

# 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

As we enter into the weeks of Spring we are reminded of the optimism that is associated with new life blossoming. Change is a constant in our world, and spring brings hope, more daylight, and the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.  
Jeremiah 29:11*

The change in our schools right now is all about journeys of completion: Heritage Fairs, Science Fairs, Drama performances, band and choir concerts, sport seasons. We witness a small group of young men or women go from a team to recognizing personal and collective successes and even championships. We watch our students grow, and send home a term two report card to share that joy with their parents.

None of this change would happen without all of the necessities we have in place. Our teachers are our front line, leading students from letter recognition, to reading, to the Battle of the Books. Our support staff, helping students find their place in classrooms, providing guidance to those who need a different path to find the same place as their peers, and gently assisting those who need help with their life beyond the classroom walls. Our facilities staff have kept up with snow, and now mud, while accounting for the shifts from the seasons. Our administration, leading each school through Lent, working to ensure every student has opportunities for spiritual growth. Each of you is playing a vital role in the changes we see in our students.

This year spring also brought us to defining "transformational change." With the budget will come the changes to Regina Catholic Schools. At this time, we are working through realizing the effect on our division. Our decisions are all focused on minimizing any impact to our children and staff in schools and classrooms. Any decision around budget reductions will bring some disappointment; we

*Continued.....*

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understand and empathize with those thoughts and emotions. That said, we always carry on. That spirit of determination has been witnessed by our students, and they are showing it, giving us much to celebrate.

I had the fortuitous opportunity to celebrate at St. Augustine Community School when the Gators' boys' team won both the basketball and volleyball city championships. This is a group of boys who truly put their heart and soul into their sports. The school cheered their success throughout the season, and all were able to celebrate their achievements with a special parade through the neighbourhood, followed by a hot dog lunch and slam dunk competition. It was a day I'm sure the school community will remember forever. Congratulations as well to the École St. Pius X Girls' Basketball Team for their championship season.

I also attended the Annual Battle of the Books and was overwhelmed by the number of participants engaged in literacy. Congratulations to all the participants, the staff who helped prepare them and our organizing team led by Sherry Chase. I was pleased to be present to watch the four grade six male students from St. Angela Merici School receive their championship medals.

Many of our high school teams fared well during recent playoffs. Dr. Martin Leboldus Catholic High School Senior Boys Basketball Team captured 1st place for the 4th consecutive year, and lost a heartbreaker in a valiant effort in the provincial championship. That silver medal was the 7th provincial medal for the team in the last 9 years. Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School Junior Girls Basketball Team, and Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School's Junior Boys Basketball Team won city championships. The Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School Hockey Team won the Haacke Division Championship. In wrestling, Regina Catholic Schools continues to dominate. At the provincials, O'Neill brought home silvers and bronzes, and Miller, Leboldus and Riffel all brought home bronze medals. Congratulations to O'Neill Girls, who also took home the 4A provincial team title.

While we certainly are proud of the accomplishments of our winning teams, I want to also remind you of the great achievements by teams with less successful track records. Each of our coaches is teaching students how to win and lose with grace, how to accept and be accepted, the value of hard physical work, and the satisfaction of doing your best, no matter the outcome. Thank you for all the many hours that go into these athletic programs.

Our schools continue to shine in other arenas. Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School put on a fantastic drama event with two one act plays for a dinner theatre. Our Arts Education Consultant Sophia Yannitsos worked with the Regina Symphony Orchestra on *Link Up*, a concert that showed off the RSO and our young students' recorder skills. Celebrations of Learning were held for a second time at a handful of schools, and there were many Heritage Fairs, Science Fairs, and other wonderful events that enriched the learning of thousands of students.

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28*

Heading into April now, I look forward very much to celebrating the Easter Triduum with you. There are many special Holy Week liturgies and activities, and I pray each staff member and student is touched by the Holy Spirit as we journey through the remainder of Lent and thank Jesus through prayer for what He did for us.

God bless,  
Dom





## Chocolate Bets

On March 1, Aeliesha Brooks from the Mental Health Association talked about the mathematics and health of online gaming, gambling and betting (chocolate) at St. Angela Merici. Shown on the left is Mark Lang with his Grade 8 class. Many students had wonderful insights to share during the presentations, and of course, once chocolate was on the line, the interest levels were sky-high!

