

Good News Release

Renfrew County Catholic District School Board kicks off the month of April with the Annual Christian Community Day Celebration

April 29th, 2024

On April 8th, Renfrew County Catholic District School Board staff gathered to celebrate Christian Community Day. This annual celebration began with Mass at St. Columbkille Cathedral in Pembroke, and Bob Schreader, RCCDSB Chair, shared his remarks with school board staff, thanking them for their continued dedication to Catholic education:

"Before Mass, I'd like to take this moment on behalf of our Catholic Board and my fellow trustees to express appreciation to the principals, vice-principals, program team members and teachers, as well as our administrative, clerical, custodial and educational support staff for your unwavering dedication to providing safe, welcoming, inclusive environments for our students. The Board of Trustees is eternally grateful for your continued support, care, and dedication to the students of RCCDSB."

The Board would like to share special thanks to the Diocesan Administrator, Reverend Holly, and Deacon Adrian for hosting the RCCDSB community for a wonderful Mass to start the day. Another special thank you goes to the Christian Community Day Choir for sharing your musical talents with the rest of the Board!

Following Mass, staff gathered for brunch at restaurants in Pembroke. A special thank you to our local eateries for opening on a Monday morning to accommodate RCCDSB staff. It is greatly appreciated, and the meals were fantastic as always.

After brunch, staff headed over to Bishop Smith Catholic High School for the Christian Community Day opening ceremony, which included a procession of the school banners, prayer, land acknowledgment, and opening remarks from CPCO representative and Bishop Smith Principal, Julie Huckabone, Associate Director of Business Affairs and Treasurer, Mary Lynn Schauer, and Director of Education, Mark Searson, who shared some tips with staff on how to view the Solar Eclipse safely, switching out his glasses for the eclipse viewing glasses.

In the afternoon, the Board hosted breakout sessions presented by various RCCDSB staff and community partners. The sessions included: De-Stressing in Makerspace Activities; Christian Meditation; Feasting: An Indigenous Tradition; Indigenous Orange Shirt Beading; Cultural Appreciation vs. Appropriation; Find Your 'Flow'; Supporting Health and Wellness in the Classroom and as Adult Educators; Revitalizing Kindergarten Excellence: A Dynamic Dive into Play-Based Learning and Instructional Programming for Early Years Educators; TVO Mathify Overview and Support; FSL Resources, Rosary, and Manie Musicale; HIIT Boot Camp; Gentle Stretching and Mindful Breathing; Intuitive Daily Stitching; An Introduction to Hand Sewing; Introduction to Archery Workshop: Making Connections to Life-Long Learning and a Pursuit of Excellence for yourself and your students; Holy Moments: Finding Holiness and Joy in the Every Day; along with self-directed learning sessions for different employee groups.

"We are so grateful to the RCCDSB staff who volunteered to present breakout sessions for our annual Christian Community Day. This is always one of my favourite days of the year because of the opportunity to gather as a whole school community and celebrate our faith. Thank you to the organizing committee, Reverend Father Holly, Deacon Adrian, the RCCDSB Choir, the restaurants downtown Pembroke, and the RCCDSB staff for celebrating our 2024 Christian Community Day and creating yet another memorable day."



Mass at St. Columbkille Cathedral



Opening Ceremony



Procession of school banners