

Good News Release

St. James, Eganville & St. Michael's, Douglas

November 1st, 2023

As the leaves change and the summer season officially comes to an end, St. Michael's and St. James have been busy with the start of many school activities.

At St. James, it's the beginning of the cross country and track season! Students trained for the Partridge Run that took place on October 5th in Barry's Bay. It was a great day for some friendly competition by all students. Additionally, flag football for Junior and Intermediate students began this past month, and the team participated in the Renfrew County Elementary Interscholastic Athletic Association (RCEIAA) tournament on October 4th. Students have been enjoying participating in various extracurricular activities this fall, and the school and board thank all coaches for making this possible.

In October, St. James students attended their first Mass as a school community. In addition to the first Mass, students and staff participate in a prayer service every Monday in the gym or virtually, and each class has the opportunity to offer intentions.

Each month, St. James is focusing on a virtue, and in October, that virtue was gratitude. Students get rewarded for showing kindness and gratitude as Jesus would. At the end of the month, the school community gathers for an award ceremony to recognize students who went above and beyond.

Every Thursday, students who have self-identified as Indigenous have the opportunity to attend St. James' Algonquin Language and Culture program with Willy Dick. This is a great chance for students to connect and learn more about Indigenous languages and culture.

Finally, before Thanksgiving weekend, St. James hosted their open house and fun night! Students and their families attended for a BBQ, fun activities including curling, and to get to know the school better! St. James would like to thank student council, staff, and volunteers for all their hard work in organizing this wonderful event for the school community.

At St. Michael's, students have been diving deep into making personal land acknowledgements. Kellie Hisko, Indigenous Education Coordinator, assisted students in making their own land acknowledgements and students shared them with the school community on September 29th, recognizing the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a school community.

Students were excited to participate in the St. Michael's Feast Day cross country race. Father Lund started the race off with a St. Michael's blessing, and all classes and grades competed in a fun and friendly competition.



St. James Students at the Partridge Run



St. James Fun Night!



Students also had the chance to go to St. Thomas the Apostle in Renfrew to participate in their cross country run!

Along with St. James students, St. Michael's students played in the flag football tournament on October 4th. It was a great day of fun for students! School sports are in full swing, and along with cross country and football, St. Michael's is also gearing up for their volleyball season.

The school also elected a new student council, and the new members have been working hard to bring new and fun ideas to their school community! One of these ideas includes the battle of the colours, where everyone is a colour group and each month the school will have a spirit activity where everyone will dress up as their colour and compete! Fun, spirit activities are what bring the school community together, and St. Michael's students and staff love participating in all the activities throughout the year!

Finally, both schools had their local fire departments visit to discuss fire safety. The board would like to thank the Bonnechere Valley Fire Rescue team for visiting St. James, and the Douglas Fire Chief, Bill McHale, for visiting each class at St. Michael's. These are important conversations and RCCDSB is grateful to provide this opportunity to students.



Algonquin Language and Culture Program



Bonnechere Valley Fire Rescue discussing fire safety with St. James students.



Fire Chief Bill McHale discussing fire safety with St. Michael's students



St. Michael's Truth and Reconciliation Day



St. Michael's Feast Day Race



St. Michael's students at Flag Football



St. Michael's Truth and Reconciliation Day

Schools to believe in!