



## December Newsletter 2021

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## Principal's Message

As we continue our preparation for Christmas during this third week of Advent, it has become very clear to me that the best thing we can do to ready ourselves is to take the time to nurture our relationship with Jesus. The Christmas season is one where we are much more aware of the needs of others, and we are more than willing to share some of our treasure with those less fortunate.

But it is also important to take time for ourselves, to be still and to genuinely reflect and pray and be comfortable in our silence as we take a step back from the busyness and hectic pace of the Christmas season.

The current school year has certainly gone very quickly, and I am very proud of both our individual and the collective accomplishments. Amidst the activity both in and outside the classroom I would be remiss if I did not take the time to be grateful for all the hard work of our President, Mike Donelson, and both the members of the Society and Foundation

Board who have worked tirelessly on behalf of the school in order to ensure that both our present school and our future school will be a source of pride for many generations of students wanting a Catholic education.

On behalf of the staff and students I want to wish you all a wonderful Christmas holiday where you will take the time to be with those you love.

God bless,

Mr. Michel DesLauriers, Principal

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

School opens on January 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

### APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application for the 2022-2023 school year for Grade 8-12 is **now available**

**Deadline for applications is February 25<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”



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

We started with Mass in the church. It was a solemn remembrance of those who gave their lives in Canada’s wars. Afterwards, the entire school walked up to the cenotaph at White Rock City Hall. There, we gathered to honour the dead with prayers and reflections. A particularly poignant moment was when the piper played The Lament, Flowers of the Forest. An RCMP honour guard stood at attention as two students laid a wreath at the foot of the cenotaph. O Canada then filled the chilly air. Our earnest prayer was that Canada would never again go to war, and that God’s peace would fill the earth.



## ADVENT SEASON

In preparation for the coming of the Saviour, Jesus Christ at Christmas, our school community set aside time to focus on the essentials: prayer and conversion of heart. At the start of each week of Advent, we gathered in the church to pray part of the Divine Office (in union with the rest of the Church). During the rest of the week the smaller Advisory groups continued their Advent prayers. In addition to our regularly scheduled weekly Masses, Father Francis heard confessions. Many, many students encountered Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, turning their hearts back to Him, and thereby getting ready to receive Him at Christmas.



## TOY DRIVE (ADVISORY CHALLENGE)

This year our school community worked together to gather kids toys under our school Christmas tree. The student council led the way asking students to donate new toys for the Surrey Christmas Bureau. The advisory toy drive challenge is our way of reaching out to those young peoples who are in need during this Christmas season. The grade 10 girls won the challenge by being the first advisory group to bring all their toys.

Our students brought their unwrapped presents to school and placed it under our tree. We hope that with this little gesture of giving, we can bring a smile to others.

We also would like to extend out gratitude to our students families who supported this initiative.



# Around the School



## PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT

As the provincial assessments have changed over the past years to align with the new curriculum, they remain rigorous in nature as they set the learning standards to which student achievement, Core Competencies, and literacy and numeracy skills are to be evaluated. For the second time now at St. John Paul II Academy, students in Gr. 10 are preparing to write their numeracy and literacy exams on January 24th and 25th respectively. Students will find that both exams focus on the application of mathematical and literary concepts learned across multiple subject areas, and will require them to think about real world applications using various methods of interpreting, solving and analyzing to communicate their thoughts, calculations and answers. We wish our students well on this journey of learning and assessment.



## CAREER EDUCATION (Entrepreneurs for Charity)

At the beginning of November we launched our Entrepreneurs for Charity project. It is a cocktail of core competencies: collaboration, exploration, innovation, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship that showcases the creativity, business acumen, and resilient thinking of all the students. After the approval of their proposals, each of the 23 teams timelined their next six weeks; I personally loaned them the money to get started (yes, that is a risk!). Teams 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 donating to the charity of their choice.



## PARENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Dear SJPII Academy Families,

As we end the year, Gabriela, Holly, Lucia and Yvonne, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the generous support you have given to the Parent Association since our inception in February. Our parent community is more robust under the new organization through your active participation, and we sincerely hope that this momentum will continue to grow in the coming year. We welcome those who would like to take on an expanded role of becoming a Committee Chair or Executive Member; please talk to us.

The fundraising initiatives in November and December, the Bottle Drive, Purdy's Chocolates, and Meridian Meats, were great successes. Collectively we raised \$3,400, and we have donated to the school \$2,000 to support the various educational and extracurricular activities this term. Additionally, we have gifted \$500 to our fabulous SJP2 teachers and staff for their Christmas luncheon.

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year filled with joy and good health!

Warmest regards,  
Daisy, Gabriela, Holly, Lucia and Yvonne

## 5th Annual Open House

This year, our Open House was held in person. Twenty-eight students along with our entire staff hosted our Open House. We showcased our school culture, faith, academics, and extra-curricular programs. Although it has only been four 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. Every year we continue add more students in our student body.

We thank all our parents who tirelessly worked hard during our Open House. We also thank all our student volunteers, teachers, Mr. Mike Donelson, and Mr. Troy Van Vliet who gave our guests an update of our school building.

We are grateful for everyone who were able to attend, and we look forward to welcoming all our new students for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Applications available now!**  
**Please check our school website for more details.**  
**[www.sjp2academy.com](http://www.sjp2academy.com)**





# Extra-Curricular *GO ROYALS!!!*

## GIRLS and BOYS BASKETBALL

Our SJPII Royals have officially started the Basketball Season! This year, we have three Tier 2 teams representing St. John Paul II: JR Girls, JR Boys and SR Boys. Games started the last week of December and continue through to the end of February.

We look forward to a great season with lots of spectators at the various schools! GO ROYALS!



## GRADE 8 GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Warmest of congratulations to our junior and grade 8 girls volleyball teams on the completion of their season. Both teams made it into playoffs with our junior girls finishing in 4th place and our grade 8 girls in 2nd.

We would like to extend further tribute and acknowledgement to the success of Bella Kassam, Tayla Van Vliet, Veronica Dee, Mary Ruvalcaba, Mia Beliveau, Carys Prout, Mya Lynn Bennett and Samantha Wood for collecting individual awards for their outstanding efforts this season.



## 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 Gutsche and a strong effort by JB Diego in the para-races; BC Provincial Champs qualification by Matthias and Veronica Dee.



## Student Council Update

We, the SJPII Student Council, are ecstatic for this upcoming new year! In the past few weeks, we have been hard at work getting ready for our toy drive for the Surrey Christmas Bureau. We are also busy with preparing for our Christmas Spirit Week and we are sure it's one to remember. The Council wishes all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and we can't wait to show you what we have in store in 2022.

**Faithe Parsons – President**

**JB Diego –Vice President**

**Kelvin Dokaj – Treasurer**

**Aiden Hass – Spirit Representative**

**Taj Dayrit & Belle Kassam – Sports Representative**

**Caihlem Hass – Campus Ministry Representative**

**Josh Benoit & Gemma Walters – Grade 8 Rep.**

# President's Message

## Building Update

We continue to work with the City of Surrey concerning its recent request for a further set-back along 24th Avenue. What has become clear is that we will need to seek provincial approval for the road profile proposed. We are finalizing our submission now to the City and are working closely with municipal officials to meet their requirements. We have been assured by city staff that this will be reviewed quickly. We will look as well to submit this application to the province. We expect that we will need to lobby the province early in the new year to expedite its review of this application. Obtaining provincial approval is a critical milestone in us securing rezoning and eventual building permit.

Let me close by thanking all of you for your unstinting support for the school and our efforts to build our permanent campus this past year. It remains a constant source of encouragement for all of us involved in this project. Know that your goodwill is deeply appreciated. With my personal best wishes to you and your family for a blessed Christmas. May the birth of our Saviour, born in humble circumstances, enkindle in us the true spirit of Christmas throughout 2022.

*Mike Donelson, President, Saint John Paul II Academy Society*

## *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 safe and blessed Christmas. –From SJP2 Staff*