Welcome Colin Loiselle, Religious Education Consultant

After thirteen years teaching in the District, Mr. Loiselle is excited to take on the role of Religious Education Consultant to develop the faith of our staff, students and families. He is looking forward to furthering the partnership with Development & Peace; in particular the educational opportunity for students to learn about the Church’s teachings on social justice. Colin holds a Master’s Degree in Religious Education and his family are members of Holy Family Parish.

Development & Peace Partnership Project

Exciting news – our District will be raising funds during the school year with a target goal of $200,000! This money will be used to build a school in the Philippines for a community in Tacloban devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Much like the Grey Nuns established for our communities, students, families and friends will be helping students in the Philippines access education for years to come. A proposed name for the school is Pope Francis School! This partnership was established as a legacy project for the 150th Anniversary, commemorating the first school built in the region. Students and staff have been expressing their creativity in raising funds for the project. Vital Grandin sold succulent plants, V.J. Maloney hosted a Hats & Jeans for the Philippines Day, ESSMY held their Run for Christ and a generous donation was received from our Local ATA#23 to name a few! If you are interested in supporting this project and wish to contribute, please contact Colin Loiselle at cloiselle@gsacrd.ab.ca.

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School Highlights - Students Supporting their Local Communities!

Thank you to all students and families for supporting Terry Fox Runs at their local school. Collectively, close to $10,000 was raised across the District as students and staff celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope.

Many schools participated in food bank drives during the month of October. École Notre Dame collected 320lbs of food for the Morinville Food Bank, J.J. Nearing school prepared 400 bags with food/toiletry items for the St. Vincent de Paul Society (pictured right) and St. Albert Catholic High students held a talent show “Voice for Hunger” collecting 1,300 items/donations for the St. Albert Food Bank! In addition, some schools supported the, “We Scare Hunger” initiative, collecting food bank donations as they trick or treated during Halloween.

Faith In Action

Grade four students across the District received their very own Bibles. Pictured left are Vital Grandin students displaying smiles as they received their Bible during the annual Thanksgiving celebration. Grade nine students at V.J. Maloney participated in part one of a Faith Retreat at St. Albert Parish. The focus of part one was on service and ministry.

On October 27th, more than 320 students and staff headed to Calgary for WE Day, a one day, high energy rally that promotes positive social change, socially responsible products, and volunteerism. Students returned to their local communities inspired to make a difference!

Students at École Secondaire Sainte Marguerite d’Youville (ESSMY) completed their mission trip to Costa Rica. The group helped paint, fix fences and visit with children in an orphanage. Student were impacted by this experience in many ways.

ESSMY student, Madison Bremault, shares her reflection on the trip.

“I came back from Costa Rica a different person. We taught the children some games, however it was them in the end whom I believe taught us the most. I learned that we need to show everyone love and compassion, no matter who they are, because we do not know where they come from or what they have been through. The children were extremely grateful for a simple hug, and loved and trusted us instantly. Their joy transferred to us. We realized that finding joy in materialistic things does not last, and it is the simple things in life that can bring us the most happiness.” - Madison Bremault