

50 ans d'immersion, ça se fête!

1969-2019

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION



**French Immersion  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



**Regina  
Catholic Schools**  
[www.rcsd.ca](http://www.rcsd.ca)

*“C’est tellement beau!”*

A MESSAGE FROM

## The Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages



**O**n September 7, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the *Official Languages Act*. This act established the equal status of French and English in Canada. Today, it is a symbol of the values that we as Canadians hold most dear: respect, openness and equality.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the French immersion program in the Regina Catholic School Division. We know that learning French as a second language is essential to ensuring the future of our two official languages and to bringing together English- and French-speaking Canadians across the country.

As Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, I would like to thank all the staff members in the Division for the outstanding work they do every day. I would also like to congratulate parents and students on their educational choices. Best wishes for success!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Joly'.

**The Honourable Mélanie Joly,  
Government of Canada**

Ministre du Développement économique  
et des Langues officielles



Minister of Economic Development  
and Official Languages

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H5

A MESSAGE FROM

## The Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada



Commissariat  
aux langues  
officielles

Office of the  
Commissioner of  
Official Languages



**H**aving two official languages is what sets Canada apart as an open and inclusive society. English and French make Canada greater than the sum of its parts by promoting national unity, helping to raise our profile on the international stage, and creating opportunities for our children to learn and grow by opening them up to another language and another way of thinking.

As Canada's Commissioner of Official Languages, I believe that every child in this country should have the opportunity to learn and master their second official language. Now more than ever, Canadians want their children to be able to enjoy the benefits of learning English and French, and by investing in our young people, we are ensuring the continuation and vitality of Canada's official languages.

I'm very pleased to learn that in this 50th anniversary year of the *Official Languages Act*, Regina Catholic Schools is also celebrating half a century of French immersion programming. I'd like to extend my warmest congratulations to all of the educators, parents and students who made this milestone possible. From 26 Grade 1 students in 1969 to more than 2,600 elementary and high school students today, your ever-expanding French immersion program is testament to your vision, your dedication and your respect for your children and for Canada's linguistic duality. Well done!

**Raymond Th  berge**  
*Commissioner of Official Languages*



A MESSAGE FROM

## The Deputy Premier and Minister of Education



**O**n behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, I would like to commend the Regina Catholic School Division on celebrating 50 years of Catholic French Immersion Education in our province and country.

The opportunities provided by your school division to Saskatchewan's youth, is a powerful indication of the cultural growth and diversified success that these students will experience in their studies and carry with them in future career and academic pursuits.

There are personal, cognitive and social benefits of bi- and multilingualism students, as they interact with others through personal and professional engagements. It is also important to acknowledge the economic advantages provided to our province, as individuals with French as an additional language become sought after members of the workforce and society. After five decades, Regina Catholic School Division should proudly recognize the outstanding job they have done in supporting our students and future leaders as they learn the French language.

As Deputy Premier and Minister of Education, I am very pleased to see the emergent opportunities provided to our children as they experience the freedom to access varying cultures through acquired knowledge and use of different languages, such as French. The efforts of the Regina Catholic School Division to help develop a positive addition to our communities as we come together to broaden our linguistic opportunities. I would like to applaud you for your on-going and dedicated work in supporting the French language in our great province.

Best wishes for an exciting event, and congratulations on 50 years of quality French Immersion education.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

**Honourable Gordon S. Wyant, Q.C.**  
**Deputy Premier and Minister of Education,**  
**Government of Saskatchewan**



A MESSAGE FROM

## The Archbishop of Regina



**H**earfelt congratulations to the Regina Catholic School Division as you celebrate the 50th anniversary of your French Immersion program in this 2019-2020 school year.

The Catholic Church has long been committed to education, as teaching was at the heart of Jesus' ministry and of what he asked of his community of disciples.

Over the centuries, Catholic education has adapted to the needs of each time and place. In Saskatchewan, offering students and families the possibility of a French education has been of tremendous importance.

Faith is communicated not only in worship and catechesis, but in culture and language. A French immersion program within our Catholic education system has provided a way of sharing the riches of French language and culture to future generations, and has been a great blessing.

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Regina, heartfelt thanks and congratulations!

**Bishop Don Bolen**  
**Archbishop of Regina**

A MESSAGE FROM

## The Regina Catholic School Board of Trustees



On behalf of the Regina Catholic Schools Board of Trustees, I offer my sincere congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the French Immersion Program. French Immersion has seen a steady growth over the past fifty years. Great teachers and visionary leaders dreamed and built a quality French Immersion program in Regina Catholic Schools. Our successes today can be attributed to the efforts of a core group of French teachers, principals and central office leaders who have spent their entire careers teaching and promoting French Immersion.

We are proud that Regina Catholic Schools was among the first school divisions to embrace French Immersion in this province and in Canada. It took courage and hard work to start a French Immersion program in the west in 1968. A few visionary people saw the wisdom in recognizing the importance of children being able to function in both of Canada's official languages. The path to success was not without its challenges but in true spirit of collaboration, the core team continued to persevere.

The benefits of a French Immersion program have been well documented. French Immersion students and graduates experience numerous benefits from being bilingual. It not only opens many career doors but also develops creative thinking and problem solving skills.

As we look ahead, the French Immersion Program in the Regina Catholic School Division will continue to flourish. Merci! to the dedicated team of French Immersion teachers and leaders for your belief, your passion and your dedication to the program. We are truly blessed.

**Bob Kowalchuk**  
**Board Chair**

A MESSAGE FROM

## The Director of Education



It is with pride and renewed commitment that I join our Regina Catholic School Division community to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our French Immersion program. An important milestone that we proudly celebrate this year.

Where did it all begin?

French Immersion education started as a pilot project in 1965 in St. Lambert, Québec. Now recognized across Canada as the best program to promote bilingualism, the French Immersion program in Canada celebrated its 50th anniversary in the 2015-2016 school year.

Only 4 years later, the Regina Catholic School Division offered this educational option to parents and students beginning in 1969. At that time, our school board played an important role in the introduction of the program and was considered one of the pioneers in our province. The French Immersion program flourished through the years. It continues to be an educational option in several of our Catholic faith based schools.

Our school division community will take time throughout the year to look back and celebrate the legacy of our French immersion program. As we celebrate this anniversary together throughout the year, I pray for the continued success of our French Immersion program. The Regina Catholic Schools is committed to offering this educational option to families for many years to come. To each person who has helped shape the past fifty years, and to all those who will be part of the next fifty, we say MERCI BEAUCOUP and THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

God bless,

**Domenic Scuglia**  
*Director of Education*



A MESSAGE FROM

## The President of Canadian Parents for French Saskatchewan



**T**he year 1969 was a momentous one. Apollo 11 astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr. took the first walk on the Moon. Woodstock, the grooviest event in music history, took place. The Children's Television Workshop introduced Sesame Street. In Canada, the Official Languages Act was passed into law. And, the Regina Catholic School Division began offering the French Immersion Program.

With Saskatchewan being the second province in Canada to implement French immersion in the education system for non-francophones, this province has been at the forefront of empowering youth to embrace official bilingualism. The Saskatoon Catholic School Board opened the first early Immersion Program in 1968, with the Regina Catholic School Board quickly following suit the following year.

We salute the Regina Catholic Schools for offering and supporting the French Immersion Program for 50 years. It has been a sincere pleasure for us to collaborate with the administrators, teachers and students in providing additional opportunities for the children to learn and use French. We look forward to continuing this strong collaboration for many years to come. Congratulations!

**Janet Loeth**  
**President, Board of Directors**  
**Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan**

## OUR STORY

# French Immersion in Regina Catholic Schools

Over the course of the last five decades in the Regina Catholic School Division, the French Immersion program has grown from a single classroom in one school to five elementary and three high schools. This growth demonstrates that parents are choosing to enroll their children in bilingual programs. *As documented in research*, French Immersion is a highly successful approach to second language learning. It is an effective way for students to become functionally fluent in French while achieving all of the objectives of the regular school program.

