

Regina Catholic School Division

Director's Communiqué

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"Let Your Light Shine"

A Message from Our Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia



"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

As our province begins to reopen, we have much to celebrate. Education in Saskatchewan faced major, sudden changes as a global pandemic hit our country, and the changes worked: we helped to flatten the curve of the COVID-19 virus.

Optimism is present now more than it has been since early March. We still face many challenges, and have many unanswered questions. We pray June will bring continued improvement to the fight against COVID-19 globally as we stay close to home, practise social distancing, and remind ourselves and our students how important it is to wash our hands and help mitigate the spreading of germs.

Still, the prospect of continuing to work and teach remotely can feel daunting. We are craving the connection we usually share with our students and colleagues. I see the work you're doing in spite of that, and I am awed. You are showing resiliency and flexibility in a way that's never before been asked of school division staff. Thank you.



May was a month of cancellations and hope for what's to come. Many wonderful things happened, not in our schools, but within our school communities. Students learned, teachers learned as well, and most of all, we celebrated together as a school division in a new way. We marked Catholic Education Week, and we continue to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of French Immersion education in Regina Catholic Schools. We have much to look forward to.

Some things never change, and no pandemic will ever calm the busy month of June in education. We have graduations and farewells to plan, students to prepare for next-level learning, and a new class of students we must be ready to welcome in September. So as we settle into another hectic June, I wish you all well and pray first and foremost for your collective health and safety.

We are Regina Catholic Schools. Currently closed.... Continually learning.... Constantly praying.

God Bless,
Dom

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Understand Us

The grade 7/8s at St. Gregory School have completed another amazing year of Understand Us, a mental health campaign designed to increase students' appreciation and acceptance of themselves. This campaign is based around the notion of learning self-love by attempting to change the way we see ourselves. We need to learn to push out negative thoughts, accept our own selves for who we are, and learn to stop de-normalizing based on comparing who we are to the standard of what is considered "normal" or "perfect". If we do this, our self-perception can change from imperfect to I'm perfect. We

choose how we see differences, and it is our goal to create a movement of positive support by embracing understanding and empathy through choosing a lens that suspends judgement.



Please take some time to view the videos linked to the pictures. The first features grade 8 student Meira Brown and highlights her experience with and perspectives on mental health. The second is a video which brings together the messages students can take home and into their futures. Both are moving, and show the necessity and success of mental health programming in schools.

[Watch Meira Browns's video.](#)

[Watch the second video.](#)

GRIT to GRAD

A parent from Sacred Heart Community School was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She has a daughter in grade 2 and a son in grade 8. She was going through chemo treatments and our staff decided to award her with a GRIT to GRAD t-shirt. She became the first parent to receive this award. We presented the GRIT t-shirt to her children at an assembly.



She wrote the following email to us the following day:

"Thank You! That's so amazing. Sacred Heart is such a great part of our lives, you have helped us all in so many ways especially since I was diagnosed last May. I am honored that I am the first parent to receive this award. Thank you for walking with my children and I on this journey to healing."



COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

Director's Communiqué - Commemorative Edition

We are excited and proud to present a special commemorative edition to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the Regina Catholic Schools French Immersion Program. Happy Reading!

[English Edition](#)

[French Edition](#)



Panther Pride Week

Last week was Panther Pride week - show your Panther spirit. It was wonderful seeing all of the kids and staff!

Watch their video [here](#)!



Miss You Marauders

Angie Harding and Marsha Compton made the display to post in the library windows. The hearts have the first name and last name initial of every student in our school. The display is on the library windows which can be seen from the Winnipeg St. parking lot.

Angie also invited kids to come find their name, and take a pic and post it to the library Instagram account. Just trying to stay connected with our kids!



Parent Letter

A letter from a parent at École St. Pius X to warm your heart:

Hi Marie. I wanted to thank you again for the Mr Gum books. Listening to you read aloud from Mr Gum has been a highlight in both my kids' days (poppy in kindergarten too). They beg me to listen to another chapter. It makes a big difference for your own teacher to read to you rather than a generic YouTube story time or an epic book.



