

# SAINT JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION

## BUILDING THE LEGACY

### Almsgiving /Generosity during Lent

Archbishop Michael Miller



Every year, Lent offers us a providential opportunity to deepen our closeness to God and stimulates us to rediscover His mercy. To help us on our journey, the Church proposes three ancient practices to foster the process of our interior renewal: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, or works of charity and generosity.

During this holy season, we meditate on God's generous love. His nature is to "give away" unselfishly. Jesus, who was God, did not consider equality with God as something to be clung to, but "emptied himself," taking on the form of a man, indeed of a slave. By His obedience unto death on the Cross, He redeemed us (cf. Phil 2:5-8). This was the greatest of generous acts!

Christians who are aware of having received everything from God gratuitously should show similar benevolence. Today, unfortunately, such gratuitousness is often not part of daily life, where everything is calculated and measured. Giving generously, however, leads to freedom from the obsession of possessing and the fear of losing what we have.

What, then, does almsgiving teach us? It teaches us to share with others whatever we have received from God's goodness. But it isn't mere philanthropy; almsgiving is a concrete expression of charity to individuals and contributes to the building of a more just and compassionate society. Most importantly, such generosity imitates what Jesus did: by dying on the Cross, He gave Himself fully for us.

According to the Gospel, we are not owners but rather stewards of the goods we possess. God entrusts these goods to us so that we can practice the virtue of generosity. St. Teresa of Calcutta wisely wrote: "If God, who owes nothing to us, is ready to impart to us no less than Himself, shall we answer with just a fraction of ourselves?"

Giving generously impacts our life. Scripture teaches us that our hearts rejoice more in giving than in receiving (cf. Acts 20:35). When we act generously out of love, we express the truth that we are created in God's image and likeness; that is, we have been created not for ourselves but for God and for our brothers and sisters.

Every time when, for love of God and far from the spotlights, we are generous with what we possess, we discover a great treasure. Our generosity is returned to us as a blessing in the form of peace, inner satisfaction and joy. What is more: among the spiritual fruits of almsgiving is the forgiveness of sins: "Charity," writes St. Peter, "covers a multitude of sins" (1 Pet 4:8).

Giving generously during Lent, particularly in the form of almsgiving and sacrificial giving, expresses Christian love and solidarity with others, as well as being a means of deepening one's spiritual life and contributing to the creation of a more just society.

<sup>a</sup>J. Michael Miller, CSB

Archbishop of Vancouver



# Star of the Sea Parish

Father Augustine

Dear Saint John Paul II Academy Community,

As we approach the momentous occasion of the 100-year anniversary of Star of the Sea Parish, we are reminded of the humble beginnings of our community of Faith.

Nearly a century ago, seven families, guided by the Holy Spirit, came together to establish a place of worship and a haven for their children to learn and grow in their Faith.



What started as a small gathering has blossomed into a vibrant community of over 2,700 families.

In honor of this significant milestone, a series of events have unfolded throughout the year, and continue to unfold. These celebrations have transcended mere reverence for the physical structure of our church, delving deep into the core of our Parish's journey.

Under the banner of "Honour our Past and go Forward on Mission," we have embarked on a journey to pay homage to the trailblazers who shaped our Parish over the past century, introspect on our current identity, and pave the path for forthcoming generations to inherit a legacy of Faith and community.

The impact of our endeavors cannot be overstated. The actions we take today will reverberate through the annals of time, shaping the future for generations to come. In the face of contemporary challenges, we are beckoned to radiate as a beacon of light, a wellspring of hope, and a testament to the enduring strength of Faith.

Let us embrace this extraordinary year with open hearts and receptive minds, standing united in our collective mission to propagate the Gospel's message and construct a community grounded in love and service. Together, guided by the Holy Spirit, we will persist in our growth, evolution, and fulfillment of the mission entrusted to us by Christ.



Blessings,  
Father Augustine



# Troy Van Vliet

Chair, Foundation Board

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am thrilled to share with you the progress we have made in the construction of our new high school campus, set to house 900 students. Last week, we achieved a significant milestone by pouring 80 trucks full of concrete, solidifying the foundation of our future educational hub.



As we diligently work towards our goal, I am pleased to announce that we are on schedule to open our doors in the fall of 2025. The anticipation and excitement surrounding this project are palpable, and we are eager to welcome students from all grades to our state-of-the-art facility.

Enrollment is already underway, and spaces are filling up fast. With the capacity to accommodate 900 students, we encourage you to secure a spot for your child at our school. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of our vibrant and inclusive community, where academic excellence and personal growth are at the forefront of our mission.

Join us on this exciting journey as we pave the way for a bright future for our students. Enlist your children now and be a part of our thriving educational environment.

Troy Van Vliet  
Chair, Foundation Board  
Saint John Paul II Academy





Opening Fall 2025

SJPII New Campus









## Director of Advancement

Dear Supporters and Volunteers of Saint John Paul II Academy,

On behalf of the Foundation Board, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the remarkable supporters and volunteers of Saint John Paul II Academy. Whether through generous donations, assistance with school activities, support for graduation ceremonies, contributions to the planning of our golf tournament, or dedication to the preparation and volunteering for our Royals Ball, your unwavering commitment to our Foundation is truly appreciated.

Our community thrives on the strength and dedication of individuals like you who share our vision and mission. Through your collective efforts, we have fostered a community that wholeheartedly embraces and supports our school's mission and vision. Your loyalty and support have made us a beacon of faith-based education, and for that, we are forever grateful.

The phrase "Totus Tuus" holds deep meaning for us, symbolizing our eternal loyalty to Saint John Paul II Academy and the unique and successful community it represents. Originating from our namesake, St. John Paul II, who was devoted to Mother Mary, Totus Tuus signifies being 'all yours', reflecting our loyalty to Her and our beloved school.

We express our deepest appreciation for all that you do, big or small, as your contributions have a profound impact on the lives of our students and the achievements of our school. Your dedication and selflessness inspire us all, and we are truly blessed to have you as part of our Saint John Paul II family.



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Silveria Roselli

As we journey forward together, let us remember the power of unity and the strength within our community.

