

# 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

*"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." Prov. 16:3*

It is a unique situation for an entire school community to be able to celebrate mass together in one location. We at Regina Catholic Schools are blessed that this opportunity is available to our community. At a time when some are questioning the fiscal need of maintaining a separate education system, this celebration showcased the importance of our commitment to faith to our students and their families.

*"Jesus looks for disciples. Actively look for new learners; be fully present, open and available to others." Pam Garbutt*

The opening mass and message by both Leah Perrault and Archbishop Emeritus James Weisgerber celebrated on August 30, 2016 was a testament to our solidarity and commitment to servant leadership as we begin a new school year. Today, more than ever, we are called to reconciliation with our First Nations and Métis brothers and sisters. Gord Downie of Tragically Hip called on all Canadians to do more to repair the fractured relationships that exist with our First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. This mission is a call to action for each and every one of us.

I am eager to come to know more of you and our school communities. I am looking forward to visiting your schools in autumn. I want to thank Rodd Hoffart and his team for their hard work over the summer months ensuring our schools are ready to receive staff and students. Rodd has also been busy keeping our new P3 schools and the Sacred Heart Community School rebuild on schedule. I want to extend an appreciation to the senior administrative team and executive assistants who have worked equally hard to ensure smooth openings for all of us. We will begin a new partnership with LP3 this year to transport our students. Thanks to all those involved in this initiative.

As you read through the Communiqué, you will bear witness to the great works by our staff and students to accomplish God's labour of love. We all realise our vocation in education is important as we each do our part in preparing our children for their future.

On behalf of all of us, I extend best wishes to Rob Currie as he begins his new role as Assistant Deputy Minister of Education.

I pray for each of your continued success in your journey of Catholic Education.  
God bless, Dom

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## New Archbishop

It was on Monday, July 11, 2016 that Pope Francis named a Saskatoon Bishop as the new Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Regina. The installation of Bishop Donald Bolen as Archbishop of Regina will be Friday, October 14, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Holy Rosary Cathedral.



## Father Jim, Opening Mass Keynote Speaker

He was born in Vibank, and this fall, he will come home to Saskatchewan. Winnipeg's Archbishop James Weisgarber is called by some, "brother," "doctor" and even "His Grace." He'd prefer that we simply call him, "Father Jim."

He carries a long line of accomplishments and honours, including the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the Notre Dame Medal of Honor, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Manitoba. He established Micah House in north Winnipeg, the Archdiocese's social justice centre, and was adopted into the aboriginal community by two sets of brothers to recognize his role in facilitating a meeting between Pope Benedict XVI and survivors of Canadian residential schools.

Of particular note, Father Jim was given the St. Edmund Campion Medal from Regina's own Campion College for exemplifying in an outstanding way the service of faith and promotion of justice – ideals embedded in the Jesuit philosophy of education at the College.

He was named an Officer in the Order of Canada in 2013 for his work as a champion of reconciliation and social justice, promoting a deeper understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Our theme this year is, "Go Make a Difference – Love Your Neighbour as Yourself," and Father Jim is a trail blazer for just such a theme.

Father Jim celebrated his 78th birthday AND his 53rd anniversary as a priest this year. His retirement led him back to Regina where he'll live a quieter life, renew his Rider season tickets, and we hope, be a great friend to the Regina Catholic School Division.

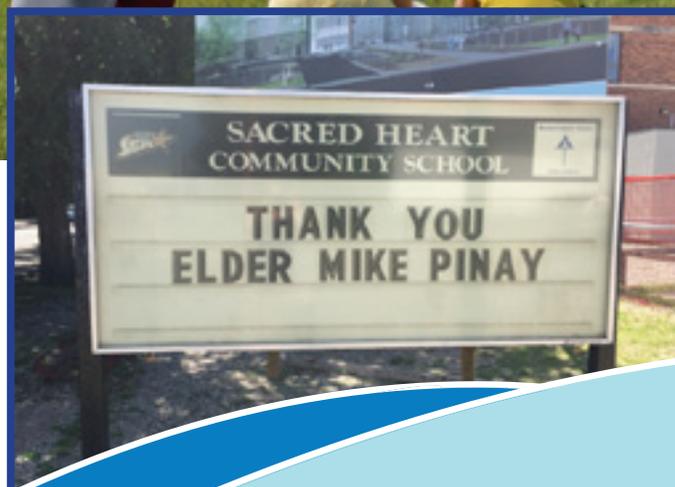


## Honouring Elder Mike

Elder Mike passed away on July 19, 2016. It's his bright shining smile and generous contribution to the community that Regina Catholic Schools will remember. His mentorship blessed students at many of our schools. We will hold dear his beautiful words, "Education is the new buffalo." Elder Mike's inspiration is far reaching, and we pray for his soul and his family.



*Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 1 Timothy 5:17*



## Ribbon Cutting

RCSD celebrated a new partnership with LP3 Transportation Solutions with a media event called "Meaningful Difference with Alternative Fuels" on August 10. Media, dignitaries, and our Principals and Vice-Principals got to tour the brand new school buses, and even walk the "green carpet" to go for a ride. LP3 is working with industry leaders Legacy Bus Sales and Blue Bird as they build their fleet of propane fueled buses.



## First Ride

RCSD Transportation Officer Elena Chase helped many young students shake off the jitters of that very first ride on a school bus. First Ride prepared our youngest students for the bus. They learned about safety, rules, and just how much fun it can be to get ready to ride to school! Thanks to all those who helped out with this inaugural First Ride, including LP3, SGI, Sask Safety Council, CAA Saskatchewan, our School Resource Officers, and LeBoldus student Renee Wahl, who illustrated a colouring book.

## Transportation Fast Facts

- Compared to last year, we're spending about \$90,000 less.
- In the past 12 months, ride time has been reduced by 4,346 hours and distances travelled by 83,090 km.
- We have 89 buses, 6 are spares. All are brand new and run on propane.

-Every day 5,000 students are bused to and from school on 121 routes, including 44 noon hour routes.

-@chase\_elena is a great Twitter feed for more bus information!

## Sub Breakfast

Thank you to all of the Substitutes who came out on August 23 for a bite of breakfast and some important information. Every sub is an important part of RCSD, and we appreciate your unique talent of being able to fill in where you're needed the most. We look forward to calling you many times this year, usually bright and early in the morning! Also thanks to Lynette Pascal and Jeannie Sandercoc for putting together the breakfast!



## CLASS

CLASS was held on August 25 at the University of Regina. Senior Administration led the day, which was also the first for our new Director of Education Dom Scuglia. All new administrators were commissioned, and were welcomed by those who have been around the block a time or two already. Get to know our new Principals and Vice-Principals in the final pages of this edition of the Director's Communiqué!



**Welcome Back  
September 1**  
[www.rcsd.ca](http://www.rcsd.ca)



Our digital billboard advertisements popped up in six different sites this summer. They're still around for a few more days!

## Employee Orientation

All of our new employees gathered together before the start of school to go over all the important details when working for RCSD. With 30 schools (and 3 new schools less than a year from opening) and nearly 12,000 students, we now have about 1,100 employees. Thanks to Sandra Baragar and the entire Human Resources team for taking such good care of us all!



## Opening Mass

August 30, 2016 marked the Opening Mass for the 2016-17 school year. To think about gathering 1,100 people together to listen to God's Word and pray together is astonishing. To be a part of it is awe-inspiring. Following mass, we congratulated long time employees, enjoyed the company of those we've not seen in two months, and then listened to two excellent speakers. How blessed we are to have this opportunity!



Congratulations to former kindergarten students Cullen O'Halloran of St. Gabriel and Meredith Toth of St. Francis on their amazing art work featured on our Kindergarten t-shirts this year. Their beautiful interpretations of *Go Make a Difference - Love Your Neighbour as Yourself* are a reminder of why we do what we do.



