



## OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

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# Principal's Message



Happy belated Thanksgiving to you and your families. We have much to be grateful for at St. John Paul II Academy not the least of which are the 17 Gr. 8 students and their families who have literally taken a leap of faith to become part of our new, faith and learning community.

Our school is presently operating out of the renovated Star of the Sea Community Centre in which much work and time was spent this

past summer upgrading the gym, classrooms and office space for our staff and students.

We are blessed to have Fr. Dion's support in allowing us to utilize this space as well as to the many thoughtful donations from our parents, friends, and a variety of Catholic high schools and parishes who were so generous in providing us with many wonderful items for our staff and students. In addition, under the leadership of Troy Van Vliet, and his project manager, Matt MacDonald, all the work needed to truly transform the Community Centre into a high school was amazing.

I would like to invite all of you who have yet to see what our current school has become and to those considering St. John Paul II Academy as your school of choice, to make an appointment to come and visit us. We would welcome your presence at any time but also at our upcoming Information evenings as well as at our Open House.

God bless you,

*Mich Deslauriers*

Mr. Michel DesLauriers



## Opening Day & Blessing Ceremony

St. John Paul II Academy officially opened its doors on Sept. 5, 2018 in its temporary home - the Star of the Sea Community Centre. The staff, students, parents and invited guests all attended mass at Star of the Sea Church that was concelebrated by Fr. Dion and our school chaplain, Fr. Ajin. Following mass, an official blessing ceremony of the classrooms, office areas, and gymnasium was conducted along with a reception. It was a wonderful way to open our new school. That Friday, the staff and students returned to the church for our 1st official Blessing Ceremony where every staff member and student were blessed by Fr. Ajin and presented with a St. John Paul II Academy t-shirt that included the words: "Originals" and "Legacy Class 2018-19". The dream of many parents both past and present that one day a new Catholic School in the South Surrey had officially come to true. While there are still many hurdles to overcome as we move forward, if the first week is any indication of things to come, then we are definitely moving in the right direction.



## From our Grade 8 Students – their thoughts and reflections

In the first month of our first year of high school at Saint John Paul II Academy, I am very thankful for so many things, along with being grateful for the time and energy invested in making our school a great place to learn and have opportunities to meet new people. We received more than we could ask for from other schools, people and parishes. Our school has been blessed by so many people and now, with these essentials, we have all we need for the course of this year, and those after. For example, we have generously been given Bibles, bulletin boards, workstation tables and chairs, cameras for the yearbook club, lunch tables, a couch for our student lounge, shelving units for storage, World maps for Social Studies, a Chromecart for the laptops and so much more. I really feel the Catholic community has come together and shown us that their support is what we can look forward to imitating in the future when we are adults.

- Will King



We have an extraordinary young and inspiring priest named Father Ajin assigned as our school chaplain. He brings us together with his guitar when he teaches us worship songs. He always joins in on the fun, and preaches about God and Christian virtues. We are so lucky to have a priest like him come into our lives the way he has because we feel connected to him. In addition, we've also made new friends to journey through high school with. We all have been

hanging out, and although we do miss our old friends, it is a blessing to be able to adventure with other people. That includes teachers too. I really appreciate that we have the privilege to be taught by motivated, enthusiastic and amazing teachers.

- Anna Shoemay

## Upcoming Events: Information Evenings

- Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm

Both evenings will take place in Room 102 at St. John Paul II Academy. Please use the parking lot entrance next to the Star of the Sea Church on Fir St.

## Open House

Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm  
St. John Paul II Academy gymnasium

This is a particularly important evening for parents of students wishing to consider St. John Paul II Academy for their son or daughter entering Grade 8.





# Educational Programs

## STEAM

Mr. A. Walters



STEAM is off to a great start! Both the Math learning artifact (using an understanding of fractions to create an original musical composition on Noteflight.com) and the Science learning artifact (the stewardship of a living thing over a 10 week period) are bringing the textbook, concepts and thinking to life. We thoroughly enjoy our menagerie: an electric blue crayfish, lots of bettas, ants, a Venus flytrap, some moss, a cactus, air plants, a hermit crab and, of course, Nicholas' cockatiel. STEAM classes present opportunities to develop the core competencies of the curriculum in 'real-time' through projects like the Habitat Artifact.

## HUMANITIES

C. Jansen



The study of Humanities has enthralled students with the many areas of learning it has to offer. The cross-curricular engagement incorporates a variety of topics such as what effects the Vikings had on civilizations, how the rise of world religions impacted these civilizations, how the rise of education directed traditional storytelling to become literature for future generations,

and how one can learn from the past through observing patterns of success and failure that other cultures and countries have endured. An emphasis is placed on developing writing and communications skills, as well as critical thinking skills. Students find themselves connected to the past and empowered to change the future no matter what career path they decide to pursue. Overall, the months of September and October have been a time of bonding and organic development as everyone has played a role in making memories with the many "firsts" that have been experienced.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR CROSS COUNTRY



The Cross-Country team has had a very successful inaugural season thus far participating in the highly competitive Surrey Athletic Association. The team consists of 6 boys – Will King, JB Diego, Marcus Berner, Taj Dayrit, Alexander Lifvenborg, and John Borkowski. In the 3 meets thus far Will King has had a 4th place finish and two 6th place finishes. Marcus Berner finished 9th in the Crescent Park event. Our combined Team score enabled us to be crowned the Gr. 8 Boys Cross Country Champions for the Surrey Secondary Schools Athletic Association. Our first athletic banner will be hanging in our gym. We are very proud of our accomplishments thus far and look forward to the upcoming Fraser Valley Championships.

## GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Coach: T. Walters



All the girls wanted to play volleyball this year! The enthusiasm to represent the school and to grow together as a team was definitely palpable at our first outing of the season: scrimmaging with the Grade 8 girls of Holy Cross Regional High School. That was a valuable learning experience because we saw the high caliber of play in the Surrey Secondary Schools Athletic Association. From there we went on the road to Saint John Brebeuf in Abbotsford - to record our first exhibition win of the season, and SJP2's first ever Grade 8 girls volleyball team win! Next game... away at Semiahmoo Secondary...

## YEARBOOK CLUB

A. Perez - Teacher Moderator



The Yearbook Club is working tirelessly to document all the "First" moments at St. John Paul II Academy. The club meets every Thursdays at lunch and they have been working with Mrs. Perez to capture the memorable moments that the students and staff have been creating at school. They have the opportunity to work with FutureBook Yearbooks utilizing google classroom and google slides to create the yearbook.



# A Huge THANK YOU!!!

There are so many people to thank for the successful start of our new high school. Here is a partial list of some of the those we want to say “thank you” to for your generosity and kindness. Some those donated items included: Cafeteria tables; furniture for the Student Lounge; Fresh water dispensers; Chrome books; Chrome book cart; Desk Top computers; Bulletin Boards; Desks and Chairs; Office supplies; library books; Digital Cameras for our yearbook club.

To those we wish to thank:

- Troy Van Vliet, Matt MacDonald, and Silveria Roselli from Tavan
- Fr. Paul Chu from Precious Blood
- Vancouver College
- St. Thomas More Collegiate
- St. Patrick’s Regional High School
- Archbishop Carney Regional High School
- Parents and staff of St. John Paul II Academy
- Mike Donelson and the CISVA staff