Leading up to and following the enactment of the official languages act in 1969, interest in bilingual education grew. In Regina, parent groups viewed language learning as an essential part of a basic education and expressed the desire for a bilingual program to the school board.

In 1968, an amendment to the Education Act allowed for the establishment of designated schools for which the language of instruction could be French.

During this time and at the provincial level, a major new development in education came with the encouragement and introduction of a Bilingual Program. The Department of Education of Saskatchewan made it possible to provide instruction in a language other than English in Saskatchewan schools. This prompted the Catholic Schools of Regina to conduct a survey among its ratepayers to see if there was a desire for such a program. The results indicated that a viable program could be introduced.

In September of 1969, Mademoiselle Renée Chauvin introduced such a program to twenty-six students in Grade 1. Challenged with launching the new program, Mlle Chauvin worked passionately and diligently to ensure that students were engaged in learning a new language while making sure every child's needs were met. Under Mademoiselle Chauvin's capable direction, the Bilingual program became a successful model program, drawing such distinguished visitors as the Consulate General of France, the Secretariat of State for Canada, the Honorable Gérard Pelletier, Canada's first Commissioner of Official Languages, Keith Spicer; as well as many others interested in developing similar programs. Thereafter, the Bilingual program soon became a model for many other schools.

**"The creation of designated schools and the adoption of the Official languages act by Ottawa lead many parents to choose French as the language of instruction for their children. In 1978, the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party adopted the Education Act, which allowed students the right to attend a designated school. The changes to the Education Act lead to further define the meaning of designated schools. In many cases these became French Immersion schools for English speaking students."**

\*Translated from: *Les Fransaskois et le système scolaire*, Page 98

It is important to recognize the contribution of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise (ACF) then known as the Association culturelle franco-canadienne (ACFC) for the significant role it played in the establishment of designated schools (Francophone and French Immersion) in Saskatchewan. In the years that followed, Regina Catholic Schools successfully launched additional French Immersion programs in various schools throughout the city. Today, Regina Catholic Schools is proud of the success of the French Immersion program and remains committed to offering official language learning to all students.



# Regina Catholic Schools 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Theme Song

## Chant thème du 50<sup>e</sup> anniversaire du programme d'immersion Regina Catholic Schools

### **C'EST TELLEMENT BEAU!**

Paroles et musique de Robert Lebel

Y a cinquante ans passés,  
Dans une petite école,  
Nous avons commencé  
À prendre la parole.  
Au cœur de nos prairies,  
Au creux des grands espaces,  
Vous nous avez appris  
À prendre notre place.

Depuis la garderie,  
Nos langues maternelles  
Nous ont parlé aussi  
D'amitié mutuelle.  
Ensemble on étudie  
Les sciences et la musique,  
Parlant géographie,  
Histoire, mathématiques.

**C'est tellement beau  
De pouvoir vivre ensemble  
C'est tellement beau  
De savoir se comprendre.  
C'est tellement beau  
De s'entendre...!**

Grâce à vous nous parlons  
Nos langues officielles...  
Et puis nous découvrons  
Nos saveurs culturelles.  
Ainsi l'on crée des liens  
Qui déjouent les frontières!  
Et l'on se tend la main  
Pour être solidaires.

Chaque génération  
Transmet votre héritage  
Et de chaque maison  
S'élève un bel hommage!  
Maintenant quand on prie  
La langue qui l'emporte  
C'est l'amour que l'on vit,  
Voilà ce qui importe...

Quand nous nous rassemblons  
À l'école, à l'église,  
On met les fondations  
D'une grande famille...  
Ensemble, nous scrutons  
Le cœur de l'Évangile,  
Et puis nous repartons  
Plus forts pour mieux en vivre!

Dans le bus, dans la cour,  
Chez-soi ou sur la rue,  
Nous recherchons toujours  
Une belle attitude...  
De respect et d'amour  
Pour chacun et chacune,  
En leur offrant toujours  
Des mots de bienvenue!

**To hear the song, click [here](#).**



## An Interview with **Mlle Renée Chauvin** First French Immersion Teacher with the Regina Catholic School Division

**B**orn June 9, 1926 in Saint-Maixent-l'École, a town in the Centre West of France, Mlle Chauvin has lived a life worthy of a biographical novel. Passionate about education and children, this wonderful, kind and charming woman has left her mark in the history of the Regina Catholic School Division's Immersion Program.

As part of the 50th anniversary of the Regina Catholic Schools French Immersion Program, Mme Diane Lacasse conducted a telephone interview with Mlle Renée Chauvin, who is considered the pioneer of the school division's immersion program.

After many searches, we succeeded in contacting Mlle Chauvin. She is 94 years old and lives in La Flèche, France. The following is a translation of the telephone interview transcript.



*Mlle Renée Chauvin*



*French Immersion Class 1978-1979*



**Q: Mademoiselle Chauvin, why did you come to Canada, particularly to Regina, Saskatchewan?**

My experiences in France compelled me to look for a life elsewhere. I lived during the time of the Second World War (1939-1945) and that of the Algerian War (1954-1962). During the war in Algeria, I taught at a school and lived in a boarding house. I witnessed and experienced things that marked me for life. I was scared and told myself that I would not stay here. I wanted to go somewhere else where there was no war. In the boarding house where I was living in 1959, there was a Canadian woman who was not able to return home because of the war, so she taught us English. As a result, we kept in touch and I corresponded regularly with her. One day she wrote to ask me if I would consider coming to Canada and teach. I did and found myself in Quebec, in a city that was in expansion. I taught French kindergarten for 2 years in the city of Gagnon and then Sherbrooke.

Upon my return to France, she wrote to me again suggesting that I return to Canada. It was 1963 or 1964 when I found out from the Canadian woman who was living in Saskatchewan at the time, that there would be a bilingual program, actually an immersion program in Saskatchewan. She suggested that I apply to teach kindergarten. So I wrote back and I got the job. I went to Gravelbourg and taught there for 2 years. I enjoyed it a lot. Then I went to Regina to teach a French Kindergarten program offered by the Francophone parish. The kindergarten was set up in a room at Saint-Jean Baptiste Church and not a school. My salary was paid by the parents.

Afterwards, the Catholic School Board decided that they wanted to have a bilingual school and since I was already in Regina and it interested me, I wanted to do it. I taught at St. Pius X for the next 16 years; and afterwards I retired and returned to France.

**Q: How many students were in your grade 1 group?**

There were 26 students in that first group. There was no French kindergarten in the early days at Pius. I failed to understand that. The students arrived in the first grade without any knowledge of French and I had to work hard to teach them the language. At first it worried me, but it magically worked out and it worked out rather well. The parents were extremely cooperative and helped a lot. They were motivated

and wanted their children to learn French. I did not have any problems at all during that first year. The children learned-by-doing (“*appris sur le tas*” in french)\*. Children are wonderful; they repeat what you say; they believe you and they learn all that you teach them.

*\* This French expression tracing its origins during the twentieth century, expresses the idea of learning at once, through practice and not through following theoretical teaching methodologies.*

**Q: As a pioneer of French immersion education in Saskatchewan, what were the most difficult challenges to overcome?**

I worked day and night during that first year because I did not want it to fail. It was difficult for me because there were many things to learn in Grade 1. I was used to children and I knew that kids always adore new things. It was necessary to do things that I would not normally do in France. For example, I created more word and number games. We had to invent games to get them to communicate orally because I only spoke French and they had to answer me in French. In the classes that I had, there were children who spoke 3 and 4 languages. At home, they spoke their first language, on the playground at school they often spoke English, but with me they only spoke French. The more languages they knew, the faster they learned French.

**Q: What were your initial principles for learning another language? Is it something that you maintained throughout your years of teaching?**

I never spoke English to them. I always spoke to them in French and when they did not understand, well I tried to explain to them in another way. I did a lot of gesturing and gymnastics of sorts, in order for them to understand. The children knew that I did not speak much English, so they had to put in the effort.

**Q: What kind of assistance or resources did you receive?**

I created the program; they did not offer me anything. I invented it. I did not know what existed elsewhere, so I used what I had used in France. It worked. Of course it's better when there are local books, but I did not have any. As such, the first year they ordered what I asked for. I had to start with something that



was familiar. They could not claim that I spent a lot of money, because I did a lot of things on my own. I worked hard.

