

## Fall Newsletter 2019

Principal: Mr. Mich DesLauriers  
Secretary: Mrs. Susan Kelly

15262 Pacific Ave., White Rock, BC V4B 1P7  
T: 604.560.8210 F: 604.560.8209  
E: mdeslauriers@sjp2academy.com  
E: skelly@sjp2academy.com  
www.sjp2academy.com



## Principal's Message

The Thanksgiving holiday should always give us a chance to pause and reflect on the many blessings God has given us; in particular our families, friends, our health and the many opportunities that our living in such a beautiful country has to offer. As imperfect as all of these aspects of our lives are, we need to be grateful for what they provide us and how easily they can be taken for granted.

I am reminded about this blessing each and everyday at SJP II Academy. I am extremely grateful to our families who have literally taken a "leap of faith" in entrusting us with their sons or daughters and sharing with us the vision of a new Catholic High School in the South Surrey area. It is with humble gratitude that I thank our teachers who bring so much love and care as well as tremendous dedication and commitment to the classroom everyday.

To our students, who come to us from a variety of Catholic and Non-Catholic elementary schools, all with their unique God given gifts and talents and brighten our lives on a day to day basis, I am also grateful.

I am very thankful to all of our supporters who have shared our vision and have involved themselves in so many areas of school life outside of the day to day operation. All of these people, too numerous to mention, complete the St. John Paul II faith and learning community.

Wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving season.

God bless,

*Mich DesLauriers*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### INFORMATION EVENINGS

**Information Evenings** on **Oct. 23rd or Nov. 20th** @ 6:30 pm at St. John Paul II Academy. The evening is designed to give you a more personal approach regarding what we are currently doing at the school as well as providing you with an update of our plans for the future.

**RSVP: [skelly@sjp2academy.com](mailto:skelly@sjp2academy.com) - if you plan on attending.**

### AN OPTION TO CONSIDER!

With all the uncertainty surrounding which high school to have your son or daughter attend why not consider having them spend an afternoon at SJP II Academy with our current students to get a feel for their surroundings and meet some of their future classmates.

To arrange for this possibility please contact the Principal, Mr. Michel DesLauriers:  
[mdeslauriers@sjp2academy.com](mailto:mdeslauriers@sjp2academy.com)

# Fall Highlights!!!

## Potluck Dinner

"It takes a village to raise a child" and this truly resonated at our first St. John Paul II Academy family Potluck Dinner for all students and their families. On September 27th, we gathered as a community, laughed, and shared a meal together. Looking around our gym, our small community truly is beginning to create its own identity. The food table had a variety of food from pasta, lumpia, pizza, samosas, perogies, and much more. It was a reflection of our diversity as a school community. Sitting at the tables were teachers, parents, our school chaplain, and students who celebrated their togetherness and made connections to one another beyond the "hi" and "hello" in the parking lot. Thank you to all the parents who made this night possible. It was a huge success!

We are also truly grateful to the families who have made the "leap of faith," and we look forward to those who will be entering our school doors to be a part of this unique endeavour and journey with our teachers, students, and parents here at St. John Paul II Academy in the many years to come.



## Cops for Cancer

Our school motto is "Enter to Learn. Leave to Serve" and that is exactly how we came about participating in Cops for Cancer to help raise money for children with cancer and their families. Every year, Cops for Cancer hold a fundraiser by participating in the Tour De Valley. It is an 800 km bike ride from Langley to Boston Bar, and then south to Tsawwassen and White Rock. Last year, our small group of 16 students and 4 staff gathered used toys and participated in the flea market held in our gym by the Knights of Columbus. In the end, our school of now 40 students managed to raise \$1200, which may seem small but every cent came from each of our student's desire to serve others. On September 26th, we were honored to have the Tour de Valley team stop by our school parking lot while on their bike tour and our students welcomed them with open arms.

## SCHOOL UPDATE

It's amazing what a difference a year makes and this is particularly true in our second year of operation at St. John Paul II Academy.

Last year at this time we had 16 Gr. 8 students and now have added an additional Gr. level and are happy to have 40 students altogether in both Gr. 8 and 9 in our building. We have added another full time Humanities teacher - Mr. Kevin Beliveau - who has brought his 26 years of experience to the classroom. Mr. Beliveau has also taken on the role of Campus Minister and will be producing our first drama production. We are very excited to have him on board along with Mr. Walters and Mrs. Jansen. They are a formidable teaching complement and we are fortunate to have them in our school.

We have also added 3 Educational Assistants - Michelle Fletcher - (Full time); Janet Clarke & Colleen Girvin (Part time) - who join Mrs. Perez - our Learning Resource teacher, to work with our students who have Individual Education Plans.

This past summer we renovated the third floor room above the gym and are now using it as a multi-purpose room. The room currently serves as our lunchroom as well as our Arts Education, Textiles, and French classroom. It is a wonderful space which complements the existing classrooms we are presently utilizing. In addition to both Art and Textiles we have included Robotics, Band and Drama. Despite our small size we are proud of the strong academic program we offer our students.

