

Regina Catholic School Division

Director's Communiqué

events@rcsd.ca | www.rcsd.ca | Issue 96 | November 2019

"Let Your Light Shine"

A Message from Our Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia



"When you pass through waters, I will be with you; through rivers, you shall not be swept away. When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you."
Isaiah 43:2

Now that we have snow on the ground, we know fall is over. Perhaps not according to the calendar, but it's hard to argue that we're not dealing with winter already. That's part of the adaptability of the hardy people of Saskatchewan. There's little surprise when winter arrives, because that first snowfall is always in the back of our minds. Now that it's here, I can see the adaptability reflected in our schools.

October allowed me more time to visit our schools. It is a wonderful thing to be welcomed into a school, and given a chance to interact with students and staff. Reading to early years classes, praying at liturgies and Masses, and watching the learning come to life is always rewarding and invigorating.

We had many exciting events at our schools in October, including a visit from award winning artist Kwame Alexander, the gift of a van for Attendance Matters initiatives in Regina Catholic Schools and Regina Public Schools, and the appointment of STRIVE Trustee Jordan Verbeek from Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School to the Saskatchewan Youth Council. We celebrated the blessing of education during Education Week. The theme, "Working & Learning Together" really reflects our talents in the area of collaboration. October was a month during which we expressed our gratitude for our many blessings, and for all those who make our school division so special.

I look forward to the cozy feeling we get as learning progresses into the colder months. Stay warm, and please continue to pray for and watch out for all those in our schools.

God Bless,
Dom



Contents

Distinguished Alumni	2
Youth Empowerment	2
Hands On Education	3
2019 Prix Rezansoff Award	3
Mon premier prof d'immersion	3
Welcome	4
Je lis la science	5

Safety Lesson	5
Michael A Riffel Food Drive	5
Mission Mass	6
With You	6
Kwame Alexander	6
Youth Council	7
Thriller Mob Flash Dance	7

Attendance Matters	8
Tweets from Pope Francis	8
Learn Not to Burn	8
Month at a Glance	9
Autumn Blessings	9
Student Vote	9



Youth Empowerment Strategy

Regina Police School Resource Officers sat down with local High School students to have open discussions around concerns between police and students and how they can bridge communications and form relationships that can benefit both sides moving forward. The goal was to empower the youth to build those positive relationships. Sessions were led by Director of Education Dom Scuglia.

Distinguished Alumni Program

Do you know a graduate of the Regina Catholic School Division who is boldly letting their light shine? Nominate them for the Regina Catholic Schools Distinguished Alumni Program. We want to honour the efforts of our graduates to spread God's word beyond the halls of our schools. We want to hear about the men and women who are making a difference in the world, a difference which began in the Regina Catholic School Division.

Deadline is November 25, 2019. For more information, and nomination forms, visit www.rcsd.ca/Board/DistinguishedAlumni.



Dr. Charlie Camosy

On October 15th and 16th, Dr. Charles Camosy from Fordham University in New York City visited all four of our high schools sharing his presentation entitled Resisting the Throwaway Culture. The presentation ties in beautifully with Reverence for Life Month celebrated in October.





Hands On Education!

On October 17, grade 8 students from St. Jerome travelled to Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School to learn about car brakes, changing tires, and engines that leak oil! Shown here is teacher Ned Mannion giving students a look at the undercarriage of a car. Students then divided into small groups for some hands on work led by some of Miller's senior automotive students. When the automotive shop tour was completed, students then toured the welding, construction, commercial cooking and cosmetology classrooms!



2019 Prix Rezansoff Award

The Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of French Professional Growth Network has awarded the 2019 Prix Rezansoff award to our very own Coordinator of French Education / Coordonnatrice de l'éducation française, Mme Diane Lacasse.

This award recognizes excellence in French Education in our province. It is presented in the memory of Jaqueline Rezansoff to an educator of French that is always at the service of students, performs his or her duties in an exemplary manner, seeks perfection while taking into account varying circumstances, has a long history in education of French in Saskatchewan, and participates in, plans and co-ordinates training and professional development.

Mme Rezansoff worked with the Ministry of Education for core French and passed away in 1981. The first award was presented in 1983. Diane is joining the list of exemplary educators who have received this award.

