

Fall Newsletter 2021

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Principal's Message

After a hectic start to the school year, it is incredible how quickly time has gone by, and we are now at the end of October. This is our fifth year in existence as the newest high school in the Archdiocese of Vancouver and we now have students in Gr. 8 – 11 for the 2021-22 school year. The plan is to include a Gr. 12 class in the next school year to fully complete our high school plans as far as Grade levels go.

We are proud of what we have accomplished in the short time we have been around, and you can sense the school spirit and strong pride the staff and students have about who we are and what we are trying to establish as we await moving into our new building in a few years.

As you will read in this newsletter there is a lot happening around the school these days as the students

take full ownership and advantage of our small cohort and are willing and eager participants in every aspect of school life.

On Oct. 21st we celebrated as a school community the Feast Day of St. John Paul II – our patron saint and role model. As we continue to go through many challenges from dealing with COVID-19 to the construction of the new building we are encouraged by the words that St. John Paul II often said: "Be Not Afraid."

Thank you for your support and prayers.

God bless,

Mr. Michel DesLauriers, Principal

UPCOMING EVENT:

INFORMATION EVENING

Nov. 10th @ 7:00 pm at Star of the Sea Elementary

For more information, please contact our school secretary:

skelly@sjp2academy.com

OPEN HOUSE

Dec. 1st @ 6:30pm at SJP2 Gym

For more information, please contact our school secretary:

skelly@sjp2academy.com

Fall Highlights!!!

Opening Day

This year, we started our school year with new students in Grade 8, and additional students in Grades 9, 10 & 11. Our small community also welcomed Mr. Wilkie as our newest teacher, and four Education Assistants (Mrs. Slobodian, Ms. O'Flynn, Ms. Heleno, and Mrs. Hernandez).

On our first day of school, a group of mentor students from Grades 9-11, welcomed our newest Grade 8s. All our students began with an assembly, continued their day with activities to get to know each other, and finally classroom visits for all their courses. It was an amazing first day of school.

On our first school mass, we welcomed Fr. Francis as our newest school Chaplain. During the mass, he blessed our newest students and staff.

It was an exciting first week of school, and as always we started the year with creating connections, and celebrating our faith to remind ourselves that our Faith is the center of our school. We are grateful for our growing community this 2021-2022 school year.



Cops for Cancer and Terry Fox Fundraising

Congratulations to our Gr 10/11 Girls Advisory who successfully organized and collected donations to celebrate and honour a Canadian icon and hero, Terry Fox. On Mon Sep 20 our entire student population walked down to the White Rock Pier, took a group photo, and walked back to school to support Terry's legacy of finding a cure for cancer. In this year's annual walk for cancer, and with the special help of a generous anonymous donor, we raised \$756 for the Terry Fox Foundation and Cops for Cancer.

A big thank you to Mrs. Akyuz, Mrs. Girvin, and Mrs. Perez for their efforts on planning the Terry Fox walk, and the Cops for Cancer visit at school. Thank you to Jayden M., Logan J., Mrs. Hernandez, and Mrs. Slobodian for their help in counting all the bottles. Great work St. John Paul II Academy!

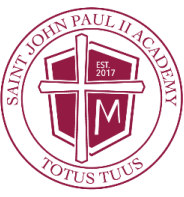


Student Council Update:

October has been a very interesting month for Student Council. We would like to extend our thanks to last year's Student Council. It was the first year we had a Council at SJPII and, while there were lots of learning moments, the students helped create a solid foundation for future Councils.

This October, we invited Grade 9-11 students to run for certain positions in Student Council. When the deadline for applications finally came, each position had a grand total of 1 applicant! Due to the lack of candidates, we did not have an election this year, but we are hoping that next year, we will have more people who are interested to be on the Council. We would like to extend our congratulations to the following students for being on the 2021-2022 Student Council we look forward to working with them this year:

Faithe Parsons (President); JB Diego (Vice-President); Kelvin Dokaj (Treasurer); Taj Dayrit (Male Sports Representative); Bella Kassam (Female Sports Representative); Aiden Hass (Spirit Representative); Caihlem Hass (Campus Ministry Representative); Carys Prout (Grade 8 Girls' Advisory Representative); and Joshua Benoit (Grade 8 Boys' Advisory Representative)



Enter to Learn. Leave to Serve

CAMPUS MINISTRY

SJPII Academy students have been embracing the opportunity to attend weekly Mass celebrated by our chaplain Father Francis by participating in the Eucharistic celebration with lectoring and serving at the altar. Students remembered the impact and contributions of the life of Karol Wojtyla this year on October 21, to celebrate our patron saint's feast day. The festivities began with a prayer service and multiple presentations on the hardships and accomplishments, trials and triumphs during John Paul II's childhood, young adult and papal life. Hosted by our newest Royals, the grade 8 class, students were reminded to, in the words of Pope John Paul II, "Be Not Afraid" of their youthfulness and to not hold back from generously working alongside others for it is this that will make their lives one of service to others. The student body also commemorated the feast day by participating in Holy Mass and capped off the day with a rousing and competitive intra-school volleyball tournament. We continue to ask God, through the intercession of Saint John Paul II, to be our guide, fill us with pride, and show us His love as He blesses us from above.