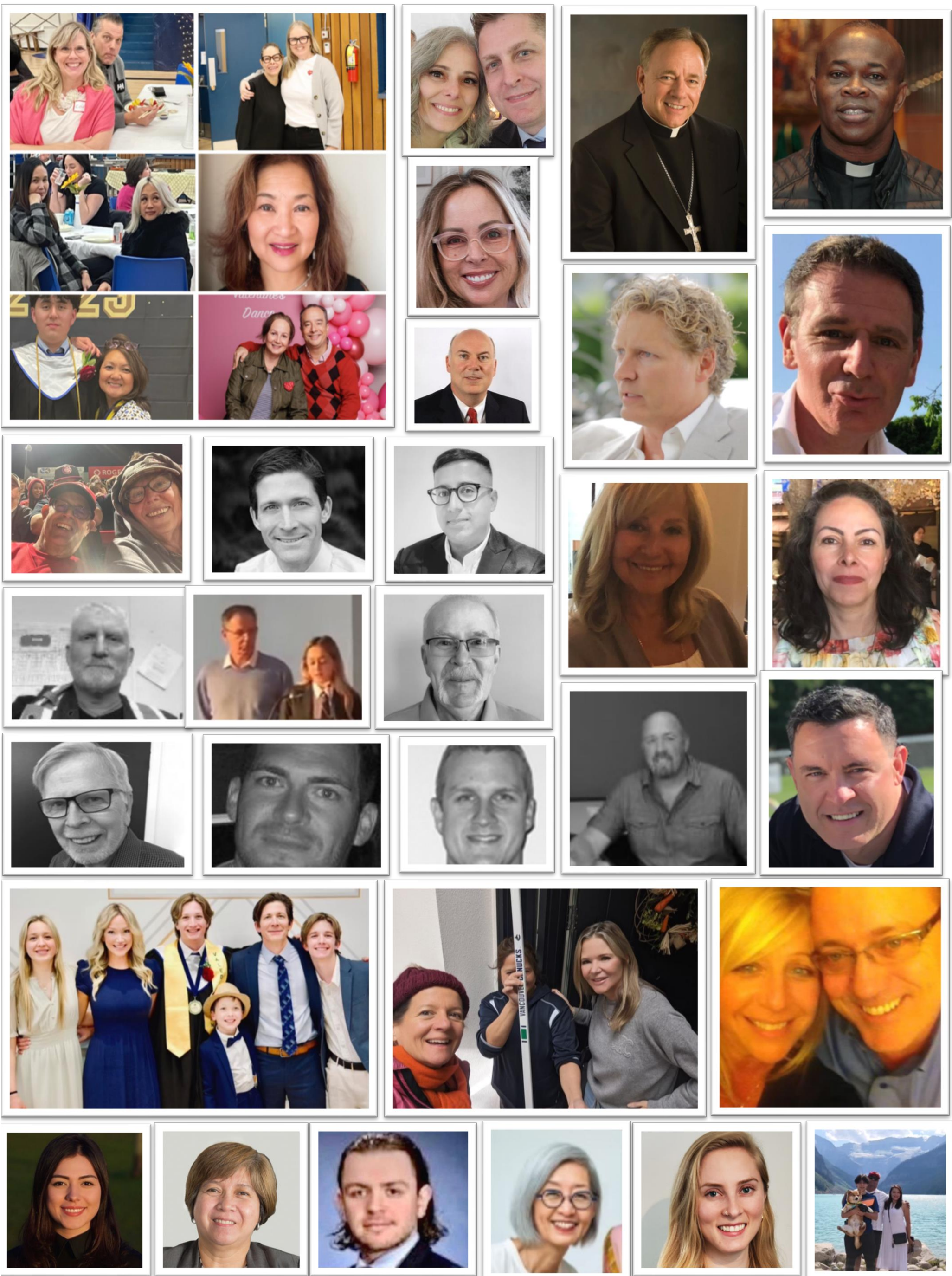
Your unwavering support and generosity have been instrumental in our school's success, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

Totos Tuus,

Silveria Roselli  
Director of Advancement  
Saint John Paul II Foundation



Supporters and volunteers of Saint John Paul II





Supporters and volunteers of Saint John Paul II





## A message from our donor

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Holly King

Hello, fellow St. John Paul II Academy parents and supporters.

My name is Holly King. I am a wife, a CWL member, and a parishioner at Good Shepherd Parish. My husband and I are parents to four children: our youngest attends Star of the Sea Elementary, our two teenagers are attending St. John Paul II Academy, and our eldest was a Legacy Class Graduate from St. John Paul II Academy and currently in his first year at UBC, studying Biology.

I would like to share my appreciation of the Catholic Faith as I am a convert from a loving nondenominational Christian upbringing.

My first Catholic Mass was with my husband 20 years ago, and I felt a true sense of calling to deepen my faith. I felt an immediate and close connection to Jesus while attending Mass, and I signed up to go through the RCIA program. At that time, I felt that my heart couldn't feel fuller; I was loving the faith and the fulfillment I felt after weekly Masses.

When our children were of school age, I realized the opportunities available through our parish and school for me to meet other mothers including the opportunity to serve the school and local community. The community within the Catholic school system has helped create the most enriching years of my life through volunteering and working alongside other parishioners and parents. My heart felt very full during the foundational school years, deeply involved in both the school and parish life.

It wasn't until the passing of my late father-in-law that I realized there is more to Catholic community involvement beyond parent participation at our children's school. My father-in-law's funeral was an eye-opening experience for me, as I observed the Knights of Columbus organizing and involved with his funeral mass, with the Catholic Women's League members serving a beautiful luncheon for family and community members to come together and reminisce about the life and importance of a wonderful man.

Having been raised in a different church and Christian community, the Catholic community and support at our school and at my father in law's funeral was inspiring. I know that whatever phase of life you or your loved ones might be in, the Catholic Church always has a place for you to be involved, to give back, and to connect.





# SAINT JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL

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## MRS. ANDREA PROUT-BERNETT

The Saint John Paul II Academy is delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs. Andrea Prout-Bernett as the new Principal of Saint John Paul II Academy, effective September 1, 2024.

Mrs. Prout-Bernett brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her new role, having previously served as the Principal at St. Joseph the Worker Elementary School in Richmond. Her leadership at St. Joseph the Worker was distinguished by a strong commitment to academic excellence, spiritual growth, and community engagement.

With a career spanning over two decades in education, Mrs. Prout-Bernett began her journey at St. Thomas More Collegiate in Burnaby before transitioning to Vancouver College, where she held various teaching and leadership positions.



Mrs. Andrea Prout

Her diverse roles included Campus Minister, Liturgy Coordinator, and Science Department Head, highlighting her versatile skills and expertise.

