

Regina Catholic School Division Director's Communiqué

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"Let Your Light Shine"

A Message from Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia



'Then on the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work, and you shall observe a feast to the LORD for seven days. Numbers 29:12

A new school year has quickly arrived and we are excited to receive our staff and students. I pray that we begin this new chapter refreshed and with fond memories of time with family and friends over the glorious summer months.

The 2017-2018 school year will be historic for Regina Catholic Schools as we officially open three new schools. Each is named after a Catholic saint who portrayed the many virtues we strive to pass on to our students. These three new schools will become inspirational beacons in their respective communities. In Harbour Landing, St. Kateri Tekakwitha; in Greens on Gardiner, St. Elizabeth; and in Rosewood Park, St. Nicholas. We will keep these new school communities in our prayers this fall. I want to thank Rodd Hoffart, Superintendent of Facilities, and his team of dedicated professionals for all the hard work that went into completing these schools. To the administration and staff members who, during their summer holidays, spent many hours to have these buildings furnished, stocked, and ready to receive students, may God bless you for going the extra mile.

As we gathered to mark the beginning of this new year, we were reminded at our Opening Mass of the importance our call to reconciliation with our indigenous sisters and brothers by Archbishop Donald Bolen. His powerful message should be a part of our year as we live out our theme, "Let Your Light Shine." This theme of bringing light when parts of our world are in darkness has never been more important, particularly given some of the recent global developments.

You will all be in my thoughts and prayers as you embark on your new school year.

Blessings and peace to all of you,

Dom

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New School, New Keys

Director of Education Domenic Scuglia presents the key - finally! - to St. Kateri Tekakwitha Principal Monica Norris. After working from CEC with St. Nicholas Principal James Wahl (and with former St. Andrew and current St. Elizabeth principal Daniel Lizee, who had to remain in the now closed school) for six months to prepare to open our three new schools, she was very excited to finally have the chance to access the school building.



Playground Rebuild

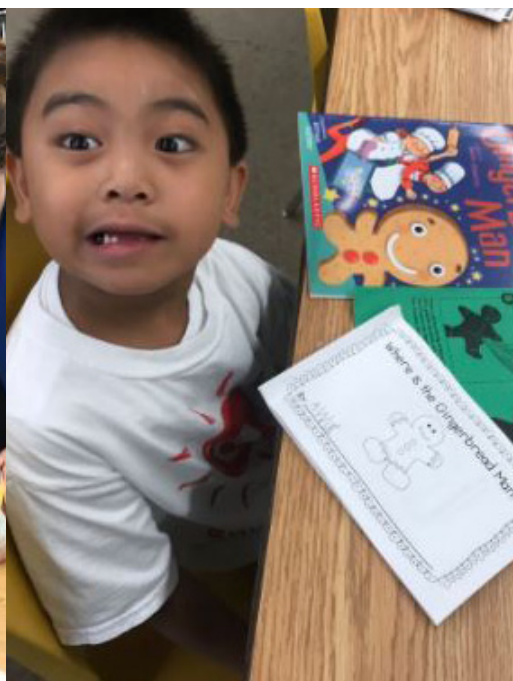
The playground at the brand new École St. Elizabeth isn't quite as brand new as the school itself. This equipment was moved over from École St. Andrew after it closed. The CSCC fundraised, and the school found sponsors, and in the end it was enough to move the equipment without having to start from scratch.



St. Kateri Tekakwitha School Office Manager Elishia Larwood was in early this year to prep for the new year. A special thank you to all employees in the new schools who put in more hours than usual over the summer break. The schools wouldn't be ready without you!

As Fast as You Can!

United Way Regina took Summer Success to St. Michael Community School, where reading became even more fun over the course of the week. While the final baked product didn't actually run away, by all accounts, "The Gingerbread Man" was a literary hit with a delicious twist. Spoiler alert: all the gingerbread cookies were eaten!



