

SAINT JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION

WINTER 2024 EDITION

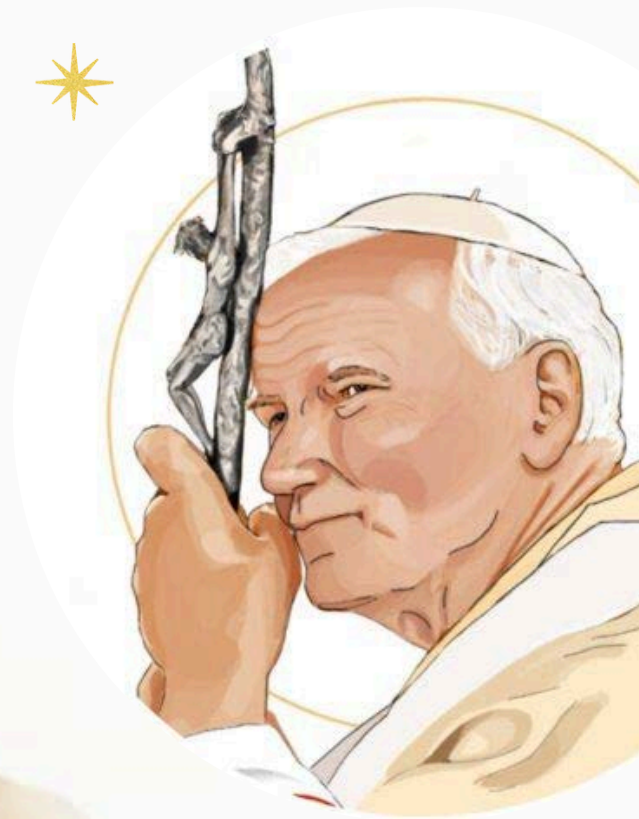
"If we celebrate with such solemnity the birth of Jesus, it is to bear witness that every human being is somebody unique and unrepeatable... somebody thought of and chosen from eternity, someone called and identified by his own name. It is as it was with the first man, Adam. It is as it was with the new Adam, born of the Virgin Mary in the cave at Bethlehem: 'You shall call his name Jesus.'"

St. John Paul II



Happy New Year

FROM SAINT JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2024

Archbishop Miller

Dear friends of the St. John Paul II Academy:
“I bring you good news of a great joy $\frac{1}{4}$ for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:10-11).

In the Angel's message to the shepherds, we hear proclaimed the Good News that the Son of God has come to dwell among us. He made Himself a small and defenceless Infant, so that we could understand him, love him and welcome Him into our hearts and into our families, our homes and our community.



Jesus came among us as a Baby, defenceless and in need of our help. He asks for our love: so he makes himself a Child. God has truly become Emmanuel, God-with-us.

He wants nothing other from us than our love. In the Infant lying in the manger, God has shown the meaning of true love, a love which is selfless and wants only the good of others.

Take time to pause before the Crib at home or at school, and let God's tenderness and peace envelope you. Do not keep this joy of Christmas for yourselves, but invite others to share it.

Tell them of Christ's wondrous Birth and invite them to draw near to God in friendship. Tell them that He is stretching out His hand to them in welcome. Tell them that Jesus wants to be their companion along the paths of their life.

May the Newborn Prince of Peace bring joy to the community of the St. John Paul II Academy that welcomes Him with open arms!

+ J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2024

Father Augustine Obiwumma

Each year during Advent, we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The story of Jesus birth is one we tell over and over every Christmas. We sing carols about the kings, the shepherds and the angels. The stories are sometimes beautiful and often fun, but sometimes they get us away from the meaning of Christmas.

Jesus, the most important human being ever to walk the earth, the “Son of God, “, was born in a smelly, unsanitary barn among the cows, chickens and sheep, and his parents were pretty ordinary folks. What’s the point of the story? The point is that Jesus was, in a deep and mysterious way, both a human being and also God—not half-God and half-human, but completely God and completely human. This is why it’s called the greatest love story ever told. God comes to us not with a bang, but with the cry of a child. Our God comes to us as a human being: needful, vulnerable and open to suffering because He loves us. All of this our God becomes because He wants us to love Him in return. No doubt there are easier ways He could have done this. But our God doesn’t want cheap grace or superficial love. He gives and expects the real thing.



The wonder and awe of Christmas is that God wants to be born in each one of us. He wants to set up an abode in our hearts. God wants to dwell in the very core of our being. The great gift of Christmas is the gift of God’s very Self, in love, to each of us. That’s why Christmas is a season of great joy!

Let’s go forth “Glorifying and praising God for the gift of His Beloved Son, Jesus. Let the gift of Christmas be given year round. Let the light of this day be kept burning brightly within us. Let the life we celebrate at Christmas be our hope and source of eternal life.

Father Augustine



DEAR SAINT JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY COMMUNITY

As we gather to celebrate this blessed Christmas season, may the light of Christ fill your hearts with joy, peace, and love. This time of year reminds us of the incredible gift of our Savior, who came into the world to bring hope and salvation to all.

Let us embrace the spirit of giving and share the love of Christ with one another, reflecting His light in our actions and words. May your homes be filled with laughter, warmth, and the joy of family and friends as we celebrate the miracle of His birth.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with blessings, grace, and the continued growth of our faith community.

In Christ's love,

Troy Van Vliet
Chair Saint John Paul II Foundation.



Mr. Troy Van Vliet



THE POWER OF GRATITUDE: CELEBRATING OUR SUPPORTERS AND COMMUNITY

In a world that often feels divided and chaotic, the beauty of our school shines brightly, illuminated by the unwavering support of our community. As we reflect on our journey, it is essential to express our heartfelt gratitude to those who stand by us—our supporters, families, and friends. Your commitment to our mission not only enriches our school but also profoundly impacts the lives of our students.

At the heart of our educational philosophy is the concept of servant leadership. We believe that true leadership is not about authority or power; rather, it is about serving others with humility and compassion. This principle is woven into the fabric of our school culture, and it is a lesson we are dedicated to imparting to our students. Through various programs and initiatives, we teach our young leaders the importance of giving back, fostering a sense of responsibility towards their peers and the broader community.

Our supporters play a crucial role in this mission. Your generosity—whether through time, resources, or encouragement—creates an environment where our students can thrive. Each contribution, no matter how small, helps us cultivate a nurturing space where children can learn, grow, and develop into compassionate leaders. We are grateful for the countless hours you dedicate to volunteering, the financial support you provide, and the encouragement you offer to our students and staff alike.

Your belief in our vision fuels our passion and commitment to excellence.

The beauty of our school lies not only in its academic achievements but also in the strong sense of community that we have built together. We are proud to be part of a network of individuals who share a common goal: to raise children who are not only knowledgeable but also kind, empathetic, and socially responsible. This community of servant leaders is a testament to the values we hold dear, and it is a source of inspiration for our students.

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In our school, we celebrate the achievements of our students, but we also recognize the importance of gratitude. We teach our children to appreciate the support they receive and to understand the impact of their actions on others. By instilling these values, we are preparing them to be not only successful individuals but also responsible citizens who contribute positively to society.



Ms. Silveria Roselli



As we look to the future, we remain committed to our mission of fostering servant leadership within our school community. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and the potential for our students to become agents of change in the world. With your continued support, we can provide them with the tools they need to succeed and the values they need to lead with integrity.

In closing, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all our supporters. Your unwavering commitment to our school and its mission is invaluable. Together, let us continue to inspire our students to embrace the principles of servant leadership and to spread love and goodness throughout the world. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Silveria Roselli

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

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- Vincent Tighe
- Werner & Helga Hoing Foundation
- Werner Spangehl
- William King
- Willoughby Doctors of Optometry
- Willy Van Vliet



ANNOUNCEMENT: LAUNCH OF NEW PODCAST

SAINT JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY

Saint John Paul II Academy is thrilled to announce the launch of its new podcast, "Catholic Education Matters," presented by the Saint John Paul II Academy Foundation. This initiative is designed to evangelize and showcase the beauty of Catholic education, inspiring our community, parents, students, and educators alike. By emphasizing excellence in all aspects of education and athletics, the podcast will highlight the transformative power of Catholic values in shaping character and community.

The inaugural episode will feature the esteemed Archbishop Michael Miller, a pivotal figure in the establishment of Saint John Paul II Academy and a passionate advocate for Catholic education. Hosted by Troy Van Vliet and produced by Silveria Roselli, "Catholic Education Matters" will explore the incredible journey of Catholic education, rooted in timeless virtues and values that shape our future leaders.

This podcast serves several compelling purposes that will engage and involve everyone in our community:

1. Building Community Connections: "Catholic Education Matters" aims to foster a sense of belonging among all stakeholders—donors, parents, students, and teachers. By sharing stories and insights from various community members, the podcast will create a platform for dialogue and connection,

reinforcing the idea that we are all part of a larger mission to support Catholic education.

