

Regina Catholic School Division

Director's Communiqué

events@rcsd.ca | www.rcsd.ca | Issue 79 | March 2018

"Let Your Light Shine"

A Message from Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia



"When we confess our sins with humility and sincerity, we receive forgiveness and are reunited with God and our brothers and sisters."

~ Pope Francis

Ash Wednesday saw each of us agree to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. The days that follow involve fasting, but not just from food. Instead, we search things to limit in our lives so we can be open to the wonders of God. We skip dessert to thank Jesus for his sacrifice, donate to worthy causes to show our willingness to go without, and pray for peace throughout the world.

We are so grateful for the many ways our staff provide opportunities at our schools for students within their classes and in other activities. I am so thankful of staff members for their dedication to Regina Catholic Schools. During February, we marked 100 days of school this year, began transitioning students and parents from grade 8 to high school, and saw the much-anticipated completion of the gymnasium at the new Sacred Heart Community School building. February was also Black History Month and our schools were involved in learning about the many contributions African-Canadian people have made to our country to enrich our history.

We are especially proud of the school community at St. Dominic Savio where this month they celebrated an amazing accomplishment by raising more than \$10,000 for the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital. As we roll into March, we begin to think more about spring's arrival. Spring itself is a time of transformation and rebirth with the pending change of season; I pray for each of our schools so they may continue to enjoy success, peace and harmony within their community.

As we journey through Lent together, let us remember to keep all our students and families in our prayers.

God Bless,
Dom



To the Teachers and Staff at Deshaye Catholic

Firstly, thank you.

My first teacher was Mrs Joy. Isn't that a great name for a teacher? And she did. She exuded joy wherever she went and always had a smile each and every day. She had white hair cut short into a pixie style. She often wore a tartan skirt and would always end the school day in the reading room, which had bean bags and blankets and shelves along the side with books and she had a big paper flip-chart. That's the room where she told us the story of the alphabet. And to this day I remember the story of Q. She wrote a giant letter Q on the flip chart. Q was a beautiful Queen who ruled her kingdom in a kind and generous manner. Q had a long robe covered in diamonds and jewels and sparkles and glitter. The townspeople loved to see her robe so she held a parade through the town so everyone could enjoy the spectacle of her robe. Sadly one of the townspeople stood on her robe and it broke, and that's when Mrs Joy drew a little Q on the flip chart with a broken, flicked-up-to-the-right, robe! That's when we learned the story of U. U was one of the townspeople who bravely stepped up and vowed to never let Q's robe be broken again. U promised he would follow Q forever so no one would stand on her robe again. Which is why Mrs Joy told us with a smile, when ever you write a word beginning with Q, the letter U will always be right behind it!

Mrs Joy and the story of Q will forever be with me. So will Mrs Lynch, Mr Clarke, Mrs Gormley, Mr Angus and Mr Lydon. I told the story of Mrs Joy and Q to my daughter Brianna the night before her first day of school to calm some of her nerves. I told her she too would find her Mrs. Joy and remember such a story for the rest of her life. I thought Brianna was lucky that she found her Mrs. Joy in Wendy Sutherland. Then I was blown away to know that Heather Pontius would leave her mark on our daughter. How can one kid get so lucky? And look at all the Mrs. Joys that are in her future: Lesley Perrault, who appears to sleep at the school from what I can tell; Matthew Bresciani and his dedication to sport; all the other teachers at Deshaye she is yet to interact with that will make an impression on the person Brianna will become.

To Mr Luca and Teresa Balon who together greet me with a smile every day, I thank you.

We believe strongly that it takes a village to raise a child and you are our army that is helping us shape our two children. We couldn't do it without you, and so we say thank from the bottom of our hearts.

Sarah and Malcolm Craig.

Dancing for Teachers

St. Gregory School students danced throughout the halls, collecting students from every classroom until they had the full student body dancing in the gym for their teachers. It was a high energy Staff Appreciation party!



