



## GOOD NEWS RELEASE

### RCCDSB Chalk River and Deep River students explore, create and plan for the holidays

The St. Anthony's School Community in Chalk River was very excited to welcome many new and returning students this fall. An amazing school spirit continued to soar with various spirit days: Summer Sports, Pumpkin Spice Your Life, Black and Orange, Red/Black, and Plaid Shirt Days, reports Principal Katie Edwards-Ethier.

The Annual Terry Fox Run was a resounding success, breaking all past records and raising an incredible \$3,072.85.

Staff and students also paused to participate in many other equity-driven activities such as Orange Shirt, Pink Shirt and Purple Shirt Days.

"On each of these dates, we have taken time to reflect on the importance of why we wear these colours and why we raise awareness for these very important ideals—Anti-Bullying, Truth and Reconciliation, and the Protection of Children—each and every day", says Principal Edwards-Ethier.

"Our school has been working hard each day to live out our School Board's theme for this year, *'This is what Yahweh asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8).'* Students have been demonstrating how they live these 'asks' each day and certainly, as a school community, through our collection of many non-perishable items for our Thanksgiving Food Drive," notes Principal Edwards-Ethier.

St. Anthony's also has two new clubs this year, Lego and Art, which have been a huge hit. "The students' utter joy as they march towards the gym for their turn with the Lego/Art is thrilling to hear and observe," shares Edwards-Ethier.

It has also been a busy fall at St. Mary's Catholic School in Deep River, reports Principal Ryan Krantz. With all the beautiful fall weather, teachers and students took advantage of learning outdoors by utilizing the natural outdoor spaces. Many classes have been exploring the nearby trails on bicycles, while other classes have been learning about science in the woods nearby. "We are so fortunate to have access to outdoor natural space right at our doorstep," notes Krantz.

A welcomed return to school is the Kids in the Kitchen Program facilitated by a Registered Dietitian and teacher. The aim of the program is to introduce healthy eating and healthy food planning. Students get an opportunity to plan, prepare and taste their creations.

“Thank you to our school council for their generosity in helping to support this wonderful opportunity for our students,” says Krantz.

Remembrance Day is always a significant occasion for St. Mary’s students and staff. This year, students participated in a virtual Remembrance Day ceremony, followed with a fly-by of aircraft from Garrison Petawawa. Some intermediate classes had the chance to learn, play and ask questions to MCpl Wowchuck, Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR).

With Christmas just around the corner, students have been preparing and planning Advent prayer services in a virtual format.

“It is nice for students and staff to be able to pray as a school community,” comments Principal Krantz, adding that parents are in for a special treat as students are also enthusiastically preparing to show off their talents during a virtual Christmas concert.

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