



## GOOD NEWS RELEASE

### **School spirit, Truth & Reconciliation activities highlight first months back to classroom for Douglas and Eganville students**

With the welcome back to classrooms in September 2021, St. Michael's Catholic School in Douglas has established a robust Student Council with representatives from many Grades.

Student leaders have been working hard to bring spirit back into the building with October spirit days including plaid day, Toonie for turkey, jersey day and class colour day.

The first extracurricular activity started in late October with a cohorted Flag Football tournament that will continue into the second week of November.

"We have a few more sports tournaments planned as the year moves along and we've also asked for some student feedback surrounding other non-sports-related activities they would be interested in being a part of," notes Principal Pamela Dickerson.

In the classroom, staff and students are growing phonemic awareness through various Literacy programs and continuing on Math Up and Thinking Classroom journeys through Numeracy programs.

"Overall, it has been a very successful start to the school year here in Douglas!" states Principal Dickerson.

Staff and students at St. James Catholic School in Eganville have also had a great couple of months back in the classroom. A highlight has been the activities to mark the Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, says Principal Erik Lemke.

Students and staff gathered in the yard to take part in a smudging ceremony before Mrs. Whiteduck and Nevaeh Sarazin sang and drummed.

"The songs selected by Mrs. Whiteduck paid tribute to students taken from their families who did not return home from residential schools," notes Principal Lemke.

Kellie Hisko, RCCDSB Indigenous Education Lead, also joined the day to lead discussion on the importance of moving forward with truth and reconciliation beyond this one day.

A Medicine Wheel rock garden was recently completed at the front of the school, and a mural in the school will be started soon as further commitment to bringing awareness to Truth and Reconciliation.

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Mark Searson, Director of Education  
Renfrew County Catholic District School Board  
499 Pembroke Street West, Pembroke, ON K8A 5P1  
613-735-1031, ext. 202