

Regina Catholic School Division

Director's Communiqué

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"Let Your Light Shine"

A Message from Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia



The Eucharist, Jesus the Bread of Life, is the beating heart of the Church and renews in us the impulse to love. ~Pope Francis

It is right that we began the school year gathering together as a staff to celebrate Opening Mass. Niigaan Sinclair shared with us an inspirational story. I pray his message has sparked in each of us a fresh view of our own personal journey of Reconciliation. Thank you for this opportunity to focus on our faith to start the 2018-2019 school year.

This year brings a few changes. We know already that our new senior administration is ready to lead by example. We ask for God's blessing on each staff member, especially those finding themselves in a new role: our new principals and vice-principals, office managers at new schools, consultants and coordinators who've moved from the classroom to the Catholic Education Centre, and all employees brand new to Regina Catholic Schools. We pray for all of our students and families as they settle into the routine of school days. May each find Christ's love throughout the year.

The theme this year is, once again, "Let Your Light Shine." This theme gives us beautiful imagery, and a commitment to discipleship. Many people talk about the gift of Catholic education, and the "something" that is different in our schools. If we can continue to show the light of Christ to our students and each other every day, then we will show others what that "something" is: the love of Jesus Christ.

May God bless each of you!

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Tipi Raising

Team Miyosiwin – Miller Marauders won 1st Place in the women's category at the annual Glen Anaquod memorial Tipi raising competition. With 4 categories almost 40 (15 ft tipis) were erected during this competition. Congratulations to team members Mia Chartrand, Sophia Obrigewitsch, Jayda Delorme, Aaliyah Chartrand. *Miyosiwin*, the Cree word for "beautiful," comes to mind.

The Marauder co-ed team had a tough battle and fought through rain and cold but were not able to place. Team members included Victor Robertson, Terrell Tanner, Kailee Schlechter, Cheyenne Cibart.

The annual Tipi Raising Competition at the University of Regina was initiated in 2008 by the late Cultural & Traditional Advisor Glen Anaquod (1948 - 2011) from Muscowpetung First Nation. The Anaquod family has a history of participating in Tipi Raising Competitions held during Treaty 4 celebrations. It was Advisor Anaquod's wish to involve the University campus community, students and staff in such competitions.

The event provides a fun, friendly, and engaging environment for hands on learning about Indigenous culture and values. Celebrating the innovative structure of the tipi, we also explore what the tipi has to teach us in terms of our values; such as tending to our homes and families, the importance of teamwork, listening and observation, styles of leadership, and our ability to persevere in the face of obstacles.



CLASS

CLASS was a bit different this year. The two-day professional development focused on Principals, Vice Principals, Coordinators and Senior Administrators working to develop relationships, and understand our strategic direction within a Catholic cultural framework. Participants had opportunities for dialogue, celebrated Mass, and commissioned newly appointed administrators. The venue of Temple Gardens in Moose Jaw provided an ideal setting for positive and constructive conversation.



New Employees

New Employee Orientation was held at Sacred Heart Community School on August 28. A very special welcome to all our new employees for the 2018-2019 school year. The Regina Catholic Schools' family is happy to have you, and grateful for the unique skills you bring which only you can provide. Thank you for joining us to "Let Your Light Shine."

Playground Unveiling

St. Nicholas School officially cut the ribbon and blessed a brand new playground structure after a full school year of fundraising. Many thanks go out to the CSCC for all the hardwork that went into organizing the fundraisers and choosing the playground design. Reflecting the St. Nicholas Knights logo and colours, the black and gold structure will provide many recesses of fun activities for the student body. To kick off the school year, St. Nicholas School students and Plainsview School students joined the daycare children for a huge group photo. Any guesses about what they're pointing to?



Sacred Heart Art

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Federal Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, joined a class of grade 3/4 students from Sacred Heart Community School at the North Central Family Centre. He created artwork with the students before making an announcement about the Canada Child Benefit program.



Opening Mass

As is our tradition, the new school year began with a Mass for all staff at Resurrection Parish. Celebrant Archbishop Donald Bolen inspired us with his honest and open homily, and we were moved by the words of keynote speaker Niigaan Sinclair. As we walk together in faith, let us recognize the importance of our Truth and Reconciliation efforts throughout the 2018-2019 school year. May God continue to hear each of our prayers, and His many blessings reach each of our staff, students and families.