You know, principals who did not speak French always supported me and helped me to understand the day-to-day functions of a school in Canada. I never had any problems with them.

**Q:** *You worked as a vice-principal at St. Pius X school. What were your expectations regarding the team of teachers and the climate or the culture of the school?*

You know, I did not feel comfortable leading others. There was no French consultant, so I told the teachers to ask me for what they needed.

I never set limits. I saw that they were doing everything they could. There was very little admin time. I had just one hour a week to prepare things. It was the only free time I had for myself as well. I was at school at 7 am and left at 7 pm. I did not think it was too long, on the contrary, it had to be done and it had to be done as best as possible.

**Q:** *What do you think is critical to ensure student success?*

The child must want it. If they do not want to, they will not listen, BUT it is necessary to help them understand that it is not something insurmountable, that it is not that difficult. If we establish a strong foundation when they are young, once they have started, there is no problem. I had fun with them. I never spoke English and yet we laughed. When they were older, I changed the type of activity. I made them write stories and when they finished, they would read their stories along with the others. It was about sharing and they loved it.

**Q:** *What advice would you give to those working in the field of immersion?*

You have to love teaching and have a love for children. In immersion, you have to accept that it takes time because you have to repeat, practice and constantly review. Students must repeat, if they do not practice, in time they may understand, but consequently, they may make mistakes. Each student must be given an opportunity to practice.

It is not always easy in immersion, but it is really encouraging and one is rewarded a hundredfold. When we see a child who speaks French, a child who tries to communicate, it is extraordinary. I have received letters from students that made me cry. They said thank you... I wanted to say thank you to them! After all, teaching is really about loving children.

**Q:** *What was your greatest moment, your most wonderful memories?*

There was a Christmas concert at the school. All the classes presented a little Christmas number in front of the parents; and my class performed the very first year. I taught them a French song called: "Les enfants de l'an 2000" (Children of the Year 2000), by a French singer. It was not an easy song. The children immediately engaged in the song. They took the stage proudly and sang very well in French. It was the first time parents saw and heard their children speaking French. They were completely amazed and delighted to see and hear French being spoken by their children.

**Q:** *Do you have a favourite quote?*  
**Love your students as they are.**

**Q:** *What message or wish would you like to convey to our readers? To your former students?*

To my former students, I loved them so very much. I know they worked as hard as they could and gave their very best. They were very successful and I will never forget them.

All the parents I knew were remarkable as well. The parents helped me a lot, just by supporting me even when it was not always easy. They helped me a lot by coming to see me and it was always a pleasure meeting them.

I have many wonderful memories.  
*Je les embrasse tous!*



## Armand Martin

### First French Immersion High School Teacher

**A**t the beginning of September 1978, the first French immersion class was entering the seventh grade at St. Pius X school. I was a young teacher starting my second year of teaching. There were twelve students in the grade seven class. It was a pleasure teaching these students because they were eager to learn and their parents were very supportive of the immersion program.

At the end of grade eight, I had the pleasure of accompanying the twelve students, 6 girls and 6 boys, with the assistance of one of the parents, to undertake an opportunity to determine if our students would be able to function in a francophone environment. We spent three weeks in Québec, including two weeks in a summer camp. We also visited Montréal and Québec City. The experience was a great success with our students functioning extremely well in a francophone environment.

I had the pleasure of continuing to teach the same group of students at Dr. Martin Leboldus High School for grades nine, ten, and eleven. It was an extremely rewarding experience to have taught this group of students for five consecutive years. I had the opportunity to witness the evolution and maturity of these young students into young adults.





# Board accepts French class

St. Pius X separate school will be the first in Regina to teach all subjects except English in the French language. The announcement was made at the separate school board meeting Monday.

Only one Grade one class will have this program and up to 75 per cent of the school day will be spent in using French as the language of instruction. Provisions have been made in the School Act for this type of instruction to continue through grade 12, but the separate school board has made no decision as yet on how far the program will be extended.

Twenty-five students have been enrolled in the class and represent a variety of cultural backgrounds. The parents have agreed to accept the responsibility of transporting them to the school.

A petition by the Association Culturelle Franco-Canadienne prompted the separate school board to investigate the possibility of setting up a French instruction program more than a year ago. The public school board was also approved by the ACFC, but

decided not to proceed with the program.

Miss Renee Chauvin, who taught kindergarten at Ecole Mathieu in Regina, will teach the Grade one program at St. Pius X. She taught in France for a number of years before coming to Canada to complete her university education at Laval in Quebec. After receiving her degree at Laval, she taught in Gravelbourg and Regina.

For the last two years the Ecole Mathieu has offered French instruction classes in its kindergarten and to students of all ages in a special Saturday class. This year the school will also offer adult classes in French.

Rev. Cross funeral in Regina

Funeral service for Arthur Cross, 78, of 200

Regina Leader-Post, August 19, 1969

# French evaluation "most encouraging"

An evaluation of the early French immersion program at St. Pius X School shows the students are, in effect, getting two languages for the price of one.

A report released at the regular meeting of the Regina separate school board Monday said these students may lag slightly behind their English-only counterparts in Grades 1 and 2 where 75 per cent of the instruction is in French, but this initial gap is quickly closed.

The report said these students also do as well as their English counterparts in other subject areas, such as mathematics, that are taught in French.

A comparison with native French-speaking students in the Montreal area showed the Saskatchewan students are, grade by grade, about one year behind their francophone counterparts in the acquisition of formal language skills, but, the report adds, these results are "most encouraging."

The study was conducted by the Club Richelieu de Regina and the Regina Bilingual Program Parents' Association which applied to the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association for funding. They were given \$7,096 for the study done in 1977.

The study covered the first year of the program. At the time 1,674 students enrolled in bilingual programs in the province's 17 French immersion schools.

By 1976 62 per cent of the

St. Pius X School were enrolled in the immersion program with the rest in the English program. More than 80 per cent of the children in the French program came from homes where no French was spoken.

The majority of instruction is in French for the early Grades up to and including Grade 4 with equal amounts of instruction in French and English from Grade 5 to Grade 8. Kindergarten classes are 100 per cent French.

In English language proficiency, the St. Pius X Grade 1 students scored lower than their peers in the English-only comparison class with most of the difference in word analysis and total mathematics tests.

However by Grade 2, this deficiency had been overcome. In this grade, the St. Pius X students scored significantly higher on such tests as reading, total reading, mathematical computations and concepts and total mathematics.

The study showed these students equalled or exceeded the Regina city-wide norms in English language proficiency.

The Leader-Post, August 28, 1979

# Upcoming

## Monday

Parents and former and current students of St. Pius X School are invited to attend a retirement come-and-go tea for Renee Chauvin, assistant principal and Grade 2 teacher, from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday at Christ the King Parish Hall, 3223 Garnet St. Chauvin was instrumental in organizing and teaching the French immersion program.

Regina Leader-Post, June 15, 1985

# CITIZENS OF REGINA!

- A unique opportunity for interested parents.
1. to have your child learn the "other" official language.
  2. to participate directly in unifying the peoples of Canada.
  3. to augment cultural development and personal enrichment.
  4. to have a greater opportunity in obtaining employment with the Federal Civil Service, and National and International Corporations.

There has existed in Regina, for the past 2 years, "designated" classes in years I, II and III located at St. Pius X Elementary School, 3301 Garnet Street, wherein your child can learn and become competent in the French language during ordinary school hours.

To register in year I class, knowledge of French is not now a prerequisite. Beginning in September 1971, a "designated" kindergarten located at 2517-25th Ave. will be operated by the Separate School Board for children who will be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 1971.

Parents interested in these programmes for their children are urged to register now, as enrolment is limited and final registration dates are approaching. If you wish to receive more information, or if you wish to enrol your child in year I, II or III classes or in the designated Kindergarten, please communicate directly with the Regina Separate School Board at 2160 Cameron Street, or phone 525-0591, or write to Ecole Mathieu, 2517-25th Ave., enclosing the following coupon.