## Battle of the Books

### Improving Student Learning Outcomes

Forty-five teams representing 23 elementary schools participated in the 9th Annual Battle of the Books championship at Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School on March 9th.

Battlers were faced with questions based on the characters, settings, plots, and themes from eight books. In total, over 100 teams (more than 400 students) comprised of students from grade 5 to 8 took part in the literacy-based event which began in early January.

Bronze, silver, and gold medallions were awarded to the students. First place team members also received gift certificates to Chapters and Rainbow Cinema as well as the honour of displaying the Battle of the Books trophy until next year's competition.



Congratulations to the top three Battle of the Books teams:

1st Place: **St. Angela Merici School**

(pictured with Trustee Richard Dittrick)

2nd Place: **St. Michael Community School**

3rd Place: **St. Jerome School**





## Link Up

### Regina Symphony Orchestra Program

On March 10, 2017, close to 1,000 grade 3-5 students along with a number of students from Regina Public Schools and Prairie Valley School Division which totaled close to 3000 students, participated in the second *Link Up Regina Symphony Orchestra Program* which culminated in a performance at the Conexus Arts Centre. Students have been learning orchestral repertoire from the classical and baroque period, recorder playing techniques and proper singing techniques since October of 2016. Two flute musicians, Tara Semple and Marie-Noelle Berthelet from the symphony worked alongside students and teachers in preparation for this concert. It was an extraordinary day full of excitement and engagement in learning through the arts!

***[Click here for more Link Up photos and video.](#)***

## Tony & Tina's Donation

Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School presented dinner theatre *Tony & Tina's Wedding* earlier in the year, and recently visited Z99 to make a donation to the station's radiothon. Tina (Kaylee McCall) and Maid of Honour Connie (Kayla Nagy), along with teacher Jaclyn Kilkenny presented a cheque for \$1646.00, all raised the night of the dinner theatre.





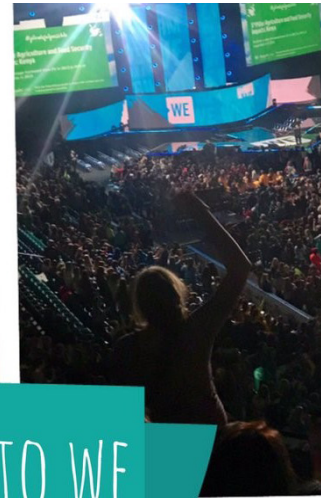


## ME to WE

On Wed. March 15th, the grade 7/8 students from St. Michael Community School travelled to Saskatoon to participate in WE Day at the SaskTel Centre. The students enjoyed a bus ride sponsored by the Queen City Kiwanis and were then treated to a number of motivational and inspirational messages delivered by a variety of exciting and entertaining speakers. Speakers included Margaret Trudeau, members of the Saskatchewan Roughriders, Spencer West and WE Day Founder, Mr. Craig Kielburger.

Prior to the event, the students learned more about WE Day, its history, identified local and global initiatives and action planned to work toward making a real, positive difference in the world and the local community. At the global level, the grade 7/8's will organize a variety of fundraising activities to continue sponsoring Chalice Child Emeldah. At the local level, students will visit neighboring Martha House to play games, visit and paint with the residents.

The students and staff of St. Michael Community School left WE Day energized, motivated and committed to making a difference!



SHIFTING FROM ME TO WE



## Celebrating 50 Years

Both Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School and Archbishop M. C. Catholic High School are marking major milestones this year: they are turning 50. Thousands of students have walked the halls, filled the lockers, written exams, made friendship, build careers, and worshipped God in these schools. It's an exciting year, and we hope that as the festivities at each school approach, past and present staff members as well as alumni will come out to celebrate. Miller's events are as listed to the right; O'Neill has a weekend planned as well for May 26-28. Meanwhile, St. Bernadette School and St. Gregory School both turn 40 this year.

*Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. Proverbs 9:9*



**Miller High School's**  
**50<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary**

**Starting at 1:00pm**  
**MAY 13, 2017**

**Schedule of Events**

**School Tours** – 1:00 to 3:00 PM

**Decade Pictures of Students/Staff in Gym B**

1960's picture at 1:15 PM	1970's picture at 1:30 PM
1980's picture at 2:00 PM	1990's picture at 2:15 PM
2000's picture at 2:30 PM	2010's picture at 2:45 PM

(Decade Pictures will be sold at the dinner.)

**Old Yearbook Sale** — 1:00 to 3:00 PM

**Retro Fries and Gravy "Nutrition" Break in the Cafeteria** — 1:00 - 3:00 PM

**Miller 50th Anniversary Mass** — Holy Rosary – 4:30 PM

**Dinner and Program - Gym B** — 6:30 PM

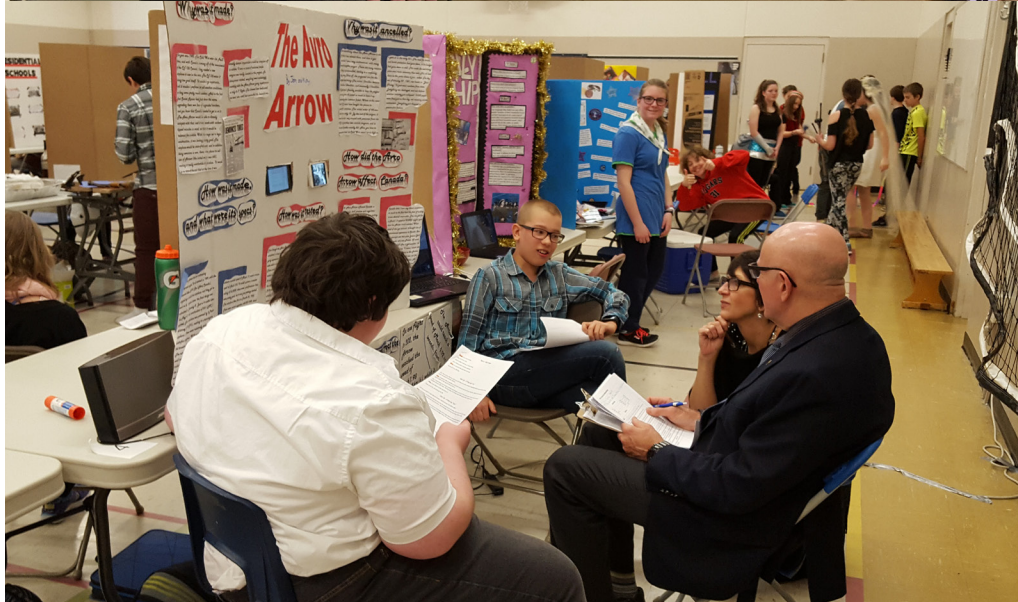
**After Party Cabaret**— Conexus Arts Centre — 9:00 PM  
(After Party Admission Wristband required)

**Tickets**  
Dinner/After Party \$30  
After Party Only \$10  
Tickets are available at the school or by mail.

Mail your cheque payable to:  
Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School  
1027 College Avenue,  
Regina, SK, S4P 1A7  
Attention: Laura Moser

**In the interest of full disclosure, any funds raised during this Anniversary Celebration will be given to the Miller Angel Fund which assists current Miller students who wish to participate in fee-based school activities.**





## Heritage Fairs

On March 10th, St. Josaphat School held a grade 6-8 Canadian Heritage Fair. Students' inquiry projects displayed interests from sports and ballet to war heroes and inventors. Each project involved a research essay, oral presentation, display board and personal additions, such as a costume and prop articles. Volunteer judges and community guests could feel the excitement for students' eagerness to share their learning as they toured over 80 different presentations. All presentations showed hours of student dedication and passion for their chosen topic, with six St. Josaphat Rebels moving on to Regina's Regional Heritage Fair on May 5th.

St. Dominic Savio School hosted a Heritage Fair on Tuesday, March 14. The Heritage Fair was an inquiry based learning experience that allowed students to choose a topic of interest and explore what makes it important to Canadian history. St. Dominic students in grades four through eight participated in the Fair. Good luck to the St. Dominic Students moving on to the Regina Regional Heritage Fair on May 5th!





