

Notebook

Highlights from the 2022-2023 school year... so far!

Kick-Starting Kindergarten Registration for 2023-2024

RCCDSB has kick-started kindergarten planning for the 2023-2024 school year! Our registration blitz took place from January 23rd to February 3rd, 2023. A variety of new marketing materials were used to promote our publicly funded Catholic Education system. RCCDSB sponsored skating events through the Winter break, had billboards and banners placed throughout Renfrew County, radio advertisements, and more to let families know they can enroll their children in publicly funded Catholic Education.

There is still more to come! Currently, schools across the county are planning open houses to help connect families to our schools and ensure a smooth transition into kindergarten from home or daycare environments. The youngest learners & their families will have the opportunity to ask questions and see first-hand what their new environments would be. We look forward to welcoming our new students!



Students at St., Michael's, Douglas, getting excited for Kindergarten Registration time!



St. Francis of Assisi, Petawawa

Our Mission Statement

We are an inclusive Catholic learning community called to love unconditionally and educate hearts and minds in the way of Christ.

2022-2023 Curriculum Team Highlights

Reading



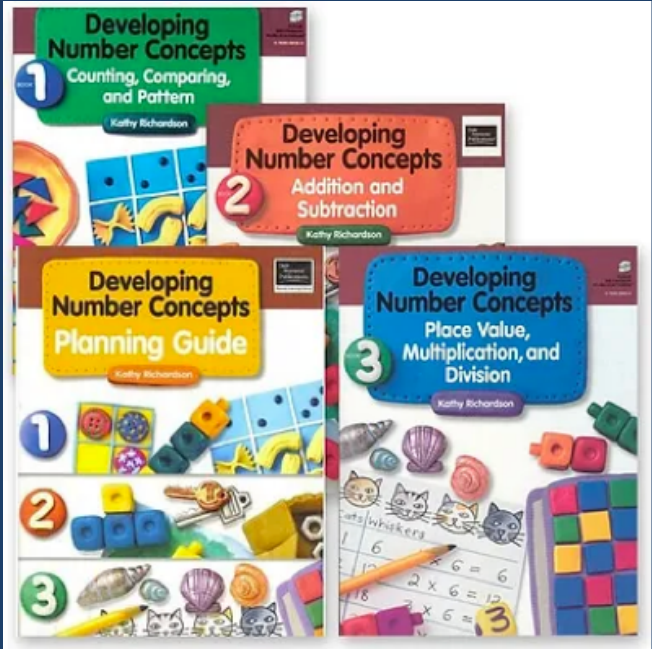
Our Lady of Grace, Westmeath engaging in literacy centres, working on reading fluency, phonics and phonemic awareness

The Curriculum Team provided professional development and training to all Kindergarten & Primary teachers with our new Tier 1, Guided Reading resource, Flyleaf. Flyleaf supports the recent findings from the Ontario Human Rights Commision, Right To Read document. Flyleaf teaches to the 5 pillars of reading: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency & Reading Comprehension. Using the program's decodable books, foundational skills and close reading guide lessons, this comprehensible program provides educators with the ability to meet the diverse learning needs for every child.

Mathematics

When meeting with Kindergarten & Primary educators during Flyleaf training, the Curriculum Team revisited our Kindergarten Mathematics program, developed by Kathy Richardson. This program's hands-on approach to learning number concepts and more, along with its in-depth and precise assessments, allows educators to plan their mathematics instruction to meet students where they are at.

Since this mathematics program supports learning from Kindergarten to Grade 3, we showed teachers how this program can be used as a supplement to MathUp. Providing our primary teachers with an extra resource to access to support students in their math learning.



St. James, Eganville students displaying their work with coding and 3D printing

Math Supports



Supporting Primary teachers with the implementation of Zorbitts Math Adventure in daily mathematics centers. Zorbitts Math Adventure is an interactive resource that provides extra support and practice for student understanding.

