

# REGIOPOLIS-NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Visit our website: [www.reginotredame.ca](http://www.reginotredame.ca)



## AUGUST 2010 NEWSLETTER

*The RND Newsletter is issued at the beginning of each month.*

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### **Principal's Message**

#### **"Follow Me"**

What can I do to make a difference in the lives of others, to serve my community, and to make the world a better, safer, happier place? This year's World Youth Day theme asks each of us what we must do to secure eternal life. We can begin by choosing to follow Jesus. This school community challenges each member to be involved and contributing – to do the good work that Jesus asks of us – to follow him. What we are asked to do is counter cultural, with a purpose and a mission that sets us apart from prevailing cultural influences. We are different. We place others above ourselves; we value community over individuality; we find our example in the Gospels, not the tabloids.

For those of you who are new to RND please understand that by choosing Regi you have chosen a more difficult path. We expect a great deal from you. I hope that you plan on making a difference in the lives of others, and that you will bring hope to others by your own example and that you will do your best to follow His example.

To parents and guardians – please do your part by taking the time to review the documents enclosed in this package with your child. Please ensure that you have reviewed the school's Code of Student Conduct. We believe that it is very important that all members of our community understand and participate in our mission and are aware of the very high expectations that we have. If you have any questions please call me or one of the administrators.

Finally, we welcome your prayers for a successful school year. May God continue to bless the community of Regiopolis – Notre Dame!

*Wayne Hill*

### **Pastoral Services**

U R Loved:)

-God

God wants to be a constant friend and companion to you on your journey at RND this year.

Just like we are in constant communication with our friends through texts, tweets, phones and computers, let us help you be in constant communication with God through opportunities that help you to know and talk to God like retreats, prayer times and personal support. The doors of the Chapel/Upper Room and Chaplaincy offices should always be open, and the Chaplaincy team is here to help and serve you.

Sadly for us, Fr. Dan Quackenbush has moved to Don Mills to minister to the Parish of St. Bonaventure. Fr. Dan has worked tirelessly over the past 6 years to bring God's grace and love into the lives of our students and staff by sharing the sacraments with us and ministering to us in times of joy and sorrow, not only at RND, but also in our feeder schools, local parishes, hospitals and maybe even on the golf course! Our prayers and thanks go with you Fr. Dan, and remember, no matter where you go, you will always be a Panther!

There will be two Chaplaincy Ladies at RND to serve you this year, Mary Elaine Carty (4/5 days a week) and Anne Heemskerck (1/5). Any member of the chaplaincy team (which will include our priest/chaplain once he is assigned) can be contacted by emailing [rndchaplaincy@gmail.com](mailto:rndchaplaincy@gmail.com) or calling 613-545-1902

### **Monthly Newsletter**

This is the only hard copy of the RND newsletter which will be distributed to students and parents. The newsletter will only be available on our website. Students/parents may sign up to receive the monthly newsletter in digital format. Simply go to the [www.reginotredame.ca](http://www.reginotredame.ca) homepage and enter your name and email address to subscribe.

### **Choosing Regiopolis-Notre Dame**

The choice to come to Regiopolis-Notre Dame is a conscious decision to enter into a community which is Christ-centred and devoted to providing students with a Catholic education. This is what distinguishes RND

from the neighbouring public high schools. When you accept the invitation to attend Regi, you are entering into a covenant with the members of our school and greater Catholic community. A part of that covenant is to be open to the teachings of Christ, to participate as actively as possible in the faith life of our community and to dedicate yourself to the service of others.

We accomplish this mission in a number of ways: religious education classes; our teachers incorporate Catholic teaching into the daily curriculum; we pray at school regularly; our students and staff actively participate in charity work; **and our staff and students regularly attend Mass and other liturgies.**

It is not possible to opt out of any of these activities and we will not give permission to students to be absent or to not participate. **If you have made the choice to attend Regiopolis-Notre Dame, then you must understand and be accepting of our mission and our expectations.** No one is required to attend a Catholic school, therefore having made the decision to do so, you must be prepared to meet the obligations that accompany that decision.

### Use of Suspension

A student may, according to the Education Act, be suspended from school for the following reasons: persistent truancy, persistent opposition to authority, habitual neglect of duty, the willful destruction of school property, the use of profane or improper language, or conduct injurious to the moral tone of the school or to the physical or mental well-being of others in the school. Parents or guardians are to be informed in writing of a suspension involving their child.

