

# Regina Catholic School Division

## Director's Communiqué

events@rcsd.ca | www.rcsd.ca | Issue 78 | February 2018

*"Let Your Light Shine"*

### A Message from Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia



"And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues." 1 Corinthians 12:28

Thank you for a wonderful start to 2018. Moving now into February, we are given a fresh start again in high schools as semester two begins. Students have settled back into routines and ongoing learning. February is also a time for us to pause and reflect on all the many contributions the members of our staff make to the children of our division.

Staff Appreciation Week is February 11-17, 2018. While we appreciate our staff all year round, it is a positive thing to have this week to publicly remind everyone of how grateful we are for everyone involved in educating young people. The efforts you extend now are making a positive difference in the lives of our nearly 12,000 students. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us. Interestingly enough, February 14 is Valentine's Day and we begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday.

The pages of this edition of the Director's Communiqué are filled with photos and stories from our schools. We highlight the triumphs in our classrooms, and share the ways our students grow, one book, one equation, one prayer, one step at a time. Thank you for your submissions.

My prayers for you this month will be for the Lord to guide you as you lead your students through the meaningful journey of Lent.

God Bless,  
Dom



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## Ukrainian Caroling

On January 19, the Ukrainian Program students went to St. Basil's Manor to perform some Christmas Carols for the residents. The students sang five selections, four in Ukrainian and completed the caroling with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" in English. The residents were thrilled to hear the students sing. After the caroling was done, the students spent some quality time visiting with them.

## LEGO Robotics

St. Michael Community School hosted LEGO Robotics teams from École St. Angela Merici in its first ever Robotics Tournament. It was so much fun to watch the teams control their robots to gain points. What a great way for students to learn! Teams moved on to a tournament at the University of Regina.



## Donating Life

We just wanted to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who donated blood this past year on behalf of Regina Catholic Schools! We not only met our goal of 120 units of blood donated in 2017, but we exceeded it with 124 units of blood collected from CEC employees! Thanks to everyone that came out to save lives last year, and if you haven't come out to a CEC blood drive in the past, please consider doing so in the future as we try and exceed last year's total!

Your Partners for Life Representatives,  
Jonas Prysliak and Kurtis Thick





## Outstanding Principal

We at the Regina Catholic School Division are blessed to have 32 outstanding principals leading our schools. We're very proud that Sacred Heart Community School's Dave Magnusson has been recognized by The Learning Partnership as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals. This is an exciting achievement which follows a smooth transition from the old Sacred Heart building into the new. Dave's leadership and commitment to his school community and staff has been exceptional. On behalf of all of us - congratulations Dave!

### Video

*Not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:3*



## Happy 40th Anniversary!

St. Timothy School celebrated a very special Mass to mark 40 years of educating children. It's amazing to think of all the liturgies, phys ed classes, school dances and other events that have filled this gymnasium. Congratulations to all St. Timothy School staff and students, past and present!

## Farewell, Michele!

As she steps quietly into retirement, we all wish Michele Braun a long and happy retirement. Colleagues at the Catholic Education Centre prepared a word bubble to describe the way we will all remember our time with Michele. Congratulations Michele, and please don't be a stranger. You will always be a part of the Regina Catholic School Division family.



*How Michele will be Remembered*  
CEC, January 2018



## Knights Retreat

With "Community" as the theme, St. Nicholas School took a day to come together at Holy Family Parish and Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School as a retreat day. Special guests tied the theme to activities to remind students about how important they all are to their own community.



## New Logo

Congratulations to École St. Angela Merici students, newly dubbed the Griffons! The new logo is beautiful! Go Griffons!