Extra-Curricular

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

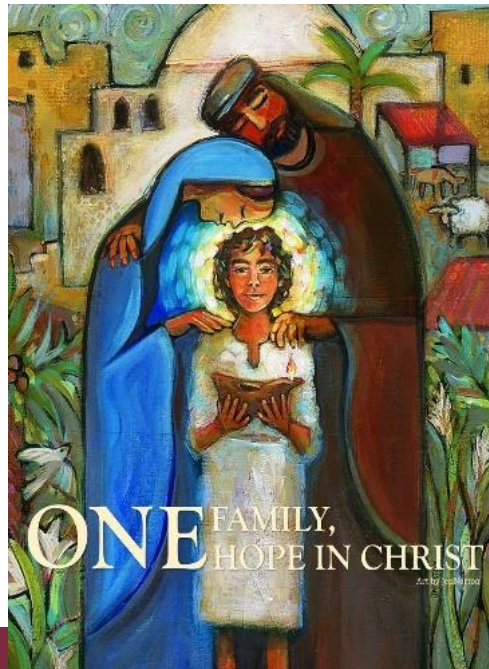
It is with much pride that Mr. DesLauriers (Head coach) and Ms. O'Flynn (Assistant coach) congratulate the junior girls and grade 8 girls volleyball teams for all of their hard work both on and off the court this season. After dominating every league game thus far and each team participating in a tournament, we are happy to announce a strong start to our volleyball program here at Saint John Paul II Academy. A special thanks and acknowledgement to our junior and grade 8 girls captains Veronica Dee, Bella Kassam, Carys Prout, Mia Beliveau, and Mya Lynn Bernett.

Stay tuned for further information for the playoffs. Go Royals!



CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the Cross Country team on an outstanding season! All athletes showed incredible dedication and effort all season long, enduring wet and soggy practices at Crescent Park and gruelling hill climbs in the sun from South Meridian. Notable highlights include: the Junior Girls team placing a close second in the league meet aggregate standing; two wins by Abeti and a strong effort by John Diego in the para races; BC Provincial Champs qualification by Matthias and Veronica Dee.



PA Executive 2021-2022
President – Daisy Lifvenborg
Vice President – Holly King
Treasurer – Gabriela Nieto
Secretary – Yvonne Wacker
Member-at-Large – Lucia

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Dear SJP2 Parents,

It is hard to believe that there are only seven more weeks until Christmas break, but together, we have done so much as a parent community since school started. Thank you to all who came for **our Family BBQ in September**. We had a fantastic turnout, and it was an excellent opportunity for families to meet and reconnect.

In October, we had **three weeks of back-to-back webinars** presented by White Hatter, a company based out of Victoria specializing in internet and social media safety, digital literacy, workplace violence prevention education and training to schools and businesses. We are grateful for these free public seminars and will continue to look for more parent education opportunities.

As a Parent Association, we are now eligible to receive funding from the BC Gaming Commission. The funding amount is \$20 per registered student from the previous academic year. We are happy to announce that our application was approved, and we received our **first Gaming Grant** of \$960; the money will go towards students' extracurricular activities, specifically the Yearbook Club.

We had our first General Meeting on October 28th, where we **approved the PA 2021-2022 Budget**. The approved budget is now our collective commitment to support the PA's initiatives, and we are grateful for your cooperation and support to help us meet the budget. If you would like to receive a copy of the budget, please email us.

Our **first Youth Night, "Saints and Angels,"** was a success. By all accounts, the kids had A LOT of fun! Thank you to Lisa Van Vliet for leading the event and the fantastic group of parent volunteers for all your hard work on this event!!

All news from the Parent Association come from our email:

parentassociation@sjp2academy.com

If you have not subscribed to the Association, please email us at the above address to include you on our distribution list. We are not allowed to add your name unless we have a direct request from you.

If you have subscribed to our mailing list but are not getting emails, please check your spam, junk or promotion folder and ensure our address is in your primary contact.

Please register as well as read our emails, so you don't miss any important information.

Looking ahead into November

Tuesday, November 2nd: Bottle Drive in front of the school.

Wednesday, November 10th: Coffee morning with parents/guardians at 8:30 am (right after drop-off) in the Knights of Columbus room.

Monday, November 15th- November 23rd: Purdy's Chocolate Campaign.

Monday, November 29th – December 10th: Meridian Meats Campaign.

Thank you for your continued support

Have a wonderful November!

Daisy, Holly, Gabriela, Yvonne & Lucia

President's Message

Thank you to all of our parents who lent their signatures to the online petition launched in September to encourage the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to have the province's Water Ways office complete its determination for the school's new campus on 24th Avenue in South Surrey. As a result of this petition we received the determination 28 September. This clears a major milestone for the project in that we can now engage the City of Surrey on obtaining its environmental approval, a requirement to submit the building permit application to get the school built. A lesson in the power of the pen.

Michael Donelson