Suspension is one means of dealing with a student's difficulties, however, it is not the preferred method since that student will have to miss valuable school time. However, this reality does not diminish the fact that suspension remains as a reasonable consequence for behaviour inconsistent with the values held by the school community. It is also true that for the most part students recognize the responsibilities that accompany the right to attend school. These responsibilities are similar to those of any citizen of Canada who enjoys the right of citizenship and, like any citizen, when a student fails to live up to their responsibilities, they run the risk of having their right of participation restricted.

**The staff of RND will do everything possible to ensure that students know and understand the expectations we have for them and what their responsibilities are.** We will employ a progressive system of intervention when students are experiencing difficulty and we will incorporate parents and guardians into this strategy. However, where all else

fails or where a serious breach of the rules of the school occurs, the option of suspension will be used.

### Controlled Substances

There will be zero tolerance for the use of or possession of alcohol, narcotics, inhalants and other restricted drugs. The aim of the policy on Substance Abuse is to eliminate the use of alcohol and drugs from the total context of school life (including off-campus school sponsored events) and to provide assistance to students with alcohol and/or drug problems. Infractions will be dealt with according to **“Safe Schools: Our Commitment to Each Other”** policy. School authorities have a duty to maintain order and discipline at the school. The school administration has a broad right to search a student and their property, where that student is reasonably suspected of being under the influence or in possession of an illicit drug.



### Punctuality

All students are expected to be on time for period one and each subject class. Punctuality shows consideration for others. If you are late, you inconvenience the teacher and class causing unnecessary additional work for all.

Sometimes lateness is unavoidable and may be excused. However, students who are repeatedly late will be subject to the discipline policy of the school. Detentions, in school suspension, or suspension from school, may occur.

### Uniform Policy

All students enrolled at RND are required to wear the school uniform. The uniform exists as a means of identifying each student of RND as a member of the school and the wider Catholic community. Uniform violations may be viewed as trivial by certain students and even some parents, however they do affect the learning environment. We address uniform issues vigorously and we seek parental cooperation in having your sons and daughters comply with the regulations. No student will be denied access to RND as a result of being unable to afford the uniform.

**The uniform is not intended to be a fashion statement for students.** Students must present themselves in school uniform in good repair at all times during the school day. T-shirts worn under shirts and blouses must be white, with no printing. Jackets and coats are not permitted during the school day. Ball caps are not permitted in the school; they will be seized and reissued at the end of the semester. Spiked hair is not permitted. Studded jewellery (i.e. bracelets and necklaces) and arm bands are not permitted. Multi-layered necklaces and bracelets are also not permitted. Appropriate attire for shop, gym, drama and art will be determined by the teacher and

worn for that period only. On non-uniform days, unacceptable and/or immodest clothing and clothing with inappropriate design/language or promoting drugs/alcohol/sex will not be permitted. Persistent violation of the uniform policy will result in suspension from school.

**Please note: Any student who is not in proper uniform will be sent home to change.**

**Code of Student Conduct**

Please review and discuss the enclosed Code of Student Conduct with your son(s)/daughter(s). It will also be available in the Main Office, Attendance Office, and Student Services. If this document was not delivered in this package, you are encouraged to drop by any of these locations to receive one.

It is our expectation that parents/guardians and students will read this document and use it to guide their actions. If you should have any questions, please direct them to the Main Office.

**RND Catholic School Council**

The RND Catholic School Council forms an advisory body which provides ideas and opinions to assist the principal and, where appropriate, the Board in their decision-making on educational issues. The advice is based on the general views of the school community and in the best interests of Regiopolis-Notre Dame students.

Council meetings are generally held on the last Monday of the month and are open to all members of the RND school community. Interested parents or guardians who wish to let their name stand for election are asked to pick up nomination forms and return them by **September 17, 2010** to the attention of Mr. Wayne Hill, Principal. The date of the election will be announced in the September newsletter.

**Transportation**



All students are to arrive at the school before 8:15 a.m. If you require transportation information, please call the school (613-545-1902). It always takes some time to normalize bus routes at the beginning of a school year. Students are advised to arrive at their pick-up location a little early for the first few days. In the event that you are at the stop at the correct time and the bus does not arrive, please contact the school.

**Student Schedules**

A copy of your schedule will be available to pick up when you bring your book deposit cheque to the Main Office. There may be some changes which have occurred since the June run of timetables. **Students who wish to make timetable changes should call the school at in order to schedule an appointment with**

**a counsellor.** Spaces are limited in some courses and will be filled on a “first come, first served” basis.

**Attendance at RND**

At RND we are very concerned that all students realize their full potential. The Education Act of Ontario is very specific in addressing the expectation that every student under the age of eighteen be in attendance at school.