Little Hearts

At Sacred Heart Community School, the *Little Hearts Literacy Camp* gave PreK and K students a boost in literacy skills over the summer. A very special thank you to United Way Regina for all the support freely given. Camps weren't limited to school buildings, but also included exploring the outdoors, and even touring First Nations University.



Even parents rolled up their sleeves to help out with Summer Success at Sacred Heart Community School. They worked hard to make sure all kids went home with literacy kits.

New Vice-Principals

Welcome to the world of school-based administrators!

Graham Hayes, St. Joan of Arc School

- Born and raised in Rosetown, SK
- Bachelor of Education (University of Regina)
- Master of Education, Curriculum & Instruction (University of Regina)
- Teacher, St. Jerome School (2006-2009)
- Teacher, St. Francis Community School (2009-2014)
- Physical Education/Health Consultant, CEC (2014-2017)
- President, Saskatchewan Physical Education Association (Current)

Jodi Wlton, St. Jerome School

- Farm Girl for Life – I still reside on my family's farm just north east of Regina
- Graduated from Sr. McGuigan High School in 1989
- Bachelor of Education from the U of R with a Religious Education major and a French minor
- Master of Science in Education specializing in Integrating Technology in the Classroom (Walden)
- I have taught in RCSD for 23 years splitting my time between O'Neill, Riffel and Miller
- Married with 2 boys – Kyler (18) and Hayden (15)
- I like all things pop culture (Simpsons and Star Trek are tops)
- I love sports (Riders, Blue Jays, Chicago Black Hawks)
- Technology, Photography, STEAM, Makerspaces, Music, CREATIVITY @teach92jw

Branelle Zenuk, St. Catherine Community School

- Born and raised in Melfort, Saskatchewan
- Bachelor of Education (University of Regina)
- Master of Education in Educational Administration (University of Regina)
- Former middle years teacher at St. Augustine (2009-2013) and Deshaye (2013-2016), as well as New Teacher Coach (2016-2017)
- Strong interest in behaviour and classroom management practices, as well as assessment
- My top 5 strengths according to Strengths Finder: 1. Discipline 2. Consistency 3. Responsibility 4. Arranger 5. Significance
- Married to Jordan Zenuk



Opening Mass

As is our tradition with Regina Catholic Schools, the new school year began with a Mass for all staff members. Celebrant and keynote speaker Archbishop Donald Bolen inspired us with a discussion about how we can continue our journey of truth and reconciliation. As we walk together in faith throughout the 2017-2018 school year, may God continue to hear each of our prayers, and His many blessings reach each of our staff, students and families.



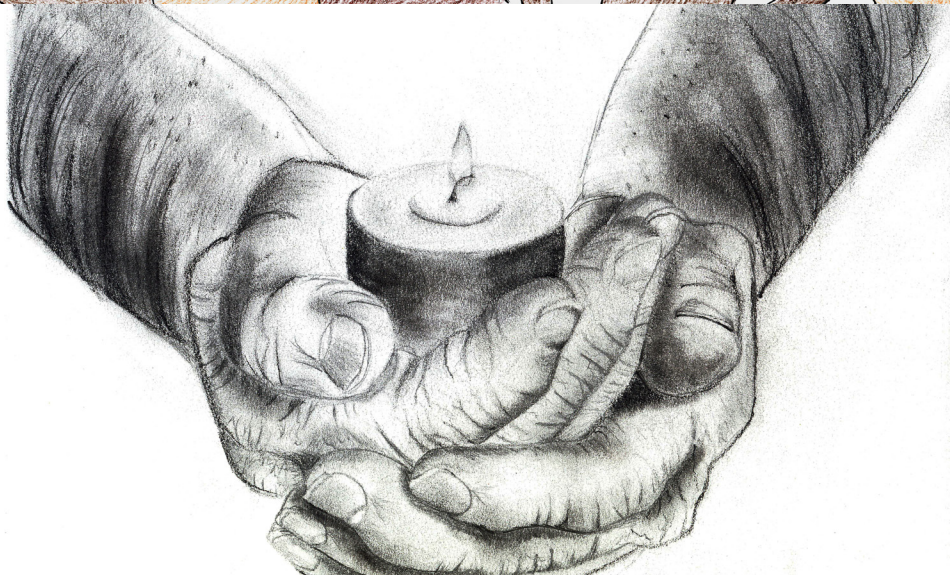
Dr. Martin Leboldus Catholic High School teacher Greg Fisher was presented with a Regina Catholic Schools laptop bag for his winning contribution to our search for a new theme. Greg's suggestion of "Let Your Light Shine" will serve as inspiration to us all throughout the 2017-2018 school year.



