



SPRING BREAK 2018 NEWSLETTER 15262 Pacific Ave., White Rock, BC V4B 1P7

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Lenten Message



The season of Lent is the most significant one in the liturgical calendar as it culminates in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Paul's letter to the Corinthians he emphasizes this critical point: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith is also vain." We believe that Christ has risen due to the impact that the resurrected Christ had on his closest apostles and their subsequent witness about their faith in who Jesus was. This is evangelization in its purest form. The apostles were then filled with the fire of the

Holy Spirit to spread His message of love to all those willing to listen and this 'fire' continues to burn strongly in the hearts and bellies of Christians around the world.

It also burns strongly in the faith and learning community of St. John Paul II Academy. As Principal, I am fortunate to witness and see evidence of this everyday in and outside the classroom from our teachers and students.

During the 40 days of Lent, we are asked to renew our relationship with Jesus through the power of:

- Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving

My hope and prayer is that we keep the fire of our faith alive and well and serve as true evangelizers of the loving message put forth by our lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you again for all your prayers and support for everything that we do at St. John Paul II Academy.

God bless,

Mich Deslauriers

Mr. Michel DesLauriers
Principal



Grade 8 Retreat

A crisp, bright sunny day, a group of eager students and a whole lot of togetherness, comprised our Royals First Annual Retreat. As the Legacy Class arrived at Alexandra Neighbourhood House filled with enthusiasm and energy, the day began with a demonstration of fluffy dinner rolls to keep with the theme, "Our Daily Bread". The dough was given time to rise as the students walked over to Holy Cross Church for an intimate mass celebrated by Father Ajin.

The rest of the day encompassed team-building activities such as the entire group participating in the making of two great big pots of chicken noodle soup to comfort the soul, guided meditative activities that gave time for students to reflection on our school's motto, "Totus Tuus", a hearty lunch that everyone took pride in contributing to, and began brainstorming the composition our school's prayer; a privilege our Legacy Class will forever have their stamp on.

By taking the time outside the regular classrooms to reflect upon how the spirit of God is at work in our lives, the students observed how the method of 'bread making' (by its 'rising into action') was a metaphor for how God 'enlivens' each person with the gifts they have received through the Holy Spirit. Keeping in mind our CISVA theme this year, "What do you want of me Lord?", students were open to what the Lord had in store for them during the retreat.

Royals Basketball Season Wrap-Up

The boys played exhibition games starting in January. We had three games scheduled but only played two as the day of the last game was a snow day both for us and for Pacific Academy. That was too bad. At least we got to play two games, both of which were a great learning experience for the boys. Leading up to those games we had plenty of practices. Our first game was against Johnston Heights Secondary. They took it easy on us, which was great because we could experience what it was like to play together, against an opponent, with referees, and build our skills. We made good passes, scored baskets, dribbled well, and encouraged each other. Our next game at Clayton Heights was more of the same: skills building and development. Overall, a season of fun and learning!



Gr. 8 Boys Basketball Team

Girls Basketball

Determination, drive and grit were qualities evident at each and every game that the Legacy Class girls' basketball team played. The six Surrey public schools consistently filled their team bench with over three times the number of players we had, but that only fueled the Royals Spirit to work harder as a team and always play their best. Coach Pinto dedicated countless hours of practice time to teach the girls how to effectively break away from a full-court press while keeping the other team on their toes. Our first game against Enver Creek concluded with a 1-point difference. This catapulted the team's confidence at the beginning of the season which strengthened their belief that every member was an integral part of the team. The girls understood that this was yet another "legacy first" as they proudly wore their new basketball uniforms and represented their Catholic school.



Gr. 8 Girls Basketball Team

Spring Athletics – Ultimate / Track and Field

After our successes with Fall and Winter Athletics, we are launching our Spring Athletics: Ultimate and Track and Field. The popularity of Ultimate has really taken off over the past decade, so much so that on a global stage it is likely to be an Olympic sport in 2024. At the high school level, its uniqueness as a coed sport, the fact that it is self-officiated by the players themselves, and its emphasis on 'the spirit of the game' makes it attractive. Most of our students signed up to play Ultimate and we will be playing five games this season at the Junior Tier 2 level of the Surrey Secondary Schools Athletic Association. We are also putting together a track and field team. It's great to see the enthusiasm and willingness to try different events – some out of the comfort zone of our athletes. Starting the first week of March everyone will be hard at work developing and improving. April will soon be here!

Catholic Schools Week

This year, we celebrated our first annual Catholic Schools Week. The students celebrated the week by expressing their gratitude to our nation, community, families and supporters who not only helped make St. John Paul II Academy a reality, but they also thanked those who made their Catholic education possible. Throughout the week the students also wrote messages of gratitude for each other. The week was a huge success and the school continues to receive notes and messages of gratitude from all the letters that we sent during the week.



Liaison Officer – Cst. Sears Visitation

This year, we have been blessed with an awesome RCMP Liaison officer, Constable Chantal Sears who has been a great role model to our students. On December 4th, our students participated in a clothing drive led by the White Rock RCMP police and as a token of appreciation, Constable Sears, along with another officer, thanked our students with a pizza party, cupcakes and drinks. The students sat with both officers with ease and enjoyed their presence in our school community. On February 5th, Constable Sears conducted a digital safety presentation for our students. She talked about the different laws that apply to students and answered questions that our students had about digital safety. We are truly thankful to have a supportive liaison officer.