Please join us in congratulating Diane for receiving this prestigious award. Nous sommes fiers de toi, madame Diane.



Mon premier prof d'immersion

50 years of French Immersion is a lot of teachers at Regina Catholic Schools. Do you remember your first French Immersion teacher?

Watch here: youtu.be/T5HrDvt3IY8



Welcome to Regina Catholic Schools

Regina Catholic Schools played host to a group of students from Colegio Bilingüe Dr. Maximiliano Kolbe, Borgata, Colombia. This was a result of a partnership with Colegio Bilingüe Dr. Maximiliano Kolbe and RCSD Colombia Cultural Students Exchange project. We worked diligently to ensure the success of the project and trusted that all visiting students would fully enjoy their learning and travel experience.

We are very grateful to the host families who were ambassadors of our beautiful city, province and culture. These local families generosity opening their homes to allow for an experience of a lifetime for 12 students and their two teachers.

The feedback from our host families and Colombian students was overwhelming and extremely positive. RCSD's goal for the students to experience a deeper cultural learning and become a more caring and open-minded to a global vision; while expanding their view of how the world functions through a cross-cultural lens was met.





Je lis la science

Under the direction of Meagan Cruickshank and Carolynne Kobelsky, grades 4-7 students at École St. Elizabeth participated in La Journée Nationale "Je lis la science" on September 18. This is a Canadian, coast to coast French Science reading incentive in which participating schools can win Science book prizes. St. Elizabeth was THE ONLY winning French school recognized in all of western Canada. #FoiFiertéExcellence



Michael A Riffel Food Drive

Our Food Drive started on October 7 ended on October 17 and the students donated an astonishing 54,600 pounds of food. This exceeds last year's amount by 4,050 pounds of food. The new Hunger Hero's video will show at our Christmas assembly Friday December 20 at 11:45 a.m. This is also where we will throw pies at four teachers and one senior students as the prize for the students generosity. You are invited to attend. We have some amazing stories to tell. Our top student brought in 7001 pounds by herself. Many other student brought in over a 1000 pounds.



Safety Lesson

For the 5th year, Service Hospitality is coming to all our Grade 6 classrooms to talk about safety at home and at school. Shown here is Brooklynn Radmacher with Simon Firnesz at Holy Rosary, on Oct 10. Students really appreciate both the message about being safe and the prizes that Brooklynn brought!



Kwame Alexander

The Regina Catholic School Division is blessed to have hosted award-winning author Kwame Alexander. As part of the Grand Prize for the Follett Challenge, Mr. Alexander spent time celebrating with our students. He shared about his writing, autographed books, answered questions from students, sang and even tried to get Board Chair Bob Kowalchuk rapping. The Miller Theatre was full of elementary students who are all fans of Mr. Alexander's writing.

Mission Mass

Traditionally the second last Sunday in October is Mission Sunday in the Catholic Church. It's a time for us to reflect on our call to be missionaries in our own backyard and how we can support missionaries in Canada and other countries. Pope Francis even declared October 2019 as an Extraordinary Mission Month.

Archbishop Donald J. Bolen, Fr. Tonny Dizi, head of the Holy Childhood Association for the Archdiocese, Fr. Alex Osei and Fr. J.B. Okai were in attendance. We also had 600 staff and students from our elementary schools attend the event.



With You

The grade 7/8 students were very enthusiastic while practicing a song called "With You" by Tyler Shaw and Sara Diamond in their Core French classes.

This group of 90 Core French students from our grade 7/8 classes are a strong group of leaders. They are setting a powerful example for our younger students, and they deserve to be showcased for their efforts. The 90 students did a beautiful job singing the French/English song in front of all the students and staff.