Mistresses of Ceremonies

Newly appointed principal Paulette Belisle and her École St. Pius X Vice-Principal D'arcy Brischuk used their considerable talents to serve us as the MCs of Opening Mass. A special thank you to everyone who helped, from Miles Meyers and the organising committee, to the choir, readers, and altar servers.



Congratulations on 15 Years with Regina Catholic Schools

Nicole Bast

Alana Baumgartner

Laurie Beaurivage

Holly Beitel

Leeanne Boehm

Jodie Bray

Corrine Brown

Nicole Brown

Kelly Cozine

Donna Ell

Patty Filyk

Jacqueline Firnesz

Courtney Geiss

Joanne Gelowitz

Kory Gibbs

Deb Goodman

Tracey Grywul

David Hambleton

Sheryl Harrison

Trina Hjelsing

Salvatore Iannetta

Scott Kuntz

Therese Kvisle

Karen Lach

Deacon Joe Lang

Shannon LeCouffe

Leah Maier

Michael McCulloch

Wade McLean

Milos Menhart

Dawn Norton

Pedro Onza

Jennifer Owens

Kim Parisien

Tammy Paulhus

Johnny Perreux

Jonas Prysliak

Daphnie Robertson

Amy Sanville

Pamela Schaffer

Joachim Smadu

Wendy Sutherland

Rosalie Synk

Kurtis Thick

Kendra Thompson

Christine Treptau

An Van Jarikre

Carrie Vany

Lorraine Wihak

Leanne Wolensky



Congratulations on 25 Years with Regina Catholic Schools

Sharon Adams
Wendy Brassard
Sean Chase
Carey Dziaduck
Val Erichsen
Susan Fetch
Jackie Folk
Carleen Gartner
Celine Gauthier

Karen Goodon
Michelle Jensen
Kevin Kuntz
Lorie Matthewson
Kim Nagel Zeller
Mary Neal Langdon
Melinda O'Byrne
Glenn Pambrun
Jackie Peat

Joe Pelletier
Diana Porter
Dave Reyda
Phyllis Schneider
Lisa Stratilo-Campbell
Helga Wollbaum
Leslie Young
Murray Whitelaw



Star Blanket

The Star Blanket is a very special gift to give and to receive. For centuries, Plains People have givez robes and Star Blankets to honour people and mark life changing events. Giving a Star Blanket shows the utmost respect, honour, and admiration for the recipient. Receiving a Star Blanket is a great honour and shows that the giver holds you in very high esteem. Superintendent Joanna Landry was gifted with a Star Blanket at our Opening Mass by FNMI Coordinator Jeannine Whitehouse and Director of Education Domenic Scuglia on behalf of RCSD for her commitment to guiding us on our journey toward Truth and Reconciliation.



Artist Visit

Artist Jason Robins was commissioned to create a piece of art to commemorate the 2018 Opening Mass. The purpose of his painting is to capture the feeling of the Regina Catholic School Division, and our Opening Mass proved to be a great inspiration to Mr. Robins. The practical purpose of this art is a raffle fundraiser during Catholic Education Week in May. Watch for more details in the coming months.

Christian Action

Last June, some grade 12 students from Archbishop M. C. O'Neill Catholic High School planned and organized a purse/backpack project. As part of the new Catholic Studies Curriculum, students are required to complete a Christian Action Project. The students were responsible for collecting essential toiletry items, Kleenex, razors, makeup and socks to fill purses and backpacks. They created social media posts and posters to create awareness and asked for sponsorship from various businesses. When all the donations were gathered, the students delivered 130 purses and backpacks to the Carmichael Outreach Center along with four new car seats donated by Toys R Us, mugs from Starbucks, make up from Shoppers Drug Mart, coupons to McDonalds and donated clothing. Amazing work, Titans!





New Vice-Principals

Welcome to the world of school-based administrators!

Nicole Mohr, Vice-Principal, St. Dominic Savio School

- Born and raised in Regina, SK
- Resides in Grand Coulee, with three amazing kids and two dogs.
- Bachelor of Education (University of Regina)
- Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (University of Regina)
- Middle years teacher in Regina Catholic Schools from 2003-2009
- English teacher at Archbishop M.C. O'Neill from 2010-2018
- Seconded to the Ministry of Education during the 2014 school year to develop ELA assessments
- Humanities Education Leader at O'Neill during the 2017-18 school year.



