



**HOME OF THE ROYALS**

Enter to Learn. Leave to Serve.  
GOD. FAMILY. SCHOOL

## December Newsletter 2020

15262 Pacific Ave., White Rock, BC V4B 1P7

T: 604.560.8210 F: 604.560.8209

Principal: Mr. Mich DesLauriers

E: mdeslauriers@sjp2academy.com

Secretary: Mrs. Susan Kelly

E: skelly@sjp2academy.com

www.sjp2academy.com



## Principal's Message

During a time of uncertainty and restrictions during the pandemic our one constant source of hope is in the Lord. Every morning during the season of Advent, our staff and students gather first thing in the morning in the gym around the wreath to recognize the significance of the season and to give thanks. We have recently been permitted to celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist albeit in our gym rather than the church with Fr. Guy and we are very fortunate and grateful for this wonderful opportunity.

over 40 years of teaching and the uncertainty of the New Year can appear ominous and overwhelming. But let us always remember that the task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us. I want to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas holiday. I am extremely grateful to be part of such a loving and supportive second family and thank God everyday for this blessed community.

This past school year, our staff have been resilient and persistent in offering full face to face instruction 5 days per week to our small learning cohort. Our ability to engage our students in a full complement of courses as well as being able to participate in extracurricular activities has been a Godsend to their overall mental, physical, intellectual, and spiritual well being. I am indeed fortunate to have such a committed and dedicated staff who go over and above the call of duty every day.

This upcoming Christmas season will be unlike any I have ever experienced in

God bless,

*Mich DesLauriers*

Mr. Michel DesLauriers, Principal

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**VIRTUAL INFORMATION EVENING** on **Jan. 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 and we will send you a zoom link.**

### APPLICATION INFORMATION

We are now accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year for students entering Grade 8 - 11 **Deadline for applications is February 26<sup>th</sup>.**

Please check the school website: [www.sjp2academy.com](http://www.sjp2academy.com)

If you have any further questions please contact the Principal, Mr. Michel DesLauriers: [mdeslauriers@sjp2academy.com](mailto:mdeslauriers@sjp2academy.com)

# “Enter to Learn. Leave to Serve”



Grade 8 students

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Tuesday November 10, students had the opportunity to celebrate Holy Mass in honour of Remembrance Day. Students participated in all aspects of the Mass and also had an opportunity to pray for all departed souls. After mass, everyone gathered in the school gym to remember, in faith, all who have served, and continue serving in our armed forces, and to pay special honour to those who have died and those wounded in battle. Students participated in a candle lighting and wreath laying ceremony, along with a reading of the famous poem, In Flanders Fields. We all prayed for healing and peace; that one day, all nations will lay down their weapons and embrace one another, as brothers and sisters, in one human family.

## MORNING ADVENT PRAYER

Advent is a journey of preparation for our hearts knowing that Jesus was born for us and will return to us again. We currently have the beautiful opportunity to continue a tradition that was started in Year 1 --every morning, the entire staff and student body gather in a circle around the Advent wreath for morning prayer. This year, the theme is “Deepening Our Totus Tuus Commitment”. Each morning, in the month of December, a pair of student volunteers read a scripture passage, reflection explanation and a prayer surrounding the theme of growing in their commitment to being “Totally With God”, “Totally His”, offering everything to Him, loving Him and allowing Him to guide them, in whatever they do, think and say, each day.



Grade 8 Girls Advisory, “The Holy Halos”

## THE GIVING TREE

This year our Grade 8 girls advisory team started a Christmas initiative called “The Giving Tree”. Our school reached out to a very special Seniors Village to collect presents for the seniors living in the home. The initiative is our way of reaching out to those who are affected greatly by the pandemic. The grade 8 advisory girls put up a Christmas tree and decorated it with name tags that each contains a name of a senior and his/her wish list. Our students brought their wrapped presents to school and placed it under our tree. We hope that with this little gesture of giving, we brought a smile at the senior’s home.

*“Thank you all for your thoughtfulness”  
-White Rock Seniors Village*



Grade 9 and 10 students with our school wreath

## STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

It is my pleasure to introduce St. John Paul II Academy’s first Student Council. Congratulations to our first Student Council **President, Faithe Parsons**, who was elected to the position by our school body last month.

They have done a fantastic job so far. One of their first tasks was to decide on our school mascot. With a massive thank you to Kathrin Omelchenko, the grade 10 student who designed it, we will now be known as the “Royal Guards.”