Staff Appreciation

Board Trustees and Senior Admin delivered yummy cookies to all teachers and staff during Staff Appreciation Week. It was a delicious way to share their gratitude for the hard work our staff puts in all year long.





Opération Pépites/ Operation Sprinkles

Club du Souvenir welcomed members of the Royal Regina Rifles and members of HMCS Queen to assist in decorating cookies for Valentines day. The cookies were given to Veterans living in Regina care facilities and were also given to the soldiers and sailors of both military units. 240 cookies were baked and decorated for this sweet treat.

Career Exploration

On February 7, the Royal Canadian Navy brought its big recruiting bus to Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School for a noon hour Career Exploration event. Shown here is Petty Officer David Irwin with two students about to enter the bus, and try out the various computer simulations the navy uses to interest high school students in their wide variety of part-time and full-time careers. Along with the navy, presenters from Sask Polytechnic, the Service & Hospitality Safety Association, the Sask Apprenticeship Commission and the Regina Trades & Skills Centre set up displays over the noon hour on February 5-8 at all four of our high schools to encourage our high school students to think about their futures!



Shrove Tuesday

Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School always has a great turnout for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast. It's a fun and yummy way to prepare for the beginning of Lent. Once again this year, the Suns raised about \$2,000 for Chalice! Way to go, LeBoldus!





Good Start

St. Timothy students were treated to a delicious pancake breakfast on Shrove Tuesday. The Knights of Columbus from St. Peter's Parish were among the volunteers who showed up to help serve sausages, pancakes and lots of syrup to the students to start the day.



Ash Wednesday

St. Gregory School Principal Sharlene Holliday puts ashes on the forehead of a student on Ash Wednesday, the day everyone in our school division received ashes. We each promised to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. Whether in a Mass or liturgy, we said farewell to the A-word (Alleluia) and prepared for the Season of Lent.

Thankful Lions

St. Jerome is a wonderful place for many reasons. We have awesome students and our families are engaged and treat us so well. One of the reasons we are so blessed is the amazing staff! Our Lions staff, from teachers, to Instructional Assistants, our outstanding OM, and our caretaking team work so hard each and every day for our students and for each other. Each in their own way is an example of the Light of Christ in our school. And, a little fun once in a while is always a good thing!! Thank you to the staff of St. Jerome for all you do every day!





Robb Nash Presentation

What a great way to start semester 2 then by having The Robb Nash Project perform to the entire student body on Monday, February 5, 2018. Robb uses the power of music and storytelling to inspire hope and encourages positive life choices. His message touched on mental health, depression, suicide, and cutting, while focusing on good decision-making and resiliency. His unique brand of humor and reality mixed with music had everyone engaged. Prior to his presentation Robb sent out videos for both staff and students to preview. On the day of the presentation, Robb met with the administrative team, school counselors, and student support team. Robb has the ability to connect with kids and makes them feel that he is there for each of them. After the presentation The Robb Nash team, along with school support team, met with students, listened to them, and let them know they are not alone. It's this act of selflessness that inspires Robb and his band to talk the no-nonsense attitude that allows kids to connect to him and seek out a future of hope.

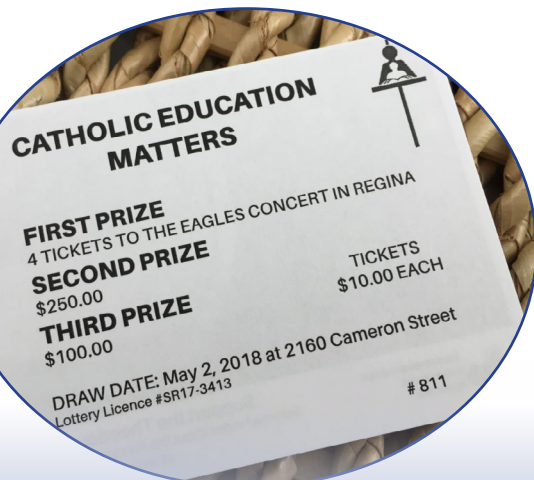
Congratulations, Block Party!

