

Regina Catholic School Division

Director's Communiqué

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"Know, Love, Serve."

A Message from Our Director of Education, Domenic Scuglia



"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" Hebrews 13:5

Living, working, learning and thriving during a global pandemic is a test of faith. We know God will never leave us, but as we remain physically distant, or even isolated, it can be hard to see God among us. But, if we go beyond the mask and look into one another's eyes, we can still see Him in all that we do. The Lord is with us, among our students, walking with the lonely, staying with the isolated, and healing hearts, minds and bodies. I am grateful of all of you and your willingness to return to school to serve in the way we are called to do so. I am also, aware that things may not be the same as they were in February and are causing anxiety and additional workload. Please continue to keep the lines of communication open with the channels you are most comfortable to deliver these important messages – let us stay connected while we are being pulled apart.

We begin our "Know, Love, Serve," three-year faith initiative with a year of Knowing God. That we work as a community to Know something we can't always see in the literal sense while we battle against a (nearly) invisible virus isn't lost on me. It's so hard to know things that we can't see for ourselves. That's where Faith comes in. Faith that Jesus is still here for us. Faith that our leaders will guide us through this pandemic. Faith that science will provide for health care and eventually a vaccine for us. We can't see any of this, yet we Know.

This past month we honoured residential school survivors, their families and communities on September 30, Orange Shirt Day. I want to thank Elder May and Elder Gerry for sharing their stories with us. It is a gift we take to heart and pray we can all learn from.

September 2020 will be a month none of us will soon forget. Whether we remember that breakthrough with a student after missing them for nearly six months, the fear of unknowingly spreading the virus, the joy of returning to school with colleagues and friends, or just buying masks, this will be a unique month in all our lives. Thank you for all the work you are doing to help making the business of education continue, even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

God Bless,
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New in Harbour Landing

Board Deputy Chair Vicky Bonnell speaks to dignitaries and media, bringing greetings at an event to share news about a new school coming to the Harbour Landing area. The 2020 provincial budget included the announcement of a new joint-use elementary school to come in the area. Details on timelines and exact locations are still unknown, but we do know this is a need for the growing community.



Rebuilding to Start

Board Chair Bob Kowalchuk spoke to dignitaries and the media at two similar events. First, he addressed the excitement of our school division for the École St. Pius X community as the school sees a new facility on the way. St. Pius will soon be part of a joint-use building with Argyle School. Construction will begin soon, with the new facility located at the current Argyle School location.

Four Become Two

The second event Board Chair Bob Kowalchuk spoke at was to announce a fourth school becoming part of a previously announced rebuild. St. Michael Community School, St. Peter School, Imperial School and now also McDermid School will all be part of another joint-use elementary school. Location and other details are still unknown.



Every Child Matters

A great piece of learning at St. Matthew School. A grade 6 student took his work home to show Grandma. She sent it back with him, his text translated into Cree and hand written across the top. This is a beautiful moment in our collective journey toward Reconciliation.



On Orange Shirt Day we honour former residential school students, their families and communities. We acknowledge the impacts of the policies and actions of the Government of Canada and the churches that operated the schools.

Orange Shirt Day

On September 30, we honoured former residential school students, their families and communities by participating in Orange Shirt Day activities and learning.



Water Bottle Donation

St. Francis Community School has an amazing partnership with Tom's Independent Grocer and our St. Francis Catholic School Community Council. Tom came by this morning and donated 425 water bottles for our students. We are grateful to Tom and our CSCC for arranging this generous donation.

Welcome Back to St. Gregory School!

St. Gregory staff were excited to welcome everyone back to class, but things will be a little different this year!

Here is a look at how the school prepared for the return of students, watch [here](#).



Terry Fox Walks

Socially distanced Terry Fox Walks are underway. Students from St. Nicholas School took some time to have a discussion about who Terry Fox was, the perseverance he had, and the reason behind the Terry Fox Walk each year.



Rebels Return!

St. Josaphat Rebels Staff were excited to welcome students back! We hope the following video puts a smile on your faces!

Watch [here!](#)



Tree Planting

Catholic Women's League councils across Canada had been invited to plant a tree to commemorate the League's 100th anniversary. Members of the Holy Family CWL in Regina were present last month at Michael A. Riffel Catholic High School, which was the location of their tree planting. A Mountain Ash tree was planted at the school.



Great job Guardians!

Last year, before Covid, St. Gabriel raised money for the Z99 Regina Radiothon. We finally got to announce our total - \$2281.25!

Tweets from Pope Francis @Pontifex

"The current pandemic has highlighted our interdependence: we are all linked to each other, for better or for worse. Therefore, to come out of this crisis better than before, we have to do so together, all of us, in solidarity."

"How much suffering, how many wounds, how many wars could be avoided if forgiveness and mercy were the style of our life!"

"Mother Teresa, tireless worker of charity, pray for us, so that our criterion for action might be gratuitous love, offered freely to everyone without distinction of language, culture, race, or religion."

"Mary, the Mother who cared for Jesus, cares with maternal affection and pain also for this wounded world."

"The journey of reconciliation calls for patience and trust. Peace will not be obtained unless it is hoped for."

"Everyone is important in God's eyes, everyone can transform a part of the world polluted by human voracity into the good reality willed by the Creator."

"I renew my appeal that in light of the present circumstances, that all nations be enabled to meet the greatest needs of the moment, reducing or forgiving the debt of the poorest nations."

Opening Mass

We held a very different RCSD Opening Mass this year. With a scattering of employees attending in person, and the rest attending virtually from their typical work places, this was a first. But even from behind masks we prayed, listened to Archbishop Don Bolen's words carefully, and learned from Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty. It was different, but it was good, and it was the perfect way to kick off 2020-2021.



Month at a Glance

Thursday, October 1 - Feast Day of St. Theresa

Friday, October 2 - Feast Day of the Guardian Angels

Sunday, October 4 - Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi
- Sisters in Spirit Vigil

Monday, October 5 - Public Board Meeting 5:00
- Feast Day of St. Maria Faustina
- World Teachers' Day

Wednesday, October 7 - Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary

Monday, October 12 - Thanksgiving Day

Saturday, October 17 - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Sunday, October 18 - Feast Day of St. Luke

Monday, October 26 - Teachers' Institute

Saturday, October 31 - All Hallows' Eve