NAME OF PARENTS .....  
ADDRESS ..... Telephone No. ....  
NAME OF CHILD ..... Date of Birth .....

Please register my child in Year I .....  
Year II .....  
Year III .....  
Kindergarten .....  
Please send me more information at 2517-25th Ave.  
We are separate School supporters .....  
Public School supporters .....

Regina Leader-Post, June 25, 1971



# St. Pius X bilingual program adds two years

By CATHIE BARTLETT  
of The Leader-Post

The bilingual program at St. Pius X School—the only one of its kind in Regina—will expand in September to include Grade 6 and kindergarten. Grade 1 to 5 have been introduced a year at a time, beginning in 1989 with Grade 1. Grade 6 is being added to accommodate the students as they progress through the program.

Kindergarten was not included in the original program because it was not until 1972 that it was offered in all separate schools without tuition, said Gerald Kleinsinger, chairman of the board at the time.

The French program preceded the kindergarten program. Now with kindergarten throughout the system and the interest shown by parents in French kindergarten, the

board decided it would be a logical addition to the program," Mr. Kleinsinger said. So far, 24 children have been enrolled in kindergarten. About 30 are expected by September, said Ray Tourigny, assistant superintendent of instructions for the Regina separate school board, and principal of St. Pius X School from 1966 to 1972, during which time the bilingual program was inaugurated.

During 1973-74 196 children were enrolled in the bilingual program. Close to 120 are expected this year, he said. A mobile classroom will provide the necessary additional space for Grade 6. The French class will use the school's kindergarten rooms half the day, and the English counterpart the other half. Plans are made to expand St. Pius X School.

The separate school board has committed itself to develop the program to the Grade 8 level. The program could expand beyond that, although no firm plans have been made in that direction. A parents' group from St. Pius X has appeared before the board to ask that the bilingual program be included in plans for the new Catholic school slated for south

surrounding area and can walk to school, Mr. Tourigny said. The program is open to all children. The decision of parents to register their children is the only admission requirement. About 80 per cent of those enrolled in the program are Roman Catholic. Non-Catholics have the option of redirecting their taxes, or of paying the tuition fee of \$1,000 a year, said Louis Jule,

regular program, either at St. Pius or in the school in their area. In 89 per cent of these cases, the parents take our advice," he said. Because of the heavier workload and the need to learn the language of instruction, parents are discouraged from enrolling children who haven't started in Grade 1 of the program. According to guidelines set by the department of educa-

employment, or realize their children may not always live in Saskatchewan, he said. "At any rate, it is certainly the objective of the program to produce bilingual children." Grade 5 students in the program have attained a level of bilingualism that would never have been attained at the high school level, Mr. Jule said. While the children become proficient in French, English

The Leader-Post,  
August 16, 1974

**Regina Catholic Schools**  
**REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS**  
**French Language and French Immersion Programs**

**I. TYPE A FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM**  
**Ecole Monseigneur de Laval**  
The Regina Catholic School Board intends to offer French language classes from Kindergarten to Grade VII at Ecole Monseigneur de Laval, 2230-25th Avenue, telephone 585-0873 during the 1982-83 school year. A sufficient number of students must be enrolled in the program to justify the program. The language of instruction for the program will be French at the Kindergarten and Year I and 8 levels and program will be in French for all courses of study except English from Year II to Grade VII.

**II. TYPE B FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAMS**  
**St. Mary School**  
The Regina Catholic School Board intends to offer French immersion classes from Kindergarten to Year V at St. Mary School, 142 North Main Street, telephone 543-5433 during the 1982-83 academic year. There is provision for expansion of this program in succeeding years. The curriculum will be taught in both official languages, approximately 50% in French and the remainder in English.

**St. Pius X School**  
The Regina Catholic School Board will continue to offer French immersion classes from Kindergarten to Grade VIII at St. Pius X School, 3301 Garret Street, telephone 586-9733 during the 1982-83 academic year. The language of instruction will be in French from Kindergarten and Year I and approximately 50%-80% in French in the remainder of the grades.

**St. Thomas School**  
The Regina Catholic School Board plans to offer a French immersion class for Year I at St. Thomas School, 701-14th Avenue East, telephone 352-5244, during the 1982-83 academic year. This program will be new for 1982 and will also include Kindergarten if sufficient interest is shown. The program will extend through the grades as the students progress. The curriculum will be taught in both official languages, approximately 50%-80% in French and the remainder in English.

**Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School**  
The Regina Catholic School Board will offer French immersion classes at the Grade IX, X, XI and XII levels at Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School, 2330-28th Avenue, telephone 586-5868 during the 1982-83 school year. The curriculum will be taught in both official languages, approximately 50% in French and the remainder in English.

Parents who wish to be considered for any of these programs are requested to contact the designated school at no later than the school year.

**Regina Catholic Schools**

**In Regina Catholic Schools, Jesus Loves You...**

**...in both official languages.**

To find out how you can give your child the gift of a second language, taught in a caring, Christian environment, please join us for our

**FRENCH IMMERSION KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION EVENING**  
Tuesday, February 6th  
7:30 p.m.  
Regina Catholic Education Centre  
Grafton Room  
3120 - 14th Avenue

For more information, please call 791-7200.

**"Quality Catholic Education"**

The Leader-Post,  
January 27, 2001

Regina Leader Post  
March 27, 1982

**A6**

The Leader-Post Regina Saturday, January 27, 2001

## Providing the Gift of a Second Language...



becomes better at learning a language - he or she becomes a better learner in general.

"Learning a second language also develops confidence in students. We have discovered that because these young people have immersed themselves in something new, they develop a high level of self-confidence and a willingness to risk new challenges and experiences.

"Once a person has acquired a second language, learning a third or a fourth language becomes easy. We find that many of our students choose to learn a third and even fourth language when they get into high school or university."

Research has proven that the earlier a child begins learning a second language, the easier it will be to succeed. "It is natural for young children to learn a second language, it's almost like magic. It's phenomenal. They just take to it naturally. Within a short time the teacher will speak to the students entirely in French and the children will know what the teacher is talking about. They may not be able to respond, except in one or two words, but they'll understand what the teacher is saying."

Parents who do not speak French sometimes worry that if they enrol their child in French Immersion, they will not be able to read to their child or understand assignments sent home from the school. But Celeste Croft says there is nothing to fear.

"Regardless of which language is spoken at home, parents are a child's first teachers," she observes. "The vast majority of our parents do not speak French, but this really shouldn't be a concern. You see, the way parents support their

child's learning is by looking at, and talking about, the work a child brings home. It's most important that parents help their children to develop a wide range of interests, by doing things together, and then talking about these shared experiences. We strongly encourage parents to read to their children. It's fine to read to a child in English because the importance parents place on reading is going to carry over into French, or German, or whatever the language of instruction is at school.

"As well, parents sometimes worry that they won't be able to help their child with homework. But helping with homework doesn't mean doing the homework - rather, it means encouraging your child to be organized, providing the tools and supports needed to get the job done. If there is a problem with the child not understanding the assignment - as there could be in English - it's the job of the parent to let the teacher or school know that there is a miscommunication. French Immersion schools promote a positive, relaxed attitude toward home-school communication. We know that parents are not always going to understand what the child is bringing home but encourage parents to feel free to call the school at any time!"