Our direct expectation is that students attend all of their classes in uniform and complete work that is assigned. At RND we are very concerned with ensuring that no student is unsuccessful as a result of irregular attendance. We will make every effort to keep parents aware of any problems with respect to attendance as it relates to their child. **Parents can expect contact by the school and, where necessary, administration in dealing with student absence. Administration will inform parents and guardians in writing when absences from a class reach critical levels.** In order to accomplish this goal, the following procedures will be followed.

1. Attendance will be taken during each class and forwarded to the office. All student absences will be checked. **If you know that your child is going to be away, please call the school. Otherwise, your child’s teacher will be contacting you at your home or your place of business.** If a call has not been received from the parent, the student must bring a note the next day explaining their absence.
2. All students who are absent from school or any class during the day who cannot satisfactorily account for their absence (normally by bringing a note signed by their parent, guardian or a doctor’s certificate) will be required to make up missed time.

**Report Card Dates**

Students will receive continuous assessment and evaluation of their learning from each classroom teacher on a regular basis. Three times each semester this information is communicated in a more formal and summative basis to the student and parent by means of a Report Card. The dates on which Report Cards will be issued at RND are listed below. Any parent or guardian who does not receive a report card on these dates is asked to contact the school.

**Semester I**

- Early semester report. . . . . October 8
- Mid-semester report. . . . . November 12
- Final report. . . . . Early February

**Semester II**

- Early semester report. . . . . March 11
- Mid-semester report. . . . . April 21
- Final report. . . . . Early July

### Parent Teacher Interview Nights

Parents are encouraged to contact their daughter's or son's teachers at any time in order to learn more about their performance. Parent Teacher Interview Nights are set aside each semester to provide a formal opportunity for parents and teachers to meet, discuss, and learn more about a student's performance. The Parent Teacher conference is scheduled for 10 minutes and may be booked by appointment in advance of the dates listed below:

Semester I . . . . . Thursday, October 14  
& Wednesday, October 20  
Semester II . . . . . Wednesday, March 23

### Examination Period

January . . . . . Wednesday, January 26 to  
Tuesday, February 1  
June . . . . . Tuesday, June 21 to Monday, June 27



### Lockers and Locks

Lockers are preassigned, therefore it is important that you make sure you occupy the locker assigned to you. Locker assignments are indicated in the upper right hand corner of the timetable enclosed. This year, lockers will be assigned in alphabetical order throughout the school.

Only locks **bought through the school** are allowed. These locks have serial numbers which allow us to "remind" those students who have forgotten their combination number over a holiday period. They also allow us to trade a lock with a student who knows or suspects that another person has discovered their combination.

Locks will be put on lockers assigned to all Grade 9 students by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Grade 9 students can pick up the combination for their locks at Grade 9 Orientation Day on September 1<sup>st</sup> or on the first day of school.

### Use of Lockers

Students are not to share their locker combinations with their friends. Expensive and/or attractive items should not be brought to school and stored in a locker. The lockers are the property of the School Board and, therefore, authorized school personnel will conduct locker inspections when deemed appropriate without the consent of the student. Any damage to lockers must be reported to the Main Office immediately. Under no circumstance will the school or the School Board assume any financial responsibility for items that go missing from lockers. Students are encouraged **not** to bring valuable items to school or, when necessary, to store them in the Main Office for safekeeping.

### Smoking & Tobacco Products Ban



Students are **not** permitted to smoke nor are they permitted to be in possession of tobacco products. It is the policy of our School Board that smoking is not allowed on their property and it is a distinct expectation that all will respect this policy. We recognize that the decision to smoke or not to smoke is an individual one, but we sincerely hope that in the face of mounting evidence with regard to the risk to our health that anyone thinking about beginning or ending "the habit" will give it serious thought.

### Student Parking

Student parking is limited to the parking lot on Russell Street on a first come, first serve basis. Students are **NOT** permitted to park in the lots on Cowdy Street. Parking is **NOT** permitted in either of the circular driveways as these are fire access lanes and bus loading zones. Cars parked in these areas will be ticketed and/or towed away.

### RND Students' Council Information

Congratulations to the **2010-2011 Students' Council Executive** who have done much to prepare for this school year. This year's Executive is comprised of: ***Emily Niles, Head Girl; Noel Guscott, Head Boy; Michelle Robinson, Secretary; Sam Racanelli, Treasurer and Liam Cole, PAW Rep.*** The Students' Council is anticipating another active year of service to the students of the school and the community as a whole. The Students' Council moderator for this year is **Ms. Alana Ramsay**.