2. Highlighting the Impact of Donors: The podcast will feature segments dedicated to recognizing the invaluable contributions of our donors. By showcasing how their support directly impacts the lives of students and the quality of education at Saint John Paul II Academy, we aim to inspire continued investment in our mission. Donors will hear firsthand accounts of how their generosity transforms the educational experience and fosters a culture of excellence.

3. Empowering Parents and Families: Parents play a crucial role in the success of Catholic education. The podcast will provide them with insights into the values and teachings that underpin our curriculum, equipping them to reinforce these principles at home. By discussing topics such as the importance of character development and community involvement, we will empower parents to actively participate in their children's educational journey.

4. Engaging Students: Students will be invited to share their experiences and perspectives on the podcast, giving them a voice in the conversation about their education. This engagement will not only empower students but also inspire their peers to take an active role in their learning and community service. By highlighting student achievements and initiatives, we will showcase the vibrant life at Saint John Paul II Academy.



Catholic Education Matters
Silveria Roselli



5. Inspiring Educators: The podcast will serve as a resource for teachers, offering them insights into best practices, innovative teaching methods, and the integration of Catholic values in the classroom.

By featuring discussions with educators and thought leaders in Catholic education, we will provide professional development opportunities that enhance their teaching and enrich the student experience.

6. Encouraging Community Involvement: Each episode will include a call to action, inviting listeners to engage with local schools, attend events, and discover the incredible opportunities available for their children.

By fostering a culture of involvement, we aim to strengthen the ties between the Academy and the broader community, ensuring that everyone feels invested in the mission of Catholic education.

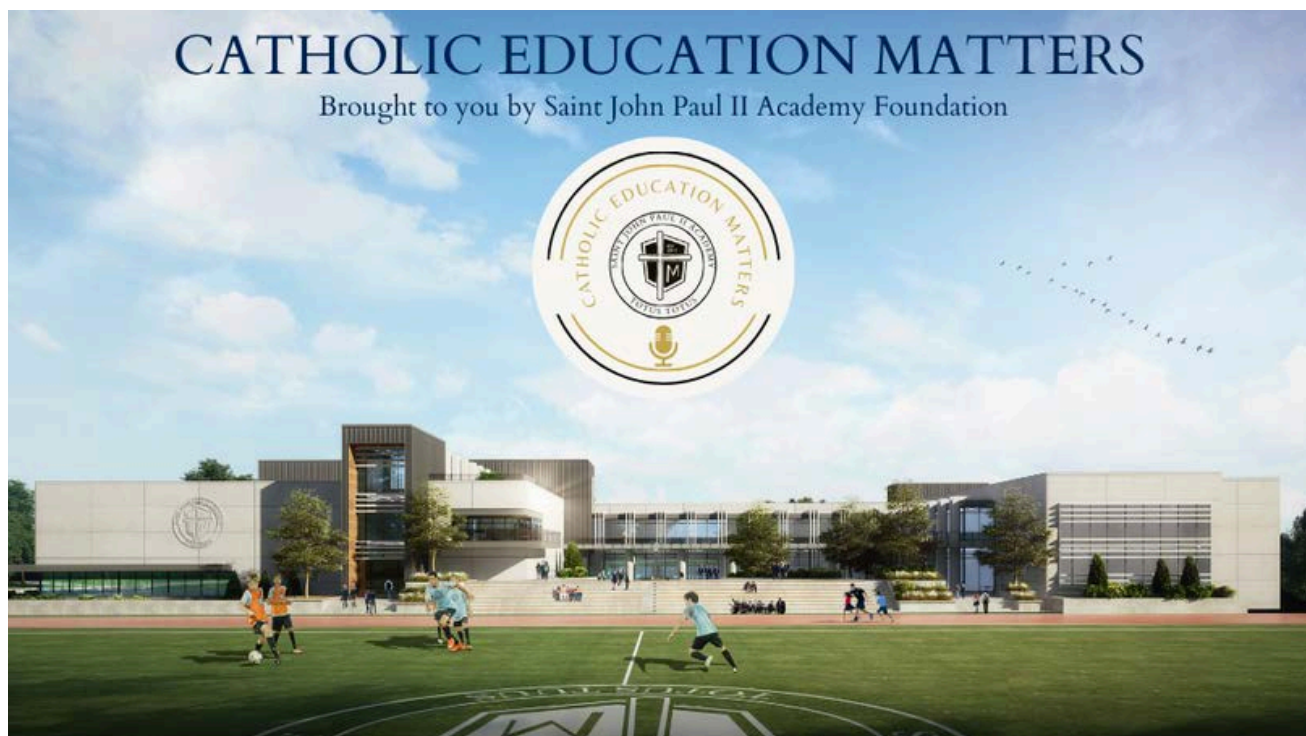
In summary, "Catholic Education Matters" is more than just a podcast; it is a community-building initiative that seeks to unite all stakeholders in the mission of Catholic education. By sharing stories, insights, and discussions that resonate with our diverse audience, we will inspire a renewed commitment to the values and virtues that define our Academy.

Join us for this exciting launch and subscribe to "Catholic Education Matters" for inspiring stories and discussions that celebrate the mission of Catholic education. .

Together, let us nurture the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—as we embark on this journey of faith and learning.



Mr. Troy Van Vliet
Host: Catholic Education Matters



WHY CATHOLIC EDUCATION MATTERS

A CONVERSATION WITH ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL MILLER

What makes a thriving Catholic School? Discover the inspiring journey of building St. John Paul II Academy, as Archbishop J. Michael Miller and host, Troy Van Vliet discuss the vision, challenges, and triumphs. From shaping values and faith to fostering servant leaders, this episode highlights the transformative power of Catholic education and its role in preparing students for both academic success and a life of purpose.



CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATE

READY TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER! APPLY EARLY! APPT NOW!



Scan it to know more about the New Campus's progres!



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IN MEMORY OF MR. KEN PROUT

It is with great sadness that we honor the passing of Mr. Ken Prout, one of the founding members of the St. John Paul II Academy Foundation Board. Ken was a visionary leader whose deep faith in God and unwavering commitment to Catholic education were instrumental in the establishment and growth of our school community.

As one of the original members of the Foundation Board, Ken played a pivotal role in recruiting students and families, helping to lay the foundation for the thriving academy we have today. His passion for education and belief in the transformative power of faith-based learning inspired countless individuals, leaving an indelible mark on the heart of our community.



Ken was much more than a leader—he was a devoted husband, father, and friend to many. Often affectionately referred to as “Coach Ken,” he found immense joy in mentoring young athletes and watching his grandchildren excel in sports. Following his retirement, Ken pursued new adventures, learning to speak Italian and traveling frequently to Italy, where he delighted in practicing the language and embracing the culture.

Ken’s kindness, generosity, and servant-hearted nature defined his life. Whether helping others in need, cherishing time with his extended family, or sharing stories from his childhood in Winnipeg, Ken lived every moment with love and gratitude. He was a loyal Kellogg employee for nearly 40 years, respected by his peers in the food industry, and deeply valued for the friendships he formed along the way.

Ken’s legacy of faith, service, and devotion will remain a guiding light for the St. John Paul II Academy and all who were privileged to know him. His impact on our school and community is immeasurable, and his memory will be cherished forever.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends and pray for the repose of his soul. May he rest in eternal peace with our Lord.

With gratitude and prayers,
The Foundation Board and Community of
St. John Paul II Academy

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dear Brothers in Faith,

The KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS calls upon all practical Catholic men to join the ranks of 2 Million men of faith, charity, & service as members of the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world. Are you ready to take action and make a lasting impact within your home, your church, and your community?

Our common bond is the transformative power of JESUS CHRIST as we help one another become better husbands, better fathers, better providers, and better citizens - models of outstanding character, virtue and integrity. Make your family proud. Charity is the primary impetus of the Knights of Columbus. We are men like yourself, men who get things done - disciples within our own homes, our parish, and within our community. We are a charity that evangelizes.



Our recent 'Coats for Kids' provincial campaign has provided hundreds of warm winter coats to children of local Ukrainian refugees and single-parent homes. We have invested thousands of dollars annually into local youth programs, directly benefiting your children and grandchildren - school bursaries & scholarships, support to Cubs & Scouts, and incentives to vital school programs.

We accomplish these worthy feats through fundraising - bottle recycling, chipping Christmas trees, selling Grocery Cards, raffles, and proceeds from our monthly Flea Market.

Every nickel counts. KofC Internationally has collectively donated \$823 Million to worthy causes over the past 5 years.

Volunteer leadership positions await you within our parish and our community, all according to one's interests & aptitudes. Flipping pancakes, facilitating parking, administrative work & banking, outreach to the sick & underprivileged, event planning, even setting up tables - we all get involved, each investing just 3 hours per month. Together we get things done.