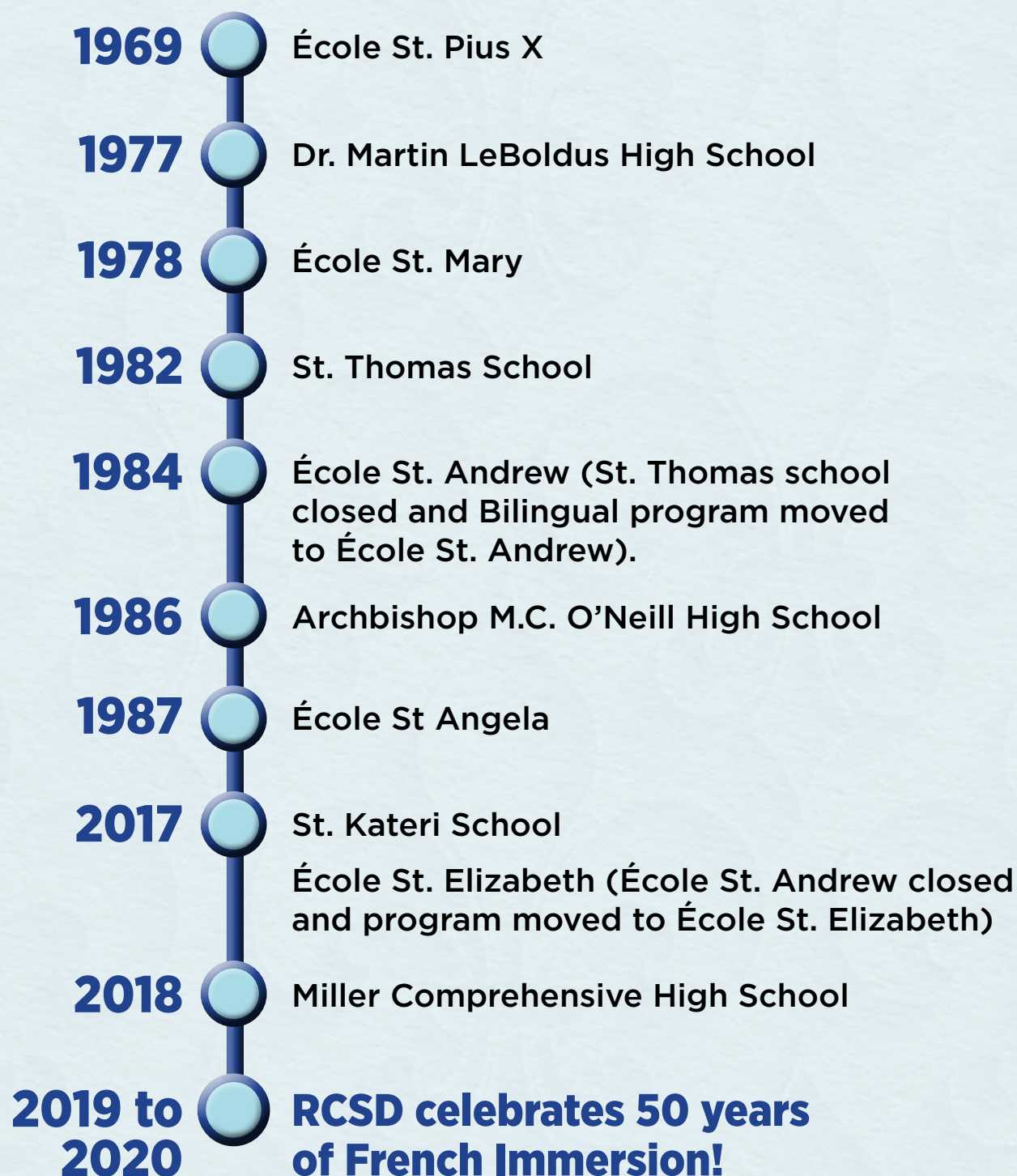
**A Catholic Immersion Kindergarten may be just right for your child. To find out more about Regina Catholic Schools' French Immersion Kindergarten, please attend the February 6th Information Evening (see below) or call the Catholic Education Centre at 791-7200.**

*Celeste Croft*

The Leader-Post,  
January 27, 2001



# Historical Timeline of the French Immersion Program in Regina Catholic Schools





## OUR SCHOOLS

# École St. Pius X



École St. Pius X

In the fall of 1953, Catholic students living in south Regina no longer had to trek across Wascana Creek to attend school. St. Pius X School opened its doors on September 1, 1953 under the leadership of Sister Mary St. Verda (Dauk). St. Pius X School aptly named after the Pope Pius X, the “Pope of children” was a single track English program.

In the late 1960’s, a group of parents asked the school board to introduce a bilingual program (Immersion). After a number of meetings and consultations, the

school board undertook the necessary steps to establish this new program. In September of 1969, St. Pius X became the chosen site for the Regina Catholic Schools’ very first ‘Bilingual’ Program. Under the leadership of Principal R. J. Tourigny, Mlle Renée Chauvin introduced the program to twenty-six Grade 1 students.

French Kindergarten was introduced in 1974, which meant that the entry to the French Immersion program would begin in Kindergarten. Sr. Alice Labreque, s.j.m. was

the first French Immersion Kindergarten teacher.

Throughout the years, a number of building changes were made to accommodate the growing number of students. The school underwent several renovations along with the addition of a gymnasium and portable classrooms. Years later, due to the continued increase in numbers, the school could no longer accommodate both language programs. In 1986, St. Pius X became a designated single track French Immersion school and was renamed École St. Pius X.



## OUR SCHOOLS

# Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School



Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School

**D**r. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School opened in February of 1976 and French Immersion started in September of 1977. The first class of less than a dozen students, came to LeBoldus from St. Pius X. Their Grade 8 teacher, Monsieur Armand Martin followed them and was the first French Immersion teacher at LeBoldus. It was called the Bilingual Program at that time. The next two groups also had less than a dozen students. In four years, the enrolment grew from 12 students to groups of more than 25 students. The program

then continued to grow rapidly and now has more than 220 students in grades 9 through 12.

Over the years, in addition to academics, French Immersion students participated in and represented Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School in French public speaking contests (Concours d'art oratoire) and CBC's French version of Reach For The Top (Génies en herbe) to name a few. They even won the Reach for the Top (Génies en herbe) National Competition in 1984.

The Dr. Martin LeBoldus French Immersion program is well known and established thanks to the many contributions of teachers, leaders, administrators and support staff. The future of the program looks bright as the growing number of French Immersion students from École St. Pius X and St. Kateri School will be heading to LeBoldus.



# LeBoldus expects first Grade 12 French graduates this year

By Matt Bellon  
of The Leader-Post

Sean Malone, a young Reginald of anglophone background, listened to classmates discuss Moliere in a morning literature class.

In the afternoon, he attended a Grade 12 algebra class and worked on complicated mathematical problems.

There was nothing unusual about that, except that the classes Sean attended were in French.

He and about 440 other students are enrolled in the separate school board's bilingual program, in which youngsters take more than half of their classes in Canada's other official language from Kindergarten onwards.

The board added grades to the program one year at a time since it started 12 years ago, and this year it's expected to produce its first graduates — eight Grade 12 students at LeBoldus High School.

Ray Tourigny, the separate board's assistant superintendent, says it started the program in response to requests from parents, many of them French-Canadian Catholics with children in the separate system.

"As for the origin of most of the kids, they're a cross-section of Regina. They're not exclusively French."

Sister Audette, one of the teachers in the bilingual program at LeBoldus, says that of 18 students in her Grade 11 and 12

classes, only three are of francophone background.

"That says to me that the interest in being bilingual is very much there, at least in the parents."

Garth Schuett, LeBoldus' principal, says the 90 students in the bilingual program there take compulsory courses like French language and literature, social studies and mathematics in French.

Optional courses, such as biology and other sciences, are in English.

In a typical class at the high school level, students follow teachers speaking French at a rapid-fire pace.

In Sister Audette's French literature class, she discusses the background of Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme, a comedy by Moliere.

"When you study Moliere, you study comedy," she tells them. "And when you study tragedy?"

"Racine and Corneille," a student answers quickly.

Eugene Jacques, the mathematics teacher, explains a new concept in an algebra class as students copy down numbers from the blackboard.

"Teaching math in French isn't any more of a challenge than in English," he says. Many students switch between French and English when calculating, though.

They also tend to talk to each other in English, inside and outside the classroom.



LeBoldus teacher Eugene Jacques explains Grade 12 French algebra to Sean Malone (left) and Mike Berrier

Sister Audette says it's an "uphill effort" for many students to speak French outside the classroom because of Reg-

ina's anglophone atmosphere. "The situation in which they can practice their French is not here in Regina."

Despite such problems, students interviewed say they're happy that their parents enrolled them in the bilingual program.