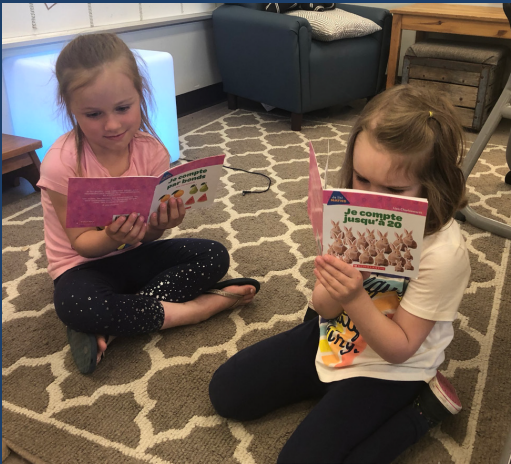
Junior and Intermediate teachers received Mathletics licenses for extra supplementary practice and support for student learning. A memo, with instructional videos on how to log in and get started with Mathletics along with voluntary, virtual sessions, were provided for teachers to walk through this resource.

French as a Second Language



Frimousses 2 is a new resource available to support extended FSL. Professional development was provided along with this resource to support it's implementation. The resource provides cross-curricular connections with health and physical education, social studies, and social and emotional development.

The Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) is an internationally recognized French Language Proficiency Certificate awarded by France's national Ministry of Education. DELF exams will take place this April at St. Joseph's highschool in Renfrew. 12th-grade student's enrolled in a French Second Language program are invited to challenge the DELF to celebrate and recognize their bilingualism.



French signage has been installed in all of our extended FSL schools to promote the French language within our learning environment.



Physical Literacy

Outdoor Rinks & Skating Lessons

St. Michael's, Douglas has been enjoying the outdoor rink on the school yard during recess and physical education class. Schools across the county have the opportunity to visit the rinks in the community throughout the season for their physical education classes.

Students are able to bring their own skates and helmets from home, however, the school also keeps extra skates and helmets at the school for students to use.



Students enjoy the outdoor rink during recess at St. Michael's, Douglas

Snowshoeing

With the pleasant temperatures in addition to the significant snowfall this year, snowshoeing continues to provide students with a platform for learning outdoors.



Floor Curling

With the help of Canadian Tire Jump Start, the RCCDSB is actively showcasing the sport of floor curling to our schools. Students and their teachers are given an activity based lesson on the basics of curling in their schools by the physical education and health special assignment teacher. Schools have the opportunity to book out a set of floor curling gear to provide further activity to develop skills and understanding of the game of curling. The Board has made connections with the local curling clubs in Arnprior and Renfrew to provide an opportunity for our students in the community. Curling allows students the opportunity to learn about a new sport and engage in physical literacy with their classmates. The sets have been making their way across the schools in Renfrew County so all students to have an opportunity to explore the sport.



Students at St. Mary's OLGC, Deep River, learning with Mr. Solar.



Students at St. Anthony's, Chalk River, exploring the curling sets.

Secondary Experiential Learning

Students from the Bishop Smith senior physical education classes had the opportunity to visit Algonquin college and learn about the outdoor programs available at the Pembroke Campus. Students toured the college and enjoyed a classroom presentation. Some of the programs they learned about included the Outdoor Adventure Program, Outdoor Adventure Naturalist, and Adventure Sports programming.

Students also had an opportunity to enjoy engaging activities such as throw ropes for water rescue and to climb on the amazing rock climbing wall. An active and informative day at Algonquin College.



Automotive Specialist High Skills Major Students visit 427 Squadron at Garrison Petawawa

Transportation SHSM students from Bishop Smith visited the 427 Squadron hangar at CFB Petawawa. Students learned about civilian and enlisted career opportunities in aircraft and vehicle maintenance. A great opportunity for students to consider their options in trades.