The Knights of Columbus fellowship maintains a system of support to our Priests, our Parish, and to each other. We are a brotherhood. We are well aware of the financial devastation that can befall a family that loses their breadwinner, one of our brother Knights. We have a solution.

We equip all our new members with the virtues of the Catholic faith. For more information, kindly consider contacting one of us that you see at work within the parish, or our worthy Grand Knight - Dan Seibel D.p.Seibel@shaw.ca



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - WHITE ROCK
STAR OF THE SEA (SOS) COUNCIL #7015
2024-25 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)
(1) HAROLD MALZER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY
(2) DAN SEIBEL / GRAND KNIGHT
(3) FR FRANCIS MALLA / CHAPLAIN
(4) GLENN BROOKS / DEPUTY-GRAND KNIGHT

BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT)
(1) KARL FRANZI / OUTSIDE GUARD
(2) BILL DEBIUK / RECORDER
(3) GARRY DEAUST / TRUSTEE - 3 YEAR
(4) RAY GARDNER / INSIDE GUARD
(5) BRIAN HOVEN / TRUSTEE - 1 YEAR
(6) NEIL YALOWSKY / TREASURER
(7) STUART DONALD / TRUSTEE - 2 YEAR

MISSING
RON JOHNSTON / ADVOCATE
CHRIS FORMOSA / WARDEN



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA

With over 100 years of core values of faith, service, and social justice, the Catholic Women's League of Canada (CWL) is often associated with providing parish volunteer support for bake sales, women's retreats, summer teas, or lunches. CWL has a deep, rich history of women supporting women in faith, human rights resolutions, and charitable fundraising and outreach.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. The Objects of the League unite the Catholic women of Canada:

- To achieve individual and collective spiritual development
- To promote the teachings of the Catholic church
- To exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life
- To protect the sanctity of human life
- To enhance the role of women in church and society
- To recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere
- To uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world
- To contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony.

History of CWL

The Catholic Women's League of Canada was organized nationally on June 17, 1920, and granted federal incorporation on December 12, 1923. The League is officially recognized by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) as a lay association of women and is affiliated with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), a worldwide federation holding

membership in the conference of International Catholic Organizations (ICO) and having consultative status with agencies of the United Nations.

Bellelles Guerin was elected the first president of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Bellelles's role in the League was recognized in 1922 at a meeting of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues in Rome, where she became the first woman in Canada to receive the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal. She said, "I hold the honour as belonging to every individual member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada."

What are the key activities in CWL today?

Every year, over 1,200 CWL councils across Canada host a variety of activities such as retreats, educational workshops, environmental initiatives, making lunches for the homeless, bake sales, arts and craft fairs, bringing in speakers on relevant topics impacting Catholics, seniors support, bursaries for Catholic students, and the list goes on. At a National level, CWL hosts an annual convention where representatives from across Canada come together to develop their faith, to learn best practices to forward Councils in their initiatives, and to meet like minded Catholic women often forming lifelong friendships.

Faith is the cornerstone of the core values of CWL, with each Council meeting devoting time to both practicing the Catholic faith as well as it's League members' continued development. With an annual calendar of events which is as varied as its members, you would be surprised how many initiatives CWL is actively involved in or supports monthly – locally, in the archdiocese, at a provincial level, and nationally. Our local fundraising initiatives support both parish and Catholic charities and non-profits such as Chalice Canada and Domestic Abuse Service – OLGCS (DAS).



Who is a typical CWL member?

Our membership is as vast as the country of Canada! CWL has members from all walks of life: Nurses, teachers, doctors, school principals, stay at home mom's, care givers, entrepreneurs, managers – the League is rich in talent and variety of skills. CWL members are a mosaic of women inclusive of all ages and cultures. To be a member, a Catholic woman must be 16 years old or older to join. A member can be as active as she is able to be whether she has a passion to write resolutions, prepare lunches for the homeless, organize a tree planting or clean up a beach for her community, or serve as an executive member on her Council (or beyond).

CWL supports education

At a National level, CWL has a National Bursary Fund for its members. In 1988, the League received two generous donations in response to the call for lay formation in Pope John Paul II's Exhortation, *Christifideles Laici*. Considering the expressed desire of the League to encourage members' service "For God and Canada," the national executive agreed by motion that these donations be used to establish a bursary fund. The bursary fund is used to provide financial assistance to CWL members needing it to pursue studies, courses, seminars, conferences, workshops and diploma/degree programs that align with and promote the Objects of the CWL.

At the local level, CWL Councils have offered annual scholarships, bursaries, donations to local schools - elementary, secondary and post secondary institutions.

High schools such as Holy Cross and Saint John Paul II Academy have both been recipients of CWL's fundraising efforts for many years.

The Future and CWL

CWL is active in the present and looks to the future with enthusiasm. For more than 100 years, members have been making a difference locally, nationally and even internationally as a member of World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations. We will continue to support educational efforts wherever it is required.

Power is the ability to influence the course of events. Catholic Women's League resolutions have changed lives. CWL meets with government and influences laws, stands up for social justice and speaks up for those who do not have a voice. Many of the laws and privileges we as Canadians have been due to the continued efforts of CWL.

The future needs active, talented women in an ever changing world – make sure you are in, ladies.

Interested to learn more about CWL or become a member? Visit our website at www.cwl.ca. Contact your local parish office if you wish to become a member of your parish council.



ST. JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION NEWS



Dear Saint John Paul II Academy Community,

As we gather to celebrate the joyous season of Christmas, the Foundation extends its warmest greetings to each of you. This sacred time reminds us of the profound love and hope brought into the world through the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

May the light of Christ fill your hearts and homes with peace, joy, and love. Let us embrace the spirit of giving and compassion, reflecting the teachings of our faith in all that we do. As a community, we are blessed to share in the journey of faith and education, inspired by the legacy of Saint John Paul II.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with grace and abundant blessings.

In Christ's love,

Saint John Paul II Foundation Board

CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON AT CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK WITH RICK'S HEART FOUNDATION

As the holiday season approached, the warmth of community and the spirit of giving came alive at the Rotary's annual Christmas in the Park event. This year, Rick's Heart Foundation were thrilled to partner with the talented students of Saint John Paul II Academy, who played a significant role in enhancing our celebration and creating lasting memories for families and friends in our community.

The Christmas in the Park event, held on December 8th, was a delightful experience for attendees of all ages. Our Christmas Tree theme for this year's festivities, "Joy, Love, & Hope," perfectly captured the essence of the season.

Families enjoyed meeting Santa Claus, who spread cheer and joy, and explored an enchanting igloo filled with twinkling lights that transported everyone into a winter wonderland. Additionally, twelve interactive stations designed specifically for children sparked their creativity and imagination throughout the day.

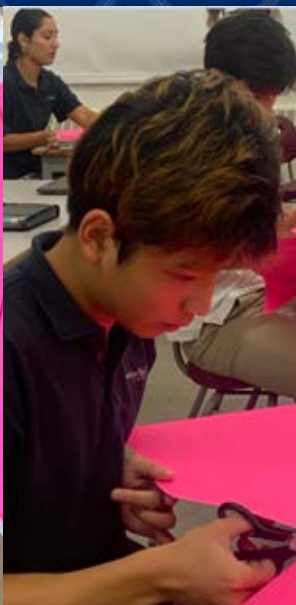
A highlight of this year's event was the magnificent 12-foot "Tree of Hope and Love," a powerful symbol of our commitment to community and compassion. The tree was beautifully adorned with handmade ornaments crafted by the students of Saint John Paul II Academy and Mrs. Anne Boyle, reflecting the creativity and spirit of our youth. These ornaments featured hearts in pink and purple, representing Rick Diamond's heart. In a heartfelt tribute, the tree honored individuals in recovery and those who have tragically lost their lives to addiction.

