

## **Good News Release March 29th, 2023**

### **Students across the county have embraced faith-filled learning opportunities, spirit days, and extracurricular activities throughout the month of March!**

Our Pembroke schools have been keeping busy. At Holy Name, students have embraced the opportunity to deepen their faith through Lent. This is an important time for the Catholic education community as we come together and reflect on our experiences so we can learn and grow. Holy Name students have also enjoyed “reading for the love of it” activities. Reading is an amazing way to relax and learn, and students have been encouraged to start reading books that interest them.

Students have also been busy keeping track of the Ontario Winter Games, from morning announcements to athlete’s event placing graphs.

As part of our French as a second language program, Mme. Clouthier embraced French culinary culture by cooking a traditional tourtiere, beans, pea soups, sugar pie and homemade bread with some of her students. They did fantastic work incorporating French culture into their FSL classroom learning!

Additionally, to support students in the classroom, Mrs. Mark keeps all the classrooms on track by focusing on closing the gaps in reading and math.

The past few months at Lourdes have been exciting ones! Returning from the Christmas holidays, as a way to build community and collegiality amongst our students, we hosted our annual “fort-building competition”. Classes tied for the top winning slots, creating dynamic and intricate forts complete with fireplaces, hot tubs and media rooms! A fun and creative way to come together as a school community.

Father Holly also welcomed Lourdes students and staff into the church on Ash Wednesday for a Liturgy of the Word. Amy Sicoli, Principal at Our Lady of Lourdes, said the students expressed their gratitude after Liturgy, stating, “Many of our children commented afterwards on how happy they were to be in the church together again. We will be heading back to the Church as we approach Holy Week to participate as classes in Stations of the Cross.”

February and March were filled with spirit at Lourdes as both the School Council and the Student Council planned some great activities for the students. These activities included a Grades 5-7 Valentine’s Themed Dance, 100 Days of School Celebrations, Jersey Day, Dress Like A Grown-Up Day, and a full-blown Hawaiian-themed party to send the students off before the March Break. They also had hula hoop and Limbo competitions, tropical smoothies and Caribbean music jamming through the gym!

Mrs. Sicoli also expressed her thanks for the help of the school community in organizing the Winter Carnival: “Thanks also to our staff for helping us to run a very successful Winter Carnival in early February. Students had the opportunity to go skating at the Laurentian Valley Skate Trail, swimming at

Kinsmen Pool, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing at Jubilee Lodge and downhill skiing at Pakenham Ski Hill. Our Kindergarten and Grade 1 students also had a ton of fun doing outdoor winter activities at the school for the day!" Some wonderful things are happening at Our Lady of Lourdes!

At Cathedral, students have been focusing on the Catholic Graduate Expectation of 'Effective Communicators.' At the end of each month, the school community will gather to recognize students from each class who have demonstrated their care for others by speaking up for them, being honest, showing respect for others, as well as students who spoke, wrote, and listened as Jesus calls us to. These students will receive the monthly JOY award, which stands for Jesus-Others-Yourself (JOY).

Cathedral has also kicked off their Lenten Food drive for the local food bank as they continue to remind themselves of the three Lenten Pillars: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Students and staff will also gather in the church during Holy Week to pray the Stations of the Cross.

Additionally, students from across the RCCDSB Elementary schools participated in the Arctic Winter Games on March 21st at St. Michael's, Douglas. Students, along with their coaches, had the opportunity to participate in several events, including Throat Singing, Drumming, Back Push, One Foot High Kick, Alaskan High Kick and Arm Pull. Students did a fantastic job, and many medals were given to participants that day. The Board would like to thank Kellie Hisko, Indigenous Education Coordinator and Damian Solar, Physical Education Special Assignment Teacher for organizing a wonderful event. A big thank you to Stranger (Aalla), his son Damian from our community partner, Inuqatigiit, and Crystal Martin. Aalla opened the ceremonies with the lighting of the qulliq and Crystal Martin throat sang for everyone. We also would like to thank Gerry Benoit, Indigenous Graduation Coach, and coordinators Stephen Charkavi and Tyson Holly for assisting the students with the games. Finally, a big shout-out goes to all the participants and their coaches who showed up and displayed great sportsmanship throughout the day!

Bob Schreader  
RCCDSB Chairperson



**Lourdes Winter  
Carnival**



**Lourdes Hawaiian  
Themed Spirit Day before  
March Break**



**Arctic Winter Games Award Ceremony- Damian Solar announcing winners, with Kellie Hisko and Stranger (Aalla) providing medals to the participants.**