Maggie Chase says the advantages come when you're looking for a job. "People are always saying you get much better jobs if you can speak French."

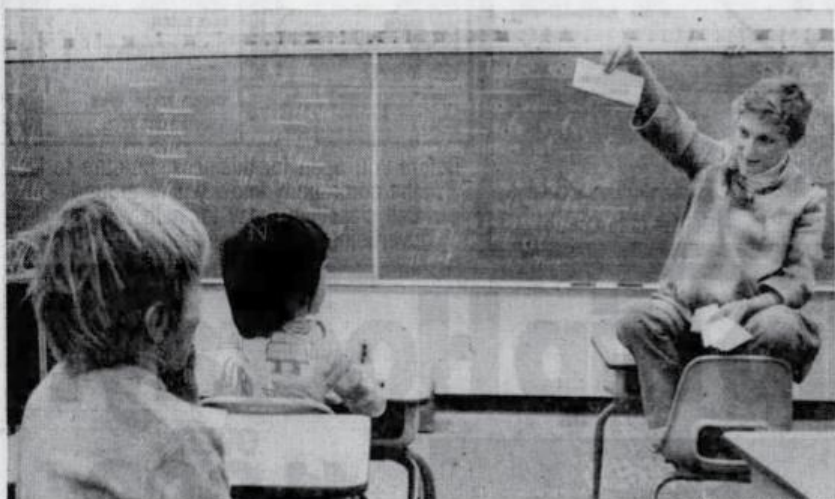
Knowing French is handy when "My friend, Tahiti, because there."

Sean Malone, son of Ted Malone, former leader of Saskatchewan's Liberal Party, says his parents enrolled him and his brother and sister in the bilingual program.

"They're encouraging me to go down east where I can use my French. I wouldn't mind taking a few classes in French, maybe French history."

Mike Berrier says people have mixed reactions when they find out he's studying both French and English.

"Both French and English are good for me."



Teacher Suzanne Rollo uses flashcards to teach students new French words at Ecole Monseigneur de Laval

## French is the sole language spoken here

"Tous dehors," principal Gilles Levesque said, clapping his hands. Obeying his orders, students filed out of Ecole Monseigneur de Laval for recess.

A group of boys grabbed a soccer ball and rushed onto the playground, yelling in French.

"Ici, ici," one of them shouted, signalling that he wanted the ball.

Visitors to Ecole Monseigneur de Laval are sometimes amazed by scenes like that in anglophone Regina. Levesque said, "It's very usual here to hear students talking in French in the hallways and outside, even without supervision."

Laval is the first truly French school in the city.

Opened last September by the separate school board, it's located in a temporary wing behind LeBoldus High School on 12th Avenue.

Several other separate and public schools in the city have offered bilingual programs alongside their English ones for several years, Levesque said.

But Laval is the first where administrators, teachers and all the students speak only French.

The board set up the school after lobbying by local francophone parents. They took advantage of new Education Act regulations requiring school boards to set up unilingual francophone schools where enough parents demand them.

Thirty-one students are currently enrolled in Grades 1 to 5, with Grades 1 and 2 in one room and Grades 3, 4 and 5 in another.

Most of the students are francophones, in contrast to many classes in bilingual programs where anglophones



Ramiro Paez, 7, (left) and Lynne Pettit, 6, listen to teacher at Laval

are the majority, Levesque said. "Quite a few are from Quebec. The parents transferred here for one reason or another."

Students study the same subjects as other Regina elementary school students, but except for an English Language Arts course, everything is in French, he added.

On a typical morning this month, Levesque quizzed one group of students in the senior classroom about a short story.

Others sat quietly at their desks, doing exercises from workbooks.

Gabrielle Wastly, a resource person who spends several hours at the school each week teaching about French-Canadian culture, showed the class a filmstrip about maple syrup production in Quebec.

Later, she quizzed students on what they had just seen. "Je sais, je sais ça," they whispered excitedly, raising their hands. ("I know, I know that.")

French-Canadian culture is an important part of the school program, Levesque said.

Students might learn, among other things, how to make tourtiere (meat pie), sing French-Canadian folk songs or do Quebec folk dances.

Textbooks for courses are all Quebec. Levesque said, "In the regard we have a high Canadian or French-Canadian culture in all our courses. Some schools use texts from France. Parents, Catholic or non-Catholic, enroll their children in Laval's program at its lowest level or transfer their other schools for higher grades."

"The criterion is that the child will follow the class, whether in previous formal or informal French or not."

Ray Tourigny, the separate board's assistant superintendent, said the board plans to expand to Grade 6, one year at a time, on enrollment.

"Hopefully, in the coming years, it will be enough to establish a ten program and move into the meantime, Levesque said.

Francophone parents are making do with bilingual programs and knowledge of French is not into the world, school can't help but get better grounding in this

## Students win TV quiz show

Students from LeBoldus High School's French program have won the Saskatchewan championship on Genies en Herbe, a Radio-Canada TV quiz show for high school students.

The team beat nine other schools for the championship, winning four straight matches. Members include Sean Malone, Alfred Trudelle, Danny Parrott and Eugene Labossiere, coached by Sister Florestine Audette and Leona Be-grand.

LeBoldus will now compete in the national championships in Ottawa during the Easter weekend.

The last three LeBoldus matches for the provincial competition will be aired April 15, May 6 and 13 at 7 p.m. on CBKF-2, the local Radio-Canada TV station.

Garth Schuett, principal of LeBoldus, said in an interview he is "pleasantly surprised" at the results, partly because at least one of the students on the team is of anglophone background. "The other schools tend to be in more francophone-oriented communities," he added. This is the first year LeBoldus has appeared on the show.



## OUR SCHOOLS

# École St. Mary



École St. Mary

**S**t. Mary School opened its doors on September 5, 1962. As years progressed and the St. Mary area grew in population, so did interest in a “Bilingual” program. Under the direction of Principal Harold Ferner, St. Mary School welcomed the first group of grade 1 French Immersion students in September 1978. Mme Elaine Giroux was the French Immersion classroom teacher to twenty-three students.

By 1981-1982, there were 175 students enrolled in the French Immersion program from Kindergarten to Grade 5. Students came from Uplands, Regent, Argyle and areas west of Pasqua Street and McKinley avenue.

A French Immersion grade level was subsequently added each year thereafter. For many years, St. Mary operated as a dual track school whereby both the English

and French programs were offered. As the program grew, operational changes were needed and in the early 1990’s, St. Mary became a designated single track French Immersion school and was renamed École St. Mary.

École St. Mary is currently undergoing renovations to meet the growing enrollment needs of the French Immersion student population.



## OUR SCHOOLS

# École St. Andrew



École St. Andrew

**S**t. Andrew School opened in 1957 and the French Immersion program was introduced 27 years later.

With the closing of St. Thomas School in 1984, where a new 'Bilingual' program had been established in 1982, it was decided that the St. Thomas School Bilingual program would be relocated to St. Andrew for the beginning of the 1984-1985 school year, thus becoming a dual track school. Principal Gordon Domm welcomed the new students and families to

the St. Andrew school community. With the help of two French Immersion primary teachers: Lorraine Ferrara and Ann Flamand who joined the St. Andrew team, the transition was a success.

As interest in the French Immersion program at St. Andrew grew, the school could no longer sustain both programs. The English program was eventually phased out and the school became a single track French Immersion school in 1988.

As years progressed and the city witnessed new developments, an increasing high number of students from the east end attended École St. Andrew. The construction of a new school in the east end was warranted and consideration to relocate the French Immersion program was necessary.

In 2017, École St. Andrew closed and students transitioned to their new school École St. Elizabeth.



## OUR SCHOOLS

# Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School



Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic High School



*First French Immersion Graduating Class*

**B**uilt in 1967 and named after Archbishop Michael C. O'Neill, the French Immersion program at O'Neill High School was introduced in September 1986 and welcomed students from St. Mary elementary school.