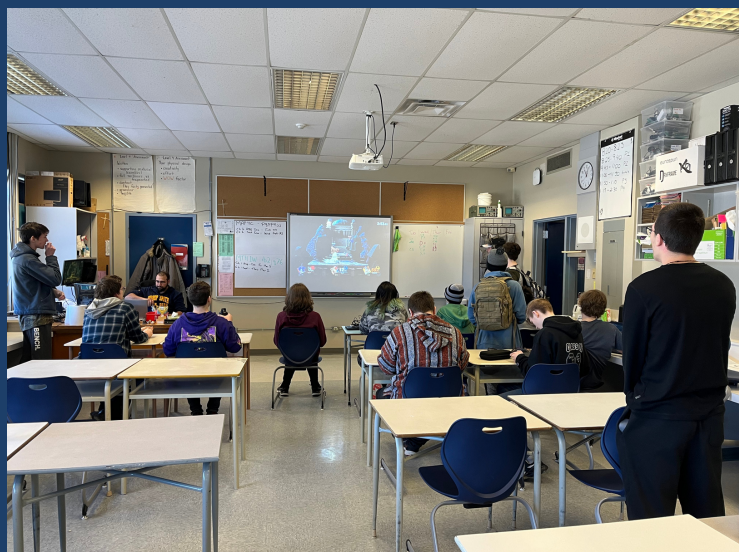


E-Sports Sessions at Bishop Smith & St. Joseph's High School

High school students at Bishop Smith and St. Joseph's High School have a new and exciting opportunity to bond with other students and engage in some friendly competition! Thanks to Mr. Andrew Kraftchick and Mr. John Harnick, students get to take their lunch to relax and play games with other students.

Each day during lunch period, students get a chance to play e-sports in Mr. Kraftchick's classroom at Bishop and in Mr. Harnick's classroom at St. Joseph's. Students can sign up and attend the sessions in the class during lunch time. There is a new schedule each week of different games for students to play. This helps students bond and create new friendships amongst the participants. The sessions are engaging and help bring students with similar interests together.

Super Smash Mario Brothers tournaments seems to be the most popular of all the games, with many students attending and competing against one another, and on occasion, students get the opportunity to play against the students at Fellowes!



Students at Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke, playing in the Super Smash Mario Bros tournament on Friday at lunch time. A great way to clear your head and take a break during the school day!

2023 Dominican Republic Experience

St. Joseph's High School, Renfrew & Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke grade 11 & 12 students fundraise all year for their trip to Yamasa, Dominican Republic. Some of the fundraising included a Chilli Dinner, the 'DR Dance,' Cake Auction, pizza lunches, and selling maple syrup and handmade candles.

In February of each year, they head to the Dominican Republic to help build and paint homes, clean the Ozama River, visit schools, pour concrete flooring with the Floors for Families Adult Group based in Deep River, and enjoy the people they have grown to call family over the many years.



Handmade & Embroidered Bags

Every year, the women at the Margueritte Center make 300 handmade and embroidered bags for the EOCCC Conference held in April. The DRE team brings these bags back and compensates the women for their amazing work!



Celebration of Life for Roger Perry

During the trip, the team held a Celebration of Life for Roger Perry, former teacher at Bishop Smith Catholic High School. Roger Perry founded the Dominican Republic Experience at Bishop Smith in the 1980s. He is also the founder of Friends for Life International, a non-profit charity dedicated to improving the lives of residents in Yamasa, Dominican Republic. To honour him and his selfless dedication, Friends for Life International will change its name to Roger Médico.



Celebrating Indigenous Cultures: RCCDSB Arctic Winter Games

Students across RCCDSB had the opportunity to meet Alla (Stranger) to introduce the Arctic Winter games to each school. Every school had a 45 minute introduction to the culture and the history behind these games, and practiced with their school community.

These sessions are an introduction to the Arctic Winter Games that will take place in partnership with Inuuqatigiit in Ottawa on March 21st, 2023, at St. Michael's Catholic School in Douglas. These assemblies at each school help introduce students and get them excited about participating in the winter games. Some of the events include Throat Singing, Drumming, Back Push, One Foot High Kick, Alaskan High Kick and Arm Pull.