### Book Deposit & Student Activity Fees

Students in **Grade 9** are asked to bring **two cheques payable to 'RND'** - one to cover the **Book Deposit (\$100.00 postdated February 1, 2011)** and the other to cover the **Student Activity Fee (\$35.00)**. The Grade 9 Student Activity Fee includes a Student Activity Card, an agenda book, a school t-shirt and the school approved combination lock for use on school lockers.

Please ensure that your child's name is indicated on the front of your cheques. **Grade 9 students are asked to pay these fees on Grade 9 Orientation Day (September 1<sup>st</sup>) at the Main Office.** Upon payment of these fees, locker tags will be issued and students may pick up their textbooks.

Students in **Grades 10-12** are asked to bring **two cheques payable to 'RND'** - one to cover the **Book Deposit (\$100.00 postdated February 1, 2011)** and the other to cover the **Student Activity Fee (\$20.00)**. The **Student Activity Fee** covers the textbook administrative fee and the student activity card. **This is a compulsory fee - all students must pay it.** The

Student Activity Card is necessary for participation in Students' Council sponsored extra-curricular activities. The card also entitles students to discounts from various local merchants.

Please bring both cheques to the Main Office and ensure that the student's name is indicated on the front of the cheques. **Upon payment of these fees, an up-to-date timetable (with locker assignment) will be given to the student. The student should then take this timetable to the Book Room to pick up their books.**

Book deposit cheques will not be cashed unless books are not returned or are damaged.

### **Bookroom Hours**

The Book Room, located opposite the cafeteria at the Russell Street entrance, will be open **August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** for students to pick up their first semester textbooks before the first day of school. The Book Room will also be open on the evenings of **Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7 to 9 p.m.** **Students must bring their most recent timetable with them.**

### **Regi/Halpern's Uniform Shop Hours**

The Uniform Shop will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays starting August 16<sup>th</sup>. Hours are as follows:

*August 16 - 3 to 7 pm*

*August 18, 23, 25, 30 & Sept. 1 - 10 to 3 pm*

The regular school year hours will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 3 pm beginning on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Orders can be done online at [www.halperns.ca/shop](http://www.halperns.ca/shop). Select the city (Kingston) and School ID (A246). There is a delivery charge. **We accept cash, debit, Mastercard or Visa. No cheques.**



### **Extracurricular Eligibility**

All students are encouraged to participate in the extracurricular life of the school for this is an integral part of the high school experience.

In order to be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities at RND, a student must satisfy all of the following criteria to be deemed "a student in good standing":

- ☞ full-time status;
- ☞ passing grades at most recent reporting period and through out the season of activity;
- ☞ a good record of punctuality and attendance;
- ☞ evidence of cooperation with teachers and effort, including uniform conformity; and

☞ a paid-up user fee (if applicable) and the purchase of a student activity card.

### **Is Your Son/Daughter 18 Years Old?**

Schools are obliged to conform to "The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1989)" which means **the school cannot share with parents/guardians any aspect of the student's activity at the school including marks, attendance, etc. without the written consent of the student.**

We at RND believe that parents do want to be involved in their children's education. **Parents should encourage students to provide this written consent to the school on the forms provided in Student Services.** Prior to a student turning 18 years of age, the school will attempt to contact the parent/guardian to remind them of this requirement.

### **Youth Work Services**

The Youth Worker exists to address the social, emotional and behavioural needs of the students, their families and the school community. The needs are identified by the students, administration, parents, outside service agencies and teaching and support staff. Should you not want your child not to have involvement in this service, please contact the school administration. This year our youth worker is **Mrs. Darlene Bolger.**

### **RND School Musical**

This year the RND Arts and Tech department will be presenting *South Pacific*. The musical will run **Wednesday, December 1 to Saturday, December 4.** In order to put on the best show we can, we need your help! We are looking for any students, parents, extended family, etc. who would be willing to share their talents to make this a real RND community production. Would anyone interested in helping in any capacity please contact Mr. Steve Powell, [rnddrama@me.com](mailto:rnddrama@me.com). Thank you for your support of the Arts at Regi!!

### **See You in September!**

Classes at RND will begin on **Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** for all students. Students are to report to their first period class by 8:30 am. In the event of a change in your timetable between now and September 7<sup>th</sup>, use the most recent timetable. All student timetables are available online and can be accessed by using the Username and Password issued to you when choosing your course selections for this year.

The school uniform is required from the first day of classes on.

