



GOOD NEWS RELEASE

RCCDSB students' return to school is filled with engaging activities

Students at St. John XXIII Catholic School and St. Joseph's Catholic School in Arnprior and St. Joseph's Catholic School, Calabogie have had a busy few weeks back in their classrooms.

It is really nice to be back in the building with one another, states Christina Brown-McGrath, Principal, St. John XXIII, Arnprior. "Students have settled in nicely and have made a seamless transition to following the public health guidelines once again."

The school has undergone lots of construction over the summer, with new LED lights throughout and an upgraded ventilation system including portable HEPA filters for each occupied room. Gym upgrades are nearly complete and a new, more efficient portable will be delivered soon.

The 2021 Terry Fox School Run is set for Wednesday, September 29. St. John XXIII is on board with over 9,000 schools from coast to coast to help continue Terry's dream of a world without cancer. "In a safe manner, students will walk/run within our school grounds or, for older ones, around the block as part of their Terry Fox School Run activity, with an emphasis on social distancing," says Principal Brown-McGrath.

Students are also encouraged to show their wonderful school spirit as they walk/run by wearing red and white. Families may donate, if they can, directly to the Terry Fox Foundation.

Orange Week began on September 27 at St. John XXIII. In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, students and staff will engage in awareness activities and supports for Orange Week. Each morning during announcements, the school will join in Orange Week prayers. On Orange Day, September 30, staff and students are encouraged to wear an orange shirt and will participate in a virtual prayer service. Teachers will make use of many Indigenous resources, including mentor texts, during the week.

Staff and students are also preparing for Fire Prevention Week by practicing staggered fire drills. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 are also participating in virtual, interactive bus safety presentations until October 14.

The staff at St. Joseph's School in Arnprior was thrilled to welcome students and staff back to school this September, notes Maureen McHale-Enright, Principal.

"Our staff continues to model warmth, hospitality good humour and joy as we interact with the students, families and each other. Our students are happy to be back at school and are adjusting to all of the necessary safety protocols," says McHale-Enright.



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The school community gathers on Monday mornings via Google Meet to be united in prayer. “We are thankful to Mlle Pecoskie who leads our staff and students in Christian Meditation on Monday mornings as well,” says McHale-Enright.

Staff and students look forward to the completion of updates to the ventilation system. Students are also looking forward to participating in the Terry Fox Walk on September 29. On September 30, staff and students will wear Orange shirts in support, honour and remembrance of all victims and survivors of Residential Schools.

The school statues of St. Joseph and Jesus received makeovers to welcome students and staff back to St. Joseph’s Calabogie. “They’re both looking shiny and renewed,” reports Ruth McNulty, Principal.

Inside the school, staff has been building welcoming class communities for students, and students have been enjoying many academic and artistic experiences.

On Friday, September 17, all classes participated in an outdoor excursion (walk or run) in support of cancer research and in honour of Terry Fox’s legacy. Students in the Grade 4-8 class shared that they ran for loved ones, friends, past teachers and Terry Fox.

Students have been using whiteboards to answer “Thinking Classroom” questions that showcase their thinking and problem-solving skills. Other popular student activities include Math games and STEM challenges.

Students have also had opportunities to create self-portraits, paint, and colour.

The Greater Madawaska Public Library kindly created enticing ‘bag & book’ bundles for all students and there has also been a great response to the library’s offer to prepare Weekend Book Bundles, on topics of each student’s choice, on a regular basis.

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