Kim Marshall, Vice-Principal, École St. Elizabeth

- Born and raised in Regina, SK
- Bachelor of Education (University of Regina)
- Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (University of Phoenix)
- Human Resource Management Diploma (McMaster University)
- Teacher, Consultant and Administrator in RCSD for 14 years
- Married with two lovely children
- Busy hockey, baseball, basketball, dance and piano mom
- I love music, sports and literature



Carmel Nicolson, Vice-Principal, St. Gregory School

- Born and raised in Regina
- Product of Regina Catholic: Attended St. Andrew Elementary School (when it was still English) and am a proud Miller Marauder
- Bachelor of Education (University of Regina)
- Currently working on Master of Education in Teacher Leadership (American College of Education)
- Going into my 20th year of teaching
- Spent most of my teaching career as a Guardian at St. Gabriel where I taught grades 6, 7 and my favourite grade.... 8.
- Married to Troy Nicolson and have one son – Liam (11)
- Love coaching volleyball, badminton and track and field
- Love being a Connected Educator
- Favourite quote "Clear Eyes, Full Hearts, Can't Lose"



Assistant Principals

Lesley Perrault, Assistant Principal, Jean Vanier School

- Born and raised in Zehner, SK
- Bachelor of Education (University of Regina)
- Currently enrolled in Master of Educational Psychology Program (University of Regina)
- Married with 2 boys- Hayden (9) & Easton (7)
- Teacher, Jean Vanier (2001-2003)
- Teacher, St. Matthew (2003-2008)
- Teacher, St. Jerome (2009-2017)
- RCSTA Executive (2015-present)
- Teacher, Deshaye (2017-2018)
- Strong passion and interest for working with students with intensive needs



Amy Sanville, Assistant Principal, Learning Online

- Regina Catholic Schools graduate
- Bachelor of Education (University of Regina)
- Master of Education, Curriculum and Instruction (University of Regina)
- Teacher, Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School (2003 – 2007), Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School (2008 – 2018), and Learning Online (2013 – 2016)
- Education Leader, Learning Online (2016 – 2018)
- Married with 2 girls – Charlotte (11) and Adelynn (8)



Giveaway Time

Back to school sometimes means back to the gym... or at least, it can often mean time for a new gym bag. We've got two snazzy RCSD gym bags to giveaway. To be entered into the draw, simply send an email to events@rcsd.ca with the subject line "Bag Me!"

Thank You, Jovon!

Saskatchewan Roughrider Jovon Johnson brightened the lives of hundreds of students in Regina by donating backpacks filled with school supplies. His generosity means more students have a sense of belonging as they wear their backpacks and use the supplies in their classrooms. Students at St. Bernadette School accepted the backpacks on behalf of Regina Catholic Schools and Regina Public Schools. Jovon, you are a shining star in our community. Thank you for thinking of the children!



United Way

We are ready to kick off another United Way Campaign in the Regina Catholic School Division. Our campaign runs October 15 - November 16 this year. We are really hoping to top the amount collected last year. The United Way held a Power Lunch on September 26 with keynote speaker Corey O'Soup, the Saskatchewan Advocate for Children & Youth. He spoke about the important of education, why attendance matters, and the value of gaining a high school diploma.



Say Cheese

Parents were just as excited as the students are to begin the year at St. Bernadette School. While parents focused on their children getting off the bus, we like to watch the parents' reactions on the first day of school.



Teaching Indigenous Content *by Chelsea Chomos*

I was asked to write about what drives my passion to teach students about Indigenous Peoples and their history. My story is not unique. Indeed, it's probably along the same lines as many teachers in our system. When I attended school, I only learned selective parts of Canada's history—the good bits, the pieces that made me oh so proud to be Canadian. When learning about slavery, I learned about how Canada delivered slaves to freedom by way of our “underground railroad”. When I learned about the Holocaust, I learned about all the battles Canada helped win and what great soldiers we had. I never learned that Canada had slavery at one time, or that Canada refused ships carrying Jewish refugees, ships that made their way to our shoreline only to be sent straight back to the hands that would kill them in concentration camps. I never learned that life existed in Canada before the Europeans came, and that that life was good. I never learned about the damage that was done to the first inhabitants of Canada, the Indigenous Peoples, after the Europeans arrived and in the centuries that followed. The blinders were removed during my first year of university when I started Indian Studies 100, an elective I took because I heard it would be easy.

I didn't know that this class would change everything I thought I knew about the world around me, and be

the driving force behind my teaching. The more I learned, the more I felt compelled to pass on to others and the more I questioned, “Why didn't I learn about any of this in school?” I didn't realize at the time it was because there was virtually nothing about Indigenous Peoples in the curriculum. I had the “if only” mentality. If only people knew. If only kids learned about this in schools. There wouldn't be room for the stereotypes, the racial slurs and jokes, the ignorant comments that were such commonplace in our culture — comments I didn't like hearing, but didn't know how to respond to. Learning about Canada's history and treaties gave me the information I needed to respond.

