

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

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." – Isaiah 40:30-31

We welcome 2017 and its promise of opportunities and possibilities. January marks the start of a new year. It's also a blend of endings and beginnings for us: the ending of the Advent season, soon the ending of a semester for our high school students, some administrators ending their tenure at their schools and, of course, the close of 2016.

With 2017 here, we see the beginning of more than just a calendar year. It's the beginning of changes. Our government has been indicating that change is on the horizon for all school divisions across the province. These changes involve the amalgamation of school divisions and our locally elected trustees. We are committed to the education and faith development of our students no matter what these changes will bring. We are called to serve our 11,400 students and their families and that will remain our focus. You all have an opportunity to voice your opinion through a survey link provided before Christmas, hopefully you will take advantage of that survey to have your voice heard.

As we begin the new year, a few changes have taken place at some of our schools. Principal Stacey Gherasim moves to Deshaye Catholic School, Markus Rubrecht moves from the vice-principal's office at St. Matthew School to the principal's office at Holy Rosary Community School, and Yvonne Sirdar steps in to replace him at St. Matthew. Geoff Gilbert moves from Michael A. Riffel Catholic

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High School's vice-principal's office to replace Paul Tourigny, who leaves St. Timothy School to serve as Principal at St. Catherine Community School. Mike Chase will move into the vice-principal's office at Riffel. Cindy Nelson moves to St. Francis Community School, replacing James Wahl, who will prepare to open St. Nicholas School this fall. He and Monica Norris will work out of the Catholic Education Centre until the summer. Monica will be the principal of St. Kateri Tekakwitha School when it opens. We wish each principal and vice principal all the best as they begin their new placement. Shortly, we will begin registering students for our three new schools set to open in September (St. Elizabeth, St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. Nicholas). Finally, the school journey begins for parents and students registering for kindergarten.

December is often a flurry of activity in our schools as we prepare our students for Christmas events. This business can sometimes make it easy to overlook the simple signs of Christmas optimism. To all those who worked so tirelessly to produce the many beautiful Christmas concerts, musicals, plays and shows, I thank you. Your talents are remarkable and your work is immeasurably appreciated. I was blessed to witness some of the talent of our students, and also to see their parents, siblings, grandparents and friends marvel in the delight of praising the Lord and giving thanks to God for sending us his only Son.

For those who led our students in Making a Difference during the Advent season, again, I thank you. Projects such as the Miracle on Edgar Street, decorating boxes for the Regina Food Bank's Christmas hampers, and singing to and serving our neighbours do many things. First, they help others. Beyond that, leading these projects allows our students to learn the gift that it is to serve others. It is what God calls us to do, not just a chore. It is a gift to be both giver and receiver. We are all blessed when we serve. In December, some of us listened to author Chris Lowney who described Pope Francis' servant leadership example from three images – a washing machine, dirty shoes and a church bell. The book is called *Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads*. A wonderful message and example of servant leadership and social justice.

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
Mark 10:45*

We have taken time to thank God for our many blessings, and continue to do so. The dark days are becoming lighter, a sure sign of spring and new life to come. These dark winter days are a time for us to shine brighter as God's light, and spread his word with all of our deeds.

And now, we look toward January, with rested hearts and optimism. We continue to live out the theme, Go Make a Difference - Love Your Neighbour as Yourself.

*God bless,
Dom*



Ukrainian Celebration

Back on October 1, 2016, our Ukrainian School students performed at the Delta for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress 75th Anniversary Banquet and Shevchenko Medal Presentation. The Shevchenko Medal is the highest form of recognition that can be granted by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. Our children received a standing ovation for their performance. Next, we look forward to Ukrainian Christmas Day on January 7, 2017.



Christmas Cheer

Over the past few years, Regina Catholic School Division has helped spread some Christmas cheer by partnering with the Food Bank to decorate the Christmas hamper boxes they use. It all began as a class service project in Kelly Walby's class and has spread across our entire division. This year, as a division, we decorated 2,214 boxes to be used as hampers for those in need. Thank you to everyone who participated in this initiative.



Congratulations to everyone at St. Gregory School involved in their amazing production of "In a Galilee Far Far Away." It was a clever twist on the meaning of Christmas, and every student and teacher was a star!



Ugly Sweater Day

Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School students were spreading Christmas cheer with some bright and colourful "ugly" Christmas sweaters. For a group of kids wearing something referred to as ugly, this is a great looking group of Titans!



O'NEILL
HIGH SCHOOL
IS TURNING
FIFTY

MAY **27** 2017 | STARTS **1PM** TO 4:30PM

- LOTS TO SEE AND DO -
PHOTO BOOTH **TOURS** LIVE MUSIC
MEMORABILIA
...AND MUCH MORE!

"ONCE A TITAN, ALWAYS A TITAN"

134 ARGYLE ST N - REGINA, SK



Grade 11 and 12 students in Murray Wright's Emergency Services class at Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School enjoyed their annual tour of the STARS facility and helicopters on December 13.

November

In November at Sacred Heart Community School, grade 8 teacher Adam Ward was challenged to grow a moustache for Movember and raise funds for men's health & mental health. He accepted the challenge and grew a moustache for the month. As a school, the Sacred Heart Buffalo held a moustache day and hot dog day. They raised \$1,000 for the cause.



Timberwolf Difference

On November 22nd, St. Timothy School's grade 7/8 class held a Cowboy Cookie sale in conjunction with a school wide Western Day. The cookies were made at home by the students and families. All proceeds were donated to the Regina Humane Society. After all the cookies were sold, \$374.00 was raised! The students also brought donations of toys, food and rawhide for the animals at the shelter. The grade 7/8 students toured the Regina Humane Society. Zeus, a black kitten, said a special thank you to the students and received lots of special attention!

