



News Release

St. Patrick's teacher honoured with prestigious Prime Minister's Award For Teaching Excellence

For immediate release – October 5, 2023

Red Deer, AB - St. Patrick's Community School is proud to announce that Mr. Michael Saretzky, a dedicated and visionary Grade 8 teacher, has been awarded the esteemed Regional Certificate of Achievement from the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) category. This prestigious award recognizes exemplary educators who have demonstrated outstanding contributions in fostering a culture of innovation crucial for Canada's future.

Mr. Saretzky has been acknowledged for his exceptional commitment to enhancing STEM education while teaching Grade 6 at St. Patrick's Community School. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the groundbreaking St. Patrick's eSports Club, which evolved into a successful eSports Team—the first of its kind at Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools. Under Mr. Saretzky's guidance, the eSports Team participated and excelled in numerous tournaments during the last school year.

At the Central Alberta Teachers' Convention held last year, Mr. Saretzky eloquently elaborated on the benefits of eSports at a middle school level, emphasizing how this platform fosters critical skills and teamwork among students. His innovative approach to integrating technology and educational gaming has had a profound impact on the academic and personal development of his students.

Principal Mandy Reed of St. Patrick's Community School commended Mr. Saretzky, stating, "Michael's dedication to advancing STEM education through the establishment of the eSports club and team has been a true asset to our school community. His passion for nurturing

News Release

innovative learning environments aligns perfectly with the ethos of St. Patrick's Community School."

Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Finnigan of Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools remarked, "We are incredibly proud of Michael Saretzky's exceptional achievement and his efforts to enhance STEM education. His dedication to nurturing young minds in the STEM field sets an inspiring example for educators across our division."

Board Chair Murray Hollman of RDCRS extended his congratulations, saying, "Michael Saretzky's recognition with the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in STEM is a testament to his unwavering dedication to education and the remarkable impact he has made on his students and the entire school community."

Mr. Saretzky's achievement highlights the invaluable contributions of educators in shaping the next generation of innovators and leaders in Canada's rapidly evolving technological landscape. St. Patrick's Community School congratulates Mr. Michael Saretzky on this well-deserved honor and looks forward to witnessing the continued positive impact of his exemplary work.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 10,650 students in 21 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds. It also supports the learning of over 850 students in a Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and within the means of the Division.

For more information, contact:

Communications Department

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools

P: 403-343-1055 Ext. 310147

E: communications@rdcrs.ca

W: www.rdcrcs.ca