

Regina Catholic School Division

Director's Communiqué

events@rcsd.ca | www.rcsd.ca | Issue 88 | February 2019

"Let Your Light Shine"

A Message from Our Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia



The church sometimes has locked itself up in small things, in small-minded rules. The most important thing is the first proclamation: Jesus Christ has saved you. ~Pope Francis

It is through the darkness and cold of January that we start to see the days becoming longer. Happy New Year greetings ring for a couple of weeks, and then we settle down into the routine of gently forgetting to maintain resolutions made as the calendar changes. It's not because we don't have the strength or ability to keep those resolutions, but rather because habits are truly hard to break. Consider though, that as a Catholic people, we face God every day, knowing we are sinners, knowing we have broken promises, and knowing we are human. He loves us anyway. He sees the good we do, the love we share, and His message which we spread. In other words, he remembers the resolutions we keep, and forgives the moments of weakness.

Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they left their nets and followed him. ~Mark 1:17-18

As we are back into Ordinary Time, the routine and business of education continues. I am so appreciative of all the efforts to bring warmth and creativity into these January days. Thank you for going the extra mile. We see you when you stop to help a young student – again – with the boots. We see you when you hold the door a moment longer for a parent, even though the wind chill is biting at your cheeks. We see you when you spend extra time with a student to prepare them for course finalization days. We see you, and we appreciate you.

February brings us African-Canadian Black History Month, French Second Language Education Week, as well as Staff/Teach Appreciation Week. During this month, we are asked to take time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Canadians with African heritage who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation we know today. It is also an opportunity for all of us to learn about the wide range of African-Canadian experiences, including dealing with racism, and the vital role this community has played throughout our shared history.

For our eight French Immersion schools, we celebrate with you. French Immersion is a wonderful choice for our families, and this program is growing quickly.

For every single employee of the Regina Catholic School Division, I pray those in your school communities understand the gifts you bring to work every day. For all the gift cards parents send, the cards students write, and the "World's Best Teacher" mugs you may add to your collection, I send my prayers as well. Prayers for our division's continued success, all because of the people we have running our schools, cleaning our schools, teaching our students, implementing our technology, answering our phones, and using their gifts to bless our communities. Thank you.

God Bless, Dom



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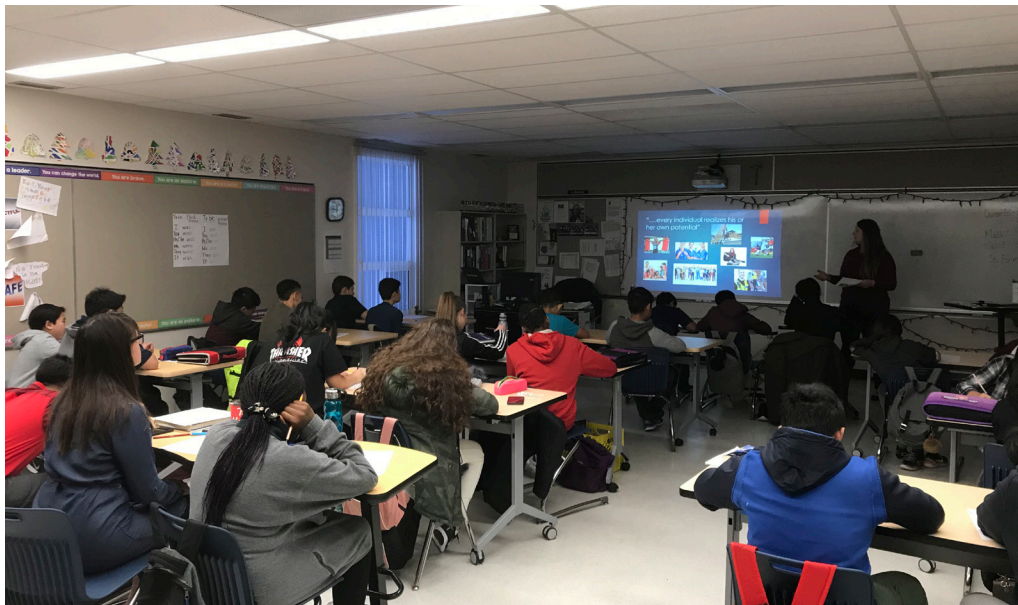
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Safety

On January 11, Danielle Bachart from the SHSA completed a journey begun in September. She is shown talking to Brian Fahlman's Grade 6/7 class at St. Timothy, about being safe at school, at home, on the playground, etc. Danielle discussed two outcomes from Grade 6 Career Education, while helping our students be more mindful about their safety, and the safety of their families and friends. Many thanks to all our Grade 6 teachers who adjusted their schedules in the last 5 months to allow this important presentation to happen!