## Community of Success by Vice Principal Tricia Shynkaruk

It was a March to Remember! For the first time in recorded history the St. Augustine Community School Boys Basketball Team came away as the RCSD City Champions! Lead by coaches Mr. Ryan James and Mr. Paul Van Betuw. The 13 member squad played a tough team from Deshaye Catholic School. It was the type of game you can only hope with fierce competition yet excellent sportsmanship. Lots of offense with timely defense! We can appreciate the efforts of this group as we assembled a team of boys from six different countries and many of them recently joined our community of Gators. Representing locations such as the Philippines, Croatia, Ireland, Africa, Canada and Vietnam, each player brought a unique and positive perspective to the game.

Following this championship win, the staff of St. Augustine organized a parade around the community, complete with an entourage of special guests and police escorts! We were so proud to celebrate this amazing accomplishment! This event honored not only our Basketball champions, but earlier this year several of these players also showcased their amazing multi-sport athletic abilities and captured the RCSD Boys Volleyball title as well.

These achievements don't come easily. It is our deep belief as a school community to "Achieve Excellence through Faith, Knowledge and Action", that we are able to make some history! We extend a big thanks to all the spectators, friends, and families who supported all of these boys in many ways throughout the season.



### St. Augustine Boys Basketball Roster

Joshua Stark	Jack Catarina	Reggie Bathen
Klient Pascua	Kevin Kandeale	Musa Peter
Cliff Velasco	Mark Marbella	Biyo Oris
Josh Ararao	Nicolas Kalume	Luka Garic

### Practice Players and Taxi Squad

Rics Lao	Anthony Pascua	Ace Valdez
Ralf Dumlaio	DJ Bayatan	







## Concours d'art oratoire

Congratulations to all French Immersion students who participated in the annual Regina Catholic School Division Concours d'art oratoire that took place at École St. Angela Merici School on March 9th. The first and second place finalists from Grades 6-12 will advance to the provincial French speaking competition that will take place in Saskatoon on April 29th.

- 6e : 1 – Mila Carleton (St. Pius)...Helen Keller  
2 – Austin Dimalanta (St. Mary)...L'égalité des sexes  
3 – Lorato Okai (St. Mary)...Rosa Parks
- 7e : 1 – Ruby Eger (St. Pius)...La discrimination des femmes  
2 – Camryn Gilbert (St. Andrew)...Michelle Obama  
3 – Jocelyne Heroux (St. Angela)...L'influence de la musique
- 8e : 1 – Farrah Sim (St. Pius)...Les manchettes  
2 – Mathew Dizey (St. Angela)...La poutine  
3 – Noah Zimroz (St. Angela)...J'aimerais vivre à Costco
- 9e : 1 – Marial Tuazon (O'Neill)...La procrastination  
2 – Logan Tarr (O'Neill)...Le café  
3 – Jakob Kellin (O'Neill)...Pour avoir plus de succès dans la vie
- 10e : 1 – Victory Howard (LeBoldus)...Le féminisme  
2 – Gerone Dimalanta (O'Neill)...Les médias sociaux  
3 Mike Elliott (O'Neill)...Le vol d'identité
- 12e : 1 – Jaedin Blish (O'Neill)...Le perfectionnisme  
2 – Paul Bellerive (LeBoldus)...Le pouvoir du collège électoral

## Aiming High

On March 15, students from Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School and Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School traveled to the 10th floor of the SaskTel building in downtown Regina to discuss engineering careers, with a focus on telecommunications. Here Klaus Ottenbreit from SaskTel is shown presenting information on cell phone towers. Students not only learned they should not have a fear of heights, but they also learned engineering is a challenging profession which deals with municipal regulations, contractors, the public, purchasing agents, real estate transactions, the environment and many other factors.