Mrs. Prout-Bernett holds a Bachelor of Science from Eastern Washington University, a Bachelor of Education from Simon Fraser University, and a Master of Arts from Gonzaga University. She has also completed Theology Courses at Mark’s College in Vancouver, anchoring her educational philosophy in Christ and the Gospel, holistic development, and community building.

Mrs. Prout-Bernett and her family are active parishioners at Star of the Sea Parish in Surrey, with deep-rooted ties to the Catholic faith and community.

Saint John Paul II Academy extends its sincere congratulations to Mrs. Prout-Bernett on her new role and eagerly anticipates the positive impact she will bring to the school community.





# Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that we have already passed the halfway point of the school year. Reflecting on all that has happened brings to mind a quote by Saint John Paul II, “Let us remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence.”

On behalf of the entire staff, I want to express my profound joy, prayers and gratitude for the steadfast commitment, active participation, and ardent support from all of you. Your collective efforts have been instrumental in making Saint John Paul II Academy community a faith-filled and joyful place of learning and opportunities.

I truly appreciate the staff and students' passion, energy, and commitment to all of the school programs. Their dedication to academic excellence is to be admired, with so many students going above and beyond to reach their potential, as witnessed through their engagement in national math, physics and coding competitions, as well as creating weekly podcasts and collaborating on various activities and projects. The graduating students provincial and national post secondary school acceptances and scholarships are a testament to their level of achievement.

The numerous service projects undertaken throughout the year to support people in need in our community and abroad reflect the students' genuine Faith and commitment to make a positive impact in their world. Their active participation in school masses, retreats, reconciliation services, paraliturgies and prayer services is also a testament to their Faith.

Students involvement in sports has been nothing short of inspiring. The number of student athletes who participate, coupled with their sportsmanship, dedication and enthusiasm, is reflected in the number of district and provincial wins, adding to the school's growing wall of banners.



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Ms. Lorraine Paruzzolo, Principal

Their dedication to extracurricular clubs, whether in student council, social justice initiatives, leadership, choir, and drama, showcases our students' varied talents and interests.

“The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with Him in the building of the civilization of love. The most beautiful and stirring adventure that can happen to you is the personal meeting with Jesus, who is the only one who gives real meaning to our lives.” (Saint John Paul II, Oct.22, 2020)

Respect for the dignity and worth of every person, integrity and responsibility, as well as understanding, compassion and solidarity towards others, survive only if they are passed on in families and in schools. I am grateful and blessed to be a member of a school community which strives to live the words of Saint John Paul II.

With Joy and Prayers,  
Ms. Lorraine Paruzzolo  
Principal



# Alumni Corner

Katrina Formosa

A few years before the opening of SJP2 in 2018, I met Troy Van Vliet sitting in the Good Shepherd church welcoming area at the information table for the school. Having been a parishioner since 1989, I had heard many rumours of a new Catholic high school in South Surrey. So I listened to Troy's spiel, doubting that this project would ever happen and thinking this school will not be around for any of our children even if it did open. Well, I have to say now that I should not have been that "doubting Thomas." As it turns out our daughter Lizzie became a graduate of the Legacy Class of 2023.



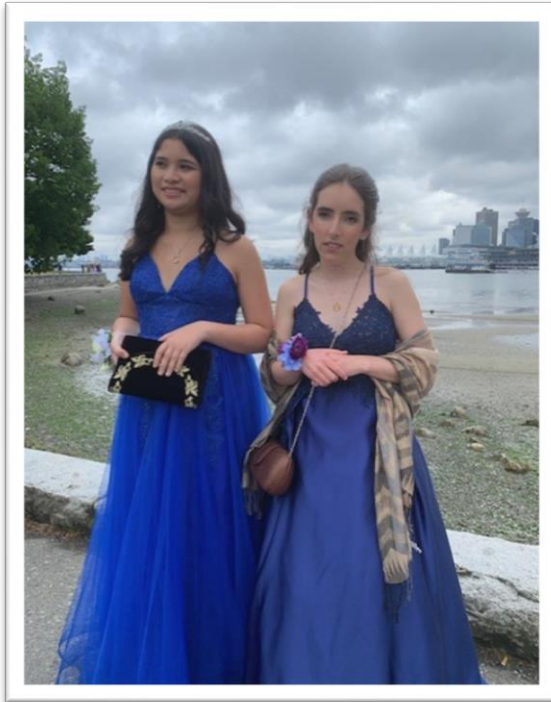
Chris and I have four children who attended Star of the Sea School from 1994 to 2016. Our youngest, Lizzie, took a longer path to graduation. After three years at the Eaton-Arrowsmith school in White Rock, it was time to transition back to a regular curriculum. As luck would have it, SJP2 was up and running and happened to be down the road from our house at the Star of the Sea Centre. We met with Mr. Deslauriers, the first principal of the school, and Lizzie enrolled for grade 9 in September 2019. Another classmate from Eaton Arrowsmith, Katherine, joined Lizzie, and the two became part of the 12 graduates of the Legacy Class.

We are so grateful for the many opportunities Lizzie had during her 4 years at SJP2. The pandemic did create a few obstacles in her grade 9 year, as it did with everyone. Lizzie learned to navigate the world of online learning and Zoom meetings. It was an interesting time! What we experienced in our four years at SJP2 was that the caring and attentive staff were able to give Lizzie the support that she needed to achieve a Dogwood diploma. In grade 12, Lizzie was awarded the Cliff Annabel Scholarship for Community Service as well as the Knights of Columbus award for Community Service. We could not be prouder of Lizzie's accomplishments, and we credit the school staff for their care and help in these achievements.

An invitation to attend World Youth Day in Lisbon was a highlight. Bernadette Yuson, an English and Humanities teacher at SJP2, invited the grade 12 students to join her on the pilgrimage to WYD. Catholic Faith in action with 1.5 million young adults, sisters, and clergy. Lizzie desperately wanted to go to WYD, and I was asked to accompany as a chaperone. It was a truly life-changing experience. Being able to practice your faith with hundreds of thousands, which included the Pope, many bishops, and cardinals, as well as pilgrims from around the world, is simply amazing.

In these times where there is so much confusion and discord, it is comforting for our family that schools such as St. John Paul II Academy are still being built. A Catholic high school where the timeless teachings of Christ of kindness, love, and forgiveness are taught and practiced. St. John Paul II Academy is a wonderful school that offers a high school education with a solid Catholic base. Our family is so grateful for all of those who made this school a reality.







