

Regina Catholic School Division

Director's Communiqué

events@rcsd.ca | www.rcsd.ca | Issue 80 | April 2018

"Let Your Light Shine"

A Message from Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia



He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds, you have been healed. ~ 1 Peter 2:24

It is not often that Easter Sunday and April Fool's Day collide, but that's exactly what has happened in 2018. A lighthearted joke is nice, but fools we are not. The bible tells us that those who know God but do not honour him are the fools (Romans 1:21-23). Every day in our schools, we pray, and we honour God. With Lent behind us and the glorious season of Easter here, we revel in the sacrifice Jesus made for us, and thank God for His Resurrection. For the many ways you led our students through Lent, I thank you.

The arrival of Spring in March follows a very busy time. Coping with a massive snowstorm and the subsequent cleanup, elementary school progress reports, Lent and Catholic Education Matters fundraisers and the ending of many athletic seasons all made the month memorable. Of the many celebrations this past month, I would like to make mention of the official opening of Sacred Heart Community School, now a completed building with a state of the art gymnasium. Sacred Heart students in kindergarten through grade four this year are playing and studying physical education in a proper gymnasium for the very first time. Also in March, the Annual Battle of the Books celebrated a love of literacy as more than 100 elementary students gathered at Miller Comprehensive Catholic School to share their love for reading.

We began a campaign recently to begin archiving relics and items of our long history in Regina that have been stored in basements, closets and other places. Our plan is to gather them centrally, catalogue them and decide how best to display our history moving forward.

Now that April is here, we have an Easter break to use to celebrate our Lord, Jesus Christ, relax, and prepare for the final three months of the school year. The last push toward summer holidays is always filled with anticipation, and I pray these months bring each of you a sense of accomplishment and peace.

God Bless,
Dom



Contents					
#NeverAgain	2	A Pound of Fun	5	Tweets from Pope Francis	8
Nickels for NICU	2	50th Anniversary	5	Weather Memes	8
Blanket Exercises	2	Kids and Arson	6	Titans on Telemiracle	8
Z99 Radiothon	3	New Cross	6	Battle of the Books	9
Safety Award	3	Dr. Suess' Birthday	6	Month at a Glance	9
March Out Racism	3	Zumbathon	7	BOB Thanks	9
Celebrating Culture	4	Hot Diggity Dog	7	Sacred Heart Opening	10
Science Fair Success!	4	Archiving History	7		
St. Bernadette Pray Day	4	Writers' Workshop	7		

#NeverAgain

Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School sent out support to the organizers of the #NeverAgain campaign and the national school marches that took place on Wednesday, March 14 in the United States. Students quoted the words of Alex Wind, one of the survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Florida High School Shooting: "We're marching because it's not just schools. It's movie theatres, it's concerts, it's nightclubs. This kind of stuff can't just happen. You know, we are marching for our lives ... and for our children's lives and our children's children and their children".



Blanket Exercises

On Monday, March 12th, Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School staff participated in a Blanket Exercise. It was led by our First Nations, Metis and Inuit coordinator, Jeannine Whitehouse, along with facilitator Susan Beaudin. It was a great exercise for the annual staff retreat.

Nickels for NICU

Chelsea Adams' grade 1 class at St. Gregory School was busy counting and rolling coins all week. They counted \$806.00 for NICU. An anonymous donor then matched the donation for the Z99 Radiothon!





Z99 Radiothon

St. Gabriel School staff and students definitely made a difference at the 799 Radiothon. Their fundraising began back in November when they raffled off the front row of seats at their Christmas concert. Then in January, they wanted to promote this cause, so they had decade days for the years in which the teachers were born...50's, 60's, 70's 80's and 90's! They also started a "tree of life." Students and staff brought in photos if they were in the NICU. It was amazing to see how many lives from St. Gabriel were touched by the NICU! They sold paper baby bottles for \$1 each. For this \$1, the student received a paper baby bottle to print their name on and a sour candy soother. The goal was to reach the paper baby bottles around the inside perimeter of our school... and they did it! They raised a grand total of \$1739!



kiera h Mar 21

FLIPGRID



Download View Topic Share Video



Marco C Mar 21

FLIPGRID



Download View Topic Share Video

March Out Racism

On March 21, International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Karen Goodon's grade 5/6 class at St. Peter School spent the day working on ways to March out Racism. It began with a prayer service for the school. The class created a bulletin board about negative effects of racism and positive examples of hope for change.

Students used technology to share what they learned. [Click](#) to see the [FlipGrid projects](#) on [#MarchOutRacism](#).



Safety Award

Congratulations to Richard Donnelly on his Safety Centered Leadership Award from the SHSA as a safety champion! We're very proud of you, Richard, and also wish you a long and happy retirement!



Science Fair Success!

