

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

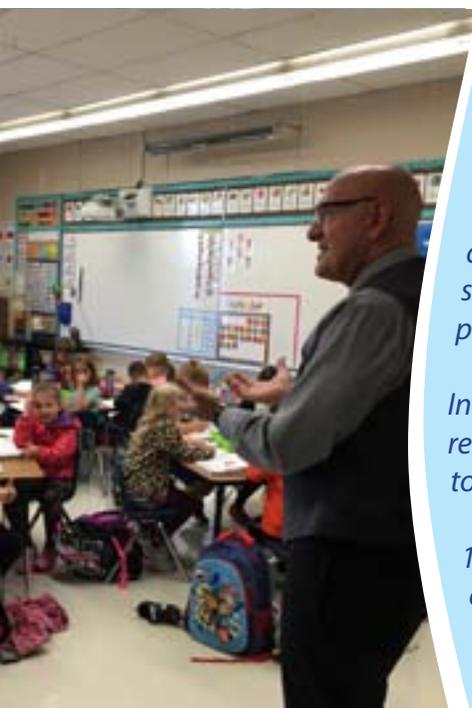
In October we all will be taking time with our families and loved ones for the many things in our lives for which we are grateful. God has blessed us with an abundance of goodness and we need to be generous with our brothers and sisters in our communities who may not be blessed with the same abundances. During Thanksgiving our parishes will be collecting non-perishable goods – let us remember the Gospel passage of Lazarus.

It has been a busy time between celebrating the many outstanding aspects that are happening at our schools and the Regina community at large. I am committed to visiting all of our schools before Christmas to rejoice in the great works of our staff with our students. These visits to each of our 30 schools offer an opportunity to meet with our dedicated staff members and to provide Division updates.

Each year, senior administration presents a monitoring report on student achievement to the Board. Upon completion of the RCSD Student Achievement 2015-2016 presentation, the Board of Trustees approved a monitoring report on student achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics. Given the significant student achievement realized in reading, writing, and mathematics throughout the year, the Board expressed its appreciation to RCSD staff members for their dedication and commitment to effective student learning. The work done by these staff members prepares students who will, with confidence, enter high school and post-secondary education.

In addition to the monitoring report on student achievement, RCSD also recently received data summaries from the Ministry of Education about how RCSD compares to provincial measures. Here are some highlights:

- 1. The Ministry has set an outcome goal for reading in Grade 3: By 2020, 80% of Grade 3 students will read at or above grade level. The data from the Ministry indicates, in a public manner, that 87.5% of our Grade 3 students have achieved this goal.*
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2. Our high school students also 'measure up.' When we look at the percentage of students in Grade 10-12 who attained 8 or more credits in the 2015-16 school year, 20% more RCSD students met this goal as compared to the provincial average. Our First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) students' achievement was significant!

3. Our on-time and extended-time graduation rates continue to exceed the provincial average, with our FNMI students' rates also surpassing provincial averages.

As a Division, we recognize the significant impact and positive difference the teaching, coaching and program interventions are making for all our students. We continue to support the Catholic faith development of our students. Our enrolment growth reflects parents support of a Catholic education as our student population has increased by over 400 students to 11,500 students.

We are thankful for the installation of our new Archbishop Donald Bolen who will officially assume his role in Regina on October 14 at Holy Rosary Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. We at Regina Catholic schools are looking forward to working with our new Archbishop to forge a strong relationship between our parishes and our schools.

We are thankful for the great work of our facilities department to make sure our three new schools will be ready on time and on budget. Soon the appointed principals will begin the important process of scheduling staff, classrooms, etc. for our new schools. It is exciting as it has been sixteen years since we have opened a new school.

As we look toward Thanksgiving weekend, I invite you to consider continuing to give thanks for your many blessings and to offer prayers of thanks. For me, I personally want to thank our school division personnel and faith community who work collaboratively to ensure Catholic education remains a vital educational option!

God bless, Dom



Orange Shirt Day

École St. Mary is prepared for Orange Shirt Day on Friday September 30. This bulletin board will soon see the addition of many hands, cut out from orange paper. However your school marks the day, we pray that the day creates a new path toward Truth and Reconciliation.



A Saint to Call Our Own

The Canonization of Sainthood, on September 4, 2016 was marked in a special way at Deshaye Catholic School. The school has recognized Blessed Mother Teresa as their patron for many years, but they now have a saint to call their own. This school year, a portrait of Saint Mother Teresa is displayed on the bulletin board behind our altar. Each month there will be one of her famous quotes displayed, as her words were powerful. Mother Teresa was much more than a woman of words. She was a woman of action. The **best** way to celebrate her canonization is to find someone, anyone, to serve and to love. Start in your own home by simply getting a glass of water, or doing an extra chore, for a family member. Do it with Joy and offer it to the Lord. In Saint Mother Teresa's words: "If you want to bring happiness and peace to the whole world, Go Home and Love Your Family." A Special thank you to Mrs. Schaan, Mrs. Folk, Felicity, and Liam for assisting in our Opening School Liturgy.

Firehall Visit

On September 9, 18 Grade 11 and 12 students from Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School's Emergency Services course visited Fire Hall #6 on Rink Ave. Teacher Murray Wright (pictured at the back left) has incorporated this visit into his curriculum and obtained donations of all the equipment students are wearing in this picture - what a great way to start this course!



Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School teacher Connie Perrault was interviewed on CBC Radio about Personal Finance 30, a unique, locally developed course. She was fantastic! Click the link to listen. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/programs/morningedition/talking-about-money-in-regina-high-schools-1.3760432>

Food for Families

Last May, Mme Ling's Grade 5 class at Ecole St. Andrew held a charity event they named "Food for Families". They invited 27 local celebrities to paint ceramic plates. The plates were then auctioned through e-Bay. Earlier this month, Steve Compton, CEO of the Regina and District Food Bank, accepted a cheque for \$2022.66. A heartfelt thank you to Best Buy Canada, Heather Laird from Ceramics Plus Regina, and Kathy's Baby Shoppe for sponsoring this very worthwhile event.



Classroom on Wheels

The Holodomor Mobile Classroom was in Regina for the final week of September. It presented a great way to learn more about Holodomor, the 1932-1933 genocide in the Ukraine. The bus is a mobile, interactive classroom which seats up to 31 students at a time through a presentation on Holodomor. Students participate in the class with tablets and work together to explore tough topics such as famine, discrimination, and genocide. Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School students are pictured on their bus tour.

Did you know that your Speech and Language department screens every single Pre K and Kindergarten student? According to our September registrations, that includes 1,142 students! A typical "screen" includes conversation, an articulation screen and questions to quickly assess the students' receptive and expressive language skills. These students either pass, need further assessment or are monitored for developmental milestones and rechecked during the school year or the following years.

*Early language abilities are directly related to later reading abilities (SAC –Speech Audiology Canada)

Breakfast for Learning

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Extreme School Makeover Challenge, The Mosaic Company provided \$100,000 in total cash prizes for 2016. Mother Teresa Middle School was one of ten schools given \$10,000, and was also chosen to host the 2016 Walk to Breakfast. Mosaic and the SSBA, in partnership with Breakfast for Learning, host the Mosaic Extreme School Makeover Challenge to encourage grassroots initiatives to improve student nutrition. Congratulations to MTMS!



Wahl to the Wall

St. Francis Community School CSCC gave Principal James Wahl a morning to just “hang around” in a “sticky situation” all to help raise funds for a new playground. Students sold 790 strips of duct tape for \$2 each, and used them to tape Wahl to the Wall. Once all the duct tape was used, Mr. Wahl was left dangling, and the playground was \$1580 closer to being realised. The target date for the new playground is this coming spring.



St. Francis Community School kindergarten student Chloe Predinchuk shares with the local media the joy in raising money AND duct taping Mr. Wahl to the wall.



New School Tour

While we're still 11 months from officially opening the doors to our 3 new schools, our Trustees, Superintendants, and the Principals of the schools all had the chance to tour the work site of St. Kateri Tekakwitha School. All were impressed with the amount of natural light, the roomy classroom sizes, outdoor learning spaces, and presentation staircase. Media had the chance to see inside the shared site just a few days later.



Safety Education

On the afternoon of September 12, Minister Don Morgan spoke to students at Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School as part of the province's Youth Safety Education Day. The main force behind this important safety initiative is the Service & Hospitality Safety Association, an important educational partner of RCSD. The SHSA also delivers its message to every grade 6 student through Career Education presentations. Pictured is, from left, Brian Lach, Superintendent; Dom Scuglia, Director, and Minister Don Morgan, all listening to Sarah Wenaus, Operations Manager of the SHSA. The bottom photo shows Minister Morgan addressing the assembly.



Making Us Proud

A massive congratulations to former Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School student Tatiana Maslany, who accepted an Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for her work on Orphan Black. She plays a series of clones in the show, each with her own distinct character, appearance, and accent. She began acting professionally while still with Regina Catholic Schools and has gone on to an impressive career.



Social Impact Bond

Deputy Premier and Education Minister Don Morgan, The Mosaic Company Foundation and Mother Teresa Middle School announced details of Saskatchewan's second Social Impact Bond, designed to improve school performance and graduation rates for at risk students. The Mosaic Company Foundation will provide \$1,000,000 over the next five years, which will be reimbursed by the province when MTMS shows improved high school graduation rates.

Tweets from Pope Francis

"Let us carry Mother Teresa's smile in our hearts and give it to those whom we meet along our journey."

"The world needs concrete signs of solidarity, especially before the temptation of indifference."

@Pontifex

"The concrete sign that we have truly encountered Jesus is the joy that we show in communicating it to others."

Opening Mass

St. Peter School, like all RCSD schools, celebrated the new school year with an opening mass. Part of what makes these masses so special is the chance to welcome our newest RCSD family members, our kindergarten students, as children of God in our schools. The kindergarten t-shirts are blessed, and each student recognised for the special role they will play in our school community. It's also the first chance of the year for many students to serve as part of mass.



Future Leaders

In partnership with Conexus, TRIP (The Regina Intersectoral Partnership), and Crime Stoppers, Leaders Creating Future Leaders is a lunch hour program that connects children with leaders in the workforce. Children from RCSD and RBE will visit various workplaces, and invite workers to share with and inspire the youth. The kick off event was at Regina Fire Hall # 4, where things got a little wet!



Month at a Glance

Provincial School Sport Week is October 9-15, 2016.

Thanksgiving Day is October 10, 2016.

Provincial Education Week is October 16-22, 2016.

Provincial Library Week is also October 16-22.

Provincial School Bus Driver Appreciation Day is October 17, 2016.

Provincial Media Literacy Week is October 31-November 4, 2016.

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Ps 34:1