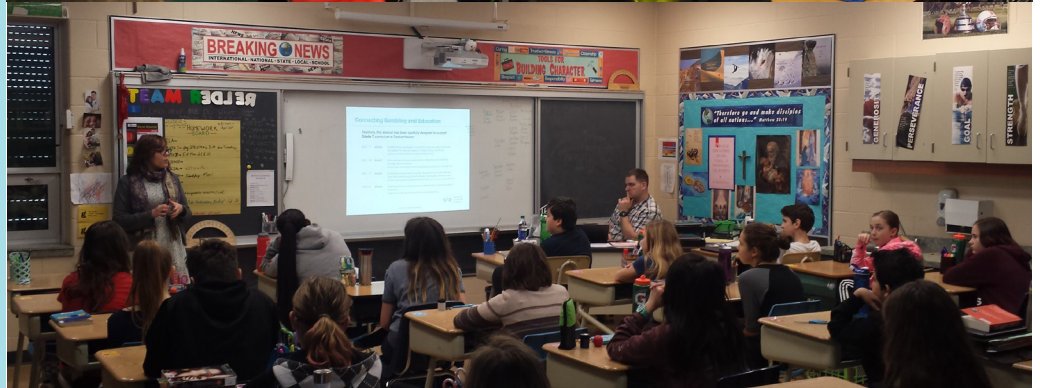






## Sweet Learning

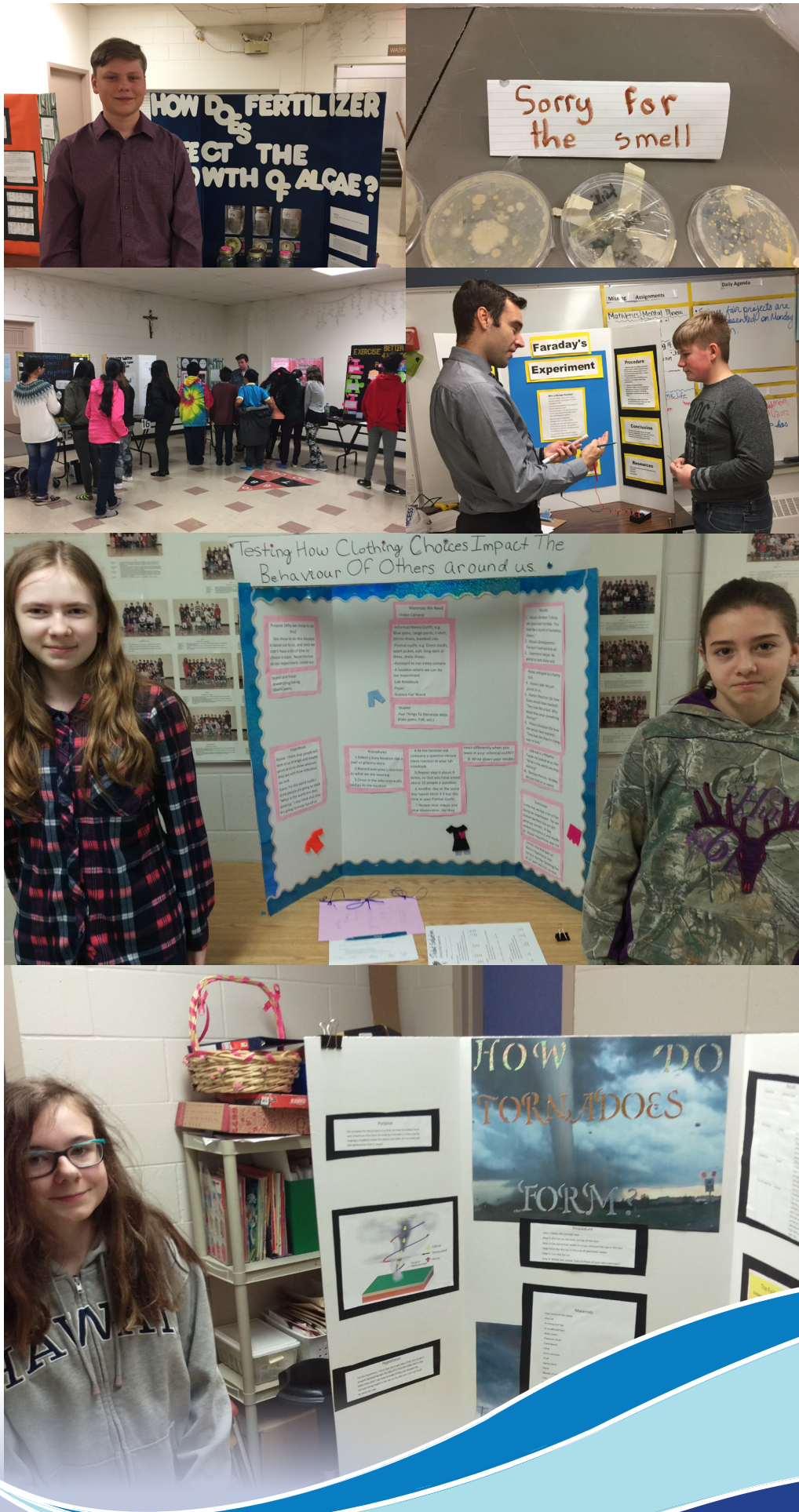
On March 20, Corinne Bzdell (top picture; seated on the left) and her Grade 7/8s at St. Timothy School were “treated” to an interesting presentation which featured both chocolate and mathematics, by Aeliesha Brooks from the Canadian Mental Health Association. Many students won a small prize but sadly no one took home the grand prize – a large chocolate toonie. However, all students developed an appreciation for the importance of having healthy, balanced lifestyles! The same presentation was shared with Tyler Redler’s class at St. Gabriel School as well (bottom picture).