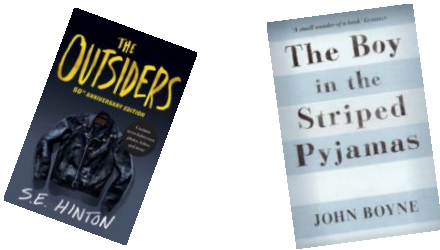
We invite you to come and see our current facility to witness firsthand all the hard work and effort we are putting into our new high school.



# Course Updates

## HUMANITIES

Both English-Language Arts and Social Studies classes for both Grades 8 and 9 are in full swing as we make the turn from September into October. In English 8 and English 9 we have been reviewing some of the basics of technical writing, confirming skills and knowledge in terminology, sentence structure, and paragraph construction. The students are reading and discussing a class novel, The Outsiders in Grade 8 and The Boy in the Striped Pajamas in Grade 9.



In Social Studies 8 we are just finishing a preliminary look at the legacy of ancient Rome before we break up into three teams that will focus on the civilizations of Medieval Europe, Ancient China, and the developing Arab civilizations of the Middle East. In Socials 9 we are already examining the development of democratic forms of government in England, America, and France in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

## STEAM



In Science 8 and 9 the students are investigating the processes of living things. The Grade 8s have created a menagerie in the classroom; we have guinea pigs, mold, a Norfolk pine, lettuce, worms, a Bindweed, Venus Fly traps, Airplants, and so many more. For eight weeks they are stewarding these wonders, researching how each of these creatures meet the criteria of all living things. The Grade 9s remember doing the same project last year. Now, this year, they are actively re-producing living things in a garden. The school was given the use of the yard behind the former Star of the Sea rectory. It is a fabulous space to design a paradise of creation. We are hoping to grow chives, garlic, daffodils, tulips, blueberries, beans, and lots of other beautiful fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Come June, our garden will be in full bloom!

## FINE ARTS

In Art 8/9, students have been learning how light (in different directions) creates shadows which, when shaded appropriately, can add depth and dimension to a 2D drawing. Next, students have been learning how to sketch facial characteristics, and have subsequently created a pencil sketch of a saint of their choice. Students conducted some research on saint icons, found a saint they connected with, and chose an additional symbol that connected to their saint's life. The results have been intriguing to see how students strike a balance between their imagination and their skills in order to create an original piece of art.

## ELECTIVES

Textiles 8/9 has emerged into a "Scary Monster" scene. Students have been learning how to hand stitch with embroidery floss on felt. Students have created imaginative characters that have come alive as stuffed toys. These fictitious monsters were designed on paper and then transferred onto felt using the paper template.



In Drama 9 and Arts Education 8 we are only still "warming up" with voice and movement work aimed at developing confidence and poise. As the Halloween season approaches we are experimenting with the use of "the scary" in theatre and film. We have been reading an adapted version of "The Tell-Tale Heart" and students will be presenting a small one-act play of this famous short story. We are hoping that the "SJPII Players" will one day soon stage their first school drama presentation. Auditions are tentatively scheduled for November with rehearsals after school beginning with Wednesdays and possibly adding a second day of the week after Christmas. If all goes well we should be staging a play just before Spring Break in 2020! If your son or daughter is at all interested in getting involved in staging a play and if parents are able to offer their services in the areas of costumes, make-up, set construction, props, publicity, lighting, furniture, house management – please email Mr. Beliveau at [kbeliveau@sjp2academy.com](mailto:kbeliveau@sjp2academy.com) as soon as possible!

# Extra-Curricular *GO ROYALS!!!*

## GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Following last year's success playing Grade 8 girls volleyball, our Grade 9s have come back to play again. This year, they are complemented by our new Grade 8s for a team of 12. We have had practices for weeks now in anticipation of our season in the Surrey Secondary Schools Athletic Association. The girls will be playing in the Junior Tier II West league. There will be some challenges, foremost being that our competition could include Grade 10s who have had more experience than us. However, having coached our girls in the pre-season, Mrs. Fletcher and Mr. Walters are confident that the team has the skills and drive to do their best every game. The team's first game was on October 9th at Frank Hurt Secondary.



## CROSS COUNTRY

This year's version of the Cross - Country team understand the enormous task ahead of them as defending Gr. 8 boys champions for the Surrey Athletic Association. The core group from last year's team have returned along with the enthusiastic addition of both Gr. 9 and Gr. 8 students. The team consists of 11 boys and 1 girl - our first female competitor in our short school history- and are coached by Mr. DesLauriers and parent, Assistant Coach, Mr. Hass. Our roster consists of the following Gr. 9 students: Will King; Alex Lifvenborg; Taj Dayrit; JB Diego; Leland Wood; & John Borkowski; Gr. 8 students: Allison Kwan; Matthew Benoit; Christopher Lifvenborg; Caihlem Hass; Aidan Hass; & Marco Ceniza.

Thus far the team has competed in 4 League Meets in the Jr. division which consists of athletes from Gr. 8 -10. There are anywhere from 80 - 100 athletes running each week in the Jr. division for each race. Our top finish thus far is 13th place by Will King and we are currently in 6th place overall as a team.

The team is practicing very hard each week to get better and are looking forward to our final league meet prior to competing in the Fraser Valleys on Oct. 23rd @ Crescent Park.