Mental Health

The Service & Hospitality Safety Association is sponsoring presentations on dealing with mental health to all our Grade 8 students this year. Shown is Danielle Bachart, from the SHSA, speaking to teacher Lindsay Morhart's class January 16 at Deshaye. Danielle also has presentations scheduled at Holy Rosary and Sacred Heart, with the rest of our elementary schools to be completed by June.

French Battle of the Books

It was another exciting year for the French Immersion students who participated in the French Battle of the Books. 24 teams from 3 school divisions (RCSD, RPS and CÉF) participated in the tournament that took place on December 6th at École Elsie Mironuck. Congratulations to all participants!

Here are the tournament results:

1st place – École Mgr de Laval

2nd place – École St. Mary

3rd place – École Wascana Plains and École Centennial



Help Me Tell My Story

During January, February and March 2019, several school Speech-Language Pathologists will be participating, with an assessment team, in an oral language assessment in several Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms. The assessment is called "Help me tell my story" and uses a holistic approach that measures oral language development by collecting data from children, their caregivers, teachers and Elders in their community. It was developed in Saskatchewan and is rooted in a First Nations and Métis learning perspective. After the assessment, the results are linked to learning activities through a series of web-based portals that support language development at home, at school and in the community. St. Francis school participated using the turtle puppet, Aski, and an iPad to deliver the assessment.

Ukrainian Caroling

On January 8th and 10th the Ukrainian students went caroling at Selo Gardens and St. Basil's Manor. The students sang songs in Ukrainian and English and ended with "We wish you a Merry Christmas". The residents joined in the singing and everyone had a great time.





Knights' Retreat

St. Nicholas School took advantage of CFDs and held its third annual retreat off site at Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School and Holy Family Parish. Classes broke off and attended different sessions which focussed on the Catholic distinctiveness of the school. Consultants, Coordinators, the Myriam Family, and parent volunteers all helped make the very cold day feel very warm and meaningful.



Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"May Mary, Mother of God, protect and accompany us during this new year and bring the peace of her Son into our hearts and the world."

"Do not be afraid to weep when you encounter difficult situations: tears are drops that irrigate life. Tears of compassion purify hearts and feelings."

"Let us look at our hands, often so empty of love, and today let us try to think of some gift we can offer freely."

"What will remain on the threshold of eternity is not how much we earned, but how much we gave away."

"Saying 'yes' to God's love is the first step to being happy, and to making many other people happy."

"With her 'yes', Mary became the most influential woman in history. Without social networks, she became the first 'influencer': the 'influencer' of God. #Panama2019"

"Let us not forget the victims of the Holocaust. Their unspeakable suffering continues to cry out to humanity: We are all brothers and sisters! #RemembranceDay"

"The secret to navigating life well is to invite Jesus on board. The helm of life should be given to Him, so that He can direct the route."

"Prayer from a humble heart is heard by God."



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ogue, and taking part

mission. "My agenda is to make sure that
the arts are getting to all of the students at
every level," says Sophia. "I want to do ev-
erything I can to make sure that our teach-
ers are supported to teach music, drama,
dance, and visual art to every single child."
Part of this mission is ensuring that ALL
students, especially those with intellectual
disabilities are not only included but also
welcomed and accepted. "I don't want any
child to feel like they have to be integrated,

lifetime. This experience is something that
Sophia knows all too well.

When Sophia was just a high school
senior at A.E. Pearock High School in
Moose Jaw, she suffered a devastating loss
- her mother passed away suddenly. Losing
a parent at any stage in life is impossibly
heartbreaking, but to have it happen at such
a young age and in the often tumultuous
high school environment is unthinkable.
As a result, Sophia went mute. She didn't

Inclusive Teacher of the Year

Arts Education Consultant Sophie Yannitsos was named the Inclusive Teacher of the Year by Inclusion Saskatchewan. While she was presented with this award in the Spring, it is in the most recent edition of *Dialect* magazine that her story is shared. Sophie's work with *That's Possible Theatre* is a highlight in the magazine, and the Division is very grateful for her work in empowering our teachers to carry on this program. Congratulations, Sophie, and thank you for inspiring our teachers! [You can read the article on pages 12-13 here.](#)

To Warm You

If you've made it this far, it's time for a treat... perhaps a nice, warm treat! We have six RCSD contigo travel mugs available. Just send an email with the subject line "Mug Me!" to events@rcsd.ca and you'll be entered to win. We will draw six winning names and announce them in the March 1, 2019 Director's Communiqué. Good luck... and stay warm!



Month at a Glance - February 2019

Friday, February 1 - Semester 2 Begins

Monday, February 4 - Public Board Meeting 5:00

February 4-8 - French Second Language Education Week

February 11-15 - Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

Tuesday, February 12 - O'Neill & LeBoldus Grade 8 Parent Night

Wednesday, February 13 - Miller & Riffel Grade 8 Parent Night

Thursday, February 14 - St. Valentine's Day

February 18-22 - February Break

Monday, February 25 - Students Return

Wednesday, February 27 - Red Cross Pink Day