## Ukrainian Program

RCSD’s Ukrainian program has been in existence since 1978. This program is open to all children from grades 1 to 8 who attend Regina Catholic schools. First and foremost our main component of the program is the Ukrainian Catholic rite, followed by our language, our traditions and culture. Everyone is welcome to attend this program.



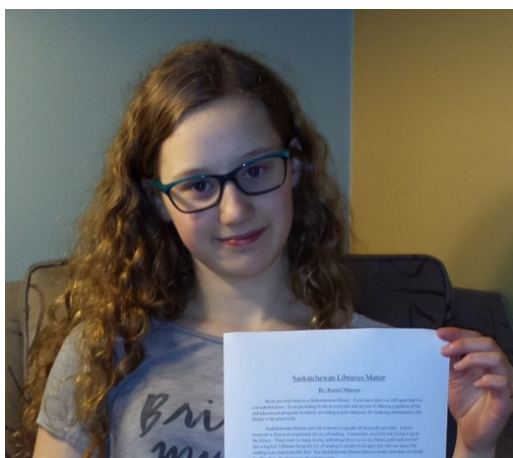


## Celebrating Science

March was an exciting month for many RCSD students as they focused their inquiring minds towards science fair. This year, five schools participated in the division fair: St. Peter School, École St. Mary, St. Jerome School, St. Theresa School and St. Matthew School. A number of students from each of these schools will be moving forward to the Regional competition on April 6th and 7th at the University of Regina. A special thank you to the lead teachers who guided their students through this rich and diverse learning experience: Adam Krammer (St. Jerome), Liz Stephenson (St. Mary), Marc Yakichuk and Daniel Brown (St. Theresa), Brett Matlock (St. Matthew) and Jill Wernikowski (St. Peter). A special thank you goes out to our community partners who provided judges for the school-based fairs: SaskTel, The Saskatchewan Science Center and the University of Regina. Thank you for giving back to our community.

*The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.*

*Proverbs 14:15*



The **Saskatchewan Libraries Matter** Contest was sponsored by the Saskatchewan Library Trustees' Association and ran from October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. It was open to all residents of Saskatchewan library regions. RCSD is very proud of St. Matthew School student Rachel Manzoni, whose essay *Saskatchewan Libraries Matter* was chosen as a winner. Well done, Rachel!

## Saskatchewan Libraries Matter

By Rachel Manzoni

Have you ever been to a Saskatchewan library? If you have then you will agree that it is a wonderful place. From providing books to everyone and anyone to offering a plethora of fun and educational programs to merely providing a quiet sanctuary for studying and relaxation, the library is the place to be.