One day last June, I was teaching a grade seven class about the 60's scoop, about how traumatic it was for the families that were ripped apart. On the drive home I listened to my sister on the phone, tearfully tell me about the news reports she watched of children being taken from their parents as they crossed the border into the United States. “Haven't we learned anything?” I thought. I couldn't help but think that this wouldn't happen if only... this wouldn't happen if only everyone took a look at our history—the good, the bad and especially the ugly — and made it our mission to learn from the mistakes we have made and make sure not to repeat

them again.

Education is what provided the tools that put an abrupt halt to the White Paper (Pierre Trudeau's 1969 attempt to basically dissolve treaties and their promises to the Indigenous Peoples). Education is what brought about the Red Paper (the response to the White Paper by the Indigenous Peoples and their supporters, who stood up for their rights). I am very proud to say that working for Regina Catholic Schools, the question I had after taking Indian Studies 100, “Why don't kids learn about this in school?” has become irrelevant. I went into a grade eight classroom the other day to teach the students about residential schools and their first reaction was a groan, so as to say not again. This reaction told me that by grade eight, students had been hearing about residential schools so much that they were actually getting tired of it. And how great is that?

Teaching students about Indigenous Peoples of Canada and their history is not something that only the lucky teachers that happened to take Indian Studies 100 teach; it is something that every teacher, at every grade level, teaches. It is all over our curriculum. It is in our professional development and at our institutes. It is in our prayers, masses and liturgies. It's everywhere.



Chelsea Chomos is the Learning Resource Teacher, Grade 7/8 prep teacher, and the treaty catalyst teacher at St. Theresa School.



Team Sask Soccer

Samantha Stom-Anthony (St. Luke) and Tammy Schultz (Miller) coach the Regina Raiders Special Olympics Soccer Team. After winning the gold medal at provincials in June of 2017, they earned a spot on Team Saskatchewan to compete in Nova Scotia in August 2018.

Many of their athletes had never flown before or even been out of Saskatchewan. The week was intense with eight games in 4 days... It was a true test of their determination, commitment and eagerness to succeed. They lost in the bronze medal game, after a very hard-fought battle with Alberta. One team photo features the cauldron that was lit at the games' Opening Ceremonies. It was created using a rock from each province and territory in Canada. Samantha and Tammy are very proud of the team and the amount of hard work they put in, week after week, month after month. As well, Regina Catholic Schools is very proud of Samantha and Tammy.



Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"We receive God's graces to share them with others."

"Every occasion is a good one to spread Christ's message!"

"You too are like the Good Samaritan when you recognize the face of Christ in those near you."

"Support your priests with friendship and affection."

"May God's blessing come down upon all your families, so that they may be places of love and forgiveness."

"If the Lord has gifted you with riches, it is in order to do lots of good things for others in His name."

"We Christians do not have a product to sell, we communicate Life."

"Without the right to education there is no real freedom, which allows every person to be the protagonist of their own destiny!"

"It takes effort to always do good... The road to holiness is not for the lazy!"

"The Lord draws good out of evil through His power and His infinite creativity."



Miller's Special Guest

On September 12th, Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School's student body had the opportunity to listen to Fred Fox, Terry Fox's brother, share stories and memories of Terry. Fred, a runner like his brother, led the Miller students in their annual Terry Fox Run/Walk. The Marauders participated with enthusiasm and supported the Terry Fox Foundation with donations of over \$3,000. The Miller community is proud to share that their commitment to the Terry Fox Foundation in the past 14 years has surpassed \$55 000. Well done, Marauders!



Bobcat Den

New administration and a new school year call for new Bobcat gear! St. Bernadette staff was happy to show off their new shirts as they settled into September. While bobcats tend to be solitary and territorial animals in the wild, this pack looks like a happy family ready to take on the school year. Looking good, Bobcats!

Month at a Glance - October 2018

Monday, October 1 - Public Board Meeting 5:00

Thursday, October 4 - Teachers' Institute (no school for students)

Friday, October 5 - Teachers' Converntion (no school for students)

October 7-13 - Provincial School Sport Week

Monday, October 8 - Thanksgiving Day STAT

October 14-20 - Provincial Education Week
Theme: A World of Learning for Every Student

Monday, October 15 - School Bus Driver Appreciation Day