Visit to SJP II Academy by Liaison Officer Cst. Sears

Pink Shirt Day February 27th

St. John Paul II Academy staff and students took the time to acknowledge Pink Shirt Day and take a stand against bullying in all its forms. This year, the students took it upon themselves to personalize their own shirts with a slogan that emphasized respect, kindness and concern for all. Our strong desire is to work on generating an inclusive environment where all students feel welcomed, safe and that they belong. By the look of things, we are well under way in accomplishing this goal.

Band Program at SJP II Academy

We are very excited to announce the inclusion of an introductory 10-week band program at St. John Paul II Academy. The program will be offered to all of our current students once a week for 1 ½ hours from 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm. Our instructor is Mr. Stephen Band, who is also currently teaching at Star of the Sea Elementary school. Our hope is that the Gr. 8 band will be able to perform at our Mother's Day reception on May 8th following the school mass and at a local Senior's home on May 15th.

Pub Night Fund Raising Success Mrs. L. Borkowski

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone who came out to support St. John Paul II Academy's first pub night! A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made the pub night a great success. The community building event was held at the Bennett Craft and Kitchen in South Surrey where 57 family members and friends took part. The Fundraising Committee raised over \$6000 which will be utilized in a variety of ways to assist both our present and future students. Overall, we have raised \$7690. We look forward to finding more ways to engage our community and help our growing school.



Pink Shirt Day



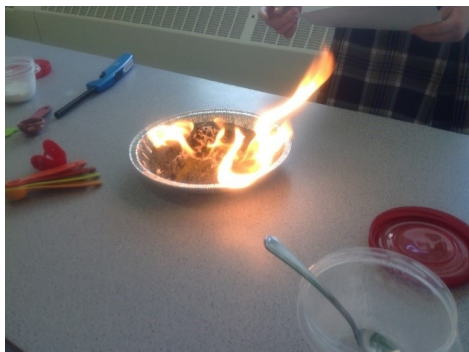
Gr. 8 Band Program started on Pink Shirt Day

INFORMATION EVENING

Wed. April 10th @ 6:30 pm
St. John Paul II Academy

STEAM

The Geometry unit saw us using our 3D printer for the first time. It was helpful to design geometric shapes in Tinkercad and then create other items that we then tried to print. There were numerous 'fails' – but those were helpful as it provided us with an experience of the iterative design process. Proportion was the next Math unit. The 'artifact' for that was building paper models in two scales, O scale (1:48) and HO (1:87). It was challenging and at times frustrating but was another valuable learning experience. Meanwhile, in Science, each student gave a demonstration of the 'three states of matter'. We had fires on every table, overflowing Coke with Mentos outside, scavenger hunts, Kahoots!, us-made ice cream, candles, Jell-O, lots of ice, water and steam, The creativity and hard work of the students was impressive, educational, and entertaining!



HUMANITIES

Mrs. C. Jansen

Who would have ever thought that a Humanities class of grade eight students could partake in a Medieval feast, tour Europe during the Renaissance, construct a castle, participate in an Elizabethan debate, publish a "Royal" newspaper article on the life of Gandhi, and be a TV news reporter discussing the perspectives and ethical judgments of the religions and civilizations of Early China. This past winter, this busy group of teenagers have been engaged in research assignments, inquiry projects as well as art and design applications. These Social Studies topics stimulated an overall analysis of ancient civilizations and sparked thought-provoking conversations after each presentation.



Electives

The Home Economics students geared up for colorful celebration of Mardi Gras or "Pancake Tuesday". They learned about leavening agents when they experimented with recipes for fluffy pancakes and thin crepes (TIP: A "not-so-secret ingredient" is CLUB SODA. Add a can's worth to your batter the next time you make crepes). The students decided to make delicious sweet and savory crepes for all the staff and other students on March 5th and it was a BIG HIT! Students also became more aware of the nutritional facts of plant and meat base products that our society consumes on a daily basis. Much discussion surrounded the balancing of proteins and sugars in the average teenager's meal choices.

Applications and Enrolment Update for 2019-20

The application deadline of Feb. 28th for Gr. 8 and 9 students is now behind us but for those families who are still looking for an amazing Catholic school for the 2019-20 why not consider sending them to St. John Paul II Academy. The Application Form can be found on the school website: www.sjp2academy.com or by contacting our school secretary, Mrs. Susan Kelly – skelly@sjp2academy.com.

If you would like to arrange an in-person meeting with the Principal or have your son or daughter spend some time in a couple of our classes please contact Mr. Michel DesLauriers @ mdeslauriers@sjp2academy.com or 604.560.8210.

We currently have 25 student applications for the Gr. 8 school year along with a couple in Gr. 9 and are hoping for some additional students. Please consider taking a leap of faith and join our newest CISVA high school – St. John Paul II Academy. It is a decision you will not regret.

Please be advised

St. John Paul II Academy will be taking a well-deserved holiday during Spring Break but will have the main office open from March 25 – March 28 from 8 am – 12:30 pm each day.