

Good News Release

RCCDSB Pembroke Schools Celebrate a Vibrant Start to 2026

January 27th, 2026

RCCDSB Pembroke schools have been bustling with activity during the first month of 2026!

Our Lady of Lourdes

Our Lady of Lourdes kicked off the new year with a flurry of activities for students and staff.

In alignment with the RCCDSB's 2025-26 focus on *building relationships with Indigenous communities founded on a deep respect for their identities, beliefs, and traditions to support healing and work toward reconciliation*, the school community is enthusiastically embracing a new initiative: the Algonquin Word of the Month. Students eagerly learn the featured word each month, and in January, the word was Pijāshin (PEE-ZHAWH-shin), meaning "A common Algonquin greeting to welcome someone." The students also shared personal land acknowledgments over the daily morning announcements.

Additionally, the school community had the opportunity to participate in a Liturgy of the Word service at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish during the Advent Season. The school continues to be grateful for the partnership with local parishes, who are happy to welcome students and encourage their learning.

During the past Christmas season, Our Lady of Lourdes partnered with Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County in their Gift Drive campaign.

Some of the Our Lady of Lourdes students have had the unique opportunity to participate in a Breakfast Club Smoothie Workshop. The goal of this workshop is to encourage healthy eating habits and return to building healthy routines after the holidays.

Primary teachers recently engaged in professional development with the Board Religious Education Coordinator on the Blessed and Beloved curriculum. While primary teachers worked on their religion PD, Junior teachers participated in KnowledgeHook training for teaching math. These professional development opportunities allow RCCDSB teachers to learn, grow and better assist their students to support overall student success and well-being.

Thanks to the School Council's support, the students are transforming the school yard into a winter construction zone, using new shovels to build impressive snow forts. While fun, this activity promotes essential "behind-the-scenes" learning, including Cooperation (moving snow, deciding on architecture), Planning & Problem Solving (creating stable walls, secret entrances), Turn-Taking (sharing tools, assigning roles), and Social Development (navigating ideas and compromise).

From the strategic play in Chess Club, Games Club, and 2-Ball Basketball, to the creative problem-solving of Destination Imagination and the beautiful harmonies of the Choir, there is something for everyone at Our Lady of Lourdes. These programs offer vital opportunities for students to build confidence, sharpen their critical thinking, and strengthen social connections through teamwork and song. To wrap up the first month of 2026, students and staff will gather for their monthly prayer service. During this service, students are recognized for their exemplary actions with an award connected to the monthly Grandfather Teaching. This month, they are focused on the Grandfather Teaching of Respect.



Gift Drive Campaign



Students on the playground at
Our Lady of Lourdes

Cathedral

The past few months at Cathedral have been faith-filled, from Father Do blessing students and parents at Christmas, to some students receiving their Sacrament of Confirmation.

Melissa Carroll-Dubeau, Cathedral's principal, said the students look forward to celebrating Mass at the Church and next month, as Father has invited them to participate in the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week.

The wintry weather allowed everyone to take advantage of frosty recesses. Special thank you to the Parent Council for purchasing snow shovels and winter tools to build amazing snow castle villages and to make warm hot chocolate treats.

In French class, Kindergarten students are learning about winter. Students in Grades 1, 2, and 3 are singing and reading about superheroes. Grade 3/4 students are participating in a fun music tournament using Mme LaSalle's music videos, and Grades 5/6 are beginning an exciting Olympic Games unit!

Mrs. Holt and the JK/SK students are very busy learning at their Math centres. The students are working on number bonds and making 10. They have also been working hard on their reading using the UFLI program. During their centre time, the students are showing a snowy word activity.

The grade 1/2 class has been meeting once a week with their grade 5/6 buddies. Engaging in a variety of activities together, such as reading aloud, art, math and literacy games, directed drawings, both inside and outside. Mrs. Dubeau shared that the grade 5/6 students have shown responsibility and leadership in planning and organizing activities for both classes to do together. Both classes love the weekly reading buddy dates and always look forward to spending time together.

Grade 3/4 students in Mme Poff's class enjoyed making a healthy yogurt parfait this month for their Morning snack, thanks to the "Food For Learning Renfrew County" program. The students enjoyed making a healthy snack as much as eating it. Grade 2/3 and 3/4 also had the opportunity to create and enjoy the yogurt parfait.

Recently, Cathedral students welcomed Mrs. Dube, RCCDSB Indigenous Education Instructional Coach, to read one of the Indigenous Mentor Texts, Fierce Aunties. This book celebrates the unique and powerful role 'Aunties' play in Indigenous communities and beyond.

Mrs. Carroll-Dubeau shares that February will be filled with their Lenten Journey, Ash Wednesday Parish mass, Reading For The Love Of It opportunities and Winter Olympic activities. Let's get ready to cheer on the Canadian athletes! Go Canada!

Holy Name

As the winter season settles in, Holy Name School is buzzing with a variety of engaging and educational activities designed to promote school spirit, physical fitness, and experiential learning.

The dynamic and creative student council has successfully launched a calendar of fun and inclusive spirit days throughout January to foster a strong sense of community and Holy Name Spirit. These initiatives aim to bring joy and unity to the student body. Popular events planned include a cozy Movie and Popcorn Day, allowing students to relax and socialize, and a much-anticipated PJ Day, encouraging comfort and fun in the school environment. The spirit days are a wonderful way for students to express themselves and celebrate their school pride.

Students are set to embark on an educational trip to Shaw Woods, where they will participate in the hands-on Maple Syrup program. This excursion offers a unique opportunity for students to learn about the history and process of maple syrup production, connecting them with local natural resources and practices.

Recognizing the importance of vital life skills, Holy Name is offering students swimming lessons at the Kinsmen pool. These sessions are crucial for teaching fundamental swimming skills and promoting essential water safety knowledge, ensuring students are equipped with the confidence and ability to be safe around water.



Healthy Yogurt Parfait with Mme. Poff

7 Grandfather Teachings
Respect



Mentor Text
Fierce Aunties! celebrates the unique and powerful role "Aunties" play in Indigenous communities & beyond.

We learned that Aunties can be older cousins, family friends, teachers, or mentors. They are someone who shows up to cheer you on. Some are quiet and gentle, some are loud and funny, and some are "warriors" who stand up for what is right. Aunties provide a "circle of protection". They are there to give advice, share adventures, and help us find courage.

How do you celebrate what is important to you?

Mentor Texts

In line with a commitment to inclusion, physical fitness, and mental well-being, the school is organizing an exciting ski trip to Mount Pakenham. This trip provides students with an opportunity to engage in a challenging and rewarding winter sport, encouraging an active lifestyle and promoting mental well-being through outdoor activity.

Demonstrating their competitive spirit, Holy Name students will also be participating in a thrilling two-ball NBA tournament. This event will see them compete against other schools within the RCCDSB, fostering healthy competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship among the participating schools. These athletic opportunities are vital for developing character and school pride.

January is an eventful month for Pembroke schools in RCCDSB. Among all the exciting events and activities, kindergarten registration is ongoing for schools across Renfrew County. Call your local Catholic school or visit the RCCDSB website to register today.



Kindergarten Registration

JANUARY 19 - 30, 2026

Learn, Laugh, Pray, & Play

Faith-Filled, Community-Driven, Open To All.

Schools to believe in!

