

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 it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9

November was a time to remember. From All Saints and All Souls, through to Remembrance Day. Once again, our staff and students showed beautiful and prayerful support for those gone before us. In particular, those who, not unlike Christ Jesus, showed love for others by putting themselves in danger to protect us and our freedom. Thank you for all you've done to teach our students about the sacrifices made by Canada's armed forces.

Fall was a time to settle into the 2019-2020 school year, and while it's still officially autumn, the weather has shifted, the snow has fallen, and we find ourselves immersed in darker days. Thank you for continuing to let your light shine through the shorter days, and for modelling the way for students to do the same.

With December, we enter Advent, and move from remembering to waiting. As we wait to celebrate the Christmas season, we journey together once again. Though there are fewer days in December than in most months of school, I am confident our students will acquire curricular knowledge, and as important a deeper understanding of what Advent and Christmas mean. I pray for a peaceful and joyful Advent season for all of us within our Regina Catholic Schools.

God Bless,
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No Stone Left Alone Ceremony

On Monday, November 4th students from Mike Zylak's class at St. Francis Community School and from Alison Anderson's class at St. Theresa School participated in No Stone Left Alone, a national program to recognize the contribution of fallen soldiers. Students attended a service at the Regina Cemetery and placed poppies on the graves of fallen soldiers.

Visiting HMCS Queen

Following the ceremony at the cemetery students were invited to the HMCS Queen building to continue to learn about Military training techniques, Navy Flags, rescue gear and to discuss what days like Remembrance Day mean to soldiers who serve our country.



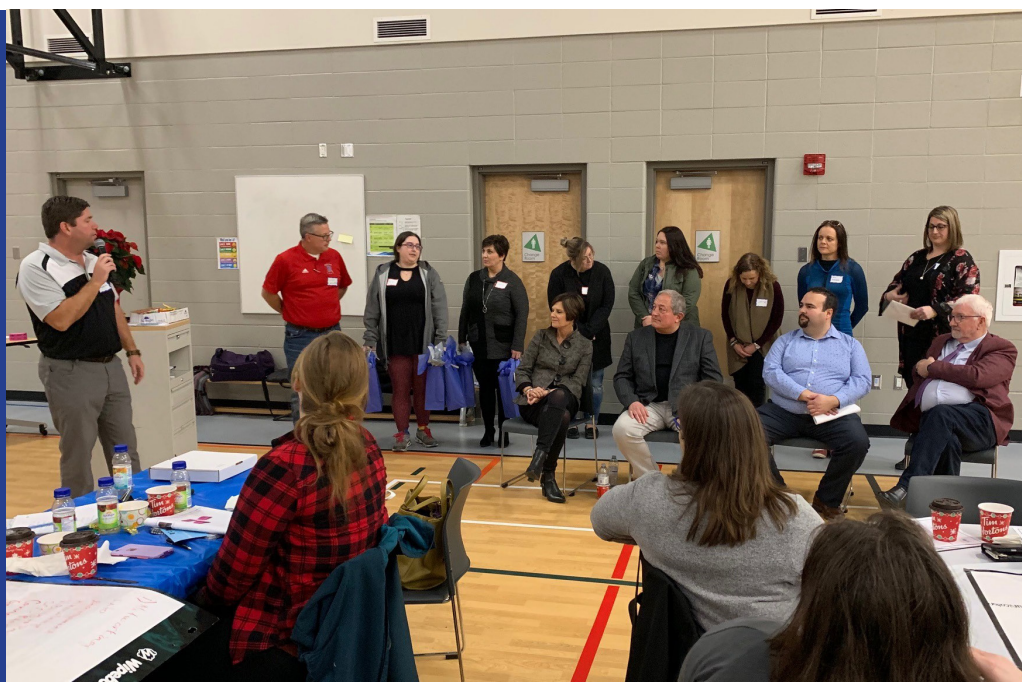
St. Theresa Remembers

St. Theresa students participated in our annual Remembrance Day Liturgy, where we reflected upon and honoured the sacrifices made by so many for our freedom. The liturgy was led by Marc Yakichuk's grade six class, with a March-in by veterans and members of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 001 with a guest speaker Mr. Mack Howat. Beautiful piano accompaniment was led by Mrs. Kathy Syrynk.



1st Annual Provincial School Community Council Conference

The Regina Catholic School Division's CPAC (Catholic Parents Advisory Council) along with our counterpart Regina Public Schools held the 1st Annual Provincial School Community Council Conference. We had representatives from the Ministry of Education and an MLA attend and participants were from 11 Saskatchewan school divisions, which is pretty amazing!



Sing-a-long Time

Retired Teacher Tom Sax stopped by Jean Vanier School late in November to spend some time on the students' favourite activity: music. Tom is always generous in sharing his talent with others, and it's so much fun to see the joy in the students' faces.