Saskatchewan libraries provide a service to people all across the province. It gives everyone a chance to experience the joy of reading. I remember, as a little kid, loving to go to the library. There were so many books, and taking them out on my library card made me feel like a big kid. Libraries bring the joy of reading to people of all ages, and who can argue that reading is an important life skill.

But Saskatchewan libraries have so much more than just books to offer, they also have tons of cool programs.

Many people think libraries are just for books, well, not in Saskatchewan! Saskatchewan libraries offer a wide variety of programs for all ages. Whether you are as young as a kindergartener enrolled in a story or craft session, a student getting some tutoring, or an immigrant learning to speak English, the library has what you need. With all the amazing programs there truly is something for everyone.

We have all met that person who says, "We don't need libraries, reading is boring." Well, they are wrong - Saskatchewan libraries matter! Besides providing books and programs for the general public, libraries are a safe haven. A quiet place for anyone who wants to read, work, study, or just relax.

Libraries are the perfect place to escape from reality, even if it is only for a few minutes. Saskatchewan libraries truly are wonderful places.

With all the books, programs, and the great atmosphere Saskatchewan libraries are the place to be. And if you have any questions the helpful librarians will answer them for you. So pull out your calendar and plan your next visit to a Saskatchewan library.

*- Rachel is in the eighth grade at St. Matthew Elementary School. She is a competitive swimmer and enjoys reading, writing, crochet, and playing the flute.*



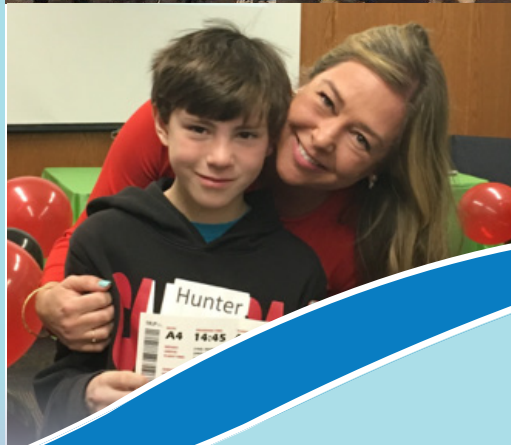
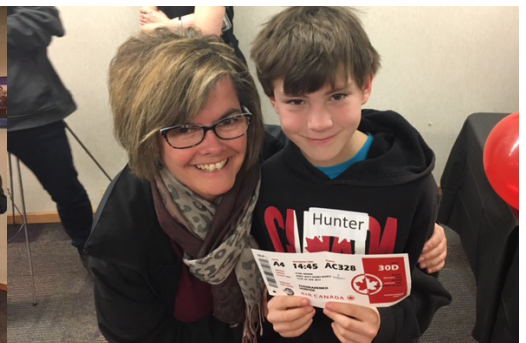
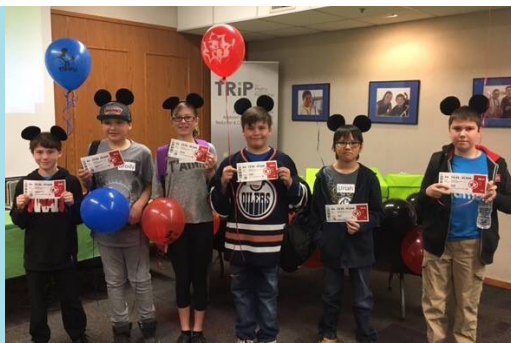


## Bike for Kids

St. Michael Community School worked with Powerhouse Mortgages and the United Way to recognize student attendance through the Bikes For Kids initiative. Students earned ballots, then 22 names were drawn. The winning students won a brand new bike, lock and helmet supplied by Powerhouse Mortgages-DLC. The students were very excited to win, and were presented with their brand new bikes, locks and helmets on Friday, March 24th. Principal Dean Schwebius, teachers, and even Superintendents Sean Chase and Michele Braun jumped in to help adjust seat heights and acclimate students with their new wheels. A huge thank you to Powerhouse Mortgages and the United Way for rewarding students and making them smile.