During the month of March, St. Josaphat, St. Pius, St. Peter, St. Mary, St. Nicholas, St. Theresa and St. Gregory Schools all held successful school-based science fairs. Of the hundreds of students who participated, 40 projects were chosen to represent the Regina Catholic School Division at the Regina Regional Fair. Although the focus of the event is on the process itself, RCSD celebrated an incredible amount of unprecedented success in the competition component of the fair. The students below were chosen to represent our region at the National Science Fair in Ottawa this May.

Bronze (CWSF) - Wendell Sta. Maria - St. Theresa School - Electromyography

Silver (CWSF) - Grace Turgeon & Isabella Winkler - École St. Mary - Est-ce que tu rappelles les choses mieux avec la memoire auditive ou la memoire visuelle?

Congratulations to all who participated!

Celebrating Culture

Mme. Dietrich's grade 2 students at École St. Mary celebrated their culture day with a potluck. Students brought traditional dishes important to their family's culture. Ukrainian sausage, perogies, Phillipino Pancit, Mexican taquitos, Nova Scotian fish cakes, Jamaican rice cakes and French cornet au sucre were just a few of the many dishes that were shared that day.



St. Bernadette Pray Day

The final day of school before the Easter break was called "Pray Day" at St. Bernadette School. Senior students led the younger classes in different activities, all focused on Holy Week. From jelly beans and Resurrection eggs, to crafts and written promises, the day was filled with prayers.



A Pound of Fun

St. Luke School Physical Education students participated in a "POUND" session with instructor Kim Bilokreli from SOULutions Health & Wellness. Students "drummed" through their class in a combination of cardio, strength and pilates, exercising their whole bodies while performing like rock stars!



St. Catherine Community School



Date: Saturday, June 9th, 2018

Time: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: St. Catherine Community School

1:00 – 1:30pm
1:30 – 4:00pm

School Blessing and Liturgy
Carnival Activities and School Tours

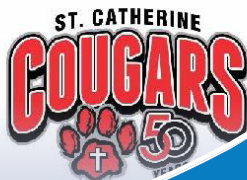
Dunk Tank

Face Painting

Popcorn

Bean Bag Toss

Sack Races



Slushies

Cotton Candy

50th Anniversary

The date is set for the St. Catherine School 50th Anniversary. It will be on Saturday, June 9th 1-4 PM. We will start with a liturgy to be followed by a carnival. We would like to invite all alumni to attend. Please RSVP to p.tourigny@rcsd.ca. We would also welcome any artifacts or pictures that you could display as well.





Kids and Arson

The Regina Fire Department is making headlines with some great work done to prevent children from engaging in arson. Part Two of a feature story in *Firefighting in Canada Magazine* explains how teamwork brought fire setting activity to record lows in a very short time. The Regina Fire Department, Regina Police Service, and both the Regina Catholic School Division and Regina Public School Division collaborated with great results.



Regina firefighters discuss the dangers and consequences of setting fires with students, parents and teachers during a Safety Walk.

Editor's Note: In 2014, the city of Regina encountered alarming incidences of arson involving children. The December 2017 edition of *Fire Fighting in Canada* explored part 1 of the story, where fire investigators working with the schools began to determine who might be responsible for the escalating fires. Part 2 examines how the various players worked together to put a stop to it, eventually laying more than 20 charges of arson.

The cases of arson in Regina reached a pivotal point when a family narrowly escaped with their lives after their house was set on fire in April 2015.

The fires were so serious, one of the school principals stated that "someone was going to die."

The fire department educator, who was part of the school meetings in the fall with the children who talked about fires being set by boys using gasoline, shared this information with the fire investigators. They, in turn, shared it with the Regina Police Service arson investigators. The boys were apprehended and questioned, denied any involvement in this house fire, and released.



Dr. Suess' Birthday

St. Michael Community School welcomed the United Way and many volunteers to read with some new readers... and to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Suess. Each student had one on one time with a volunteer. They read the Dr. Suess books, did some activities, and enjoyed a birthday cake together. Each student left with brand new books to take home, and a new friend.

New Cross

St. Nicholas School needed a wooden cross to use for a special Stations of the Cross presentation, and the students at Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School stepped up. They built this beautiful sign of Christ's loving sacrifice and gifted it to the school. Thanks, Titans!





Zumbathon

Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School held another Best Buddies Zumbathon. Led by St. Gregory School Principal Sharlene Holliday, it was fun, sweaty, and raised money for a great cause: friendship!



Writers' Workshop

St. Marguerite Bourgeays School hosted Canadian best-selling author Marsha Skrypuch for a writer's workshop. The "Making Bombs for Hitler" author shared techniques for brainstorming, writing, and self-editing. Students wrote with excitement and creativity at each prompt. Literacy is so much fun when you get to work with professionals!