Riffel Junior Improv team, "Block Party", wins the Junior Improv Tournament for second year in a row! The Junior Improv Tournament, put on by the Canadian Improv Games regional team, was held at Winston Knoll High School on Saturday, February 3rd. Congratulations to all ten team members on your second consecutive championship!



Eagles Tickets

Our Board of Trustees is ready to give away four Eagles tickets and cold, hard CASH! This raffle will benefit the Catholic Education Matters fundraising campaign. Tickets are \$10.00 each. Please contact your school, or contact Carla Redler at c.redler@rcsd.ca or 306-791-7200 to purchase tickets before Monday, April 30, 2018. The draw will be made Wednesday, May 2, 2018.





Safe Swimming

Jean Vanier students love swimming, and thanks to a new lift installed at the Sandra Schmirler Leisure Centre, more students can safely enter the pool! Bernie Hartnell helped Jean Vanier student Dave Rheault get into the pool before sending him off to swim with Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School volunteer Angel Mangumpit. To see the new lift in action, check out [this video](#) made by the City of Regina.

Blanket Exercise

On Monday January 22, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys students welcomed Knowledge Keeper Dennis and Facilitator Lori Deets to lead students in a Blanket Exercise. The day culminated with our Division-authored Truth and Reconciliation Commitment liturgy, led by Grade 7 students. Students and staff are now considering meaningful ways to follow up with opportunities to engage in Truth and Reconciliation in their school and classrooms.



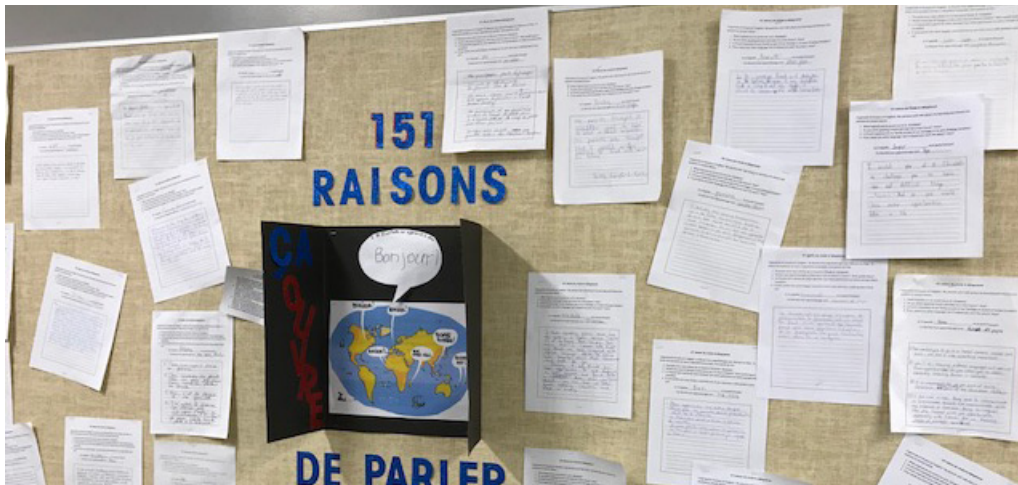
Roche, papier, ciseaux

École St. Mary hosted a very loud crew for a French rendition of Rock, Paper, Scissors. Director of Education Dom Scuglia participated along with K9, Gainer, several of our own consultants and coordinators, and local media personalities. Students played against each other, and everyone had a great time.



Regina Catholic Schools hosts a journée ACPI-ici!

More than 100 French Immersion elementary teachers participated in a journée ACPI-ici! that took place during the January Institute. As it is often a challenge for teachers to attend this highly esteemed national conference organized by the Canadian Association of Immersion Professionals, the association has developed a platform whereby the same national conference facilitators or keynote speakers travel throughout various regions of Canada to offer the very same professional development opportunities to French Immersion teachers within their jurisdictions. As such, we welcomed Dr. Martine Cavanagh from Edmonton and Johanne Proulx of Ottawa for this one-day event. Many thanks to École St. Elizabeth for hosting the event which gathered teachers from RCSD, RPSD, HTCSD, PSSD, le CEF and the U of R BAC Students, and thanks also to the participants!