Student council has also been diligently planning for Christmas week on December 14-17. Two major activities they will be hosting are the Christmas Door decorating and cookie decorating contests. Pictures and results for the contests to follow next month! Have a good Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

**Matthew Benoit – Vice-President**

**Christopher Lifvenborg – Secretary/Treasurer**

**William King – Spirit Representative**

**Oliver Watt – Sports Representative**

**Lucie King – Campus Ministry Representative**



# Around the School



## CAREER EDUCATION

At the end of October we launched our most ambitious Career Ed. project to date: Entrepreneurs for Charity. It is a combination of volunteerism, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship that showcased the creativity, business acumen, and resilient thinking of all the students. After the approval of their proposals, each of the 19 teams timelined their next six weeks; the school loaned them the money to get started: they made products, marketed them, sold them, and kept their budget sheet up-to-date. Innovative promotional strategies accessed markets beyond the four walls of the school. It has been an exciting journey for all three grades to go from 'ideas on a napkin' to making a profit to donate to the charity of their choice.



Career Ed. Entrepreneurs for Charity

## ELECTIVES

In Textiles 9, students have been learning the tedious process of knitting, crocheting and how to work on a loom. Using a variety of wool thicknesses, students have had the opportunity to try each technique, pick their favourite and develop their skills by committing themselves to making a scarf. We look forward to seeing everyone's final product soon, just in time for the chilly weather in January. Foods 10 has been buzzing with excitement over learning how to make fresh pasta from scratch, learning how to substitute gluten-free flours and other dairy-free products in recipes, and learning how to prepare a variety of winter squash available this time of year, and how roasting vegetables can become a household favourite.

## HUMANITIES

For Socials, the grade 8s wrapped up Renaissance Italy with a short presentation on a piece of Renaissance art. We are, now, moving to Northern Europe and looking at the social changes there, starting with the Protestant Reformation. The grade 9s are nearly finished with the Industrial Revolution. They have completed a Dragon's Den-esque presentation with Industrial Era inventions! The grade 10s are studying World War I, which lends itself well to this term's English unit: World War I poetry and how the perspective of the war is reflected in literature. After the holidays, the grade 10s will be getting a more in-depth preparation for their Literacy Assessment in January. As for the other English classes, the grade 8s are learning how to read and analyze poetry, and shall be creating an anthology, dealing with the topic of "Relationships." The grade 9s are in the middle of a short story unit and are looking at how authors use various literary elements in their stories.



Robotics and Humanities students

## STREAM

In Math, our Grade 8s are completing a unit on geometry. It has been difficult for them, as we learn how to calculate surface area and volume of both prisms (cereal boxes!) and cylinders (soup cans!) Our Grade 9s are starting linear equations (straight lines) which will include creating, graphing, and scaling their own Waterpark design in the new year. Grade 10 is deep in the middle of a linear equations review (think stained glass windows), and in the new year, we will start a complete month of work preparing for the BC Literacy and Numeracy Assessment which they will write in late January.

In Science, we have transitioned successfully from Biology to Chemistry. Grade 8s are learning the Kinetic Molecular Theory of Matter, and Grade 9s are learning about the various chemical and physical properties of mixtures both homogenous and heterogenous. Our Grade 10s are rediscovering the Periodic Table and the naming of chemical compounds (ionic and covalent). Every month, all grades do an in-depth analysis of a new Science Infographic as we learn how to extract meaningful data from a chart or diagram.

## SJP2 Fundraising Committee Update

We are very excited to update you on the school's fundraising efforts. Last year we raised \$7,924 through Purdy's Chocolates, concessions and our pub night. We supplied the school with ultimate uniforms, chromebooks, laptops, an iPad, safety supplies, signage and furniture. This year we've raised \$279 from Boca Grande Donut sales and \$1,699.83 from Purdy's Chocolates for a total 1,978.83! These funds will be used for advisory team shirts, textiles and science lab equipment. THANK YOU so much for your support! Wishing your families a blessed Christmas and wonderful New Year!

Lucia Borkowski (Chair, SJP2 Fundraising Committee)



# Extra-Curricular *GO ROYALS!!!*

## GIRLS and BOYS BASKETBALL

After a short break at the end of the Fall Sports season, we launched the Winter Sports season and basketball. With 31 students from all three grades signing up, Coaches DesLauriers and Akyuz started practices in November. This part of the season saw the girls and boys practicing separately. Once regular season play starts, all of the players will be assigned to three teams. This three-team intramural league will see teams compete against each other in a round robin format. Led by the three captains, Marco, Taj, and Alex, there will be some exciting games!



Virtual Open House with our students and Mr. DesLauriers



Basketball Tournament

## 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

This year, our Open House was a virtual success. Eight students along with two teachers and Mr. DesLauriers hosted our Open House virtually. We presented live online and showcased our school culture, faith, academics, and extra-curricular programs. Although it has only been three years since we opened our doors to students, our community has thrived and has proven our resilience as a catholic school overcoming challenges in our young school's history. We especially thank our Foundation president, Mr. Mike Donelson who joined us this year, and Mr. Troy Van Vliet for all his support. The pandemic might have required our community to distance physically, but it has not stopped our community to continue to care and support each other.



Advisory Team: Door decorating contest

## *Advent Prayer for Families*

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you.

Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you.  
Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love.

Amen.



*We wish you and your family a  
joyful, safe, and peaceful  
Christmas!  
From SJP2 Staff*