## How my mother ignited the flame of Social Justice

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Anne Boyle



Growing up in an Irish family, social justice was not a word we used, but it was a way of life. I am one of eight children; part of a typical Irish Catholic family. My mother instilled in us a deep sense of empathy, compassion, and a commitment to making the world a better place. We were not wealthy, but we always had enough, and that "enough" was shared. Sunday dinner was special, but in addition to my own family, I never knew who might be around the table.

In our home, diversity was not just accepted but it was celebrated. Again, I did not know this "buzzword" and it really represented the alcoholic who on his way home from the pub would come to our house for a cup of tea to wait for one of my brothers to drive him home as it was too far for him to walk. Or the lonely old woman whose family had all moved to England for work. She got Sunday dinner delivered; dinner prepared by my mother and delivered by one of my older siblings. This was "Skip the dishes" or "DoorDash" at its finest.

My mother did not shy away from political issues as we lived in a time that was known as "the Troubles" We learned about systemic injustices and the power of advocacy to create positive change. I have vivid memories of participating in a "Civil Rights March" protesting the lack of housing available to Catholic families at the young age of 13.

As I think about my childhood, I am grateful for the influences of my mother. She instilled a responsibility to work towards a more just and equitable world. These lessons have helped shape who I am today, and it is why I have been involved in social justice everywhere I have worked.

Anne Boyle

## My mother was my inspiration - Colleen Girvin

Social justice and service have always been dear to me. As a child, observing my mother, praying the rosary every day, attending daily mass, caring attentively to her own aging mother, and inviting the lonely to our home for dinner. My mother was an example of what I imagine Jesus wanted for us. He made us in his image to care for others, notice the marginalized in society and let them know Jesus is love through our actions.

We all have so much to be grateful for and sharing our blessings with others is what Christ called us to do. We may share our time, a listening ear, voice for those unheard or some basic needs. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ and if your brother or sister needs a hand, it is natural to respond. I feel very fortunate to have a group of students that feel this desire to help one another. Prayers from the community would be appreciated so that we can discern where are most needed.

God bless,  
Colleen Girvin



# St. John Paul 2 Academy continues to carry the torch

## From “Service to Advocacy”

At the beginning of this school year, Colleen Girvin and I, along with nine students, attended a two-day workshop at the John Paul 2 Pastoral Centre in Vancouver. This workshop was hosted by St. Thomas More Collegiate with the goal of guiding students along a journey from "Service to Advocacy." Additionally, it provided an opportunity for SJP2 students to connect with students from other Catholic high schools.

Since September, these students have been meeting once a month to develop a “Call to Action” plan. Moving from “service” to “advocacy” is challenging for students and it requires commitment and extreme planning. Service involves direct actions or tasks to fulfill a need while advocacy focuses on addressing root causes and systemic issues. Making the shift requires a change in thinking from immediate action to long term impact. Unlike the immediate impact of service, advocacy work requires a sustained effort and students need to be patient and persistent.

Inspired by what they learned, Grade 12 students are working on an advocacy project taking place in April and the whole school community will be invited to participate.

Making sandwiches was the inspiration behind forming a team.

Last Lent, Colleen Girvin and I started the “Sandwich” club. Every Thursday, we made sandwiches and walked around uptown White Rock to deliver them to the homeless. Lent is an ideal time to engage in acts of kindness and service to the community and making sandwiches is an expression of the Lenten values of charity and compassion.

This Lenten activity inspired us to create a Social Justice Team spearheaded by mostly Grade 10 students. We meet weekly to come up with ideas which are in keeping with our mission and vision.

“From the beginning our club exists to serve, support and understand. We aim to open our hearts to those who want to speak and hold out our hands for those people in need. We work to understand those who struggle and we are committed to advocating for people in our community who need support. We believe that no act of kindness, no matter how small it is, is ever wasted. One small action is better than none”.

Social Justice Student Team

We came together as a group because we wanted to give back to our community. We have done a variety of activities which are designed to align with the teaching of compassion, love and service to others. We collected food for the food bank, packed cookies for the street ministry in the downtown eastside, and more locally, we made cards for seniors which we delivered before Christmas. We visited the same Seniors’ Home on Shrove Tuesday where we helped them decorate cookies. We baked and packed over 60 bags of cookies for our soup kitchen diners, so we have been busy.

We braved the cold and snow flurries last Monday to deliver sandwiches. Our goal is to establish a relationship with the people we meet on the streets, and through one conversation already, we learned that they are always looking for sleeping bags. If you have any gently used sleeping bags you would like to donate, please drop off at the school office and we will distribute them.

We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus for assisting us financially with our “Sandwich Making” initiative.

Our next project will be to celebrate “Earth Day” in keeping with our Catholic Social Teaching; Care of God’s Creation and Pope Francis’s encyclical; “*Laudato Si*”. We plan to collaborate with our Student Council on this initiative.

## Social Justice Team





# Saint John Paul II Academy Golf Tournament

Save the date: May 16, 2024

Someone once stated, "Alone, we can achieve so little; together, we can achieve so much."

Welcome to the first update of our inaugural Saint John Paul II Academy Golf Tournament. This fundraising event is scheduled to take place in May at the esteemed Tsawwassen Springs Golf course, and we are thrilled to host this day in support of SJPII, its students, alumni, and the Foundation. The day will feature a delightful brunch, complimentary access to the driving range, a fantastic gift bag, 18 holes of golf, and culminate with a buffet banquet and auction.

My name is Dave Fanning, and I am delighted to be collaborating with eleven other individuals to ensure the success of this event. The team comprises representatives from the School, the Foundation, and its supporters, each bringing a wealth of community experience to the table. We officially launched the kickoff on August 24th and have been diligently planning the event. We will continue to provide updates on event announcements and milestones throughout the fall and winter.

For those interested in volunteering on event day, we will include instructions and an email address in our next newsletter update. We welcome and appreciate any extra help from volunteers, as they are crucial to the success of any community event.



If you are interested in supporting the event through a monetary or in-kind sponsorship, or would like to donate a product or service for our auction table, please reach out to Jose Vargas (Sponsorship Coordinator) via email at [sponsorships@sjp2academy.com](mailto:sponsorships@sjp2academy.com).

Thank you, and stay tuned for more updates on this thrilling SJPII community event.



Dave Fanning





# A Big Thank You to Our Sponsors!

My name is Jose Vargas and I'm a member of the organizing committee of the first Saint John Paul II Academy (SJP2) Alumni Golf Tournament on May 16th, 2024, at Tsawwassen Springs. The SJP2 Alumni association are hosting this event which is open to all alumni, parents, and friends of SJP2, and it promises to be a memorable day of golfing, networking, and giving back.

