



PAULETTE'S VIEW

News from the Superintendent



Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools

November 6, 2009

Email: Paulette's View

Volume 1, Issue 8

Coming Soon @ Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools:

- **Remembrance Day**
November 11
Let us not forget those who died for us.
- **ACSTA AGM and Conference**
November 20-22, 2009
The Westin Edmonton
- **Senior Boys & Girls 2A Provincial Volleyball Tournament**
Nov. 26, 27 & 28
St. Dominic High School
- **School Board Meeting**
Monday, November 30 @ 7:30 pm
- **Montfort Centre**
- **ACSTA Catholic Conference**
May 12 -13, 2010
Mayfield Inn, Edmonton

Notre Dame "Terry Fox" Project



Fred Fox with Leadership Students

This week, Notre Dame students Leadership students got to hear a very powerful message from Fred Fox, brother of Terry Fox.

Fred told them that his brother was a very average student and average athlete. He said that what made Terry different was that he never gave up on his dreams. When his Grade 8 basketball coach kept him on the bench for nearly 90 percent of the season, Terry practiced harder every day. By Grade 12, he was team captain and a starting guard. When he set his mind on getting on the Simon Fraser University basketball team, his friends told him, "Give it up, you're not good enough." He practiced all summer and made the team.

Notre Dame students raised \$820 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Donors were given a footprint to honour someone touched by cancer. The footprints with names on them form a path along the walls of the high school. Some read Grandma, others have names of loved ones in our division, some are anonymous. It's a very powerful symbol that can't not touch you.

The students also created an amazing video to the tune of Rod Stewart's song "Never Give Up on a Dream". The message is right on and the video is very professional. Everyone should view it. ***Congratulations to students and staff for carrying on Terry Fox's dream!***

Special Education Conference

Did you know that the recent very successful Special Education Conference that saw **1000**



Rori-Lynn Sandra Sally

delegates gather in Kananaskis was hosted by Red Deer Public Schools and our Division? What an accomplishment!

This huge undertaking is the result of a new process that sees different jurisdictions take turns hosting two consecutive conferences - the first year, you're learning - the second year, you're training the next hosting jurisdictions.

Congratulations to Rori-Lynn Daniel, Sally Deck, and Sandra Erickson who sat on the organizing committee. Special thanks to the teachers who volunteered as conference moderators: Cecille Gerwing, Jennifer Sveinson, Tamara Manweiler, Alison Claerhout, Kelsi daCosta and Judith McIntyre. And many thanks to Dr. Paul Stewart and Principal Graeme Daniel for their taxi services and "extraordinaire" AV trouble-shooting capabilities!

Bravo to all and good luck as you start preparation for next year's conference!

Seasonal Fun in the Division



Who is this? Does he work here?



St. Marguerite takes time for fun!

Welcome to Kindergarten™



All six of our Kindergarten schools participated in the Welcome to Kindergarten Program.

Orientation events were held in May and June. Families partook

in activities to help their children best live the transition to school. Parents were told about how they can support their child's early development and learning.

Everyone benefited - students, families, teachers and community partners. A teacher commented "It was interesting to see how some parents were holding the school bags early on, but by the time the session was over, the child was proudly carrying his own bag over his shoulder, beaming from ear to ear!"

Bravo to Rori-Lynn and all the kindergarten and school staff who worked on another successful Division project!

Way to Run Girl!



Sally Deck ran the New York Marathon last Sunday - 42 km - the world's largest marathon with 43,000 runners! She beat her personal goal by 45 minutes running the marathon in 4 hours and 42 minutes.

Sally tells me that 42 km is like running from Red Deer to Eckville! The marathon covered five boroughs and five bridges. Sally says that the cityscape was exhilarating and kept

her focused on reaching the next mile, one at a time.

This is Sally's second marathon. She trained for 5 months. She says, "I am now officially retired from marathon racing." **Good on you, Sally!**

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Nets 732.6 lbs!



École St. Marguerite Bourgeoys School held its annual Food Bank Drive. The students gave so generously - over 700 pounds of food to help the needy in their community. **Well done, St. Marguerite!**

STA is Serious about Youth Ministry

In nine days, Saint Thomas Aquinas students raised \$1500 for St. Mary's Parish to hire a Youth Minister. Donations came from staff dress-down and personal donations, and various activities sponsored by Student Council. Two Grade 9 boys dyed their hair pink for the cause. When the students kicked off the fundraiser, the goal was to raise \$500. Students and staff were blown away at the final amount raised.



Students greet Fr. Les



Congratulation to STA on your very successful project. I hear they are challenging other schools to take on the cause!

Excellence in Teaching Award Nomination

The Excellence in Teaching Awards Program recognizes the innovative and outstanding teaching that takes place every day in classrooms across Alberta. It is an opportunity for parents, teacher-colleagues, principals and superintendents to celebrate the many contributions teachers make to student learning.

Our Division has some of the best teachers in Alberta. Last year, we saw 23 of our educators nominated, 5 were selected as semi-finalists, and Grant Gosse, at St. Patrick's Community School, was a finalist!

This awards program is a wonderful way to publicly recognize our teachers. I hope you are giving serious thought to your nominations!

Principle of Practice Corner

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matt 18:18-20

WE PRAY AS AN EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY