

Good News Release

RCCDSB Celebrates "Path to Holiness" with Dynamic Catholic Education Week Activities

May 25, 2026– The Renfrew County Catholic District School Board (RCCDSB) proudly celebrated Catholic Education Week from May 3–8, 2026, joining school boards across Ontario to recognize the vital contributions of Catholic education to our community and the world. This year's theme, "Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness," inspired a week filled with spiritual reflection, community building, and unique experiential learning opportunities.

Throughout the week, school communities gathered to celebrate their faith through school-wide Masses and prayer services. These liturgies provided a sacred space for students and staff to reflect on their spiritual journeys and the importance of gathering as a cohesive team united in Christ.

A cornerstone of the week's spiritual activities was the Living Rosary, held at several schools, including St. Mary's, George Vanier, St. John XXIII, St. Anthony's, and more. These events allowed students to participate in a powerful collective prayer experience, deepening their connection to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the traditions of the Church.

Fostering Belonging and Future Pathways

Catholic Education Week at RCCDSB extended beyond the classroom at St. Andrew's Catholic School in Killaloe to focus on community and belonging. "Community and Belonging Days" emphasized the Board's mission to be an inclusive Catholic learning community called to love unconditionally. Students engaged in activities designed to celebrate the unique gifts and talents of the local community, and were grateful to the volunteers who spent the afternoon teaching students skills from pottery to pickleball, and everything in between!

St. John Bosco also highlighted the importance of future pathways through hosting a Career Day. These events provided students with an enhanced understanding of diverse career options, including the skilled trades and apprenticeship pathways. By connecting students with community partners, RCCDSB continues to prepare them to be thoughtful, engaged citizens in the future workforce.

A "High-Flying" Highlight

In one of the most remarkable events of the week, students at Our Lady of Sorrows were treated to a special visit as a Chinook helicopter landed directly in the school yard. This exciting event served as a unique experiential learning opportunity, captivating students and providing a tangible connection to the local community and the diverse career paths available within the Canadian Armed Forces. While students took turns touring the Chinook, others were engaged in presentations about the aircraft and the many missions it can be used for. RCCDSB would like to thank Principal Amy Sicoli and Captain Taio Marson from 450 Squadron at Garrison Petawawa for organizing this amazing experience for students.



St. Mary's Living Rosary



George Vanier Living Rosary



St. John XXIII Living Rosary



St. Andrew's Community & Belonging Day

The Board's annual celebrations extended into the following week with the board-wide Christian Community Day on Friday, May 15, 2026. This significant event allowed the entire Renfrew County Catholic Community to gather, beginning with Mass celebrated by His Excellency the Most Reverend Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R. at St. Columbkille's Cathedral. Following the fellowship during brunch, the community assembled in the Bishop Smith gymnasium, where the theme for 2026, focused on reconciliation with Indigenous communities, was highlighted through a keynote address by Anishinaabe writer, editor, Professor, and advocate Niigaan Sinclair. A video highlight of the day can be found on [RCCDSB's social media pages](#).

"Christian Community Day and Catholic Education Week are highlights of the school year because they allow us to gather and reflect on our shared faith," said Mark Searson, RCCDSB Chief Executive Officer. "From the solemnity of our school Masses to the excitement of a Chinook landing, these activities demonstrate that our schools are truly 'schools to believe in,' where faith is lived and celebrated every day".



Niigaan Sinclair and Derek Lennox, Superintendent of Indigenous Education



Youth Drum Group, Papase



Highlights from the Chinook Landing

