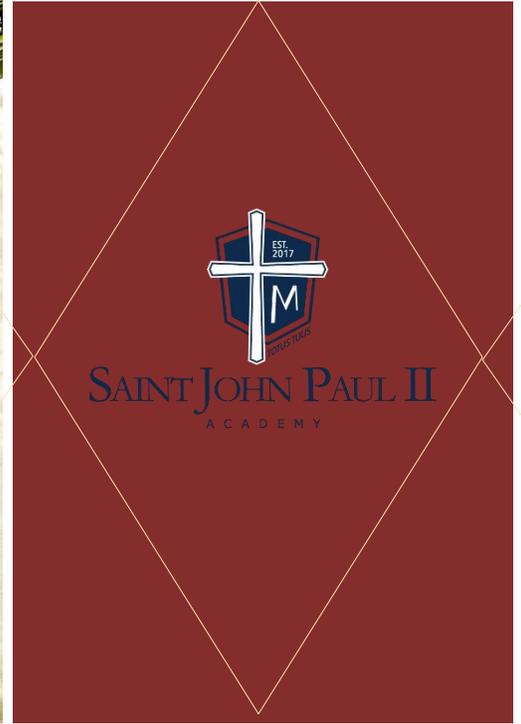




CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2017

www.sjp2academy.com



SCHOOL. FAMILY. COMMITMENT

Advent Blessings

by Mr. Michel DesLauriers, Principal



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS OFFER US EXERCISE IN THE ART OF WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE. The figure who best embodies waiting in joyful hope during this liturgical season is Mary, the Mother of Jesus. After her Son is born, Mary protects and nurtures him toward the day when he will leave her to take up his mission, a day hinted at repeatedly in the Christmas season liturgies. Mary is rarely seen after Christmas, but she is surely always there in the background, making everything ready, as we must, for the coming reign of God.

It is little wonder that our patron saint, John Paul II, had a great affinity and devotion to Mary and this is reflected in our school crest. On our school crest is St. John Paul II's motto – the Latin phrase

Totus Tuus which means “totally yours” which reflects his personal devotion to the Mother of God and his consecration to Jesus through Mary. By choosing his motto, as a school we will strive to foster in our students a personal relationship with Jesus, to help them appreciate the special role Mary played in God's plan to bring his Son into this world for our salvation, and to show how true devotion to her guides us to her Son.

Ironically, waiting in joyful hope is what we are doing here at St. John Paul II Academy as we move closer and closer to the start of first full year of operation in September 2018.

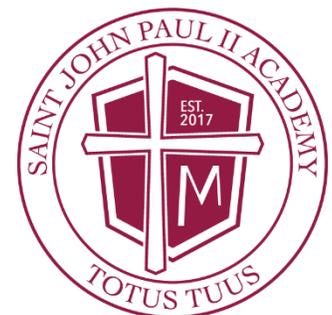
I want to wish you and your family a wonderful and blessed Christmas holiday.

God bless you,

Mr. Michel DesLauriers

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New Temporary Location

We are very fortunate to announce that the temporary location for St. John Paul II Academy will be at the Star of the Sea Community Centre – 15262 Pacific Ave. - where the recent Open House was held. Fr. Dion has very generously offered the facility for the first two years of operation while the high school is being built. This opportunity provides the students with a stand-alone facility away from the portables which were to be located on the Star of the Sea parish site. It includes:

- 4 classrooms
- Multi-purpose room
- Gym
- Full kitchen
- Office space

In addition, we are right next door to the Star of the Sea church and I am delighted about the liturgical and campus ministry opportunities this will provide the students. The facility will allow us to establish our identity as a Catholic high school within our community. While there was much work done to both the gym and front entrance area prior to Open House, there will be continued work on the facility in the upcoming months so it can be school ready for September 2018. Our hope is to have a classroom and the gym available for the Head Start summer program in the first two weeks of July. Needless to say, we are very blessed to be able to have this facility made available to our students. It presents so many more possibilities for what we can accomplish right from the start and we are excited for our entire community.



Floor plans for the temporary home of St. John Paul II Academy



Admission Information

On the school website: www.sjp2academy.com you will find the St. John Paul II Academy Admissions Policy for all those interested in having your son or daughter enrolled in our new high school.

