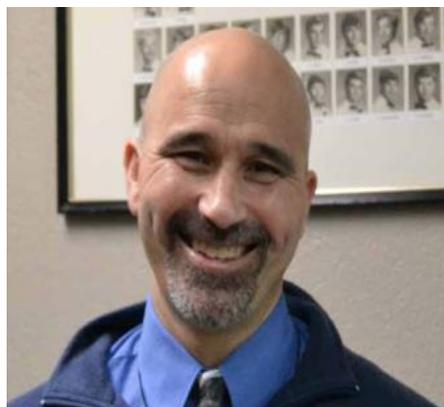


MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

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SCHOOL. FAMILY. COMMITMENT

Lenten Reflection



As we move through the most important liturgical season towards Easter Sunday, I am reminded that our small Lenten sacrifices are simply reminders on how we can improve our personal relationship with Jesus. Every Sunday, I take note of the big picture of Jesus on the altar with the words: "Jesus, I trust in you" written on the bottom.

I often close my eyes and reflect on these words as trust entails taking a risk. It takes 'grit' to truly listen to Jesus and be willing to do what he says. But there is a freedom and joy that comes from doing so. The Gospel message during Lent emphasizes 3 things: Prayer; Fasting; Almsgiving. Through Jesus' example in these areas we

can ultimately grow to be the people God intended us to be.

When I think about what we are trying to accomplish in the South Surrey area in providing St. John Paul II Academy I ultimately must put my trust in Jesus and that there is reason for why this is happening at this time. Our Archbishop talked about how Pope John Paul II was a man with great vision and courage. These two attributes are evident in the people who are working so hard on your behalf to make this high school a reality. I thank God for the wonderful and loyal parent group who have taken the leap of faith in supporting our project and encourage others to do the same.

We need to remain steadfast in our trust in Jesus and "stay the course" when it comes to moving forward to the start of our first school year in September 2018. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

God bless you,

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Grade 8 Teacher Posting

St. John Paul II Academy is officially looking for its first Grade 8 teachers for its start in September. Postings have been made on both the CISVA and SJP II Academy website with the closing date of **March 9th**. One of the keys to our success will be the quality of our teachers as they will be the building blocks of our new high school. I am looking forward to being involved in this exciting process along with our newly formed Education Committee. There will more to report on this matter following Spring Break.



Full Steam Ahead – September 2018

Plans are well underway for the start of our inaugural Grade 8 legacy class in September 2018 at our temporary location: **Star of the Sea Community Centre**. We are very fortunate to have access to this facility and are grateful to those who have made it happen. This facility allows us to have a stand-alone entity in which we can begin to build our identity as a Catholic high school in the South Surrey area. As much as possible, we want this to look and feel like a CISVA high school despite not having all the bells and whistles of our more established brethren.

Many of you who attended the Open House in December witnessed to some of the already started renovations to the Community Centre and this will continue with the refinishing of the gym floor, installation of basketball hoops and volleyball standards, installation of student lockers, and getting the classrooms ready for our September start up.

Prior to the start of the school year, we will have a **Head Start Summer Program** for incoming Grade 8 students scheduled for July 2–13, 2018 at Star of the Sea Community Centre.

This program is designed to assist our new Grade 8 students in making the



transition to life at the high school level. They will be moving into unfamiliar territory as they encounter new friends, new teachers, and a whole new set of academic challenges. St. John Paul II Academy is pleased to offer an optional summer program designed to help your child handle this transition.

The **Head Start Summer Program** will consist of Grade 8 Academic classes of Math and English in the morning

followed by an activity component in the afternoon. Students will have an opportunity to interact with each other and with the program staff. Nothing makes a student feel more at ease than to see a friendly face in the hallways when they arrive in September. More information will be provided to parents in their Registration packages as well as on the school website.

Education Committee

We are currently in the process of establishing our first St. John Paul II Academy Education Committee. The effectiveness of our Catholic schools is strengthened by clergy and lay people working together with faith and commitment for the education of our young people. The CISVA Board recognizes the need to have a full complement of members in order to help carry out the committee's responsibilities.

Our Education Committee will be comprised of seven members. Five will be appointed by the CISVA Board of Directors and two will be appointed by our Archbishop's Representative – Fr. Lawrence Donnelly. The Principal has facilitated a nominating committee and will be recommending prospective Education Committee members to the CISVA Board at its March meeting.

We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed parent group who are ready to roll up their sleeves and ensure the success of St. John Paul II Academy both now and in the future.