The organization of this event started in August 2024 and is led by Mr. David Fanning, a SJP2 community friend, with help from members of SJP2 foundation and society, parent community and friends of our school. The organizing committee is working hard to make this tournament a success and to reach the goal of raising \$60,000 towards this bursary at this event.



Jose Vargas

The proceeds generated from this tournament will be allocated towards supporting the Saint John Paul II Alumni financial assistance program/bursary for students and enhancement of athletic programs. This bursary helps students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership potential, and financial need to access the quality education that SJP2 offers. The athletic programs provide opportunities for students to develop their physical, mental, and social skills through various sports and activities. By participating in this tournament, you will be making a difference in the lives of many young people who aspire to achieve their full potential by benefiting from high quality Catholic education.

The golf tournament will use a shotgun start format (all groups of players tee off simultaneously from different holes). All participants will be able to enjoy the round of golf, lunch, a cocktail reception, exclusive buffet dinner, special prizes and access to the live auction. There will also be an online auction open to everyone.

This golf tournament is possible thanks to the support of sponsors who have generously contributed to the cause. Our sponsorship level is so far at 60%, but we still need more sponsors to reach our target. There is a range of sponsorship levels, which include participation in the event as well as marketing presence on our website, media releases and banners. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or know someone who might be, please visit our website for more information on the sponsorship packages and benefits or you can contact the Sponsorships team at [sponsorships@sjp2academy.com](mailto:sponsorships@sjp2academy.com)

The information about this event is available at <https://can.givergy.com/SJP2GolfTournament2024>. There you can find details on the venue, schedule, registration fees, prizes, and more. You can also register online or by sending an email to [secretary@sjp2academy.com](mailto:secretary@sjp2academy.com). The deadline for registration is May 8, 2024, so don't delay! Spots are limited and filling up fast.

I hope to see you at the Saint John Paul II Academy Alumni Golf Tournament on May 16, 2024. It will be a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends, make new ones, enjoy a beautiful day of golfing, and support a worthy cause.



# Empowering Our Future by Golfing

## Join Us in Making a Difference for Our Students and Community!



The Saint John Paul II Academy Alumni is delighted to announce a special fundraising event taking place on May 16, 2024, at the esteemed Tsawwassen Springs Golf Course in Tsawwassen. This event promises a day filled with golf, a gala auction, and social networking, all in support of Saint John Paul II's Scholarship and Bursary programs, as well as enhancing the school's special program needs.

Join us in making a difference by participating in our golf tournament. Here are the details:

- Individual Golfer with Dinner: \$350
- Foursome with Dinner: \$1200
- Dinner Only: \$100

Expect an exciting day with lots of prizes, auction items, and the satisfaction of knowing that all proceeds will go towards a worthy cause.

Your involvement in this event will directly impact the lives of students at Saint John Paul II Academy. By supporting our Scholarship and Bursary programs, you are providing deserving students with access to quality education and opportunities for growth.

To reserve your spot(s) or inquire about sponsorships, please contact Mr. Jose Vargas at [sponsorships@sjp2academy.com](mailto:sponsorships@sjp2academy.com).

Together, let's create a brighter future for our students and community. Your support is invaluable in shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

We look forward to your participation and appreciate your commitment to making a difference.



# A Big Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors for their generous support. Your contributions have played a significant role in making our event a success.

If you are interested in participating as a sponsor, we still have a few spots available. Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your support and be a part of our event.

Thank you once again to all our sponsors for your continued support and dedication.

SJP2 ALUMNI  
GOLF  
TOURNAMENT

MAY 16TH 2024



SAINT JOHN PAUL II  
ACADEMY

ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

www.sjp2academy.com

Sponsorship  
Opportunities



Cocktail Reception Sponsor: \$5,000

1 foursome, carts and 1 table for 8. Premium signage at event, premier logo recognition on promo material, special recognition at event.



NICOLA  
WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Our Passion. Your Prosperity

Hole in One Sponsor : \$4,500

1 foursome, carts and dinner. Sole signage at hole, name and logo recognition on event material, DIY promo opportunity /giveaway at hole tee box, special recognition at the event.

ANONYMOUS

Lunch Sponsor: \$3,500

1 foursome, carts and dinner. Name and logo recognition on event material, DIY promo opportunity/giveaway during lunch, special recognition at the event.

ANONYMOUS

Funds raised go towards supporting the Saint John Paul II Alumni financial assistance program/bursary for students and enhancement of athletic programs.

Sponsorship  
Opportunities



Presenting Sponsor: \$15,000

2 foursomes, carts and 2 tables for 8. Premium signage, premier logo recognition on all promo material, special recognition at all events.

ANONYMOUS

Platinum Sponsors : \$7,500

1 foursome, carts and 1 table for 8. Premium signage, logo recognition on all promo material, special recognition at all events.



Gold Sponsors : \$5,000

1 foursome, carts and dinner. Event signage, logo recognition on all promo material, recognition at all events.



Funds raised go towards supporting the Saint John Paul II Alumni financial assistance program/bursary for students and enhancement of athletic programs.

Sponsorship  
Opportunities



Special Hole Sponsor (Long/Most Accurate Drive): \$1,500

Dinner for two. Sole signage at hole, name and logo recognition on event material, DIY promo opportunity /giveaway at hole tee box, and/or prize for hole event. Special recognition at the event.



Putting Contest Sponsor \$1,500

Dinner for two. Sole signage at hole, name and logo recognition on event material, DIY promo opportunity /giveaway at the putting green, and/or prize for hole event. Special recognition at the event.



Contra or In-Kind Sponsors

Includes acknowledgement and special recognition during live auction.