Respect in Schools

Deputy Premier & Education Minister Gordon Wyant was joined in Regina by Respect Group Co-founder Sheldon Kennedy, to announce the new Respect in School training for teachers, school staff and volunteers. The training, which will be available in a few weeks, is being offered at no cost to all school divisions, First Nation education authorities and independent schools.

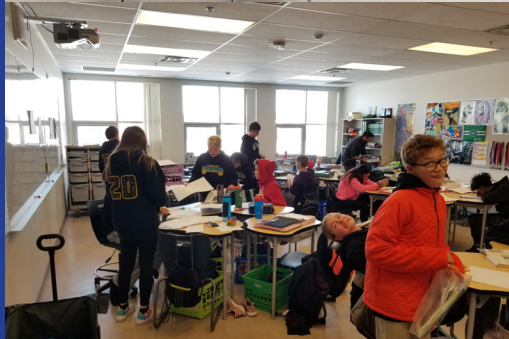
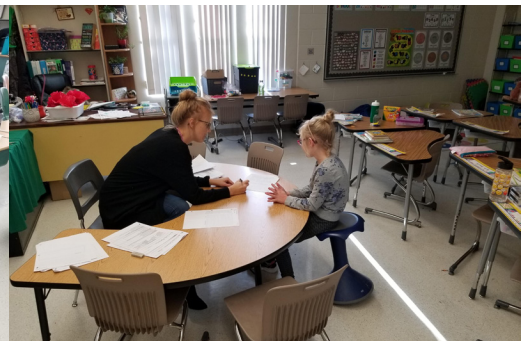


Maker Palooza Day

Deshaye Catholic School celebrated Education Week with a Maker Palooza Day filled with opportunities for students Grades K to 8 to explore, create and discover through various mediums. Our students were thinking, creating, sharing, and growing through coding, building apps, crocheting, baking, building, painting and through various other experimental opportunities. Thank you to the Deshaye Staff and special guest presenters!

Goal Setting Afternoon at St. Joan

Students at St. Joan of Arc are looking ahead at the school year, and working with their teachers on goal setting for the year. They thoughtfully considered what those goals should be, and made plans to reach them.



Holodomor

Students and staff from the Ukrainian Program participated in the Holodomor Memorial service held in the rotunda of the legislature on November 19th. Students sang both the Canadian and Ukrainian National anthems to begin the service. Students also participated in the wreath laying ceremony at the Bitter Memories of Childhood statue on the legislative grounds.



RCSD's Fourth Annual "Where's the Beef?" cooking competition

On Saturday, November 2, RCSD's Fourth Annual "Where's the Beef?" cooking competition was held at Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School. Seven teams from our high schools participated. A team coached by Lynsey Baumgartner from O'Neill won third place, a team from LeBoldus coached by Hannah Paul won second, and a team from Miller, coached by Martin Turcotte, took first place. Winning teams got to show off their skills at Agribition on Nov 18-20. Dave Magnusson, RCSD superintendent, and Joanne Beach, retired Riffel teacher and original contest organizer, hosted the awards ceremony. Congrats to all our student participants and future chefs, and many thanks to the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association for sponsoring this great event!



High School Career Fair

On October 28 to November 1, a variety of displayers set up tables over the noon hour in the hallways of our four main high schools, to talk to students about post-secondary possibilities. These noon hour career events plant seeds in students' minds about what roads they might take after high school. Shown here is Crystal Olson from Sask Polytechnic, which has close to 100 different educational pathways for students to choose from after high school. Also represented were the Regina Trades & Skills Centre, the Navy, city police, the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union, the Regina District Industry Education Council (which organizes numerous Career Spotlights, etc. throughout the school year) and Service Hospitality, which does an amazing job of informing students who are getting their first jobs about their workers' rights. Another noon hour Career Fair will be held in late March!



Health Links Career Spotlight Day 2019

On Thursday, November 7, 2019 the Regina District Industry Education Council in partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Authority organized and hosted the fifth annual Health Links Career Spotlight Day at Campus Regina Public. This annual event brought together health care professionals with students interested in pursuing a career in the Health Care sector. Over 100 students from the Regina region attended the event this year, to hear presentations and participate in hands-on activities profiling eleven different health care areas. Students learned about the key role each profession plays in the delivery of health care in our province. Presenters provided students with a realistic understanding of what working in their profession is really like, including both the good parts and the challenges. Labour market, training and career pathing information were also discussed, so that students left the presentations with the knowledge required to make informed decisions when choosing their career pathway. Local post-secondary institution representatives were also available at noon to provide advice and answer questions.

Entrepreneurship Career Spotlight

The Regina District Industry Education Council in partnership with Economic Development Regina, Square One: Audacity and Conexus Credit Union hosted the 3rd annual Entrepreneurship Be Your Own Boss Career Spotlight on October 30th at Campus Regina Public.