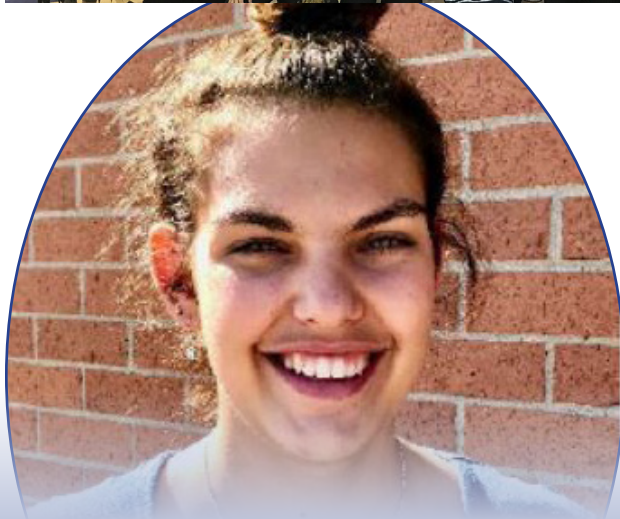


Thriller Mob Flash Dance

On October 30th students from St. Gregory, St. Josaphat and Deshaye Elementary schools descended upon the Regina Airport to perform Thriller as a mob flash dance for unsuspecting travellers arriving after their flights.

For a look at their performance watch [here](#).

Below you can check out the great staff costumes. Way to show the school spirit!!



Saskatchewan Youth Council

We at Regina Catholic Schools are very proud of all our students. Last month, Jordan Verbeek was selected from a pool of provincial student applicants to sit on a council with the Minister of Education and give voice to student issues and concerns. Jordan is a grade 12 student at Michael A Riffel Catholic High School. Jordan will be an excellent ambassador for her peers and our school division.

Attendance Matters

Thanks to Dilawri, Regina Public Schools and Regina Catholic Schools have a van to help break barriers to good school attendance. In partnership with the United Way Regina, we received this gift at a media event on October 24. Thank you to all the sponsors, and all of you who contribute to the United Way.



Learn Not to Burn

The Regina Fire Department visited the PreK classroom at Sacred Heart Community School during Fire Prevention Week. A new program called "Learn Not to Burn - Recognising Firefighters as Community Helpers" is available now for all preschool and PreK classrooms. The work done by schools and the Regina Fire Department has resulted in a huge drop in the number of intentionally set fires over the past several years. Thank you to all our Community Helpers!

Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"The willingness of a Cardinal to shed his own blood, symbolized by the red colour of his clothing, is guaranteed when it is rooted in compassion, received from God, and given to his brothers and sisters."

"May the Holy Spirit, the builder of fraternity, give us the grace to walk beside one another. May He make us courageous as we experience unprecedented ways of sharing and of mission."

"Saint Luke, you reveal the heart of Jesus and His mercy, help us to rediscover the joy of being Christians, witnesses of the goodness of the Lord."

"Dear young people, as you pray the #HolyRosary for unity and peace, consider that in one of the rosary beads I too am with you!"

"Let us ask the Lord for the light to really understand what is happening within us."

"The Lord always reminds us how precious we are in His eyes, and He entrusts us with a mission."

"Let us pray for our communities, that by giving witness to the joy of Christian life, they may see a flowering of the call to holiness."

"The Lord gives each of us a vocation, a challenge to discover the talents and abilities we possess and to put them at the service of others."



Student Vote

Students at many of our schools learned about politics during the federal election. This valuable lesson gave students a chance to really think about what goes into casting a vote. Many put a lot of thought into which party they would cast a vote for, considering their values and what appealed to them in a leader. At École St. Elizabeth, students happened to be casting their votes the same day they were having a school spirit day and dressing as superheroes. But now we know - even Captain Underpants votes!



Autumn Blessings

Holy Rosary Community School had a visit from the FCC tractor. Many of our schools participated in this very worthy cause in the days leading up to the Thanksgiving long weekend. The food items and money collected has gone to fill many bellies in our city, and this truly answers a call from Jesus to give to others. Thank you to everyone who donated food for families needing support from the Regina Food Bank!

Month at a Glance

Friday, November 1 - All Saints' Day

Saturday, November 2 - All Souls' Day

Monday, November 4 - Public Board Meeting 5:00

Tuesday, November 5 - Feast Day of St. Elizabeth

Thursday, November 7 - No School for Students

Friday, November 8 - No School for Students or Staff

Monday, November 11 - Remembrance Day Stat

Tuesday, November 12 - Feast Day of St. Josaphat

Monday, November 25 - Feast Day of St. Catherine

Saturday, November 30 - Feast Day of St. Andrew