## You Need to Believe in Order to Succeed

The boys and girls volleyball season ended in jubilation as the St. Augustine Gators won the Regina Catholic Schools City Championship in December. A commitment made by these boys to the Alumni six months ago had been fulfilled. Dedicated in both practices and games, each team member consistently improved during their undefeated season. Using his two years of starting experience with the Gators, Kleint Pasqua was a dominant player who may in fact be the only player to start for and RCS elementary school championship volleyball team three years in a row! Buoyed by the strong serves of Jack and Ilyick, the consistent attack of Kleint and Marc, and the quick feet of Anthony and Arnel the team was tough to defeat. Mr. Kampman has been coaching this team at St. Augustine each of the last three years and is both happy and relieved that he and the boys were able to three-peat as Champions to the delight of a dedicated fan base and Alumni.

Players: Harry P., Rics L., Kleint P., Marc M., Anthony P., Josh C., John S., Walter B., Magnifique M., Jack C., Ralf D. Ilyick D., Arnel U. Coaches: Mr. Chris Kampman and Mrs. Sitter



## Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"God became a child to be closer to the men and women of every time, and to show us His infinite tenderness."

"Baptism is also called 'illumination', because faith illuminates the heart and allows us to see things in a different light."

"If we fail to suffer with those who suffer, even those of different religions, languages or cultures, we need to question our own humanity."

"We must not wait to be perfect before responding to the Lord who calls us, but rather open our hearts to His voice."

"Listening to religious teaching or learning a doctrine is not enough. What we want is to live as Jesus lived."

"The Gospel message is a source of joy: a joy that spreads from generation to generation and which we inherit."

"Every life counts: from the beginning to the end, from conception to natural death."

"In the name of Jesus, with our witness, we can prove that peace is possible."

"The Lord calls you today to travel with Him through the city, your city. He calls you to be His missionary disciple."

"Prayer allows us to see one another the way God our Father sees us, and to realize that we are brothers and sisters."



## Creating a Listening & Learning Classroom Environment

### Tips from the RCSD Speech and Language Department

Did you know that the average grade 1 student does not understand 1 in 6 words spoken by their teacher, due to excessive background noise and poor classroom acoustics? (SAC, 2018). Not only does classroom noise affect the teacher's vocal health, but this may also lead to student's poor understanding, decreased attention, reduced performance, reading difficulty, decreased motivation and even delayed language acquisition. Help your students learn to the best of their ability by trying some of these easy classroom noise-reduction tips:

- Place tables/desks on an angle (instead of in rows) which keeps sounds from bouncing around the room.
- Turn off noisy equipment when it is not in use.
- When possible, try to keep windows and doors closed.
- Try to avoid providing instructions/lessons to one part of the classroom while other students are listening to music or playing on the computer. Instead, encourage students to read/work silently in their respective spots as instructions are given to the other students.
- As tennis balls are made of latex, and can be prone to the growth of mold, opt for latex-free soft tips at the bottom of chairs and tables.
- Replace noisy or flickering fluorescent light fixtures right away, as this can be very distracting for students.
- Consider adding a hypoallergenic area rug or a washable material (i.e. interlocking tiles) in part of the classroom (i.e. in the teacher's common walking path).
- Consider using a Personal Frequency Modulation System (FM system) when instructing or providing directions. Not only will this reduce the vocal strain for teachers, but it will improve the audibility of the teacher's voice over the background noise. Keep in mind that FM systems do not reduce the background noise therefore; soundfield amplification is not a solution for classroom noise problems!

## Month at a Glance - March 2018

Monday, March 5 - Board Meeting 5:00

Thursday, March 8 - International Women's Day

Friday, March 9 - Feast Day of St. Dominic Savio

Monday, March 12 - Staff Meeting/Teacher Professional Day - no school for students

Saturday, March 17 - Feast Day of St. Patrick

Monday, March 19 - Solemnity of St. Joseph

Tuesday, March 20 - International Francophonie Day

March 19-20 - Elementary School Progress Reports

Wednesday, March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; World Down Syndrome Day

Thursday, March 22 - World Water Day

Sunday, March 25 - Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 29 - Holy Thursday

Friday, March 30 - Good Friday

March 30-April 8 - Easter Break