The French Immersion program witnessed a successful start due to the hard work and commitment to French Second Language Education under the leadership of teacher Bernard Morin. Monsieur Morin

was tasked with the responsibility of following and transitioning his grade 8 students from St. Mary School and establishing the program at O'Neill. Today, O'Neill is the designated high school for French Immersion students coming from École St. Mary and École St. Angela Merici.

Over the years, in addition to academics, French Immersion students participated in several extracurricular activities and

represented O'Neill High School in French public speaking contests (Concours d'art oratoire) and CBC's French version of Reach For The Top (Génies en herbe) to name a few.

Today, the O'Neill High School French Immersion program remains strong as it serves more than 200 students. It looks back with thanks to the many individuals who contributed to its success: teachers, leaders, administrators and support staff.



## OUR SCHOOLS

# École St. Angela Merici



École St. Angela Merici

**A**s the city of Regina continued to develop and grow, the need for a new school located in the Northwest became necessary. In September 1987, the Regina Catholic School Division opened St. Angela Merici Elementary School. In following with tradition for all Regina Catholic Schools new building developments, a blessing and official opening ceremony for St. Angela Merici School occurred on November 12, 1987 with The Most Reverend Charles A. Halpin, Archbishop of Regina presiding.

St. Angela was a dual track school whereby both the English and French Immersion programs were offered under the same roof. This 2900 square meter building accommodated 342 students its very first year!

Student enrolment in both programs grew rapidly. By 1993, combined program enrolment surpassed 700 students, which resulted in the need for additional classrooms. As a result, portable classrooms were added to the extent that these

outnumbered the classrooms that were part of the main building. St. Angela Merici Elementary School continued to operate as a large dual track school until June 2017.

With the opening of St. Nicholas School in the nearby area, St. Angela became a single track French Immersion school in 2017 and the name of the school officially changed to École St. Angela Merici.



## OUR SCHOOLS

# St. Kateri School



St. Kateri School

**S**t. Kateri opened at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year as a dual-track school. It is the only dual-track elementary school in the Regina Catholic School Division. Mrs. Monica Norris was the principal of the school with Paulette Belisle in the role of vice-principal during St. Kateri's first year of operation. Students in grades K to grade 7 were part

of the French Immersion program in its first year.

The program at St. Kateri continued to grow, and the school added Grade 8 in 2018-2019. One year later, nearly 250 students are registered in the program, comprising about half of the school's total population.

The French Immersion program is pleased to have found a home in St. Kateri's vibrant, engaged, multicultural community!



## OUR SCHOOLS

# École St. Elizabeth



École St. Elizabeth

École St. Elizabeth opened its doors in September 2017 with 425 French Immersion students serving the east and central areas of Regina. Most of these students transferred from École St. Andrew, which closed in July of that year.

The theme *“Nouvelle maison, même esprit!”*, borrowed from the Saskatchewan Roughriders, seemed fitting for École St. Elizabeth’s first year. With many staff also making the transfer from École St. Andrew, École St. Elizabeth maintained the same sense of community in their new home.

The St. Elizabeth community continues to grow. This year St. Elizabeth has 20 classrooms and we continue to welcome new French Immersion students.



## OUR SCHOOLS

# Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School



Miller Comprehensive Catholic High School

**M**iller Comprehensive Catholic High School opened its doors in 1966. Launched in September 2018, the Miller French Immersion Program is the newest French Immersion program offered in Regina Catholic Schools.

The inaugural year began with a class of 23 Gr. 9 French Immersion students and two teachers. Mme Sharlene Holliday and Mme Malia Carson took on the task of teaching the six required French classes.

The program quickly found a home at Miller. With the addition of the French Immersion Program, student growth was inevitable and therefore a renovation that included two new classrooms and a student lounge area was planned. These spaces have been wonderful additions to the school!

École St. Elizabeth elementary is Miller's only French associate school. Miller has embraced and built a relationship with our

future Marauders and promoted the school by hosting a variety of activities. In September, 2019 Miller welcomed a second group of 28, Gr. 9 French Immersion students to the program. As the program continues to grow, Miller is committed to providing opportunities for students to learn and experience the French language and culture. It's been 51 years, but Miller is truly proud to hear the French language throughout the Miller halls and classrooms.



## TESTIMONIALS



### Sean Malone

Sean Malone was a student in the first French Immersion class within the Regina Catholic School Division at St. Pius X Elementary School and received his high school diploma with bilingual mention from Dr. Martin

LeBoldus High School in 1981. His class was the very first French Immersion class to graduate from the Regina Catholic Schools in Regina. He is currently an executive with the Government of Canada and resides in Chelsea, Québec.

*"In 2020, I find it sometimes hard to believe that at least half of my workday takes place in French or that our two daughters have attended all French schools. Needless to say, it is highly unlikely that this would have happened had I not been enrolled in the Immersion Program. Moreover, in addition to career/educational opportunities and where I have ended up living, learning French through the Immersion Program has allowed me over the years to develop lifelong friendships as well as provided me with a wide range of experiences and perspectives related to travel, culture and politics, just to name a few.*

*In this respect, I owe a debt of gratitude to my parents for having the vision to enroll me in the program as well as to all of my teachers at St. Pius X and LeBoldus for their dedication and commitment to their students.*

*I look forward to seeing the impact of the Immersion Program over the next 50 years."*



### Lynette Nishnik

Lynette Nishnik attended École St. Pius X elementary school and received her high school diploma with bilingual mention from Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School in 1983. She is currently the French Immersion

Education Leader and Senior Math teacher in the immersion program at Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School.

*"For me, the 50th anniversary signifies years of hard work toward the learning and appreciation of our two official languages and the English and French cultures of Canada. This small experiment that started in our system in 1969 has become a great success and our community is enriched with a large number of bilingual citizens.*

*One of my most memorable moments as a French Immersion student came from when I was in Grade 2 with Mlle Chauvin. She had us write little stories for the first time in French. She then selected my story to be published in an anthology of young Canadians poetry and short stories.*

*My years in the program allowed me to become bilingual in a minority environment. Being bilingual was useful when I have travelled to France, attended university in Quebec, worked as a server, volunteered at national events in Regina, and when I applied for a job as a teacher."*



## TESTIMONIALS



### Annette Revet

Annette Revet attended École St. Pius X elementary school and received her high school diploma with bilingual mention from Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School in 1985. Annette

Revet is currently the Chief Transformation Officer and Corporate Secretary at Conexus Credit Union.

*"For my family, being educated in French was important as it meant we would retain our language, we would also retain and learn more about our culture. I ensured that our son would also be educated in the same program. As a recent graduate of O'Neill High school, I am very proud of the fact that he finished grade 12 fully bilingual."*

*I have many fond memories of my years in the program such as; the grade 8 French Immersion trip to Quebec, year-end class celebrations, French theatre productions with M. St. Pierre, the wonderful friends that I was able to go to school with from grade 1 to 12 and the excellent teachers like Mlle Chauvin, Mlle Archambault, Mme Anstis, M. Bien, M. Sylvestre, M. Morin, M. St. Pierre, M. and Mme Jacques just to name a few. I know there are more that I owe for the person that I became and am today."*



### Nicole Beauchesne

Nicole Beauchesne attended St. Pius X elementary school and graduated Grade 12 with a bilingual mention from Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School in 1990.

She is currently working as an ergo therapist in Winnipeg, MB. She received her diploma from the University of Alberta in 1995 and moved to Winnipeg where she began her own private practice in 1998.

*"Fifty years of immersion has great significance for me. 50 years of immersion speaks to the astounding growth and commitment to French Immersion in the province of Saskatchewan. I am proud of my French heritage. My friends and teachers were my second family for 12 years of my life. Fond memories include clubs, trips, school dances, practices, meetings and most of all receiving my high school diploma in 1990. My educational experience at St. Pius X and LeBoldus have made me who I am today."*

*My French immersion experience afforded me many life long opportunities. I was given the opportunity to have two languages, which I have transmitted to my children. To this day, I continue to live in a francophone community and now that I am close to 50 myself, the 50th anniversary of French Immersion is a great testament to the benefits that were given to me as I continue to live in French."*

## TESTIMONIALS



### Larissa Bezo (née Lozowchuk)

Larissa attended École St. Pius X elementary school and obtained her high school diploma with bilingual mention from Dr. Martin LeBoldus High School in 1990. She currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE).