As we celebrated Christmas in the Park, we rejoiced in the spirit of the season and the power of community. This magical experience allowed us to create cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

God bless,

Rick's Heart Foundation



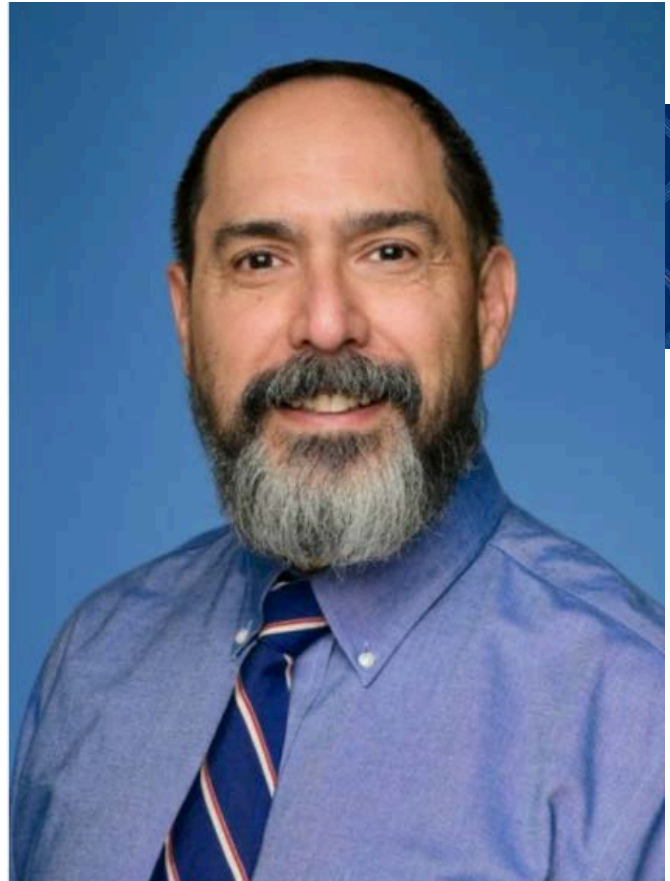


EMPOWERING HEARTS AND MINDS AT SAINT JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY

Pope John Paul II came to Vancouver in September of 1984. I had just started Grade 11 at the Seminary of Christ the King. As a new seminarian I found myself with the group leading the rosary for those waiting overnight at Abbotsford Airport. The next day, at the Papal Mass, I was in the front row! Fast forward to the summer of 2016... I had the chance to visit the Pope's homeland. I went with my son (who was then a seminarian himself) to Poland for World Youth Day. I walked Krakow's streets thinking about the Pope and eating a lot of those cream cake desserts he loved. With millions of other people, I saw his world, read his words, and praised God for the gift of Karol Wojtyla.

My meetings with him continued to deepen. In 2017, my family visited the Abbey of St. Walburga in Colorado. There we held the sleeves of the Pope's cassock! The sisters treasure this incredible relic: a visible reminder of the man himself. Seeing him and visiting his homeland, expanded to holding what he held. I felt his presence like I had not so far. It was another step closer to him.

Then in 2018 I was hired as one of the first teachers at the CISVA's newest high school: St. John Paul II Academy. Now, I share with my students what was given to me by the Pope: to 'Be not afraid', and to go out into the world and live the new evangelization. My personal and professional meetings with St. John Paul have converged at school. What was a day in 1984 became a daily reality now.



"What makes any of my encounters with Pope John Paul II so amazing is that they are always Providential moments of grace that God gives to me as a gift for that time in my life. I often reflect back on these experiences and am so grateful for the opportunity to 'cross paths' with such a great saint.

With Joy and Prayers,
Anthony Walter
Humanities/Career Education

COMPASSION IN ACTION

REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

What is a charism? In essence, it is a gift from God to be used for the benefit of others. What are your charisms? This was something we explored in our Christian Education class several weeks ago. The charism that we all had in common was the gift of service. I feel incredibly privileged to live out this charism each week, alongside my colleague, Mrs. Girvin, and three dedicated students. Together, we prepare and deliver sandwiches and drinks to those who are marginalized, struggling with addiction, battling alcoholism, or experiencing homelessness. These simple acts of kindness not only meet basic needs but also remind those we serve that they are seen, valued, and loved.

Our weekly visits uptown are a time for more than just delivering food; they're an opportunity to build connections, offer smiles, and listen to the stories of those we encounter. Inspired by Christ's call to care for the least among us; "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me"(Matthew 25:35), our group strives to bring warmth and compassion to those facing difficult times.

We know many of the people we meet by name and although they may not always need food, they look forward to our visits. It is how we treat them that makes them feel that they are loved.



This fall, our group extended its efforts by organizing Socktober, a drive to collect socks, gloves, hats and Halloween candy. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we were able to provide much-needed warmth to those who are unhoused.

As this goes to print, our next action is to help decorate a Christmas tree with purple and pink hearts to remember all those who lost their lives to addiction. The hearts were made by Grade 12 students last week and will be ready to hang on November 29th. The hearts are to support the Rick's Heart Foundation.

Outreach and Advocacy Team
Alejandra, Annika, Olivia (Gr. 11 students)
Sponsors: Anne Boyle and Colleen Girvin



SAINT JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY

GOLF TOURNAMENT

It is with great excitement that I share this first official update on our 2nd Annual Saint John Paul II Academy Golf Tournament, which is scheduled to take place on May [15], 2025 at the fantastic Tsawwassen Springs Golf Course. Last years' inaugural event was a smashing success, and we hope to carry that momentum forward this year.

This fundraising event is open to all alumni, parents, friends and supporters of SJP2 and promises to be a fun-filled day of golfing and community building while helping to raise critical funds to support our school. Proceeds generated from the tournament will be allocated towards supporting the SJP2 Alumni financial assistance / bursary program for students and the enhancement of athletic programs. The bursary program helps students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership potential, and financial need to access the quality education that SJP2 offers. Our athletic programs provide opportunities for students to develop their physical, mental and social skills through participation in a wide array of sports and activities. By participating in this tournament you will be directly helping young students who might not otherwise have the means achieve their full potential through a high quality Catholic education.

The event itself will feature an included lunch, 18 holes of golf (Texas scramble format with a shotgun start) followed by a cocktail reception, exclusive buffet dinner, prizes and both live and silent auctions.

We held our initial kickoff call last week to begin planning the event, with an organizing committee comprised of members of the Saint John Paul II Academy Foundation and Society Boards as well as other local supporters of the school. Of course, we could always use more help, so if you have interest in joining our committee or otherwise assisting on the event day itself, please reach out to me directly (dwatt@rbgglobal.com). We will continue to provide updates and further event announcements over the coming months.

If you are interested in supporting the event through a monetary or in-kind sponsorship, or wish to donate a product or service for our auction, please reach out to Silveria Roselli via email at silveria@sjp2foundation.com.

Thank you, and stay tuned for future updates on this wonderful SJP2 community event!



Darren Watt
Chair, Saint John Paul II
Alumni Golf Tournament



SAINT JOHN PAUL II
FOUNDATION

SJP2 ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 15TH 2025



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.sjp2academy.com



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



Signature Hole Sponsors : \$3,000

1 foursome, carts and dinner. 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.

Passport & Registration Sponsor: \$1,500

Registration desk signage at event, Pre-golf event signage, logo recognition on passport material, recognition at event.

Regular Hole Sponsor: \$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.

Special Hole Sponsor (KP) : \$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.

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.

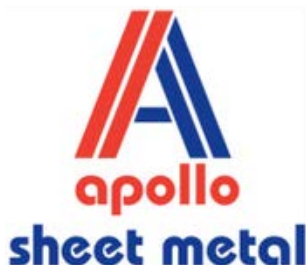
Contra or In-Kind Sponsors

Includes acknowledgement and special recognition during live auction.



THANKS TO OUR LAST YEAR'S SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor:
**FRIEND OF
ST JOHN PAUL ACADEMY FAMILY**



REFLECTIONS FROM A PROUD STUDENT OF SAINT JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY

As I stand here in my final year of high school, I am filled with gratitude, nostalgia, and excitement for what lies ahead. Over the past five years as a proud student of Saint John Paul II Academy, I often reflect on my early days here. The warm welcome from teachers and older students made my transition from elementary school to high school seamless, making me feel as though I had always belonged.

Saint John Paul II Academy has been more than just a place of learning; it has been a second home, a faith-filled community, and a transformative space that has shaped me in countless ways. I have grown into the person I am today because I was encouraged to express myself, gaining confidence not only in my successes but also in my mistakes, knowing I would always receive guidance and support to help me find the right path.

Though we may be a small school, we are rich in faith, heart, and spirit. At the core of our community lies a shared commitment to our Catholic values, which guide our interactions, help us face challenges, and inspire us to make a difference. Whether through morning prayers, school Masses, or acts of service, our faith is the thread that binds us together and gives meaning to all that we do.

This sense of unity is evident in the vibrant events that characterize our school life. Every play, game, and fundraiser has been met with unwavering support from our community.

However, it is not just the turnout that makes these events memorable; it is the spirit of kindness and encouragement rooted in our shared faith that truly makes our school unique.

The teachers at Saint John Paul II Academy are not just educators; they are mentors who have taught us to lead with compassion, seek justice, and strive for excellence. Their dedication to our academic and spiritual growth is a gift I will always treasure. Here, you are not just another student; you are an individual whose unique needs are met with genuine care and commitment.

As I prepare to embark on the next chapter of my life, I am reminded that this community has given me more than just knowledge. It has instilled in me a strong faith, enduring values, and a deep sense of belonging—gifts I will carry with pride wherever I go.

God bless, and Totus Tuus!