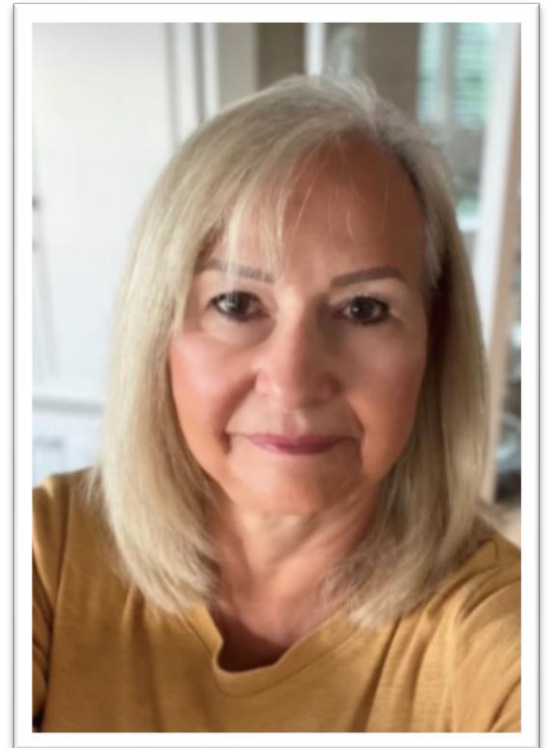
Funds raised go towards supporting the Saint John Paul II Alumni financial assistance program/bursary for students and enhancement of athletic programs.



# Royals Ball

St. John Paul II Academy is excited to announce the inaugural Royals Ball, taking place on the evening of Saturday, October 19th, 2024. This event offers a valuable tax-deductible opportunity for you to support children's education and for your organization to gain exposure to over 800 families within our school community.

This year, the funds raised at the Royals Ball will be directed towards our bursary program, which aims to assist families and children in need of tuition support. We believe that every child deserves access to quality education, and we are committed to ensuring that financial barriers do not impede their academic and personal growth.



Linda Prout

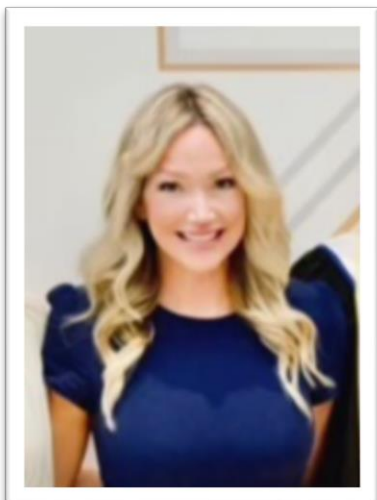
The bursary program not only covers tuition fees but also provides essentials such as lunches and school materials to those in need. Your contribution to this cause will have a profound impact on the lives of these children and their families, enabling them to thrive academically, spiritually, and personally.

We humbly request your support in raising funds for this noble cause. Your generosity will make a significant difference in the lives of these deserving individuals, empowering them to achieve their full potential and pursue their aspirations.

Our success is dependent on your support. We invite you to consider supporting us this year through one of the following tax-deductible avenues, in accordance with CRA guidelines:

- Auction Donation: Contributing item(s) or gift certificate(s) for our Live and Silent Auctions.
- Financial Sponsorship of the Gala: Please refer to the enclosed Financial Sponsorship Form.
- Gala Attendance: Save the date for October 19th, 2024, and join us at this annual Gala event.
- Refer to the attached Donation Form.

Your generosity will be acknowledged and celebrated by the 140 guests in attendance and our Saint John Paul II Academy community of 800 families. Your contribution will be recognized in the event program, as well as listed on our SJP2 website [www.sjp2academy.com](http://www.sjp2academy.com) and across all our social media platforms.



Please complete the attached Auction Donation form and Financial Sponsorship form or return the forms to the school office. For any inquiries, please reach out to us via email at [holly@sjp2gala.com](mailto:holly@sjp2gala.com).

Thank you for considering our cause and for your potential support. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of those in need.

Linda Prout [gala@sjp2gala.com](mailto:gala@sjp2gala.com)  
Holly King [holly@sjp2gala.com](mailto:holly@sjp2gala.com)

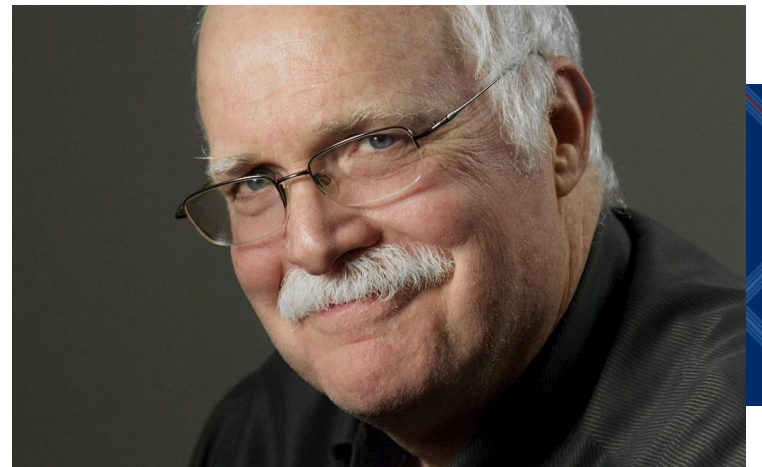
Holly King



# Comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable

For over a third of a century, City in Focus has been dedicated to nurturing the spiritual well-being of Vancouver. As the name implies, we believe that without Faith, the city is out of focus and so is one's life. It has been our vision to captivate and mobilize the business community to assist in the renewing of – and caring for – the soul of our city.

When someone asked me years ago what I do all day, I quoted the old saying “I comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.” The Province is full of people who need either one of both of these.



Tom Cooper

At the heart of our work lies a profound conviction: that every individual, regardless of their background or beliefs, deserves to experience the transformative power of compassion, conversation, and connection. Through pastoral care, philanthropy, events, publications, and initiatives, we strive to embody this conviction in all that we do.

Our chaplaincy serves as a bridge between the secular world and the eternal truths of the Christian Faith, offering support and guidance to those who walk in the secular arena of those who work in the city, lower mainland and Province. We believe in the power of shared resources and collective wisdom, harnessing the teachings and Spirit of Christ to address the diverse needs of our community.

Through our pastoral work, we provide spiritual direction and support to hundreds of individuals and families each year, connecting them with faith-based counselors and resources. Our philanthropic efforts, which have raised over \$1 million annually, support a wide range of Christian nonprofits working tirelessly to: combat issues such as child sex-trafficking and food insecurity, uplift single parents, support immigrants and refugees, create scholarships for low-income students to attend college, bolster ministries expanding social housing and more. We have helped numerous Catholic Schools build both buildings or bursaries over the years, now including the Saint John Paul II Academy building program.

We continue to convene nonprofits in addressing gospel driven goals and facilitate events that bring denominational leaders together for fellowship. We are in our 57th year hosting the BC Leadership Prayer Breakfast & Dinner which brings together over 1200 leaders from across the city and province to seek God's guidance and wisdom. (Tickets for this year's event on Eventbrite [here](#).)