## Congratulations on 15 Years with Regina Catholic Schools

Wade Bartlett

Jill Belof

Barb Boss

Jaylene Brass

Daniel Brown

Leslie Degelman

Judy Dolff

Renee Dureault

Lynnette Farris

Tammy Ferguson

Cheryl Ferrara Horne

Nolan Firnesz

Chandra Frei

Val Gerrard

Blaine Gibbons

Leah Hischebett

Janna Hollinger

Patrice Krueger

Diane Lacasse

Trevor Lacell

Karen Lach

David Magnusson

Kelly Magnusson

Renée Mahajan

Gladys Matkowski

Mary McGill

Amy McManus

Frank Meier

Silvia Melnyk

Stacey Molleken

Shauna Murray

Jo-Anne Nelson

Linda Perron

Tammie Pettigrew Steadman

Corrinne Pirot

Melissa Ratcliffe

Anna Ricci

Jackie Smith

Paul Van Betuw

Craig Van Parys

Tina Vollet

Sandra White

Monica Zasada

Denise Zuck

Shauna Zwarych



## Congratulations on 25 Years with Regina Catholic Schools

Barb Barnes-Wilcox

Vince Baryluk

Rolande Burant-Maher

Liza Donnelly

Michelle Falkenstein

Tracy Fuchs

Denis Genest

Lisa Hautcoeur

Monica Kalynchuk

Dean Lucyk

Anne Lutz

Michelle Marshall

Miles Meyers

Coralie Postma

Carla Redler

Darinka Schiessler

Greg Soroka

Samantha Stom-Anthony

Murray Whitelaw



### Leah Perrault

Leah Perrault asked a lot of us at Opening Mass. If each of us can take just one thing from her words, we will all be one step further in our faith journey to do as Pope Francis wants for the Year of Mercy. Leah's vulnerability and energy can surely inspire each of us to step into the new school year encouraging others. Let's all *Live Mercy* and rebuild what is broken in our lives.



## Tweets from Pope Francis

"I desire mercy, not sacrifice".  
Francis. 30/7/2016.  
Sanctuary of Divine Mercy.

"Never abandon prayer, even when  
it seems pointless to pray."

@Pontifex

"Mercy does not just mean being  
a "good person" nor is it mere  
sentimentality. It is the measure  
of our authenticity as disciples of  
Jesus."



## First Day of School

September 1, 2016 was a new beginning for so many. New teachers and staff, kindergarten students, students new to Regina, and parents getting to know RCSD. It was a special day for our Grade 12 students, and our retiring teachers, administrators and support staff. Despite some anxiety and nerves, the energy was the same as it always is on the very first day of a new school year. Many blessings to everyone at RCSD for 2016-17.

## Communique Contributions

If you have something to add to the Director's Commiqué, we're happy to share it for you. Please send 1-2 photos and 2-4 sentences to Communications & Media Coordinator Twylla West at [t.d.west@rcsd.ca](mailto:t.d.west@rcsd.ca). Yes, that's me in the blue shirt, working through my first ever Opening Mass. I'm also happy to get out to many of our events, all I need is an invite. I'll tweet and share your stories online. Let's share as many of our amazing events as we can!



## Month at a Glance

RCSD First Day of School is September 1, 2016.

Provincial Students' Day is September 6, 2016.

Provincial Literacy Day is September 8, 2016.

Provincial Youth Safety Education Day is September 12, 2016.

Orange Shirt Day is September 30, 2016.

*"And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher."*

*2 Tim 1:11*



## Liza Donnelly

Liza Donnelly is the Principal of Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School. Liza was born and raised in Regina and is a proud alumni of Regina Catholic Schools. She attended St. Joseph School and Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School before enrolling at the University of Regina in the Faculty of Education. In 2003 she completed a Masters in Education - Curriculum at the University of Regina. Then in 2009, she completed a Certificate of Extended Studies in Inclusive Education. Liza began her teaching career at St. Dominic Savio School in 1990. She then taught at Miller Comprehensive for four years before accepting a term position at the board office as ELA Consultant. Following the term position Liza moved to Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School for ten years, before becoming the VP at Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School. Liza feels blessed with the opportunities she has been given and the learning she has gained thus far in her educational journey.

Liza believes that all children can learn, in programming reflective of their ability. In addition, she strongly believes the fundamental aspect of students' success at school is the development and maintenance of positive and respectful relationships. Students need a safe, learning environment in which they are able to make mistakes with the hope that learning is on-going and meaningful. Liza is extremely grateful for the many relationships she has made through her time in RCS as a teacher, coach, consultant and administrator. Regardless of her role, Liza has always approached others in a servant leadership model, keeping in mind Mother Teresa's quote, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love" and she will carry this belief with her to her new school community. As this is Liza's third stop at Miller - graduate, teacher and now administrator - she is very much looking forward to the opportunity to work with the wonderful community at Miller Comprehensive Catholic and to once again be a proud Marauder!!

## Yvonne Sirdar

Yvonne Sirdar will transition into the role of Vice-Principal at St. Matthew School this January. She is currently teaching at St. Joan of Arc School and prior to that had taught at St. Michael and in the Ukrainian Program since starting her teaching career with Regina Catholic in 1998. Growing up in Regina, she attended St. Andrew School and Miller before completing her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Bachelor of Education degrees at the University of Regina. She completed her Masters in Educational Administration in the spring and is excited to begin this leadership position. Yvonne is honoured and humbled to embark on her new journey to continue this faith mission in an administration role, grateful to strong Catholic leaders she came across as a student, teacher, and employee within this division.