During these practice sessions, students get the opportunity to practice the activities. Before the Winter Games begin, the schools will choose 2 representatives from their school in the junior and intermediate grades to participate and play in the 5 events.



Presentation at St. Andrew's, Killaloe



St. Joseph's, Calabogie presentation with Alla



Skills presentation at St. Thomas the Apostle, Renfrew



Practicing proper positioning for the Alaskan High-Kick at Our Lady of Fatima, Renfrew



Holy Name, Pembroke skills presentation



Bishop Smith Catholic High School, Pembroke skills presentation

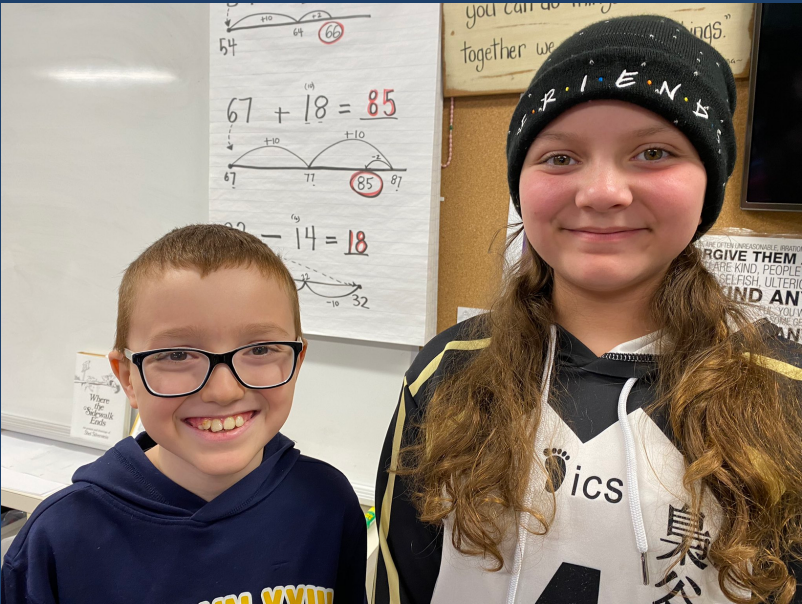
Responsible Citizen & PINK Awards

At many schools across Renfrew County, teachers and principals choose students every month who have gone above and beyond to act as a responsible citizen, the Catholic graduate expectation of the 2022-2023 school year.

