

Regina Catholic School Division

Director's Communiqué

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"Let Your Light Shine"

A Message from Our Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia



For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. ~Matthew 18:20

When we gather to begin a school year, we believe and feel that we are in the presence of God. It is with God acknowledging each of our gifts that I welcome back all our staff, students, families and parishes for another exciting school year of blessings.

Over the summer break, I traveled with several students from our schools and their teacher Michelle Phair. The students were involved in a study of genocide and the Holocaust where they were eligible to earn a credit. The experience was life changing for each of us in so many ways. We travelled to Germany and Poland, visiting historic sites and former concentration camps such as Ravensbruck, Majdanek, Treblinka, Auschwitz-Birkenau. We each carried with us the name of a nine-year-old child who perished at Treblinka. Each child was remembered at our prayer service at Treblinka with a candle. I want to remember Lara Haskel – my nine-year-old child who I carried with me and is symbolic of all children who have perished through genocide or war. Our group prayed for those who perished because of hate and fear. We prayed for ourselves and for the future. We came home forever changed, and ready to focus on doing our own parts to ensure our world will have less hate in the future.

The theme this year is, once again, "Let Your Light Shine." Consider throughout the year that we should let our lights shine, not because we want others to see us, but because through us, we want others to see Him. We are asked to gather in His name, and we are tasked with spreading His word. Thank you to all of you for starting this year on a positive and faith-filled note.

Best wishes for a successful start!

God Bless,
Dom



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Our Leaders

Gathered together for two days at CLASS in Moose Jaw, our Senior Administration, Principals, Vice-Principals and Coordinators focused on preparing for the 2019-2020 school year. Why the silly sunglasses? They had some fun with our theme "Let Your Light Shine." Expanding further, considering the following: "Don't shine so that others can see you. Shine so that, through you, others can see Him." It seems fitting that our servant leaders know how to have a little fun while they shine.

CLASS

The Catholic Leaders' Annual System Seminar happened in Moose Jaw on August 21 and 22. With sessions designed based on each of the pillars of our multi-year strategic plan (Literacy & Numeracy, Equitable Opportunities & Transitions, Essential Skills & Practices in 21st Century Learning, and Catholic Communities of Faith), networking and connecting was easy. Forging relationships with one another and collaborating is a strength in our division, and it's clear we're beginning this new school year on a high note.





First Ride

Regina Catholic and Regina Public schools offered the fourth annual First Ride program jointly again this year. Both school divisions worked together to give parents, childcare providers and first time riders a chance to ride the bus before school starts. This year, First Ride was at the Evraz Place Parking lot on August 21, and more than 400 students attended. Experts from Sask Safety Council, CAA Saskatchewan, and the Regina Police Service taught proper bus, pedestrian and cycling safety.



Habitat for Humanity

On August 27, Habitat For Humanity hosted their final 'Key Ceremony' for the last 10 new families at the Habitat build site. This event was attended by Donna Ziegler, Board Trustee; Dom Scuglia, and Richard Donnelly, PAA consultant who oversees the program whereby our high school students help with the construction and receive a semester of high school credits at the same time. It was wonderful to hear firsthand how the lives of these families are going to be so improved by owning their new homes. Our students make real and positive contributions to our community in many different ways!

Twinning

At the sod turning event for Habitat for Humanity, Partnerships/PAA Consultant Richard Donnelly and Director of Education Dom Scuglia both turned up ready to represent RCSD.... in matching shirts! Looking good, fellas!





Opening Mass

It's a special day each year when we can gather together our entire Regina Catholic School Division staff to celebrate together the way Jesus taught us. Opening Mass was held Thursday, August 29, 2019 at Resurrection Parish. Fire Chief Layne Jackson attended to acknowledge an École St. Pius X student's life saving efforts, plus we were all inspired by guest speaker Ken Yasinski's message. Thank you to Miles Meyers and all who served at Mass, particularly those who added French to our celebration!





Long Term Service Awards

The Regina Catholic School Division family grows every year. Annually, we acknowledge the many years of dedicated service our employees share with us. Presented with a token of appreciation at Opening Mass, we want to thank and congratulate all those who are marking big anniversaries with us. Congratulations to this year's 15 and 25 year employees. We pray for many more happy years.