Issa Cole

A BEACON OF FAITH AND TRUTH

SAINT JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY'S ROLE IN TODAY'S SOCIETY

In a recent gathering to support Saint John Paul II Academy, the community came together to celebrate and reaffirm our commitment to the school's core values and mission. This event highlighted the dedication of the Royals Ball team, volunteers, priests, staff, and students, whose efforts were crucial in making the evening a success.

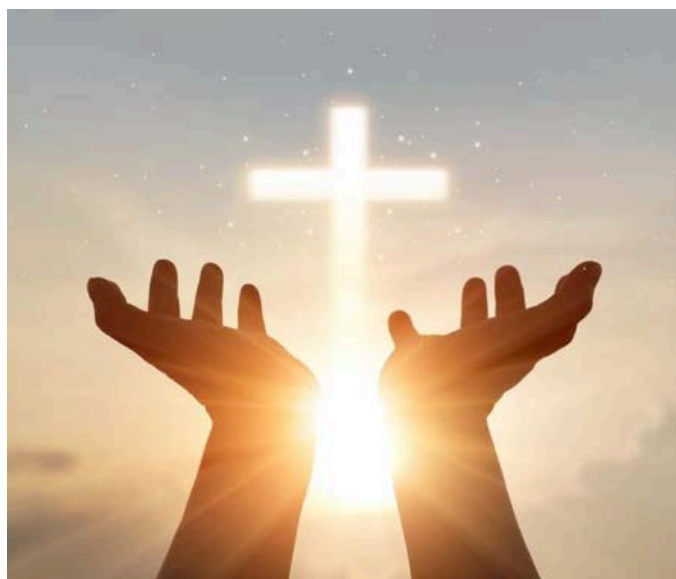
Reflecting on the importance of education, the words of Pope Benedict XVI from his 2008 document, "The Urgent Task of Educating Young People," remain profoundly relevant. He emphasized the importance of nurturing the younger generations, recognizing that the future of our world depends on them. He stressed the need for guiding them to discern good from evil and ensuring their well-being, both physically and morally.

Today, these insights are as pertinent as ever. The educational landscape has shifted significantly, moving away from its roots in traditional Judeo-Christian morality and the concept of objective truth. This shift has introduced challenges, as lawmakers and educators increasingly adopt a progressive curriculum that often conflicts with Christian values. This change has led to confusion regarding fundamental questions about life's meaning, personal responsibility, and ethical behaviour.

We are witnessing a range of societal issues, including the breakdown of families, declining marriage rates, and an alarming trend of increasing censorship that stifles free speech and the pursuit of truth.

In this challenging context, Saint John Paul II Academy stands as a beacon of faith and truth, providing a refuge from the aggressive secular culture that often permeates modern education.

The academy inspires its students to lead meaningful lives grounded in the knowledge of God and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Importantly, the school welcomes not only Catholics but individuals of all faiths who share a commitment to eternal truths, such as the significance of family, the importance of serving one's neighbor, and the sanctity of life.



Through the rich tradition of Catholic education, which emphasizes the harmony of faith and reason, Saint John Paul II Academy offers a comprehensive worldview that integrates spiritual and intellectual development. The curriculum is designed to cultivate critical thinking, moral integrity, and a deep commitment to the common good. This holistic approach prepares young men and women to engage thoughtfully and compassionately with the world around them, equipping them to become responsible leaders and active participants in their communities.

The support of the community is vital to the academy's mission. The presence of attendees at the gathering, along with their contributions to the Bursary Fund, ensures that every student who seeks an education rooted in the Catholic tradition can access it, regardless of their economic circumstances. This commitment to inclusivity reflects the academy's belief that a quality education should be available to all who desire it.

As we look to the future, the continued support of the community will be essential in fostering an environment where students can thrive academically, spiritually, and morally. Together, we can ensure that Saint John Paul II Academy remains a place where faith and education intersect, nurturing the next generation of leaders who will carry forward the values we hold dear.



Dr. Joseph King
Chair Society Board



SJPII OPEN HOUSE

My name is Gareth Kwan, and I am president of the student council at SJP2.

This open house is an opportunity for us to showcase what makes our school so special and unique.

As a student who has been attending SJP2 since Grade 8, I can confidently say that it is not just a place of education but it is a place to build connections, explore our passions, and prepare us for life.

First, let's begin with our teachers. The teachers at our school are the glue that holds everybody together. Since grade 8, I've always felt that the school has done a very good job of having everyone's voice be heard. One way that this is evident is school sports. In any sport that is played, anyone that wishes to try out, regardless of your skill, is accepted onto the team.

For example: last year, the majority of grade 9, 10, 11, and 12 played ultimate and the junior blue team and senior team got close to winning banners. This was only possible because of the hard work and passion of the teachers. Unlike many schools, our teachers are also our coaches for sports, which is great for student-teacher relationships because students can interact with teachers in an environment that is not the classroom.

Another great thing about our school is daily life. The minute you arrive at school, Mrs. Bernett is there to greet you and give you a warm welcome to start your day, and if you pass by a teacher on the way to your locker, they will give you a hello. These things all play a huge part in building a great community and developing relationships.



But most importantly, our faith. To use myself as an example, I came here from a family that is not Catholic hoping for a good education, which I received. Although more importantly, from spending time with people who are catholic and the Christian Ed classes that I have been in for all 4 years of my high school education, it has guided me to the light of Christ and am now hoping to be baptised in the spring. This is an example of how being immersed in a Catholic school can change your life.

I would like to conclude with a quote from our patron saint;

"Catholic education aims not only to communicate facts but also to transmit a coherent, comprehensive vision of life, in the conviction that the truths contained in that vision liberate students in the most profound meaning of human freedom."

— Pope John Paul II

I look forward to having many of you as my fellow students!

Thanks, Gareth Kwan



STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

When tasked with writing this article, our first thought was, where do we start? We have come together weekly and planned activities. We have demonstrated leadership and a commitment to make our school a welcoming place.

Even before the year started, we met as a team to create welcome packages for our new cohort of Grade 8 students. Each Grade 8 was presented with a “goodie bag” that contained items like smarties: a sweet treat to remind them that they are “smart” and capable of success. An eraser; a reminder that mistakes are part of learning and that every student has the opportunity to try again.



September included our second annual Terry Fox Run, and we were excited to exceed our fundraising goal of \$1000. We were so grateful to the many generous donations from our parents. The combined Grade 8 / 9 advisory raised the most and were rewarded with a pizza lunch.

In October, we helped with the Halloween Assembly and encouraged students to participate in the costume parade. In addition to the assembly, we had planned to organize a Halloween-themed social event for students. However, due to a teacher Pro-D Day falling on the planned date, we were unable to host this get-together.

In November, we led the school's Remembrance Day assembly. This solemn and reflective event honored the sacrifices of those who have served in the armed forces. The assembly was both respectful and impactful. At our well attended Open House event on November 21, our student council president and communications representative both spoke very eloquently and passionately about their experiences at SJP2 Academy and the many opportunities available at our school.

Finally, we are in the throes of organising our inaugural; “Snow Ball” schedule for Friday, December 13. This winter-themed event promises to bring the school community together for an evening of celebration and connection as we head into the Christmas season.

Student Council 2024-2025

THE CELEBRATION OF THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE

On a Saturday in early December 1531, an indigenous man named Juan Diego was traveling very early in the morning from his village to Mexico City to attend his catechism classes and hear Holy Mass. When he reached the hill called Tepeyac, dawn was breaking, and he heard a voice calling him by his name. Juanito, Juan Diego.

He ascended to the summit and saw a Lady of incomparable beauty, her garment radiating as brightly as the sun. She spoke to him with gentle and gracious words, saying, "Juanito, the smallest of my children, I am the ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of the true God, through whom we live. I deeply desire that a temple be built here for me, so I may show and pour out all my love, compassion, assistance, and protection upon all the people of this land and all those who call upon me and trust in me. Go to the Lord Bishop and tell him I wish for a temple to be built on this plain. Go, and give your full effort to this task."

On his way back to his village, Juan Diego encountered the Virgin of Guadalupe again and explained what had happened. The Virgin asked him to go again the next day to speak to the bishop and repeat the message. This time, after hearing Juan Diego, the bishop told him to go and ask the Lady for a sign to prove that she was the Mother of God and that it was her will to have the temple built. On his return, Juan Diego found Our Virgin of Guadalupe again and told her what had occurred.



The image of the Virgin of Guadalupe is venerated in Mexico with great devotion, and the miracles obtained by those who pray to the Virgin of Guadalupe are extraordinary.

The Virgin told him to go back the next day to the same place, as she would give him the sign there. The next day, Juan Diego couldn't return to the hill because his uncle, Juan Bernardino, was very ill. Early in the morning on December 12, Juan Diego hurried to find a priest for his uncle, as he was dying. When he arrived at the place where he was to meet the Lady, he decided to take another path to avoid her. Suddenly Our Lady of Guadalupe came to meet him and asked where he was going.