*"For me 50 years of French Immersion represents a generation of Saskatchewan youth empowered through education - equipped with intercultural skills and language capacity, and instilled with a multidimensional sense of global citizenship and purpose - taking up leadership roles across Canada and around the globe working to make a better, more sustainable and inclusive world."*

*The Regina Catholic Schools provided me with a faith-based and culturally rich environment. The capacity to learn cross-culturally and to be fully immersed in all dimensions of a culture from song to dance to literature, history and science and the likes cannot be understated. This experience has given me life-long friendships and shared experiences that continues to this very day, forty-one years later."*

**Congratulations to  
Regina Catholic Schools for  
50 years of  
French Immersion!**



Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise (ACF)  
1440 9e Avenue Nord, bureau 215  
Regina (Saskatchewan)  
S4R 8B1

[fransaskois.ca](http://fransaskois.ca)

# le Bac

**Faculté d'éducation  
Université de Regina**

*50 years of French Immersion,  
that is something to celebrate!*

*Congratulations to the Catholic School Board of  
Regina for its historical role in promoting French  
language in Saskatchewan.*

*On behalf of all members of the Baccalauréat en  
éducation, the Faculty of Education and University  
of Regina, best wishes for continuous success for  
French Immersion.*

Baccalauréat en éducation  
Faculté d'éducation  
Université de Regina  
3737 Wascana Parkway  
Regina, SK S4S 0A2



Université de Regina  
University of Regina



## TESTIMONIALS



### Leanne (Exner) Dragon

Leanne (Exner) Dragon attended École St. Pius X elementary school and received her high school diploma with bilingual mention from Dr. Martin LeBoldus high school in 1990. She currently practices law in her law firm in Yellowknife, NWT.

*"Congratulations on 50 years of success in ensuring that both of Canada's official languages will continue to thrive and prosper while providing high quality education."*

*I have many fond memories such as a group from our grade eight class on a trip to Québec; opportunities to travel to Ottawa and Charlottetown to compete in the Concours d'art oratoire; but by far, the best thing to come from my time as a French Immersion student was the life-long friendships that I made."*



Saskatchewan  
Association of  
Teachers of French

The Saskatchewan Association of Teachers of French (SATF) congratulates Regina Catholic Schools on 50 years of French Immersion Education!

We salute the important contributions French Immersion leaders and teachers have made to French language learning for students. Bravo!

[satf.ca](http://satf.ca)



La Cité  
UNIVERSITAIRE  
FRANCOPHONE



From all of us at **La Cité universitaire francophone**, hats off to 50 years of furthering education in French!

Take pride in your many contributions and keep up the excellent work.

[lacite.uregina.ca](http://lacite.uregina.ca)



Université de Regina  
University of Regina

## TESTIMONIALS



### Reid Bourgeois

Reid Bourgeois attended École St. Mary elementary school and received his grade 12 diploma with bilingual mention from Archbishop M.C. O'Neill Catholic high school in 2012. Reid works as a Data Analyst at Sasktel.

*"French is an integral part of Canada's heritage and identity; it's exciting to be a part of it. Graduating as an immersion student makes me feel like I am keeping a tradition going as my family is francophone."*

*"My most memorable moment as a French Immersion student was writing speeches for the yearly French public speaking competition. I dreaded them but the experience translated into essay writing in university feeling less tedious. Most of my internships and professional jobs have been in government; graduating as an immersion student made me a stronger applicant."*



**The Conseil culturel fransaskois congratulates Regina Catholic Schools on 50 years of French Immersion education within a faith-based environment.**

**Thank you for your contribution to the development of arts and culture in French in your schools for these past 50 years and best wishes and continued success.**

**[culturel.ca](http://culturel.ca)**

#### **Les Éditions de la nouvelle plume**

are proud to join the Regina Catholic School Division in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the French Immersion Program in our capital city.



For 35 years, *Les Éditions de la nouvelle plume* has published quality French books not only for the love of reading but for the education sector including students in the French Immersion program. Long live the French Immersion program in Regina! We encourage RCSD students to participate in our writing workshops and that their works will one day be published à la nouvelle plume.

Laurier Gareau, president



Un livre, une fenêtre  
sur l'Ouest et le Nord

[www.plume.refc.ca](http://www.plume.refc.ca)  
 @ nouvelleplume@sasktel.net  
 @ nouvelleplume.cooperachvettée  
 306-352-7435



## TESTIMONIALS



### Amber Nguyen

Amber Nguyen attended St. Mary Elementary School and received her high school diploma with bilingual mention from Archbishop, M. C. O'Neill High School in 2013. This year she will graduate with a Psychology degree with a minor in linguistic from the University of Regina.

*"50 years of immersion allowed me endless possibilities such as the ability to communicate with people from around the world and to pursue a career as a speech and language pathologist to help others. Immersion also allowed me to form incredible friendships. Our immersion class was close to the other students*

*and teachers who taught us French. It was easy to form friendships and ask for help from our teachers when necessary."*

Association canadienne des  
professionnels de l'immersion



JOYEUX

50e

ANNIVERSAIRE



AU PROGRAMME  
D'IMMERSION FRANÇAISE  
DU REGINA CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS!

## TESTIMONIALS



### Kamille Teichreb

Kamille Teichreb attended École St. Mary elementary school and received her high school diploma with bilingual mention from Archbishop M.C. O'Neill in 2014. I am currently working as a Quality Engineer at EVRAZ NA.

*"50 years of French immersion signifies years of allowing students to be able to learn both official languages of Canada. With the French immersion program, so many more opportunities open up in different career paths, as well as geographical location in the country.*

*My most memorable moment as an immersion student was the long lasting friendships I made, and the fun I had in class everyday.*

*This program has afforded me the opportunity to be able to work anywhere in Canada, and for any company. I was able to apply for many jobs that required the candidate to speak both official languages."*



"On behalf of the Société historique de la Saskatchewan, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the Regina Catholic School Division for 50 years of French Immersion in a faith based learning environment.

From one class of 26 students at St. Pius X in 1969 to more than 2,600 students in eight French Immersion schools in 2019, the Regina Catholic School Division has made a mark on Saskatchewan's history with its quality and vitality.

We wish you continued success and growth for the next 50 years."

Alexandre Chartier, Executive Director  
Société historique de la Saskatchewan

[histoiresk.ca](http://histoiresk.ca)



Canadian Association of  
Second Language Teachers  
Association canadienne des  
professeurs de langues secondes

**Congratulations to Regina Catholic Schools on the 50th anniversary of its French immersion program and on providing the opportunity for students to learn their second official language.**

**The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) is proud to support excellence in the teaching of second languages in Regina and across Canada.**

[caslt.org](http://caslt.org)





# Calling all RCSD French Immersion Alumni!

Are you a former Regina Catholic Schools French Immersion student or teacher?

Tell us where you are and what you are doing. You can even share a fond memory of your years in the program.

Complete a profile and upload your photos or even record a video.

Visit the [rcsd.ca](http://rcsd.ca) home page to access the platform.



*The French Speaking Jurist's  
Association of Saskatchewan  
(AJEFS) wishes you a very Happy  
50th Anniversary.*

AJEFS is your key partner in French justice services. The Info-Justice Centre continues to offer a wide range of information and orientation opportunities including workshops for schools that focus on careers in justice; bullying; cyberbullying and sexting; mock trials and more...

Saskinfojustice.ca 18559248543



The Saskatchewan Francophone Youth Association would like to congratulate the Regina Catholic School Division as it celebrates 50 years of French immersion! We wish you continued success and growth for many years to come.

Thank you for your many contributions in shaping the future of many generations. We look forward to seeing you at Francofièvre next year!

To learn more about us, please visit  
[ajf.ca](http://ajf.ca)



**Regina  
Catholic Schools**  
[www.rcsd.ca](http://www.rcsd.ca)



**CANADIAN  
PARENTS  
FOR FRENCH  
SASKATCHEWAN**



Canadian  
Heritage

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canadien