

Good News Release October 2022

October was an eventful month for our schools! As always, students have been engaging in various activities, from a Cross Country Meet to fun spirit days at school, October has been a wonderful month for St. Francis of Assisi, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Anthony's & St. Mary's.

This month at St. Francis, students on the soccer team participated in a soccer tournament on October 6th. The team played against Valour and managed to keep the score 0-0 until the final minutes of the game and ultimately lost 1-0. Additionally, the team tied with Jean Lajoie and won against another RCCDSB school 6-0. We are proud of the St. Francis of Assisi soccer team for going out and giving it their all!

St. Francis of Assisi held their Thanks for Giving Food Drive to help stock the shelves at the Petawawa Pantry. The food drive was a great success and will surely make an impact for local families. As students focus on gratitude during the month of October, these food donations were a great way to show how thankful we are to the Petawawa Pantry.

St. Francis also engaged in Fire Prevention Week, where firefighters from the Petawawa Fire Hall taught students all about fire safety and prevention. This is such an important topic to discuss and learn about and we are grateful to our local firefighters for taking the time to educate our students on fire safety and prevention.

Students at St. Francis of Assisi participated in a fun and unique spirit day, "Anything but a Backpack Day." Students were told to bring anything but a backpack to school on Friday October 14th. Students had many creative ideas such as a shopping cart, cat carrier, cardboard boxes, coolers, pillowcases, milk crates, and even a compost bin! It was a fun day for all students (and staff!) to show off their creative ideas for anything but a backpack.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in track and field this month. Extra-curriculars are back at our schools and the students couldn't be happier. Karen Keels, Principal at St. Francis of Assisi states: "October is a month where we focus on gratitude at St. Francis of Assisi. Staff and students have been very grateful to engage in extra-curricular and inclusive whole school activities that help build our school community and support the learning in the classroom." Overall, October was a month filled with warmth, hospitality, good humour, and joy.

At Our Lady of Sorrows, Petawawa, students worked hard to create and mount a special mural created with the help of Moses Lunham, an Indigenous artist from Kettle and Stony Point. Moses has collaborated with local groups to create a beautiful mural that tells the story of the rich history of the Algonquin People in Petawawa. We are so grateful to Moses for helping and engaging students in creating this piece. You can see the creative process for the mural on Our Lady of Sorrows Facebook page.

Additionally, Our Lady of Sorrows held their Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Petawawa Pantry. The school raised \$500 for the local food bank, and we could not be more grateful for the generosity of our students and their families. Our Lady of Sorrows also held their first open house since 2019! David Noble, Principal of Our Lady of Sorrows said: "We have had an energetic start to the school year at Our Lady of Sorrows this year." He continues,

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“Recently, we had our first open house and meet the educator evening in the past 2 years. It was a beautiful evening that was well attended. It was great to see the halls and classrooms of Our Lady of Sorrows filled with students and families again.”

Finally, just like many other schools within the RCCDSB, Our Lady of Sorrows students were excited to participate in the Cross-Country meet in October and had a wonderful day with other students from across the county! David Noble continues, “We were fortunate to send a large team of students from grade 4-7 to Hugli’s Blueberry Ranch for our cross-country race. The students represented the school well and finished 4th overall out of 14 schools!” a great accomplishment for Our Lady of Sorrows! Mr. Noble continues, reflecting on the start of the 2022-23 school year, “We have had a blessed and great start to the school year. We look forward to continuing to grow our home, school, community, and parish relationship as the year progresses.”

At St. Anthony’s, Chalk River, students also had the opportunity to participate in the cross-country meet at Hugli’s. In October, students focused on the ‘Acts of Board’ where the focus was on being a responsible citizen and removing barriers for others. When staff witness students doing things that reflect these goals, they put their names down on apples, leaves, etc. and the principal will then read the names and reasons each morning at prayer service. A wonderful way to recognize students for going above and beyond as responsible citizens. Katie Edwards-Ethier, Principal at St. Anthony’s, says: “St. Anthony’s is off to great start again this year. The student’s spirit, kindness, compassion, and enthusiasm are enjoyed each and every day. We would like to thank our strong parent community for the continued support.”

St. Anthony’s also started their LEGO club this month. This is a great opportunity for students with a common interest to come together and work on projects they enjoy. Additionally, St. Anthony’s had ‘Favourite Celebrity Spirit Day’ in October. Students and staff dressed up as their favourite celebrity. A fun way to incorporate some Halloween fun into the month of October!

Finally, at St. Mary’s in Deep River, students had the opportunity for a Scholastic Book Fair during the week of the 17th-21st. This was a great opportunity for students to browse different books they might be interested in reading. In addition, St. Mary’s also attended the cross country meet at Hugli’s. A big congratulations to Josie Law for placing 1st in the girls grade 4 & 5 division! Such a wonderful accomplishment for Josie and St. Mary’s! Ryan Kranz, Principal at St. Mary’s, says: “St. Mary’s students have had a very busy beginning to the school year. They have raised over \$4000 during the Terry Fox run, celebrated their first school mass of the year at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, and have competed in both soccer and cross-country running events.”

Additionally, before Thanksgiving weekend, students participated in a Thanksgiving spirit team activity! Students and staff dressed up and everyone had a great time before heading off for the long weekend. St. Mary’s also hosted their first open house since 2019, and the Knights of Columbus had kindly volunteered to BBQ for the evening. A wonderful opportunity for the community and families to visit the school and see what St. Mary’s has to offer!

October has been an eventful month for students throughout the RCCDSB. As always, we are grateful for our staff, students, and families within our Board. Our school community is what truly makes us Schools to Believe In!

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Mural designed by Moses Lunham at Our Lady of Sorrows, Petawawa