Embarrassed, the man explained what was happening. The Virgin told Juan Diego not to worry, that his uncle would not die and that he was already healed. Then Juan Diego asked for the sign that he should take to the bishop. Our Lady of Guadalupe told him to climb to the top of the hill where he found fresh Castilian roses. She told him to gather as many as he could and take them to the bishop, placing them in his tilma (cloak).



Once before Bishop Zumárraga, Juan Diego unfolded his cloak, and the roses fell to the ground.

On the tilma was painted what is now known as the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Seeing this, the bishop took the holy image to the Major Church and built a shrine at the place indicated by the Indian.

Pope Pius X proclaimed her "Patroness of all Latin America," Pope Pius XI of all the "Americas," Pope Pius XII called her "Empress of the Americas," and Pope John XXIII called her "The Celestial Missionary of the New World" and "Mother of the Americas."



WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE SAINT JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The SJP2A works in conjunction with the school's administration to support the mission and the vision of the school, and to promote the cooperation between our families and the school. By being a parent in the school, you are already a part of our association.

We encourage all our parents and families to participate and get involved with our events and programs to support our students, teachers and school members.

We are excited to mention a few of our next events coming up for this year:

- Our "Virgen de Guadalupe" event is coming up in December. Join us in celebration.
- Save the date! Pub night coming late February. Inviting all the school community and friends to have a fun night out at the pub, tickets will include dinner and a drink, more information coming closer to the date.

Need to reach us? You can email any of us with suggestions, requests, information, or whatever comes to mind! parentassociation@sjp2academy.com

- President - Silvia Cardenas papresident@sjp2academy.com
- Treasurer - Piotr Manjusz patreasurer@sjp2academy.com
- Secretary - Samantha Watts pasecretary@sjp2academy.com



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

My life has been massively shaped by my experiences at SJPII Academy, and many foundational memories I have are from being an athlete at the school. As a homeschooled kid, I had relatively low experience with sports when I joined as a Grade 8 in 2020. My first year at SJPII was during the COVID pandemic, and it was the merit of being at a school with a student size smaller than a “cohort”, that I was able to begin my journey into high-school athletics while other schools’ athletic programs were put on hold. There was one major problem: competing against other schools’ teams was made impossible due to the pandemic, but our students wanted to participate in competitive sports. To solve the problem, the staff created an intramural system, dividing the students into three equal teams which would compete in various sports throughout the school year, and it was through this system that I discovered my passion for athletics.

My fundamental appreciation of teamwork, commitment, leadership, comradery, and tenacity has been deeply rooted in my experiences with the athletics program. Having been a member of the cross country, volleyball, basketball, ultimate frisbee, and track teams, I have had countless opportunities to develop not only physical abilities, but virtues as well. These virtues will continue guiding me as I move on to the next stage in my life.



SJPII Academy’s perseverance in athletics has always been inspiring to me. I find it incredible that a school consisting of less than 80 students can punch far above their weight and compete on an equal field against schools more than ten times our size. This is not any fluke, and I can testify that the tremendous commitment by every athlete, coach, and parent has been the key to our success. I know many athletes in our school who, like me, had little to no athletic experience when joining one of SJPII Academy’s sports teams. Those people had the courage to put themselves out there to fill the bench when others wouldn’t, and they have my deep respect. It is because of their courage that our school has seen such success. As I look forward to the rest of the athletic calendar, I also look back on what my teammates and I have achieved with a sense of accomplishment. We went into this knowing it would be tough and would try to bring us down, and we came out victorious.

Ollie Watts



OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN ALL AREAS



Andrea Barnett
Principal



Susan Kelly
Secretary



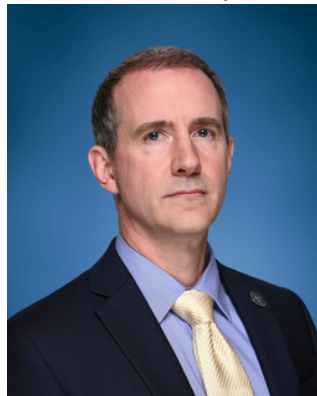
Anne Boyle
Modern Languages



Ellen McCadden
Education Assistant



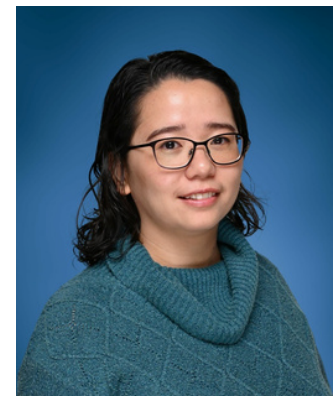
Mark Wilkie
Science



Dr. Vincent Tighe
Science/Math



Alfred Dela Cruz
Mathematics + Physical Education



Bernadette Yuson
Humanities



Colleen Girvin
Educational Assistant



Rita Hernandez
Educational Assistant



Morgan O'Flynn
Educational Assistant



Manuela Heleno
Educational Assistant



Jessica Kelly
Humanities/Fine & Performing Arts



Cindy Akyuz
*Science, Math
Athletic Director*



Aleli Perez
*Learning Support
Services Coordinator*



Anthony Walters
*Humanities/Career
Education*



ROYALS VARSITY ATHLETICS

Our Royals athletic program is thriving this fall, with 4 volleyball teams and Jr and Sr Cross Country student-athletes.

Our Gr 8 Girls finished 2nd in their league, and placed 2nd in the playoffs beating out the #1 team in North Surrey. The team of seven student athletes ranked 2nd out of sixteen teams in South Fraser. We are so excited to see what happens over the next four years of girls volleyball at SJP2! Thank you to Coach Walters for all of his efforts.

Our Sr Girls Volleyball team finished their season in Tier 3 volleyball with a huge Halloween Tournament where they won Best Costume as Princesses and Prince Charming! We are sad to see Issa Roa-Cole and Mary Ruvalcaba play their final volleyball game with SJP2 but can't wait to wish them well at our year-end Athletics Banquet. Thank you to Coach Mallette for all her hard work this year!

Our Varsity Sr Boys Volleyball team placed first in the league, but opted to play up and try for the Tier 1A banner, where they received silver medals. Of special note was our Captain Torin Roa-Cole and our MVPs Torin Roa-Cole and Matthias Dee. Sadly, we say goodbye to our 5 graduating players: Matthias Dee, Colin Fung, Daniel Lushi, Alberto Preto, and Oliver Watt but look forward to many years of boys volleyball! Way to go Coach Dela Cruz!

Our Gr 8 Boys team has had a full season this year, with nine boys on the roster! Although every game was close, we didn't make the finals in the playoffs. The foundation is set though, as we continue to foster boys volleyball at SJP2.

Last but certainly not last, our Varsity Cross Country team slugged it out in 4 South Fraser races this year, with ALL twelve student athletes qualifying for provincials! It was muddy, it was rainy, and it was fun! We are so proud of all them and look forward to many years of running. Great work Coach Wilkie!

As fall athletics come to a close, we are amping up for the winter term of basketball. Of special note is our upcoming Gr 6 Elementary School Basketball Tournament. Stay tuned for more Royals Athletics.

Cindy Akyuz,
Athletics Director.



OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS

Dear Faithful Donors,
We hope this letter finds you in good spirits and blessed with God's grace. We are writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support towards the construction of our new Our Lady of the Mountains Church. Your kindness and commitment to our community have enabled us to make significant progress toward our goal of creating a sacred space where we can worship, grow, and serve together.

As we near the end of the first year of construction, we have encountered several challenges resulting in cost overruns. Three key factors have contributed to these increased costs. Despite a year of research with geotechnical and structural engineers, we encountered unexpected subsurface conditions that increased the cost of installing the pilings and foundation. Timber framing has required additional ancillary framing and a consequent increase in material and labor costs. Finally, the price volatility of construction materials during this period has driven up the cost of essential building materials such as cement and lumber.

Thanks to the selfless giving of our parishioners and benefactors like you, we have raised a very impressive \$5.2 million. To complete the construction of the church we will need an additional \$1.5 million. This brings our new fundraising goal to \$6.7 million.



