

Good News Release

St. John Bosco, George Vanier, St. Andrew's

September 25th, 2023

September has flown by with the start of the 2023-2024 school year! The Renfrew County Catholic District School Board's Madawaska Valley family of schools has been busy with various activities this month and into October.

Along with many students across the RCCDSB, St. John Bosco students participated in the Terry Fox walk/run on Friday, September 22nd. However, this year was even more special for students as they had the opportunity to virtually join Fred Fox, Terry's older brother, before they took off on the Terry Fox run! This was an incredible experience for students and something they will remember for many years to come.

At the end of the 2022-23 school year, Aaron Parcher, former St. John Bosco grade 1/2 teacher, along with Graham O'Marra, grade 2/3 teacher, launched a fun science project for students about climate change. Mr. Parcher was inspired by the book "Paddle to the Sea" by Holling Clancy Holling. Students launched their boats with an environmental slogan and sent them down the Madawaska River. The boats were made with biodegradable materials, and students predicted where the boats would end up based on the currents in the river. In August of 2023, Mr. Parcher received an email from Hilton Head Island in South Carolina with pictures of one of the students' boats! This was exciting news, and the email stated that they had re-launched the boat into the Atlantic Ocean, with hopes that the current would bring it to Africa. A unique and fun learning opportunity for students! St. John Bosco looks forward to seeing more boats in the future, and a big thank you to Aaron Parcher and Graham O'Marra for launching this project with students.

George Vanier students have had a great start to the new school year! From spirit days to fundraisers, students have been engaged in learning and are excited to be back in the classroom. Students were thrilled to participate in the "Wear your favourite colour from head to toe" Day!

St. Andrew's had some staffing changes for the 2023-2024 school year, including a new principal, Katie Edwards-Ethier, the former principal of St. Anthony's in Chalk River. The new staff includes Ms. Amy Hartwig, Ms. Kim Strack and Mr. Andrew Johnston. They have also had some staff return: Ms. Rachel Cherry, Mr. John Ludlow, and Ms. Jeanette Corrigan. St. Andrew's would like to welcome back all new and returning staff! St. Andrew's students were also fortunate to receive 59 new Chromebooks, and the school is able to provide each student with either a Chromebook or an iPad to use at school.

They also received updates to their heating and cooling systems, and now have air conditioning in all rooms at St. Andrew's. Along with air conditioning, they also received new ceiling tiles that are a wonderful upgrade from the previous tiles.



Aaron Parcher's Grade 1/2 class about to launch their boats in April 2023!



The boat that was found by a family on Hilton Head Island



St. John Bosco student proudly launching their boat into the Madawaska River



George Vanier students enjoying indoor recess during the September heat wave!



St. Andrew's had many spirit days that students participated in during September. The first spirit day of the year was Summer Sports Day!

The Book Fair took place from September 18th to the 22nd. Ms. Katie Edwards-Ethier remarks: "You can feel the excitement in the air when the posters went up around the school. The students couldn't wait to get in and see what books they could add to their collection."

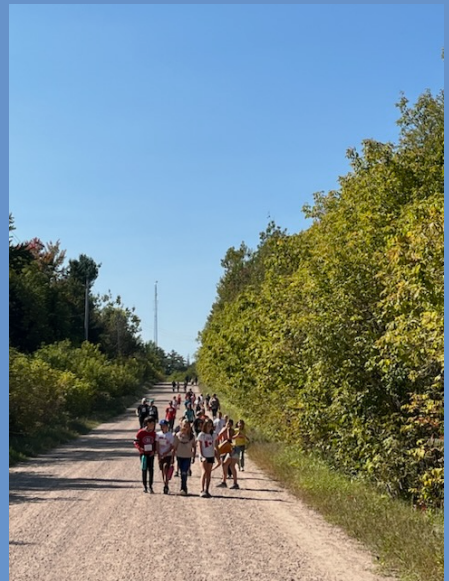
Students also had their Fun Fair on September 21st! Between inflatables, Little Rays Reptiles show, cotton candy, The Toy Bus, snow cones, hot dogs, and a book fair, students and families couldn't ask for a better community evening. St. Andrew's expresses gratitude to their sponsors: " A big thank you to all of our very generous sponsors who supported this fun night. Another huge thank you to all of our volunteers who made sure the activities could occur!"

Finally, along with schools across the county, St. Andrew's had their Terry Fox Run day on September 22nd. Ms. Edwards-Ethier shares: "A big thank you to all who made donations to this worthy cause."

Finally, many schools are training in preparation for the annual Partridge Run in Barry's Bay on October 5th. Schools from across the RCCDSB and RCDSB join in on this day and run the course around Barry's Bay. A great day to meet friends and get some exercise during the beautiful fall months.



St. Andrew's Summer Sports Day



St. Andrew's Terry Fox walk/run



St. Andrew's Fun Fair!