Let Your Light Shine

École St. Andrew's Aida Beaudin created the artwork at the top of the page, while École St. Angela's Abigail Gianneta is responsible for the drawing of two hands holding a single lit candle.

Below, Director of Education Domenic Scuglia and Early Years Consultant Sandra Selinger present Kindergarten artist Rey Carl Poligrates with his framed artwork at our Opening Mass.



Kindergarten Art

The art used this year for the kindergarten t-shirts was created by Rey Carl Poligrates at St. Peter School. Rey Carl did a great job, and was presented his artwork framed at our Opening Mass. The t-shirts will be blessed and given out to our newest students, who will wear them periodically throughout the year.



CLASS

Another great gathering leading to the start of the new year with CLASS. Thank you to all the leaders within Regina Catholic Schools. It is through your innovation and caring that we are able to reach so many students, families and communities. Please continue to shine brightly within your schools.



Contest Time

Tired of carrying your tablet, phone, papers and fidget spinner around in a big pile, risking embarrassment when your boss sees your fidget spinner is Hello Kitty? Enter to win this fancy RCSD tablet carrying bag. There's plenty of room for your Ninja Turtles pencil case as well! Just email events@rcsd.ca with "Organise Me!" as the subject, and you're entered to win!



First Ride

This year was the second year for our "First Ride" event. Transportation Officer Elena Chase wanted to make this bigger and better than last year, and she did. Not only did she keep her contact from CAA, SGI, and the Regina Police Service involved, but she also got our counterparts at Regina Public Schools involved. Students learned about bus safety, rules for riding, and any bus riding anxieties were calmed for students and parents. Over the course of two days, she held four sessions, and gave 267 students their first ride on a school bus. More than 200 of those students belong to our division, and parents are beginning to look at "First Ride" as a staple before entering kindergarten.

Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"We effectively do good when we do it without seeking reward and in the concrete situations of everyday life."

"Forgiveness sets our hearts free and allows us to start anew. Forgiveness gives hope. Without forgiveness, the Church is not built up."

"In witnessing to the faith what counts is not success, but fidelity to Christ."

"May nothing stop you from living and growing in your Heavenly Father's friendship, and from witnessing to His infinite goodness and mercy."

"We always need to rediscover God's love and mercy in order to develop our relationship with Him."

"Humanity needs hope in order to live and needs the Holy Spirit in order to hope."

"It is much more important to realize how much God loves us, than how much we ourselves love Him."



#FirstDayofSchool2017



Month at a Glance - September 2017

Sunday, September 3 - Feast Day of St. Gregory

Monday, September 4 - Labour Day

Tuesday, September 5 - Provincial Students Day
- first day back to class for students

Provincial Students' Day - Tuesday, September 5

Tuesday, September 5 - Feast Day of St. Teresa of Calcutta

Friday, September 8 - International Literacy Day

Saturday, September 9 - FASD Awareness Day

Sunday, September 10 - Terry Fox Run Day
- Youth Safety Education Day
- World Suicide Prevention Day

Sunday, September 14 - Elevation of the Life Giving Cross

Monday, September 15 - International Day of Democracy

Thursday, September 21 - Feast Day of St. Matthew
- International Day of Peace

Friday, September 29 - Feast Day of the Archangels

Saturday, September 30 - Orange Shirt Day
- Feast Day of St. Jerome