Yvonne and her husband John enjoy going for walks, cooking, and traveling. Pope Francis' favour, "To walk together, and take care of one another" is something Yvonne tries to emulate in all walks of life, and she feels blessed to have a year in which she will have two wonderful school communities to be a part of to carry out this calling.



## Geoff Gilbert

In my 17th year as an educator I am grateful to be given the opportunity to serve as Principal for Regina Catholic Schools. My experiences have taken me to four of our great schools - both high school and elementary - and each one has taught me something about Catholic education, community, compassion and servant leadership. I have learned from teachers, administrators, parents and of course students on what it means to care when it is tough to, to be slow to judge when things are moving fast and to not take yourself too seriously within an imposing role. Come January of next year I certainly do look forward to greeting the St. Timothy community and working with them to meet their needs through a school they trust and believe in. Until then I will continue to prepare for the new role in the way I currently know: to continue learning and growing with the good people of Riffel Catholic High School who have taught me well so far.

All of our students are in good hands with Regina Catholic Schools and I am grateful to be one of the hands to support our youngsters grow into strong, confident and compassionate individuals with a focus on contributing to the world.

God Bless, Geoff Gilbert



## Wade Hackl

- Born and raised in Saskatoon
- Graduated from Holy Cross High School
- Bachelor of Arts (Cape Breton University)
- Bachelor of Education (University of Regina)
- Master of Education--Information Technology (Memorial University—in progress)
- Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School (2000-2016: Teacher, Department Head, Education Leader, Acting Vice Principal)
- Regina Catholic School Division Learning Online (2012-2016: Teacher, Education Leader)
- Married to Shalene Pederson
- Children: Neah (6) Rowan (1)
- Educational Technology, 21st Century Learning, Inquiry-based Learning
- @wbhackl



## Carrie Vany

Carrie Vany is the vice-principal of École St Andrew. She grew up in North Battleford and attended the University of Saskatchewan completing a Bachelor of Arts in 1997 and a Bachelor of Education in 1999. She remains a proud Huskie fan in this land of Cougars!

Carrie began her teaching career in Watrous, Saskatchewan before moving on to Sacred Heart High School in Yorkton to teach English Language Arts and various French Immersion subjects. She then spent two years in Saskatoon teaching Grade 7 at l'École française de Saskatoon. In 2003 she made the move to RCSD and has been happy to serve in French Immersion in the school communities of École St Mary and École St Pius X, teaching mainly grades 7 and 8. During her time in Regina she continued with her education, completing a Maîtrise en éducation française through the Language Institute at the University of Regina in 2013.

One of the aspects Carrie has enjoyed the most in her role as a Catholic teacher is working with colleagues to build and offer opportunities for liturgical leadership with middle years students. This has not only allowed her to live and develop her own faith, but additionally has allowed for strong relationships to be maintained between schools and parishes. She also is interested in finding ways to integrate aboriginal knowledge in the unique context of French immersion teaching and learning.

Carrie is married to Greg Pelletier, a teacher at École St Pius X, and they have two sons, Cael and Bennett, who attend École St Angela Merici. She is a very proud hockey and football mom and is looking forward to working with staff, students and parents at St Andrew during its final year as an RCSD elementary school.



## Mike Chase

Mike Chase is a product of Regina Catholic Schools, having been part of the inaugural kindergarten class at St Josaphat, and completing grades 1-8 at St Mary. After his time as a student at Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School, Mike went on to complete a B.A (French) and a B.Ed. at the University of Regina, all while coaching basketball at O'Neill and LeBoldus. He began his career at St .Pius X in 1996 teaching grade 5, and spent his first four years in the division in middle years at both St. Pius and St. Mary. In 2000 Mike moved to O'Neill, where he taught Christian Ethics and spent time as the lay chaplain. 2010 marked the beginning of the new teacher development coaching program, which has been Mike's passion since its inception.

Mike is committed to deep meaningful relationships based in faith. As such, he is very excited to join the staff at Michael A Riffel Catholic High School in January as the Vice-Principal. He is looking forward to learning about the outstanding teaching and learning community at Riffel and to contributing in any way possible to the outstanding work that takes place there every day.

