



PAULETTE'S VIEW

News from the Superintendent



October 2, 2009

Email: Paulette's View

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Coming Soon @ Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools:

- **School Board Meeting**
Tuesday, October 6 @ 7:30 pm
- **St. Teresa of Avila 25th Anniversary Celebration**
Tuesday, October 20 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm
- **Catholic Youth Rally 2009**
Archbishop O'Leary School in Edmonton October 17 at
- **Build a House Presentation**
St. Mary's Church Friday, October 23 7:00 pm
- **Senior Boys & Girls 2A Provincial Volleyball Tournament**
St. Dominic High School Nov. 26, 27 & 28

School Counsellors Help Us All To Grow!



School Counsellors September kick-off meeting

School counsellors play a critical role in each of our schools. He/she is a professional educator with specialized training. Working with school administration and teachers, she applies her unique skills to assist students, parents, teachers, and school administration identify what is in the best interest of the student. Counsellors always maintain their commitment to Catholic values when working with students. The guidance programs are designed for individual and group work.

The school counsellor develops a yearly plan to meet the needs of his school. In addition, his plan includes a Division goal. Since counsellors were noticing an increased need for ***grief counselling***, they chose this area of counselling as this year's Division goal. Grief (or loss) is often caused by a life change. It can be lived at different levels but there is something in common to all forms of grief. Teachers are encouraged to discuss with their school counsellor how they can assist students dealing with grief. ***Not only will teachers be helping their students, but we all grow when we have a better understanding of the grieving process.***

Notre Dame Hosts ASAA Provincial Golf Tournament



École Secondaire Notre Dame High School is known for hosting quality events and it did it once again this week hosting the Alberta Schools Athletic Association (ASAA) High School Provincial Golf Tournament (195 students representing 71 schools and all 8 athletic zones). Monday was the start and although it was like hurricane season, two Team Alberta players shot 80 and 83. Several players found out that a 225 yard par 3 is actually reachable with a driver depending which way the wind is blowing. Fallen branches made for great obstacles on greens. Fallen trees were even more exciting! Tuesday brought a different light to the world of golf and for the most part things turned into a real golf tournament. There was even a hole in one by Peiter Peskens from Christ the King (yes, Denis Cote's school).

Dale Henderson, teacher/coach at Notre Dame, says, "I love this sport! It is the ultimate mental and physical challenge. And it was an honour to organize this event... but I am glad it's over! Special thanks to all who chipped in to help, parents and even grandparents!" Tournament results can be seen at www.asaa.ca.



Thank you Dale and Notre Dame students and staff for representing our Division so well!

On The International Front



RDCRS Team Int'l
Liz McCulloch & Hugh

The Division's International Services Program is entering its fifth year and each year, it is more successful!

We began the program with one international student - last year we hosted 39 students hailing from 6 countries. Over twenty-five students are expected this

year. They come from Germany, Brazil, Hungary, South Korea, El Salvador and Mexico. Some will be with us for one semester while others will remain for three years. Photos of the students are posted on the Division's International Services Program website.



In Seoul

Our international students bring a wealth of knowledge to our school communities.

Over the years, international students have participated in classroom presentations about life in their countries. They greatly broaden the Canadian student's perspective on the diversity and richness of cultures in our world.

School and parish staff play a very important role in welcoming our international students. When you embrace and celebrate diversity, you make Christ known to all.

I encourage you to welcome these students into your classroom. They play a valuable role in preparing our students for the 21st century workplace.

CARC Wins ASBA Award



Lynne Paradis and Donna McRae, Executive Director, accepted the Alberta School Board Association (ASBA) Zone 4 "2009 Friends of Education" award presented to Central Alberta Regional Consortium (CARC) for its outstanding contribution

to Education in Central Alberta. ASBA Zone 4 Chair, Lloyd Baumgarten, spoke of the instrumental role CARC plays in our region, offering in-service, training, best practices updates, and PD to administrators, parents, teachers, school councils, and support staff. CARC effectively uses scarce resources by serving multiple jurisdictions. Its Leading and Learning Conference in Red Deer is world class attracting over 1000 educators from across Alberta, Canada and internationally. *On behalf of the entire division, I extend sincere congratulations to CARC. I know that many of you share in this award.*

Why Youth Ministry?

Evangelization is fundamental to Catholic education. While it is never easy, evangelization is particularly challenging in our current culture of "me-me-me instant gratification".

When Ryan Ledene was asked to look into youth evangelization, he noted that many of our youth did not attend mass never mind being active in their parish. Today, the school is where we can reach our youth.

So the Division, with the full support of the Board of Trustees, launched the Youth Ministry Program (YMP) that will see students take their faith outside of their Catholic school. To do this, we need to prepare them with a *mature faith* - "a faith that seeks spiritual growth, that believes that God is present and active in the world, that is active with God's people; a faith that possesses a positive, hopeful spirit, that leads to a life of service and lives Christian morals." (Source: ExemplarYM.com)

The YMP will see students involved in social justice initiatives, become active and visible in their parish community discovering God's grace through sacramental life. Students will develop a stronger understanding of what it means to be 'Catholic'. They will employ their gifts and talents in the planning and ministry of school liturgical celebrations. And they will be better able to articulate their own spirituality and defend the faith. Two YMP coordinators are now active in each of our High Schools.

A big thank you to Ryan for all the work done to get us to this point! We look forward to learning more about YMP!

Book Review by Paul Stewart



Leaving Microsoft to Change the World
by John Wood (2006)

While taking a rare holiday from his job as manager with Microsoft's Southeast Asia/Australia operation, (a job that paid him way too much), John Wood spent three weeks in Nepal that changed his life. He left Microsoft to start **Room to Read**, a non-profit charity that uses a unique approach to building education infrastructure in developing countries by "adopt a project" donations. People are told how much money is needed to build a school/library/computer lab or a scholarship and they know exactly where their money is going. Room to Read has operations in Nepal, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, South Africa and Zambia. As of October 2006, it had opened over 3,300 libraries with more than 2 million books. It now has over 2,300 girls on long-term scholarships, and has opened more than 220 schools.

A very interesting and fast read!

Ryan, what's a POP STAR award?

It stands for "Pinciples of Practice STAR" and it recognizes administrators who model our Principles of Practice. The award is presented monthly at the Administrators Meeting.