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ~ Philippians 3:13-14

15 Years

Christine Bauer, Kirsten Benko, Donna Bernhauser, Janna Bridgeman, Cindy Chomyn, Karen Cozma, Karla Cunningham, Cassie Dodd, Brenda Entwistle, Kevin Fetsch, Shelley Fitzsimmons, Ryan Gallagher, Sheldon Gray, Doug Hiscutt, Marcia Hovdebo, Darla Keen, Sharon McKechnie, Amanda Mushumanski, Cindy Perron, Mandy Pitzel-Markewich, Korrin Rieger, Jeannie Sandercock, Lori Sanders, Angela Sazynski, Ryan Schmitz, Shelan Schulkowsky, Lindsay Shaw, Shalyn Sitter, Tim Spence, Adam Ward, Carla Webb, Mark Wernikowski, Jeannine Whitehouse.



25 Years

Blair Bachelu, Denise Beaudin Anaquod, Catherine Benham, Louella Borsa, Peter Brittner, Dave Cornish, Angie Harding, Brenda Hicks, Rod Houk, Carol Kaip, Shawn Kuster, Denise Reed, Audrey Rockthunder, Tammy Rose, Paul Tourigny, Cindy Welburn, Teresa West, Tammie Wickenheiser, Jodi Wilton.



Queen of the Stars

Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School student Jayda Delorme shared her art in Austria this summer. Along with body paint model and 2019 Miller graduate Mia Chartrand, Jayda's art, *Queen of the Stars*, was featured in the World Bodypainting Festival this past July. She competed in the amateur category, placing 24th out of 40 entries. *Queen of the Stars* was inspired by Sky Woman and the creation story as told by Jayda's ancestors. She had just 6 hours to create the artwork, then 60 second to explain her art to the judges. "When I paint I try to storytell and teach others about my culture," she says. "For the piece I did in Austria, I recreated the story of the sky creation story. I made it in a way that I could tell the judges what it means to me, who I am and where I come from. Every piece I do, I try to create a symbol or a story or something that has to do with my culture so I can educate others about it."

A Note from Chalice

Chalice cannot thank the Regina Catholic High Schools enough for all the love and generosity of your teachers, staff, students, and parents. All these years, you have truly given life to the Christian values of faith, compassion, commitment, and integrity. Your stewardship has changed and continues to change many lives for the better. We hope that beyond fundraising, the annual Lenten campaigns you conducted for Chalice served to bring a high level of awareness of the plight of children in need in other parts of the world and to inspire all the participants to continuously be engaged in making the world a better place.

We have noted your wish to continue with regular allocation of your donations moving forward as well as your phase out plan. We will continue to provide updates on the use of your grant monies as well.

May the Lord guide the Regina Catholic High Schools always and bless the communities it serves."

God bless,

Catherine Ludovice, School Program Coordinator, Chalice

Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"The Bible is not just a beautiful book to keep on a shelf. It is the Word of life be sown, a gift that the Risen Jesus asks us to accept in order to have life in His name."

"Through your attention to the little ones and to the poor, you can kindle stars in the night for those who suffer."

"Faith is a gift that keeps alive a profound and beautiful certainty: that we are God's beloved children."

"In the midst of all those passing things in which we are so caught up, help us, Father, to seek what truly lasts: your presence and that of our brother or sister."

"With God, the burdens of life rest not upon our shoulders alone: the Holy Spirit comes to give us strength, to encourage us, to bear our burdens."

"The light of God enlightens those who welcome it."

"Whoever draws near to God will not stumble, but strives ahead: beginning anew, trying again, rebuilding."

"It takes more strength to repair than to build, to start anew than to begin, to be reconciled than to get along. This is the strength that God gives us."

"Holy Spirit, give us the joy of the resurrection, the perennial youth of the heart!"



First Day of School - September 3, 2019



Month at a Glance

Monday, September 2 - Labour Day Stat Holiday

Tuesday, September 3 - First Day of School for Students
-Feast day of St. Gregory
-Public Board Meeting 5:00

Thursday, September 5 - Feast Day of St. Teresa of Calcutta

Saturday, September 21 - Feast Day of St. Matthew

Monday, September 23 - Feast Day of St. Pio

Sunday, September 29 - Feast Day of the Archangels:
St. Gabriel, St. Michael, St. Raphael

Monday, September 30 - Orange Shirt Day
- Feast Day of St. Jerome