

**August Good News Release  
August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**The RCCDSB wraps up summer learning & prepares to welcome students back to school**

Over the summer, staff and students had a well-deserved vacation and are now preparing to welcome students back to the classroom for the 2022-2023 school year. The new school year comes with the RCCDSB reanimation of the Mission and Vision statements, and the introduction of our school year theme: *As a community of believers, we strive to recognize and remove barriers to create just and equitable opportunities for all.* We're looking forward to welcoming students back to school with this statement as the backbone of all that we do.

This summer, we had many successful school programs, such as Elementary Summer School programs, the Bishop & JAG Summer camps, the Indigenous Summer Learning program, and the Kindergarten Transition programs that took place in late August.

The Bishop & JAG summer camps took place early July at Bishop Smith and St. Joseph's High School. RCCDSB once again offered a dynamic, fun, and robust experience for students in Grade 4 and 5 this summer. The Bishop Smith Camp ran from July 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and St. Joseph's JAG Camp ran from July 19<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>. The RCCDSB camps provide an opportunity for students in Grades 4 and 5 to experience programs at our two high schools in a fun and exciting way, says principal T.J. O'Grady. Programming was delivered by many educators within the RCCDSB and supported by the efforts of some high school student volunteers. All participants received a special camp t-shirt that featured the respective school logo, which served as their team identifier and provided a wonderful keepsake as a reminder of the fun they experienced at the RCCDSB camps!

The RCCDSB 2022 Elementary Summer Learning Program (SLP) had a lot to celebrate this year! Students and teachers used a virtual learning platform for the second consecutive year to avoid geographical barriers for families to access learning. The primary virtual classroom (Senior Kindergarten/ Year 2 to grade 3) and junior virtual classroom (Grade 4 to 6) had both literacy and numeracy programming from 9 am- noon daily for 3 weeks.

*Schools to believe in!* 

One parent noted: “This program is essential because it helps students who are disengaged from school or feeling on the outside of school programming and gives them a positive experience focused on their needs and strengths.” Says one parent, the summer learning programs have great benefit to students across the Renfrew County.

They continue: “The value in this program is each student recognizing their own ability in school and feeling confident walking back into school the following year looking forward to learning. This program is supported with fun activities that makes it fun to learn and hard not to have fun!” We’re thrilled that so many students were able to make the most of summer learning with RCCDSB. We are also thankful for our teachers who quickly and effectively created virtual learning environments filled with warmth, good humour, and joy and brought connections to students who did not know each other at the start of the program.

The Indigenous Summer Learning program took place from July 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> at the Rankin Culture and Community Centre as a joint effort by the RCDSB and the RCCDSB for students with Indigenous heritage. The program helped students foster pride in their identity and connect to culture while building relationships with other students. Some of the First Nations activities included making paddles, mitts and moccasins, no face dolls, and dreamcatchers. The Métis activities included Métis games, finger weaving, beading, and jigging and dancing. The Inuit activities included the Lighting of the qullia, caribou stew, sealskin owl making, and Inuit games. There were so many wonderful activities for students to learn and connect to their culture. Another great way to bond and create friendships over the summer!

Finally, from August 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, the kindergarten welcome program took place at Cathedral, Pembroke, Our Lady of Fatima, Renfrew, & St. Mary’s, Deep River. The program allows new students to get comfortable in the space before entering their first kindergarten classroom on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The week was a success as we had many kindergarten students from across the County attend and get comfortable being in the classroom environment.

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school on September 6<sup>th</sup> for another fantastic school year and continuing our mission as an inclusive Catholic learning community called to love unconditionally and educate hearts and minds in the way of Christ.

Bob Schreader  
RCCDSB Chairperson

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St. Joseph's JAG Summer  
Camp July 19-22



The Kindergarten  
Welcome program at  
Cathedral, Pembroke  
on August 22-26<sup>th</sup>

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The Indigenous Summer Learning program July 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.



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