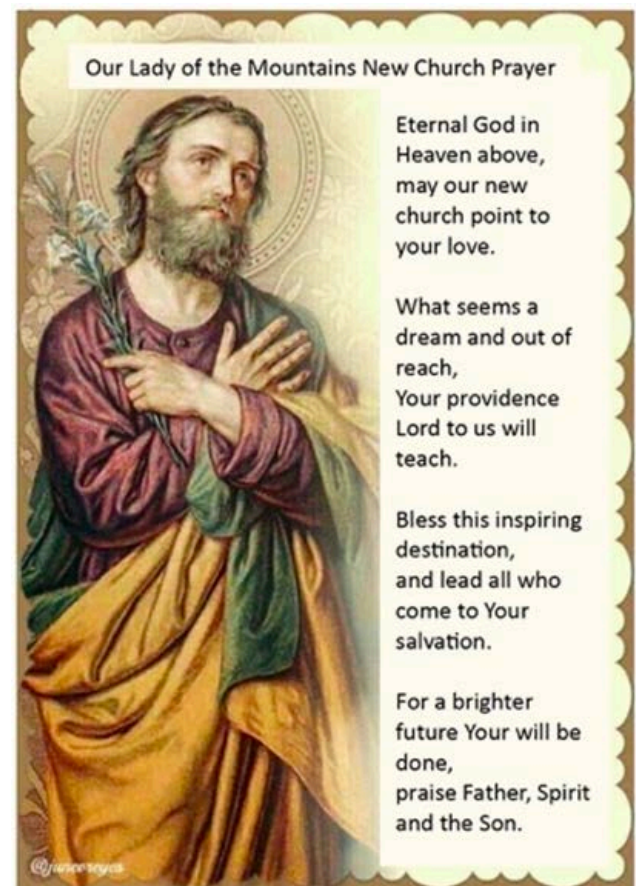
We realize this is a major increase and are very confident we can and will raise the extra funds with help from our donors and the Holy Spirit. We understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and have exhausted all options before reaching out to our valued donors for additional support.

We humbly ask you to prayerfully consider making an additional donation to help us meet these new financial needs. Your support, once again, will enable us to create a space that glorifies God and serves as a spiritual home for generations to come. Every gift, no matter the size, will bring us closer to finishing the work we've begun together.

If you are able to make an additional donation, please visit our website at <https://whistlercatholicchurch.ca/new-church-pledge-form> to complete a pledge form. If you would like to discuss any specific donation opportunities, feel free to contact me directly on my cell: 778-257-4203.

I deeply appreciate your ongoing commitment to our parish and look forward to welcoming you into our new church once it is complete.

May God bless you for your kindness and support,
Yours in Christ's service,
Fr. Andrew L'Heureux



Our Lady of the Mountains Campaign Pledge Form

I would like to help build the new Our Lady of the Mountains Church, a home for the Catholic faith in Whistler that will strengthen and enrich our community.

Name:

Address:

City:

Province: Post code:

Phone:

Email:

Donation Details:

☐ One-time gift

I/We wish to contribute a total of \$

☐ Instalments

I/We wish to contribute a total of \$

over a period of one year

Frequency: Monthly ☐ 1st or ☐ 15th

Bi-monthly ☐ 1st AND 15th

Periodic (Specify)

Payments may be made by:

☐ Cash

☐ Cheque Payable to: Our Lady of the Mountains

☐ E-transfer to: whistlercatholicchurch@telus.net

☐ PayPal • Use QR code overleaf

☐ Pre-Authorised Debit/ATF • We will contact you

☐ Gift of Securities • We will contact you

Please mail or drop off your completed form to:

Our Lady of the Mountains Parish

6299 Lorimer Rd, Whistler, BC, V8E 0C5

Scan QR code overleaf for PayPal or pledge form

Our Lady of the Mountains values your generosity.

Thank you for your gift. Tax receipt(s) for your gift will be issued in February of the following year under Registered Charity No. BN 106880073RR 0033.

<https://whistlercatholicchurch.ca>



www.whistlercatholicchurch.ca

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS NEW CHURCH PROJECT

WHISTLER, BC



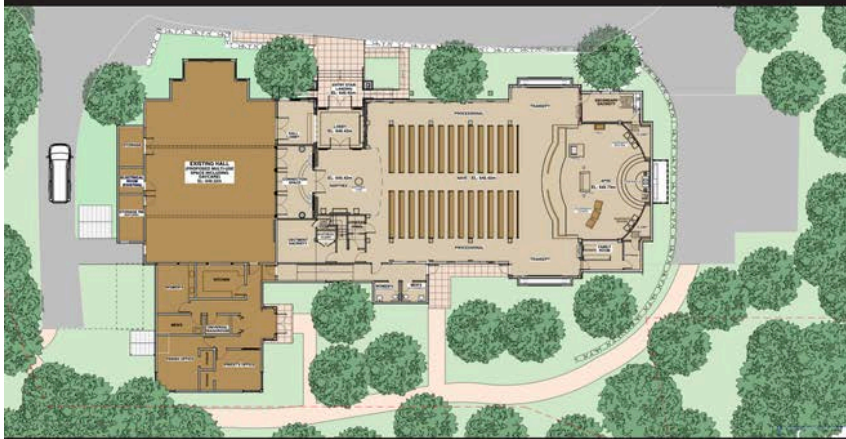
New Church Pledge Form

Pledge Forms in support of building the new church are available via this QR code and at:

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SAINT JOHN PAUL II ACADEMY

FALL 2025



UNLOCKING POTENTIAL: AN OVERVIEW OF “SUPERHABITS”

by Andrew V. Abela, PhD

In a world that often feels chaotic and overwhelming, the quest for personal growth and effective habits has never been more relevant. Enter “Superhabits” by Andrew V. Abela, PhD—a transformative guide that not only offers practical strategies for cultivating powerful habits but also aligns beautifully with the values and mission of the Saint John Paul II Academy. This book is a must-read for anyone seeking to enhance their personal and spiritual lives through the development of habits that reflect our Catholic faith.

The Essence of Superhabits

“Superhabits” delves into the science of habit formation, presenting a compelling framework that empowers individuals to create lasting change. Dr. Abela introduces readers to the concept of “superhabits”—those extraordinary habits that lead to exceptional results. Unlike ordinary habits, which can be fleeting and easily abandoned, superhabits are designed to be sustainable and transformative, fostering a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

The book is structured around a clear and actionable methodology, guiding readers through the process of identifying, developing, and maintaining these superhabits. Dr. Abela emphasizes the importance of aligning habits with one’s core values and beliefs, making it particularly resonant for those of us who strive to live out our Catholic faith in our daily lives.

Aligning with Catholic Values

At the Saint John Paul II Academy, we are committed to nurturing the whole person—mind, body, and spirit. “Superhabits” echoes this mission by encouraging readers to cultivate habits that not only enhance their academic and professional lives but also deepen their spiritual journeys. The book emphasizes virtues such as discipline, perseverance, and integrity, which are foundational to both personal success and our Catholic teachings.

Dr. Abela’s insights into the power of community and accountability also resonate with our Saint John Paul Academy’s values. He highlights the importance of surrounding oneself with supportive individuals who share similar goals and values. This aligns perfectly with our commitment to fostering a strong sense of community among students, parents, and educators at Saint John Paul II Academy.

Practical Strategies for Lasting Change

One of the standout features of “Superhabits” is its practical approach. Dr. Abela provides readers with actionable steps to implement superhabits in their lives, making the process accessible and achievable. From setting clear intentions to tracking progress and celebrating small victories, the book offers a roadmap for success that anyone can follow.

Moreover, the emphasis on reflection and mindfulness encourages readers to pause and consider how their habits align with their faith and values. This introspective approach is essential for anyone looking to grow spiritually and personally, making “Superhabits” a valuable resource for our academy community.

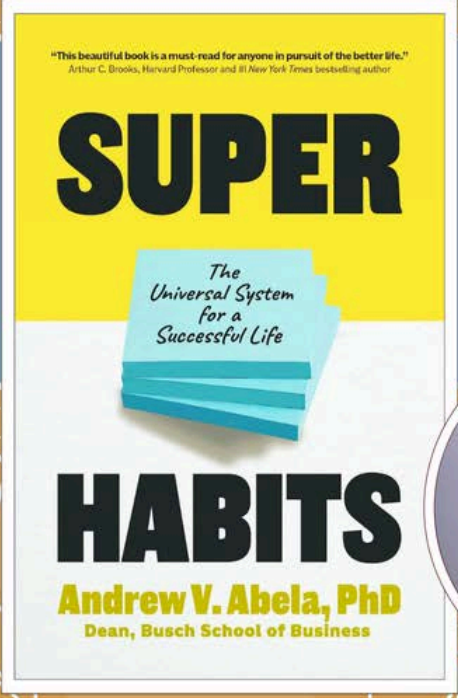


Encouragement to Purchase

As we strive to embody the principles of Catholic education at the Saint John Paul II Academy, we wholeheartedly encourage our community to explore “Superhabits” by Andrew V. Abela, PhD. This book is not just a guide to personal development; it is a call to action for those who wish to live more intentionally and authentically in alignment with their faith.

By investing in this book, you are not only equipping yourself with the tools for personal growth but also reinforcing the values that we hold dear at our academy. Let us embrace the journey of cultivating superhabits that reflect our commitment to excellence, service, and faith.