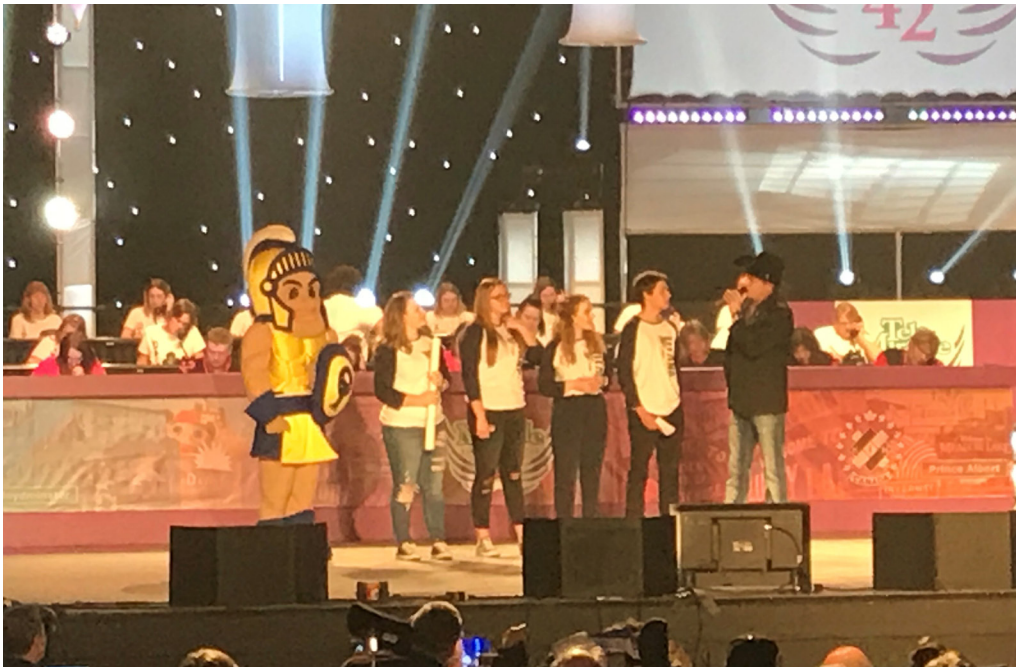
Hot Diggity Dog

St. Michael Community School raised \$650 for the Catholic Education Matters campaign with a hot dog sale. It was a yummy way to spread awareness and help support the cause. Thank you to all schools who look into ways to raise funds within the school community.



Archiving History

Retired Administrator Joan Mrazek and Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School Principal Liza Donnelly show off some historic items at Miller. Joan and several other volunteers are combing through the "stuff" sitting in each of our schools to take stock of what we have so we can decide what to do with it all.



Titans on Telemiracle

The Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School SRC wanted to give back to the community. They thought Telemiracle was a great opportunity to fundraise for a great cause. They sold Helping Hands, had Pack the Stands for several basketball games, sold Matchmaker results and had a few raffles. The O'Neill staff, students and community gave generously, and donated \$1,048.85 for Telemiracle this year. The students who went to present on stage were Nathan Chay, Kathryn Derenisky, Chantelle Sullivan, Karrah Derenisky and Titan Man.



Weather Memes

The return of winter brought some snowy challenges to our school yards. At St. Dominic Savio School, the staff had a little fun documenting the aftermath of a heavy dump of snow as spring arrived. Thanks to the principal, office manager and caretaker for going above and beyond.... and being great sports!



Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

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

"I thank all women who every day strive to build more humane and welcoming societies."

"With so much to do, we often neglect what is really important: our spiritual lives, and our relationship with God. So let's stop and take time to pray!"

"What would happen to us if God did not always give us the chance to start over again?"

"Lent is the road that leads from slavery to freedom, from suffering to joy, from death to life."

"Christ, teach us never to be ashamed of your Cross!"

"Nobody can be discarded, because we are all vulnerable. Each one of us is a treasure whom God allows to grow in his or her own way. #Downsyndrome, #WDS18"

Battle of the Books

The buzz of competitive anticipation could be heard long before entering the gym at Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School for the annual Battle of the Books Championship. Fifty teams representing twenty-five elementary schools participated. Battlers were faced with questions based on the characters, settings, plots, and themes from eight books. Congratulations to the top three teams:

1st Place: St. Matthew

2nd Place: St. Angela

3rd Place: St. Jerome



BOB Thanks

Special thanks to everyone who helped make the Battle of the Books a Success. Teacher Librarians played a critical role, as did Sherry Chase and all her volunteers. Thank you also to the high school mascots who ushered in the 2017 winners to begin the Battle, and to the team from St. Gregory School that promoted the event on CBC's Morning Edition.

Month at a Glance - April 2018

Sunday, April 1 - Easter

Monday, April 2 - Statutory Holiday

April 3-6 - School Holidays

Monday, April 9 - First day back to class for students
- Public Board Meeting 5:00 pm

Monday, April 16 - Feast Day of St. Bernadette

Tuesday, April 17 - Feast Day of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Sunday, April 22 - Earth Day

Wednesday, April 25 - Administrative Professional's Day

Saturday, April 28 - National Day of Mourning



Sacred Heart Community School Official Opening