City in Focus also encourages new initiatives. We co-coordinated the Christian community during the 2010 Olympics – with over 1100 churches and more than a hundred Christian nonprofits participating. We helped start Alpha in the workplace in BC. We encouraged Sanctuary to expand at the beginning of their work. We also helped start Street to Home Charity, which has helped build thousands of new homes for the unhoused and low-income community. Our publications, including a monthly blog and weekly quotes, reach thousands of individuals, offering inspiration and encouragement in their faith journey.

City in Focus began with one chaplain who had a passion for the City of Vancouver. Three decades later, as we look to the future, we remain committed as ever to providing pastoral care and meaningful support for the most vulnerable, fostering collaboration and fellowship between leaders, nonprofits and the Christian community, bringing all people together for meaningful dialogue, and supporting novel initiatives which engage the next generation of leaders and philanthropists.

If you share our passion for transforming lives and renewing the soul of the city, we invite you to join us on this journey. Sign up for our events and mailings to stay connected, and visit our website to view our Annual Report, learn more about our work and discover the ways in which you can get involved.

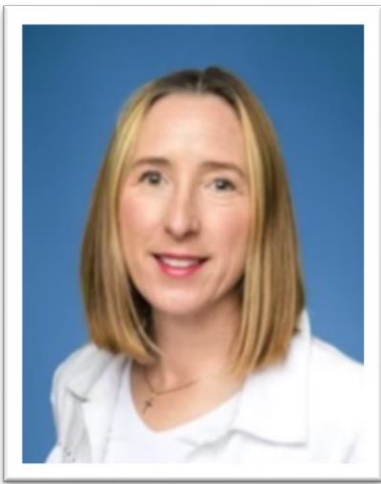
Please join us.  
Blessings,  
Tom Cooper  
Founder and President of City in Focus





# Saint John Paul II Academy: A Year of Growth and Achievement (2023-2024)

Cindy Akyuz



The 2023-2024 school year at Saint John Paul II Academy was marked by a spirit of academic excellence, extracurricular achievement, and community engagement. As a showcase of excellence in education and character development, our academy continued to uphold its commitment to nurturing the minds and hearts of our students.

### Academic Excellence:

Our dedicated faculty and staff work tirelessly to provide a rigorous and enriching academic curriculum that challenges and inspires our students. From innovative teaching methods to personalized support, they ensured that each student had the tools and resources needed to excel in their studies.

Our students completed the Gr 10 and Gr 12 Numeracy and Literacy assessments. They also competed in a diverse array of esteemed mathematical and computational competitions, such as the Canada Lynx Mathematical Competition, Canada Jay Mathematical Competition, Canadian Intermediate Math Contest, Canadian Senior Math Contest, Canadian Computing Contest, Pascal, Cayley, Fermat, SFU Coding Challenge, UBC Physics Olympics, Euclid, Fryer, Galois, Hypatia, CAP Exam (Physics), and Gauss.

### Extracurricular Enrichment:

Beyond the classroom, our students thrived in a diverse range of extracurricular activities and programs. With nine inter-collegiate sports teams, and various internal clubs in the school, our students embraced the opportunity to explore their passions and talents outside of academics.

A favorite amongst many of our students is our athletic program where we take great pride in showcasing our championship banners won by our student-athletes across a variety of sports disciplines. These banners commemorate local, divisional and one provincial championship in notable events:

- 2018/19 - SSSAA Gr 8 Boys Cross Country
- 2022/23 - SSSAA Gr 8 Girls Tier 2 Volleyball
- 2022/23 - SSSAA Jr Tier 2 Ultimate
- 2022/23 - SFAA Sr Tier 2 Ultimate
- 2022/23 - SFAA AA Tennis
- 2022/23 - SSSAA Special Olympics Track & Field
- 2023/24 - SFAA Sr Girls Surrey Cross Country
- 2023/24 - SFAA Sr Girls Cross Country
- 2023/24 - Provincial Champions Sr Girls Tier 1A Cross Country

### Community Involvement:

At the heart of Saint John Paul II Academy is a strong sense of community and service. This year the entire school came together to give back to those in need locally and globally. Fundraising events included Chalice, our volunteer projects centered around our Seniors, and our advocacy efforts , such as the Coldest Night of the Year, which supported those in need. Our academy remained dedicated to making a positive impact on the world around us.

### Celebrating Achievements:

As the school year concluded, we celebrated! We had several academic awards ceremonies, as well as our first annual Sports Banquet celebrating athletic achievements. The drama play recognized our talent for the Arts, and the year will end with our Graduation of Class 2024. We took pride in recognizing the hard work, talent, and dedication of our entire school community.

We look forward to the future with optimism and excitement. With a continued focus on academic excellence, character development, and community engagement, Saint John Paul II Academy is poised to continue its legacy of shaping young minds and hearts for years to come. And with the new school campus imminent, we hope to touch many hearts to come.







## Rick's Heart Foundation

Rick's Heart Foundation is dedicated to collaborating on life-changing initiatives led with heart for our community. Our impact can be seen in the distribution of millions of essential hygiene supplies and blankets to those in need throughout BC, providing thousands of senior's access to life-giving music in care facilities nationwide through Heart For Music, supporting like-minded organizations such as SUMS and Union Gospel Mission, the delivery of disaster supplies and emergency vehicles to over 30 countries, and more. We pride ourselves in being a diverse foundation, helping where we can, and making a significant impact in the lives of those who need it most in our communities.

The crippling impact of deep suffering in our community is overwhelming, evidenced by a growing presence of addiction, homelessness, and mental health. Emergency health services in BC report upwards of 200 calls a day related to drug overdoses. According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, approximately 17% (800,000) of British Columbians are experiencing mental illness and substance use issues. This is one of the reasons we are focused on making an impact to individuals in our community!