“Superhabits” is more than just a book; it is an invitation to transform your life and deepen your relationship with God and others. Join us in this journey of growth and discovery—purchase your copy today and unlock the potential within you!



SUPER

This beautiful book is a must-read for anyone in pursuit of the better life.
Arthur C. Brooks, Harvard Professor and *NY Times* bestselling author

The Universal System for a Successful Life

HABITS

Andrew V. Abela, PhD
Dean, Busch School of Business

SUPERHABITS

DEAN ANDREW V. ABELA, PH.D.
October 24, 2024 | 6:00 PM EDT



CIC

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JOY TO THE WORLD?

CITY IN FOCUS

This is the season of Christmas carols. Many of us have little knowledge of the words we are hearing, singing or humming So, I decided to look at and apply more personally the meaning of one of the more popular carols.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King,
The global economy is struggling, there is war on every continent, and millions of people in this world are dying of hunger and illness. My first thought is a question: is there anything to be joyful about? More personally, my middle son, Matthew, just left for 6 months as a volunteer at an orphanage in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. I miss him and I worry about him. He may be experiencing the joy of helping others but I am grieving his absence.

Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing...

There are logistics, the arrival of relatives, the buying of presents, the obligations of the social calendar and the demands of a busy household all added to working extra long hours in the Christmas season. Making room and opening my heart to Jesus seem both essential and particularly hard amidst December's demands.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains; repeat the sounding joy...

I have to admit that this idea, that the Baby Jesus is the Savior, begins to comfort me. I certainly can see numerous areas in my life where I need support, love, assistance, and saving! According to the words, even all of Nature celebrates! I think if I really understood this I would probably join a choir (if one would have me).

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.

This is good advice for me. My sins and sorrows at times drive me to random attempts at denial, helplessness or guilt. Jesus can help me in all of this and I am thus drawn to Him. This is encouraging and way better than worrying.

He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found...

I often feel undeservedly blessed by God. Only God could embrace, love, forgive, understand and accept me. I get glimmers of it from my family and dear friends, but the big Resource of endless flowing love and blessings into every area of my life and world affected by sin and pain (examples of the "curse") is Jesus.



He rules the world with truth and grace,
I, like all humans, occasionally avoid the truth.
I deny, ignore or procrastinate on my
financial situation, my health, my kids'
struggles or even the omnipresence of my
getting older. So the fact that someone
knows the truth about me is both comforting
and unnerving Yet, God brings grace with
Him into all these areas.

And makes the nations prove the glories of
His righteousness, and wonders of His love..
This love is the secret to Christmas.
Understanding this love generates joy. God
sends Jesus as our loving Savior and offers all
of us His grace and peace. This is a joyous gift
both for us personally and for the nations.



At Christmas all of us can apply our own
stories to this carol. We sometimes find
ourselves struggling to discover and feel this
elusive joy and love. It's not always clear and
yet at Christmas, it is often made clearer.
Though we all have reasons for sadness and
have legitimate pressures in life, the free gift
of Christmas is to remember Jesus alone is
the reason for this Season. For God so loved
the world that He gave his only son..." John
3:16.

We can give ourselves pleasure and at times
make ourselves happy but joy is a gift from
God. Each of us needs unconditional love and
joy, and in the birth and life of Jesus we find
it. That's worth singing about!

Merry Christmas,



CITY IN FOCUS



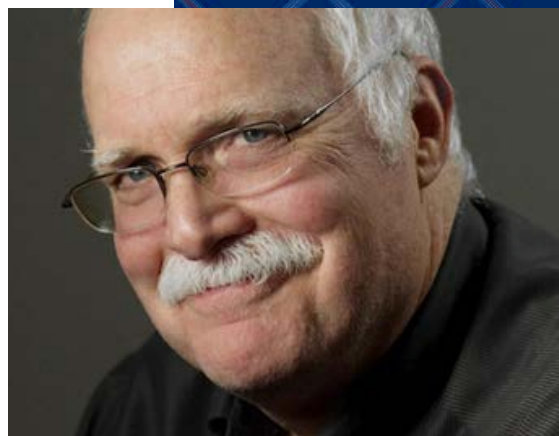
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Tom Cooper
Founder and President

OUR LADY OF COMBERMERE-MADONNA HOUSE

THE MIRACLES BEHIND THE TITLE

Our Lady of Combermere is the patroness of Madonna House Apostolate (MH) based in Combermere, ON. MH has a field house in Vancouver since December 2002. This is a short story of the miracles that took place so that we could officially pray to Our Lady of Combermere under this particular title.

The foundress of MH, Catherine Doherty had a childlike way to pray to Our Lady by connecting her to a concrete place. This connection to place matters as God was incarnated in history in time and in a particular place. The doors thus opened to all Christians to incarnate the Gospel in the everyday. Catherine would find herself cooking and praying to the mother of God under the title of Our Lady of the Kitchen or planting seeds and ask the help of Our Lady of the Gardens. It was only natural for her to organically pray to Our Lady of Combermere.

A miracle was granted to a woman who attended the MH summer school in 1956. She joyously wrote to Catherine Doherty to say that her private prayer intention to Our Lady of Combermere was granted. She desired to show her thanks by paying for a life-size outdoor statue under this title.

Upon making inquiries with the local Bishop of Pembroke, Most Rev. William J. Smith at the time,

the community were informed that the appeal to use an official title must be made to the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome. Bishop Smith offered to write a letter to the Congregation. He also asked that the community not collect any funds from the woman until the approval. These terms were followed.

The Community expected a long wait of perhaps a couple of years. The second miracle is that the approval arrived in 2 months! Bishop Smith informed MH that the Congregation asked him as the local Bishop to approve the title and a statue as he saw fit. The statue was created by a Californian sculptor named Frances Rich whose work of the Questing Madonna appealed to the whole community. The community was amazed that the sculptor waived her artist fees. The money from the woman whose prayers were answered covered the bronze casting in Florence, Italy.

The statue was brought over from Italy and then put on a train. On April 26th 1960, the statue arrived at in Barry's Bay, ON a short drive from Combermere. It was hoisted onto a three thousand pounds cement base on May 17th, the Anniversary of Foundation of MH. Bishop Smith blessed the statue on June 8th, 1960 which the community recognizes as the feast day of Our Lady of Combermere.



A few years later, Catherine Doherty was in Rome. On a hot day, she sat down to cool off by a city fountain when a young priest sat next to her. He noticed that her lanyard identified her as someone from the Diocese of Pembroke, ON. He told her that as a young priest serving in the Congregation of Sacred Rites, he had made an error by placing the wrong set of files on top of the Cardinal's desk for review. In that set was included a request for approval of a Title and a statue for Our Lady of Combermere!

By Lisa Diniz

(<https://madonnahouse.org/portfolio/madonna-house-vancouver-bc/>)

Reference – Our Lady of Combermere booklet published by Madonna House Publications.



THE ROYALS BALL



Royals Ball Gratitude



Our theme for this Royals Ball Publication is **GRATITUDE**. We extend a heartfelt Thank you to our wonderful supporters, our Royals Ball raised over \$110,000.00 because of YOU!

Having just celebrated Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day recently, we find ourselves in a reflective space as we enter the Advent Season, looking back on the year and preparing our hearts and souls for the sacred day of Jesus' Birth and the Christmas Ecumenical Season.

THE ROYALS BALL



THE ROYALS BALL

Giving of self and supporting noble causes such as helping us provide a faith based Catholic education to our youth offers us a unique and fulfilling opportunity to serve others in a very tangible and beneficial way.

We'd like to recognize the entire team who all had a huge role in making this event such a success, whether their efforts were evident to our Royals Ball guests or not.

There was just as much happening behind the scenes as there was a beautiful evening for guests to enjoy! Our tech and financial teams were just incredible working countless hours setting up Givergy, lighting, slide shows and creating and printing all materials. Our team consisted of current and alumni parents, future school families, parishioners, board members and grandparents. Please join me for a massive thank you to our Royals Ball Committee Members for their many months of hard work and sacrifice that went into making our ball such a success.



A collage of 18 individual portraits of people of various ages and ethnicities, arranged in a grid-like fashion. The portraits are of different sizes and are set against various backgrounds, some solid and some patterned. The individuals are smiling or looking directly at the camera. The collage includes: a woman with long blonde hair; a woman with short blonde hair; a woman with long dark hair; a woman with long dark hair; a woman with long blonde hair; a woman with short dark hair; a woman with long blonde hair; a woman with short blonde hair; a woman with long dark hair; a woman with long blonde hair; a woman with long dark hair; a woman with long blonde hair; a woman with long dark hair; a woman with long blonde hair; a woman with long dark hair; a woman with long blonde hair; a woman with long dark hair; a woman with long blonde hair.

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