Over one hundred students from the Regina region learned what it takes to be your own boss. The entrepreneurs shared their stories, talked about the challenges they faced and answered some great questions from the audience. The students were then divided into small groups to learn the step by step process to make their entrepreneurial dreams a reality. Thank you to our sponsor Conexus Credit Union, all partners and especially the young entrepreneurs taking time out of their busy careers to mentor the students.



STRIVE

Members of STRIVE joined our Board of Trustees to meet with Education Minister Gordon Wyant. They spoke about the importance of mental health programs in our schools. If the way they conducted themselves in this meeting is any indication, these students are sure to be our future leaders in Saskatchewan.

Pure Country Tree

Chase and Lindsay from Pure Country 92.7 spent some time with students at Deshayé Catholic School to create Christmas tree decorations. The students painted ornaments to show how music makes them feel. The country take on celebrating Christmas has made for a nice community building project, and the tree is now part of the Christmas Wonderland at the Conexus Arts Centre.



Sacred Heart Pie

Sacred Heart Community School students were very excited for the chance to smother some of their favourite people.... with pie! Teachers at the school, as well as Catholic Education Centre staff sat willingly for this fun activity. It may be slap stick comedy we've all witnessed before, but a pie in the face is still a guaranteed way to get giggles.

Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"The memory of the Saints leads us to raise our eyes to Heaven: not to forget the realities of the earth, but to face them with more courage and hope. #AllSaintsDay"

"Holiness is the fruit of God's grace and of our free response to it. Holiness is a gift and a call."

"Christian hope, nourished by the light of Christ, makes the resurrection and life shine even in the world's darkest nights."

"Faith calls for a journey, a "going out". Purification takes place on the journey of life, a journey that is often uphill, because it leads upwards."

"Prayer always arouses feelings of fraternity, it breaks down barriers, crosses borders, creates invisible but real and effective bridges, and opens horizons of hope."

"God is merciful towards those who admit their need."

"God has entrusted us with His greatest gifts: our life, the lives of others, and so many different gifts for each person. He invites us to make these talents bear fruit with audacity and creativity."

"We must put an end to the culture of waste, we who pray to the Lord to give us our daily bread. Food waste contributes to hunger and to climate change."



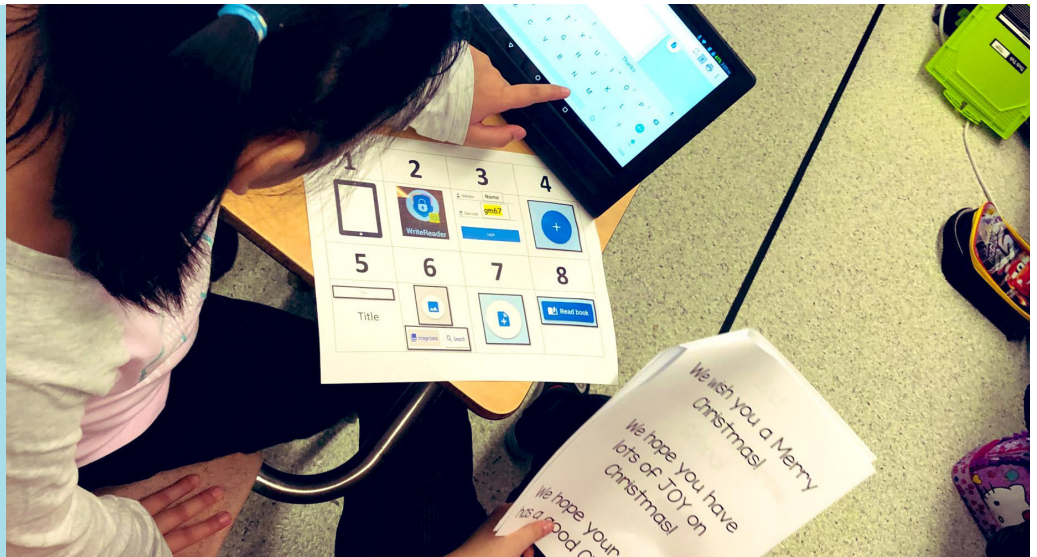
Spreading Kindness

World Kindness Day was Nov. 13 and some students and staff from St. Marguerite EFAP decided to spread kindness by travelling to the Victoria Park Personal Care Home. Residents were greeted with smiles, flowers and a note about World Kindness Day. It was a heartwarming experience for both EFAP staff and students as well as residents. This outing may just turn into an annual tradition!

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible." – Dalai Lama

Card Literacy

Mrs. Ross' class at St. Catherine Community School is using a special tool to spread Christmas cheer this year. Students are creating Christmas cards using the Write Reader App. This is a great way to bring in extra learning while waiting for the Christmas season.



Month at a Glance

Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday of Advent
Monday, December 2 - Public Board Meeting 5:00
Friday, December 6 - Feast Day of St. Nicholas
Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent
- Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
Thursday, December 12 - Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day
Thursday, December 26 - Boxing Day
Tuesday, December 31 - New Year's Eve
December 21 through January 5 - Christmas Break