It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35

Director's Meeting

The annual Director's Meeting began with a mass held at Holy Rosary Cathedral. Following breakfast, trustees, senior administration, school based administrators, elders and CEC staff gathered to hear from Archbishop Donald Bolen and his thoughts on truth and reconciliation. Thank you to all those responsible for the morning. A special thanks to the Regina Catholic Intermediate Jazz Band, led by Nadine Ghiglione, for their wonderful performance.



Christmas Dinner

The staff at St. Francis Community School took some time during Advent to prepare a beautiful Christmas dinner for all their students. It was a wonderful, and delicious, treat before classes wrapped up before the Christmas holidays.



Photo Fun

St. Josaphat School's grade 7/8 students had some fun with props before the Christmas break. The photo booth was plenty of fun, and garnered plenty of smiles.



Safety First

Scott Kuntz, at St. Gabriel, listens closely as Danielle Bachart from the Service & Hospitality Safety Association delivers her presentation to his class. The SHSA has now presented to over half of the Grade 6 classes in our elementary schools, with the other half to follow after Christmas!



Sask Polytechnic

Sask Polytechnic visited all 5 of our high schools in December, for specialized meetings with Grade 11 and 12 students. Thanks to the hard work of our guidance counselors, students enjoyed focused presentations on the steps they will take during and after Grade 12 to continue their career education. Shown here is Emily Weekes from Sask Polytechnic talking to Miller students, with counselor Barb Barnes-Wilcox in the background.



Student safety is paramount in our schools. A recent safety audit of our high school workshops suggested a need for more safety signage. Shown here is Dave Cornish, from Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School and two of his students, with two of the many new signs posted in RCSD kitchens and construction labs. Just like in the work world, everyone's safety is critical!



It's Getting Hot in Here

St. Marguerite EFAP and Best Buddies hosted their 2nd annual Advent luncheon for family and friends on December 16. Mrs. Labatt's students, peer buddies and staff worked tirelessly to put together a holiday luncheon for over 50 people! "I started this luncheon to showcase my students social skills progress as well as enhance community building," stated Amanda Labatt, EFAP teacher. Stomachs were filled, laughter floated around and a special visitor even arrived to spread some Christmas cheer!



La bataille des livres - French Battle of the Books

Congratulations to the students and teachers from St. Angela, St. Andrew, St. Mary and St. Pius who participated in the third edition of the French Battle of the Books which took place on December 2nd at École Wilfred Walker and included participating schools from Regina Catholic, Regina Public, Holy Trinity and the Conseil des écoles fransaskoises. First place was awarded to École Mgr de Laval and second place went to École St. Angela. Félicitations!



New Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School Vice-Principal Wade Hackl get a very jolly welcome to the school, just four months in. Several big changes to school based administrators happen this month. For a full list, see the Message from the Director on Page 1.



Beautiful Donation

After Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School grade 12 student Ashley Sandercock shaved her head in November as part of the school's Food Drive, she made sure her hair was sent to help others. Locks for Love let her know that the hair she sent was the largest donation they'd ever received. Ashley's lock will soon be made into wigs that will put hair, and hopefully smiles, on the faces of children going through medical crises. Way to Make a Difference!



Dear Kathryn Srynyk:
 The St. Theresa School Choir gave a wonderful performance at the Christmas Lights Across Canada event held at the Legislative Building on December 1, 2016. Their voices filled the Rotunda with the sound of the holiday season. They did a great job kicking off the event and leading the audience in singing 'O Canada'. We hope they enjoyed singing as much as we enjoyed listening to them. Thank you and Sr. Anna Aulic for all the work you put into preparing them for the performance. Please pass our thanks on to the students. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Marionne Morgan
 Event Committee Member 2016



Miracle on Edgar St.

St. Augustine Community School witnessed a miracle this Advent Season. Dubbed the Miracle on Edgar Street, various community partners came together to create a beautiful Christmas celebration for the St. Augustine Community. A special thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas lunch, food hampers, Santa Store, and the entire project:

Capital Cares, Capital GMC, Capital Ford, Harvard Broadcasting, MY92.1, 620 CKRM, 104.9 The Wolf, Canadian Tire, United Way Regina, Sherwood Co-op, Saskatchewan Roughriders, and all the many volunteers.



Sing, Choir of Angels

The Conexus Arts Centre was filled with the sounds of the Christmas Season on December 1, 2016, which all of our high school choirs gathered together for "Midnight Clear," the annual Christmas concert. The hard work and dedication that goes into this production is nothing short of magical. Thank you to all staff who worked so hard to make this happen in just three short months of practise, and also to every single singer, musician, and backstage crew member. Attending this concert is truly a privilege and a blessing.



Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"The Church does not grow through proselytism, but by attraction."

"Christ is born for us, let us rejoice in the day of our salvation!"

"Now is the time to unleash the creativity of mercy, to bring about new undertakings, the fruit of grace."

Construction Zones

On time and on budget... some wonderful words to hear about our construction projects. Sacred Heart Community School (right) will be ready to start moving students over this March. The three photos below show the progress at (top to bottom) St. Nicholas School, St. Kateri Tekakwitha School, and École St. Elizabeth.



Month at a Glance

All students return to classes on January 5, 2017.

Ukrainian Christmas Day is January 7, 2017.

Elementary Teachers' Institute is January 27, 2017.

Provincial Family Literacy Day is January 27, 2017.

High School Teachers' Institute is January 30, 2017.

High School Turn Around is January 31, 2017.

Elementary Schools begin accepting kindergarten registrations this month.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

~2 Corinthians 5:17