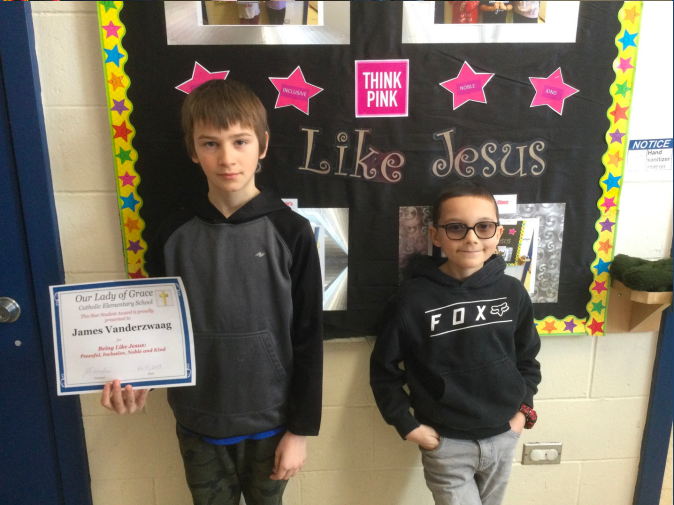
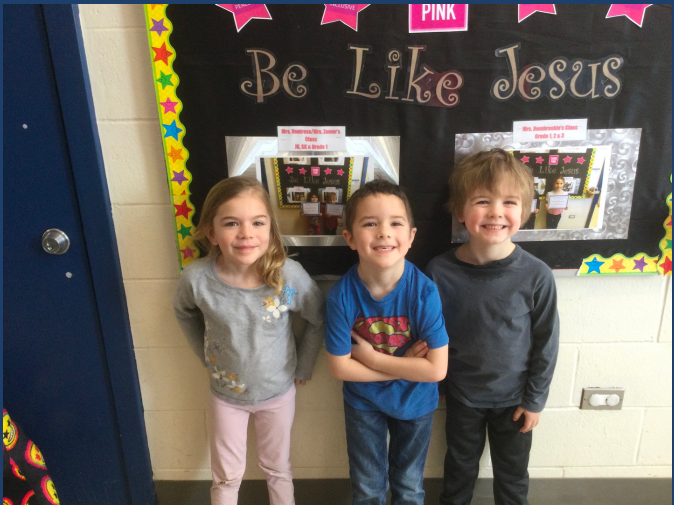
Students take this call to action very seriously. Throughout the school year, students go out of their way to help a friend, pick up garbage during recess, help teachers carry supplies, and much more. Students are always excited to share their kind actions with their teachers or principals in hopes they will be recognized for a PINK reward or the Responsible Citizen Award. Schools across the RCCDSB have created their own version of these awards for students to engage in various acts of kindness.



Our Lady of Sorrows, Petawawa Responsible Citizens of November!



St. Joseph's, Arnprior Responsible Citizens of January



Our Lady of Grace February PINK Award winners



St. Michael's, Douglas Responsible Citizen Awards January 2023

Wholeness & Wellness: RCCDSB Kindness Project

February 13th-17th, 2023

February 13-17th was RCCDSB Kindness Week! Every day during Kindness week, there was a challenge, reflection and a theme.

Monday: What if we serve others? Students were asked to wear camouflage or a superhero cape this day! The kindness challenge was to draw a picture for someone special in your life.

Tuesday: What if we practice positivity? Students were asked to wear pink or purple. The kindness challenge was to be kind to yourself, and say 3 positive things about yourself!

Wednesday: What if we don't judge others? Students were asked to wear funky glasses/clothes. The challenge was to give a compliment to 3 classmates.

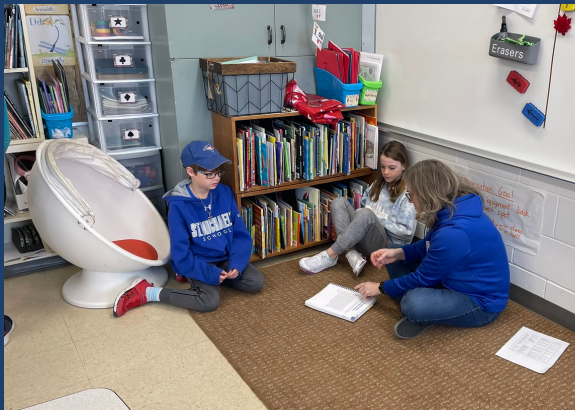
Thursday: What if we stand up for one another? Students wore school spirit shirts, and the challenge was to let someone go ahead of you in line.

Friday: What if we set ourselves up for success? Be the hope for the Future! Students were asked to wear their dream job. The challenge was to invite someone to play a game with you at recess.

Schools across the county also engaged in prayer during class, asking God to shine a little kindness on us and bring happiness and joy to those around us. Kindness Week is an important reminder for students to always be kind.



St. Michael's students dressed up as their dream jobs!



St. Michael's students embracing Thursday's challenge to wear school colours!



Kindness Prayer

Rooted in Faith: Marking the beginning of Lenten Season

As we have recently entered into a new season of the Liturgical calendar, students across RCCDSB celebrated Shrove Tuesday on February 21st with their school communities. Many schools held a pancake breakfast or lunch for students to enjoy.

