

# Good News Release

St. Mary's OLG, St. Anthony's, St. Francis of Assisi, Our Lady of Sorrows

January 31st, 2024

The Advent season has come and gone at RCCDSB, and schools have been bustling with activity since December!

At St. Mary's in Deep River, they recently held their school wide Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel. Gathering together for Mass is something students and staff look forward to throughout the year, and it is important to continue praying as a school community. During Advent, they also held their weekly Advent Prayer Services to pray together as a whole school.

St. Mary's holds virtue of the month assemblies where educators highlight a few students in each class that demonstrate the virtue of that month. December's virtue was Charity and January's virtue is Courage. These awards and assemblies encourage students to continue acting as Jesus would and follow the virtues.

The school also held an Advent Food Drive led by student council, and all donations went to the local food bank. Just before Christmas, St. Mary's students performed their Christmas Concert, had a Christmas Spirit Week, and a school wide game of bingo led by student council. The school had a Christmas Poinsettia fundraiser to raise money for new school jerseys. They also had a door decorating contest to see which classroom had the most creative ideas!

Choir, art club, and Lego club are all in full-swing and students thoroughly enjoy these groups. It provides an opportunity for them to meet people who have similar interests and is a great way to make new friends.

At St. Anthony's, families were treated to a fantastic Christmas concert at the Chalk River Lion's Club in the days leading up to Christmas break. Local members of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) treated the entire school to a Christmas Luncheon on December 19th. Mr. Lemke, school Principal, shared: "Breaking bread together as a school community was a great way to kick off the Christmas break!"

With the many new staff at St. Anthony's, the school recently had a fresh "Knights" logo created. The staff and students at the school are excited to show off their new St. Anthony's gear with the redesigned logo that they can proudly wear at school and in the community!

On the last Friday of January, busses were cancelled due to weather and St. Anthony's students joined St. Mary's virtually to watch a concert featuring the duo, "Joyride." Staff and students enjoyed the highly entertaining performance before technical issues prevented the virtual concert from continuing. Students were still very excited to watch some of the performance!

At Our Lady of Sorrows, December was a bustling and festive month. The focus the school community had on charitable initiatives and community involvement was heartwarming. The donation of 29 boxes to Operation Christmas and the Grade 6 class's food drive for Petawawa Pantry demonstrates a commitment to helping those in need during the holiday season. The Advent Angels campaign, with cash donations accompanying the purchase of angel ornaments, adds an extra layer of generosity and support for the local community.



St. Mary's Christmas Concert



St. Anthony's CWL Luncheon



St. Anthony's "I'm the happiest Christmas Tree" concert



Our Lady of Sorrows donations to the Petawawa Pantry





The Scholastic Book Fair organized by the school council provided an exciting opportunity for students and staff to explore and purchase new books. It's wonderful to see that the book fair was well-received, promoting a love for reading among the school community.

"Culminating the month with a Christmas Concert is a fantastic way to bring joy and celebrate the season. The hard work and dedication of both staff and students in putting on two memorable performances highlight the sense of community and talent within the school" said school Principal, Mr. Noble.

As the school looks forward to 2024, there is a positive and enthusiastic spirit that will continue to drive the school's success and community engagement. Wishing the Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School community a wonderful and fulfilling year ahead!

At St. Francis of Assisi, students and staff were excited to celebrate Advent with weekly prayer services every Friday. Students actively participated in the preparation for each week of Advent, and St. Francis' school community felt very blessed to be able to gather together in prayer!

Additionally, staff and students were invited by Father John to gather at St. Francis of Assisi Parish for Christmas Mass. Mrs. Keels, school Principal, says: "We are very grateful to have such a rich school-parish connection this year!" Students also put on a wonderful Christmas concert, with performances in French and English, from every class. Parents and guests were invited to join and were amazed by the talent and Christmas spirit.

St. Francis of Assisi students love to improve their reading skills! The active Empower reading program and reading buddies are just some of the ways they get to hone their skills and share learning with others.

At the kindergarten level, students have been working hard on their winter inquiry into the snow cycle and were excited to share their learning with others. Finally, the extended French teachers have been hard at work collaborating on improving french language program delivery. Students enrolled in extended French receive an extra 40 minutes of French instruction every day. Across the County, students were grateful to receive RCCDSB toques to help keep them warm this winter!

As always, RCCDSB is delighted to share the hard work of their schools and all the wonderful activities that keep them busy all year long. The Board looks forward to seeing what's to come for the rest of the 2023-24 school year.



Our Lady of Sorrows' Scholastic Book Fair



St. Francis of Assisi Advent Prayer Service



St. Francis of Assisi Parish Christmas Mass



St. Francis of Assisi Christmas concert



I chose learn about the Snow Cycle. I used cotton balls for the clouds, glitter for the ice crystals, q-tips for the snowflakes, tinfoil for the water and salt for the water droplets.

Kindergarten Winter Inquiry at St. Francis of Assisi



St. Francis of Assisi  
Extended French



St. Francis of Assisi Reading Buddies