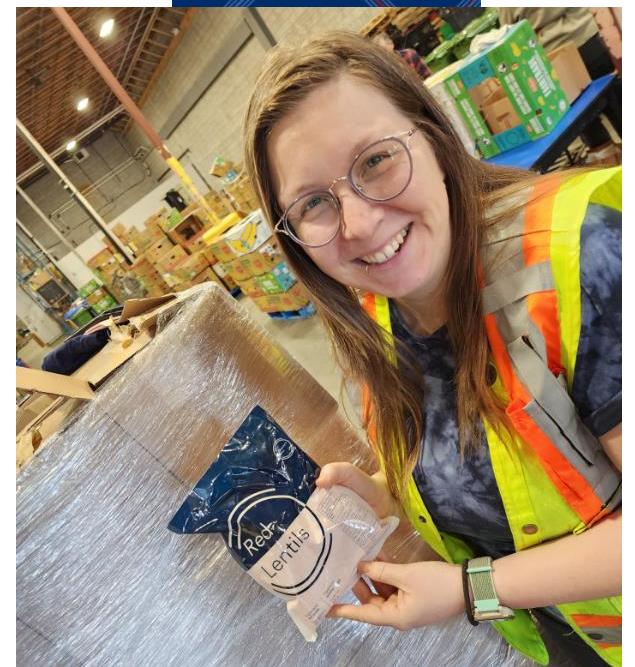
This year a new sewing program will launching with the City Dream Centre Surrey for women in recovery. This program will have a teacher to help instill the skills of sewing, practicing patience, and providing pride in their completed sewing projects. The first group of ladies will be creating quilts for their children, most of which are currently in the system until the women have completed their programs. This program will be making a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of women in recovery within the lower mainland.

Thousands of older adults in BC and throughout Canada are marginalized and isolated, leaving hard-working staff to bear the responsibility and sometimes the financial burden to provide them with life-changing therapies and care. Heart for Music helps elders in local care homes by supporting providing music accounts, individual seniors with personal headsets, speakers, and music-playing tablets, and by live music events in the summer. Music has been clinically proven to improve the lives of those living with Dementia and Alzheimer's. Listening to music that is personalized has shown to unlock cherished memories and invoke positive emotions such as joy, peacefulness, and calmness. Our focus on the health and wellbeing of our local seniors drives our mission to bring them music therapy tools and the quality of life that everyone deserves.

Join us for a night to celebrate our Heart For Music program at the Surrey Eagles game on Friday March 22, 2024 South Surrey Arena at 7:00 p.m. The night will be filled with hockey, music, and chances to win a music bundle (tablet, Bluetooth speaker, and headphones)! Come on out to show your support for seniors within your community.

Together we can build a bridge for the marginalized population through life-changing programs, community collaboration, and beyond. Learn more at [www.ricksheartfoundation.com](http://www.ricksheartfoundation.com) or @heartformusicbc.

Surrey Eagles game tickets can be purchased at <https://tickets.surreyeagles.ca/>.





## SJPII Academy Parent Association

Gabriela Nieto

In late November, the Parent Association organized a potluck dinner and Christmas cookie exchange for the SJPII Academy community. The event drew a good crowd and was filled with laughter and enjoyment. Tables were replete of delicious homemade Christmas cookies, allowing families to both indulge and take some home to share.

Troy Van Vliet, Chair of the Foundation, seized the moment to provide families with an update on the ongoing school construction and its advancements.



The Parent Association of SJPII Academy organized a Hunger Lunch on Ash Wednesday for the students and staff after the Mass. The event was held in observance of the day's solemnity and as a way to mark the beginning of Lent. The Hunger Lunch was a symbolic gesture of solidarity with those who are less fortunate and struggling with hunger. The lunch consisted of a simple meal of bread and soup, which was designed to raise awareness about the importance of fasting and abstinence during the Lenten season. The event was a great success, and it was heartening to see so many students and staff members coming together to support the cause.

SJPII Academy Parent Association is having a Spirit Wear Fundraiser. We are offering SJPII for purchase at the school office. Each cap is priced at \$20, or you can enjoy a discounted price of \$15 if you purchase more than one.

The proceeds from this fundraiser will directly support our student's extracurricular activities. Please get in touch with Mrs. Kelly at [skelly@sjp2academy.com](mailto:skelly@sjp2academy.com) if you would like to buy one.





## School's recent Athletic Achievements

Charles King



My name is Charlie King, a student of Saint John Paul II Academy, and I want to talk about our school's recent athletic achievements and success. Last fall, our schools' cross country team, coached by Mr Wilkie, had one of our best seasons yet. We won several banners and many awards were brought home.



The girls' team had an amazing season, winning titles such as the Surrey Championship, South Fraser championships, and the BC championships. Their season ended by winning a provincial title and bringing home the Girls' Single A Provincial banner. This was a major success in our student and school community and helped contribute towards our school spirit.



The boys cross country team on the other hand had a great season as well. Participating in the South Fraser Championships and the Cross Country Provincials at Crescent Park, our team did really well. Our team placed second in the South Fraser Championships for Single A Boys, and at the Provincial Championships we placed 5th. This achievement added to the atmosphere of our school spirit as well.

In the spring, students will participate in Ultimate, Track and Field, and Tennis. Our school community is ready for much more success in athletics and we look forward to the future.

Go Royals!!  
Charles King



## Student Council

With the academic year now more than halfway completed, I am pleased to share some highlights of our endeavors as the Student Council at SJPII Academy.

Throughout this school year, the Student Council has diligently worked towards fostering a community that is not only creative and vibrant but also eager to extend support to others. Our commitment to promoting kindness and creativity has been evident in various school activities, aligning with the values of Saint John Paul II.



During the Christmas season, we undertook a fundraising initiative aimed at supporting the Encompass Youth Market, a charity dedicated to helping youth in the Vancouver region access essential items. Students actively participated in this initiative, donating socks, toothbrushes, toys, and other necessities. The initiative was turned into a house competition for points. This collective effort resulted in more donations than expected. I was incredibly pleased to see the eagerness in which every student contributed to this effort.

To support student council plans, we organized a bake sale featuring delicious treats like brownies, cinnamon buns, and rice crispy squares. The generated profits will contribute to ensuring the success of future planned events in the 2024 year, including the Spring formal taking place in late May.

Complementing our Christmas fundraising activities were team-building competitions to strengthen the bonds within advisory groups. In the final week before winter break, students participated in a gingerbread house competition and the traditional SJPII Academy door decorating contest. The latter involved advisory groups decorating their advisory room doors with art supplies, and because a pizza lunch was on the line as the winners' prize, no one held back their talents.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past months, the Student Council is filled with excitement for the future. Our dedication remains steadfast in making the halls of Saint John Paul II Academy a space where everyone feels accepted and welcome. As the academic year progresses, I am committed to continuing our efforts to pave a path of virtue and charity for all.

Sincerely,  
Oliver Watt  
President, SJPII Academy Student Council



## SAINT JOHN PAUL II

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*“The future starts today, not tomorrow”*





# Do it anyway!

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you.

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight.

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God.

It was never between you and them anyway.

**Mother Teresa**