It fosters ongoing connection and you read in a very engaging way while using all the conversational strategies that keep the kids thinking, teaching comprehension, and helping them make personal connections. Can't wait for the next instalment!"



École St. Mary Collage

Meaghan Boast from École St. Mary made a collage of their staff to share a message with their students and families. Stephanie Dufour-Jerrett also turned their collage into a video and you can see it [here!](#)



Connecting with St. Gregory School

We hear stories of siblings helping each other at home. One of our older Grade 5 students helps her sibling post to SeeSaw everyday. Mrs. Schultz does a daily prayer online every morning. Without fail, two twins in her class send her a thank you message and sometimes share their thoughts about the prayer. Another student also shares a thank you as well.

Messages for St. Gabriel

During the initial COVID-19 school closure in March, we were all in shock at how fast we were asked to close schools without time to say proper good-byes or send well wishes. During the weeks we had to stay at home and teachers were not yet allowed to return to the building, a number of students came by the school at separate times and left some wonderful messages in chalk on the sidewalk – We Miss our Teachers, We miss the Staff of St. Gabriel, Stay Safe. One family painted small rocks and left them throughout the school grounds – We Love our Teachers, We miss the Staff. It made such a positive impact on them when they finally could return to the school. Our teachers left hearts and messages on the doors and windows of classrooms saying the same things back to our students – We Miss our Students. Stay safe! Laugh ...Pray! Love - the Staff. Trying to stay connected and show love for staff and school community was evident at St. Gabriel and helped us all through this!



Hello Mrs. Ell. This is Mrs. Howard, Dasire's grandma. Today is Teachers Appreciation Day in America. I just wanted you to know that I appreciate you for all that you do. Even during this unpredictable moment you still find ways to connect with your children (students). Thank you so much and God bless!

Grandma Joins Online Learning

When Brenda Ell did an intake interview with Dasire and his mom, his gramma from Texas happened to be here as well. During the intake interview, Brenda got to know her a bit over Seesaw. They added Gramma so she could follow along and join in Dasire's PreK days. Following she sent in the message on the left.



Distant Farewell

With the end of the school year, we also have retirements about to begin for many employees. One of them, Catholic Education Services Coordinator Miles Meyers, was able to begin wearing his retirement uniform early as he began working from home. For all those who are joining Miles in a wardrobe of jeans and t-shirts, we pray for a happy retirement. You've put your hearts and souls into your jobs, doing God's work in our schools. May you be blessed on your journeys, particularly without the farewell we all know you deserve. Congratulations!!



Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

““Work” is the word the Bible uses to describe God’s creative activity: “God completed the work He had been doing” (Gen 2:2). God entrusted this task to mankind: Work is the human vocation.”

“Let us turn this time of #pandemic into a test case to prepare for our collective future. Without an all-embracing vision, there will be no future for anyone.”

“Mother of the Lord, Virgin Mary, Queen of the Rosary, show us the power of your protective mantle. From your arms come the hope and peace of which we are sorely in need.”

“Many people have recently lost their jobs. Let us #PrayTogether for our brothers and sisters who are suffering for lack of employment.”

“Today is the #InternationalDayOfFamilies: Let us pray for all families, so that the Spirit of the Lord - the spirit of love, respect, and freedom - might grow in families.”

“The perfect path to follow Jesus is not rigidity, which brings turmoil, but the spirit of evangelical freedom, which always brings joy.”



Celebrating School Spirit Weeks in May!



Month at a Glance

Monday, June 1 - Public Board Meeting 5:00

Sunday, June 7 - Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Monday, June 8 - Truth & Reconciliation Day

Thursday, June 11 - Corpus Christi

Friday, June 12 - TPD, No School for Elementary Students

**Wednesday, June 17 - Special Public Board Meeting
3:00 pm**

Friday, June 19 - Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Sunday, June 21 - Fathers' Day

- National Aboriginal Day

Wednesday, June 24 - St. Jean Baptiste Day

Thursday, June 25 - Last Day of School for Students

Friday, June 26 - Last Day for Teachers

Monday, June 29 - Feast Day of St. Peter and St. Paul