On Ash Wednesday, students gathered as a school community to pray, and received ashes to mark the beginning of Lent and as a sign of penitence. This is an important time for us to reflect, pray, and learn more about the significance of Lent.



Our Lady of Grace students enjoying a pancake lunch!



St. Michael's students at their Pancake Supper Fundraiser



St. Francis of Assisi Ash Wednesday Service with Father John from St. Francis of Assisi Parish



St. Thomas the Apostle students receiving ashes at their Ash Wednesday service.

Message from the Director

The 2022-2023 school year has been exciting and engaging for students. By focusing on well-being, kindness, and experiential learning, RCCDSB students have had a great school year so far.

Our team is continuously working on curriculum enhancements and supports for students so all students can feel supported in their school environments. The programs and activities we offer are focused on specific learning needs, as well as building connections with our students, parents and the community. This winter, students have had various opportunities to engage in physical literacy activities, such as skating and snowshoeing. We have also had important experiential learning opportunities for secondary students, such as visiting 427 Squadron at Garrison Petawawa and touring Algonquin College and learning about the programs offered.

This issue includes everything from curriculum enhancements in math, reading, writing, and french, to the 2023 Dominican Republic Experience with secondary students from St. Joseph's and Bishop Smith High School. We wanted to highlight what's happening at the schools across RCCDSB, where we continue to educate hearts and minds in the way of Christ.

Mark Searson
Director of Education

Message from the Diocese

The past pastoral and school year has been filled with exciting and transformative initiatives aimed at promoting evangelization and revitalizing parishes. From pastoral visits to prepare for upcoming changes, to new administrative restructuring projects, to creating the Office of the New Media, we have been working tirelessly towards spreading the message of God's love and create a brighter future for all who live in our diocese.

Our evangelization project has been a highlight, with recently printed pamphlets showcasing the four stages we will undertake and promoting elements such as the Catholic House Mission. We have also been undergoing training, including Alpha training in Toronto, to help expand the reach of our evangelization efforts.

The future holds exciting promises as we continue to promote evangelization and reach out to those who don't know Christ's healing and saving power. Together, and with Jesus at our side, we can all make a positive impact as we sow hope, faith and love in the hearts of those around us.

Grace and peace,

+ Guy Desrochers
Bishop of Pembroke

Message from the Chair

As the seasons will soon be changing, we appreciate the opportunity to reflect on everything we have accomplished so far. Our Board theme for 2022-2023 school year, taken from our Vision Statement, is to "recognize and remove barriers to create just and equitable opportunities for all." After reviewing the articles in this edition of the Notebook, I am pleased with the variety of programs offered at RCCDSB. We truly believe we are instilling a life-long desire to learn for all students by providing the tools and resources to guide them in their learning and future career goals.

We could not accomplish this without our school community. We are blessed to have such dedicated staff who really care about the well-being of students at RCCDSB, and I want to thank everyone involved - our Board administration, teachers, and support staff, as well as our many community partners, including parents, clergy, parishioners, and the wider community for your continued commitment to Catholic Education. Each of you play an important role in students' education and you are all valued members of our school community. I wish for a great end to this school year and look forward to seeing more highlights in the Spring!

Bob Schreader,
RCCDSB Chair

Message from the PIC Chair

Winter is almost over and spring will be here before we know it. With students engaging in various activities this school year, getting outdoors for fresh air and physical activity is so important. As parents we know the importance of maintaining our children's mental well-being, and continuing with activities outdoors is an integral part, especially in these winter months.

The Parent Involvement Committee looks forward to organizing more events for our school community. In December 2022, we hosted a virtual Parent Night to discuss supporting positive relationships, tips on courageous conversations, and accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion. We know how important it is to have these conversations and create safe spaces for our children. The committee hopes to continue virtual sessions into 2023 and beyond.

Jeannie Ivory
Parent Involvement Committee Chairperson