## Dreams Take Flight

Six Regina children, including three RCSD students were chosen to take the trip of a lifetime with TRIP Regina and Air Canada's Dreams Take Flight. They were surprised with a whirlwind trip to Walt Disney World in April. The students were surrounded by their families and TRIP team members when they got the good news. Photos courtesy Principal Monica Norris, who took time out from her new position to cheer on Hunter, a student from Deshayé Catholic School.





## Going Green

St. Josaphat School students were treated to pizza - delivered by Saskatchewan Roughriders player - as a reward for their efforts in recycling electronics. Special thanks to EPRA Saskatchewan for their part in helping educate the community about what to do with unwanted electronics, and to Saskatchewan Roughriders Justin Cox and Makana Henry for spending time with the students. St. Josaphat School has really gone "green."



## Yummy Lesson

École St. Mary Grade 2 students enjoying bannock and learning about traditional Métis beadwork patterns. Learning is fun and delicious!

## Patriots Over Storm

The École St. Pius X Patriots defeated the École St. Andrew Storm 51-39 in the Regina Catholic Schools Elementary Girls Basketball City Championship. This was their fourth consecutive city championship.







## Swimming Fun

*"All of us have a secret desire to be seen as saints, heroes, martyrs. We are afraid to be children, to be ourselves."*

*Jean Vanier, Community And Growth*

Jean Vanier teaches us that God calls us to do ordinary things with extraordinary love. There is nothing more powerful than the love and joy shared by the students of Regina Catholic's Jean Vanier School and students from our four high schools during weekly swims. On March 14, 2017, St. Luke students joined Jean Vanier students at the pool to enjoy one another's company, play, and to bring joy to one another. The swim program provides Jean Vanier students with the opportunity to experience community activities, to spend time with peers, and to exercise! It has been a regular weekly outing for over three decades! This experience would not be possible without the cooperation and service of students from LeBoldus, Miller, O'Neill, Riffel, and St. Luke High Schools. Many current and former students have shared that this opportunity changed their lives and perception of people with diverse or intensive needs. From these photos, it's hard to tell who is being served. It's a valuable experience for all!



## Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"Fasting is fruitful when accompanied by concrete expressions of love towards our neighbors, especially those in difficulty."

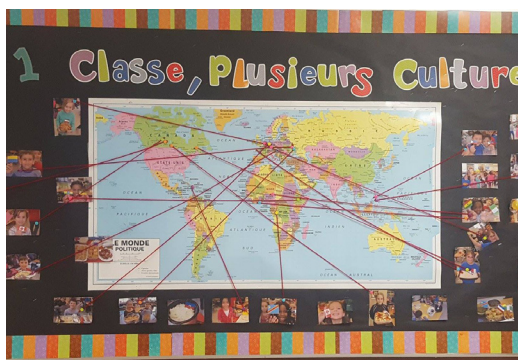
"Fasting means not only abstaining from food, but also from any unhealthy attachment, and especially sin."

"May the certainty of faith be the engine of our lives."

"I invite you not to build walls but bridges, to conquer evil with good, offence with forgiveness, to live in peace with everyone."

"Let us pray for one another so that we may open our doors to the weak and poor."





## Celebrating Diversity

To finish off their unit on nutrition, Mme Dietrich's grade 2 students from École St. Mary celebrated with a food culture day! Everyone had to bring a meal that was important to their family. Bannock, Crêpes, perogies, Legim (Haiti), Palacsinta (Hungary), Injera (Ethiopia) and Philippine rice cake were just a few examples of the delicious food they ate. It is nice when the students see the difference between culture and their food. *"Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common. Celebrate it every day." – Anonymous*

## Mugged

Congratulations to the four winners of RCSD mugs: Suzanne Beckel of École St. Mary, Dean Vendramin of Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School, Melinda O'Byrne of Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School, and Markus Rubrecht of Holy Rosary Community School (pictured).

Keep reading... we will have another giveaway next month!



## Month at a Glance - April 2017

Feast of the Annunciation is Tuesday April 4.

Good Friday is April 14.

Easter Sunday is April 16.

Feast Day of St. Bernadette is Sunday, April 16.

Easter Monday is April 17.

Feast Day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha is Monday, April 17.

Easter Break (No school for students) is Friday, April 14, until Sunday, April 23.

Classes Resume Monday, April 24.