Information of the following will be updated on our website in January 2018:

- SJP II Academy Application Form for incoming Gr. 8 students for September 2018
- Application, Registration, and Gr. Level fees
- Tuition rate for International students
- SJP II Academy Bursary Program

Please check our website for this important update.



Open House Excitement



On December 6, we held our 1st annual St. John Paul II Academy Open House at the site of our new temporary location – the Star of the Sea Community Centre. While it was an ambitious project – to have an Open House without the House – it was very worthwhile. Over 250 people attended this impressively well organized and highly successful event. The venue included the theme of: School – Family – Church and there were numerous symbols that indicated how significant these three aspects are in the education of the whole person.

People in attendance heard from our Archbishop J. Michael Miller who, presented the school with a very special gift: A papal blessing from Pope Francis ‘to the staff and all students of St. John Paul II Academy on the occasion of the Foundation of a new Secondary School.’

Mr. DesLauriers provided an update St. John Paul II Academy which included that just over 30 families have both fully and verbally committed to Enrolment Deposit program. Our goal is to have 40 families before the we head into the Christmas holidays. What a blessing that would be. Out of those 30 families, we have 7 students committed to our inaugural Grade 8 class starting in September 2018. Our target is to have 60 students enrolled by February 2018. I recognize this would be a leap of faith for many families and for students to decide to commit to St. John Paul II Academy when there are more established and possibly less expensive options in the community. But I believe what we have to offer is a unique, once in a lifetime opportunity to be part of a legacy class – the ‘Originals’ – in which the students, staff, and parents, can set the tone for Catholic Education in the South Surrey area. Please don’t hesitate to visit our new school website: www.sjp2academy.com for more information.

In addition, Mr. DesLauriers, acknowledged donations from the Miller and van Tunen family. Peter Miller has kindly donated the use of his construction company for

preparing the new location on 24th Ave when his work begins in the near future. The van Tunen family donated a beautiful portrait of St. John Paul II painted by Henk van Tunen who wanted this painting to be donated to a school or church bearing the name of this wonderful Pope. We thank both of these parties for their generosity and consideration.

“It was the kids who stole the show.”

Mr. Troy Van Vliet, who right from the beginning has been such a staunch and supportive advocate of this project, noted the enthusiasm of the entire St. John Paul II community in assisting to make the Open House a reality. It is evident that our small parent community is a very loyal, committed group and willing to do whatever it takes in supporting our efforts. This was evident particularly in the reception at the end of the evening organized by Mrs. King, Mrs. Berner, and Mrs. Pomeroy. They did an unbelievable job of soliciting donations from various businesses in the area as well as organizing our parent community.

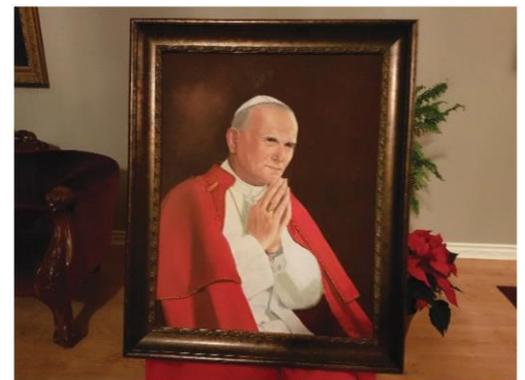
In congratulating us on a first- rate evening, our Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dan Moric noted that “it was the kids who stole the show.” I agree wholeheartedly. We had asked and received wonderful participation from a variety of families whose children wore the SJP II Academy uniform during the evening. They looked outstanding and I was filled with pride and emotion when they joined me on the stage for part of my presentation. For this year only, we decided to have all the children in the school uniform – not just those going into Gr. 8 – to demonstrate our building of the high school for both now and in the future. The students have always been our best ambassadors and they did not disappoint on this evening. This was particularly evident in the presentations spoken by future students Marcus Berner and Natalie Pinto. I sat back like a proud father watching and listening to our future students and once again dreaming about the possibilities.

All in all, it was a wonderful showcase for our future high school and another great community effort.



Papal blessing

A papal blessing from Pope Francis to the staff and students of St. John Paul II Academy.



St. John Paul II Portrait

The van Tunen family donated a beautiful portrait of St. John Paul II painted by Henk van Tunen.



Future Students

The best ambassadors - Marcus Berner and Natalie Pinto spoke beautifully at the Open House.