151 Reasons

February 5 – 9, 2018 marked French Second Language Education Week. This year's theme was 151 Reasons to Choose Bilingualism. French Immersion teachers at École St. Elizabeth engaged students and parents by asking why they felt learning French was important. The responses truly reflected the many reasons to be bilingual. Bravo!

Grand match d'impro

To celebrate the end of a successful French Second Language Education week, students from École St. Angela, École St. Mary, École St. Pius, St. Kateri School and École St. Elizabeth gathered on Friday, February 9th at Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School for the final French Improv Tournament. French theatre Improv at the elementary level has a very long history in the Regina Catholic School Division. The French Improv league allows students to create improvisations and sharpen their theatre skills all while practicing the French language. French Improv also allows students to develop confidence in themselves, to learn to adapt to unpredictable situations and to have extracurricular activities in French. This year's tournament scores were so close for all teams, that, after careful review, a tie was declared. École St. Mary and École St. Elizabeth were the winning teams. Congratulations to all French Immersion teams on another successful tournament!



Small School, Big Heart

On Thursday, February 15, 2018, the staff and students at St. Dominic Savio School presented a cheque for \$10,330.40 to the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital. This donation represents a full calendar year of fundraising. Students sold popcorn, held movie nights, donated birthday money, and gathered enough cash to earn a plaque which will hang permanently in the new hospital. Amazing work!

Special Visit

Eparch [Bishop] Bryan Bayda visited the students and staff at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys School in the new year. His Excellency was greeted in the traditional cultural way - from the 'head of the household', Principal Holly Paluck, with a round ritual bread and salt. The bread represents Christ as our Bread of Life and Christian hospitality, having special religious, cultural, and historical significance. Salt is a preservative and symbolizes that the relationship will not sour or turn bad over time. Upon receiving the bread, His Excellency blessed the students with the Bread, and two student representatives from the Ukrainian Program, Dennis Saienko and Natasha Taylor, welcomed him in both English and Ukrainian. He also shared insights about his journey beginning as a student, becoming a priest, and eventually a bishop. His Excellency even brought his guitar and taught us a song he wrote!





Reading with Heart

Board Of Trustees Deputy Chair Bob Kowalchuk reads to students from Mavis Luce's grade 1/2 class at Sacred Heart Community School. The class was celebrating the 100th day of school by hosting special guest readers, and sharing a yummy cake.

Genius Buddies

Genius does not know age. At Deshaye Catholic School, Brigitte Olsen's grade 3/4 class is teaming up with Matthew Bresciani's grade 8 class for Genius Hour Projects. The classes get together every two weeks for Genius Hour. It's been a cool experience for both teachers and their students. [This video](#) shows students Amelia and Angel working together. It's incredible to see so much talent from a Grade 4, as well as the awesome leadership from a Grade 8!



Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"A faith that does not trouble us is a troubled faith. A faith that does not make us grow is a faith that needs to grow."

"Jesus wants to be found by those who look for Him. But to look for Him we have to get up and go out."

"All of us are called to commit ourselves to protecting minors in the digital world."

"Let us welcome victims of human trafficking, and all those fleeing from war and hunger, with a compassionate heart."

"We cannot remain silent before the suffering of millions of people whose dignity has been wounded."

"We need the Holy Spirit to transmit the faith. We cannot do it alone."

"When we confess our sins with humility and sincerity, we receive forgiveness and are reunited with God and our brothers and sisters."

"We offer a gift pleasing to Jesus when we spend time with a person who has difficulties or we help someone for the sake of helping."

"When you meet other people in the Lord, you can be sure God's surprises will follow."



Pink Shirt Day - Wednesday, February 28, 2018



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