gospel Assembly. It's an invigorating way to start the weekend and prepare for mass on Sunday!



Gym Blast

The yellow team, known as the "Gold Diggers," celebrates at St. Gabriel School after winning ten thousand points in the capture the flag event as part of a Gym Blast. Four teams made up of grade six, seven and eight students spent the afternoon celebrating physical activity and team work.

Career Coaches

On November 2, the Regina & District Industry Education Council held its annual "Parents as Career Coaches" evening. The RDIEC is a wonderful partnership between RCSD, Prairie Valley School Division, File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council and Regina Public. They offered a \$500 bursary to a student in attendance with his or her parents, and this year's winner is Tory Frankl from Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School. The timing was perfect because next semester Tory is taking a U of R Accelerated English course (a dual credit whereby she takes a university English class and gets a Grade 12 English credit, as well.) Shown presenting the award to Tory is Sejal Thakker, Program Director of the RDIEC. Congratulations, Tory!



Tweets from Pope Francis

"The Rosary is a prayer which always accompanies me. It's also the prayer of ordinary people and the saints...and a prayer from my heart."

"Punishment should necessarily include hope! #NoDeathPenalty"

"Christian unity is a priority, because we realize that much more unites us than separates us."

@Pontifex

Off Ice Reading

Regina Pats #23 Sam Steel and #22 Rykr Cole visited St. Matthew School during Education Week to read and chat with students. A great reminder that reading is the key to anyone's future. Go Pats!!

God is not known through grand ideas and extensive study, but rather through the littleness of a humble and trusting heart. ~Pope Francis



Thriller!

Lindsey Hodel's St. Gabriel grade 5 students were at the airport just before Halloween. They weren't there to greet anyone flying in for Trick or Treating, but instead to perform! They wowed the travelling crowd with their dance to Michael Jackson's *Thriller*. Fantastic job!! Many other classrooms did their own dances... What a fun way to celebrate Halloween with some fun and fitness!

Month at a Glance

All Saints Day is November 1, 2016.

All Souls Day is November 2, 2016.

Board of Trustee Meeting is November 7, 2016.

No school for students on November 10 or November 14, 2016.

Remembrance Day is November 11, 2016.

Bullying Awareness Week is November 13-19, 2016.

Board & CSCCs Meeting is November 17, 2016.

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

~John 15:13

Orange Shirt Day

On Friday, September 30, The Regina Catholic School Division marked Orange Shirt Day. Each school put a different spin on the way they acknowledged the day, but every school community took a step together toward truth and reconciliation. Thank you to First Nations, Inuit and Métis Education Coordinator Joanna Landry and her team of Elders for all the support for Orange Shirt Day. To each teacher and administrator, thank you for "Making a Difference."



#EveryChildMatters