

DECEMBER 2021

CAMPUS
Connections

SAINT JOHN PAUL II
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Message From The Regional Director

Dear Families and Friends,

Happy Advent! Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." We are reminded to "be awake!" Stay alert and do not miss the opportunity to help someone in need at home, at school, at church or on the street. Be kind to people, especially the poor, homeless, hungry and the immigrant families in our neighborhood and at our Academy. Perform generous acts of kindness for others.

In December, Catholics have two days dedicated to the Virgin Mary. December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation, a Catholic feast celebrating Mary's conception without sin. Mary has always been a model of faithfulness, prayer, and strength for Catholics. She has appeared to many pilgrims over the centuries and always calls us to follow her son, Jesus. In the Latino culture, December 12th is the Feast of Lady Guadalupe. The Virgin Mary appeared to an Aztec peasant, Juan Diego, three times in Mexico City. The Virgin Mary is not only the patroness of Mexico, but she is the Empress of the Americas. This month as we prepare for the birth of Jesus, we can look to Mary to call us closer to God through her example of her life and love for God.



Just a reminder to parents and guardians that grades K2-8 will be testing with MAP in January. This testing helps our teachers to continue to craft lessons that help each student. Please prepare your child each day with breakfast, a good nights sleep and make sure they on time for school.

At the end of January, we will begin our registration season for new families and re-enrollment for our current students. All families will do this online through the SJP2CA student information systems at FACTS Management. Details to follow in a separate email. Tuition accounts must be up to date in order to apply for financial aid and re-register. Any families facing financial difficulties, please reach out to your campus principal or our business office at 617-265-0019.

Another reminder that inclement weather is coming. SJP2CA will notify parents through our FACTS Parent Alert System and the following TV stations: WCVB, WHDH, WBZ NBC 10 and FOX 25. Please update any new email addresses or phone numbers in the RENWEB/FACTS parent portal.

On behalf of our Board, faculty, and staff, we wish you and your loved ones a blessed Advent and Christmas.

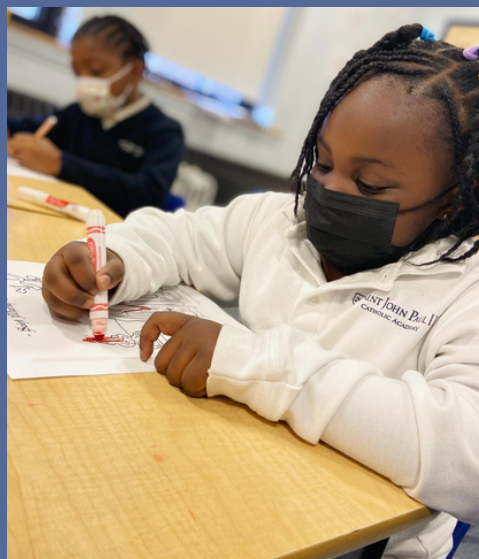
God bless,

Kate Brandley, Regional Director

Dear God, our world is in darkness and we need your light of peace and love to shine for us. You gave us that light through your Son, Jesus. Please help us to prepare our hearts and homes to receive the one who came to bring us hope. Help us to shine our lights!

Lower Mills News

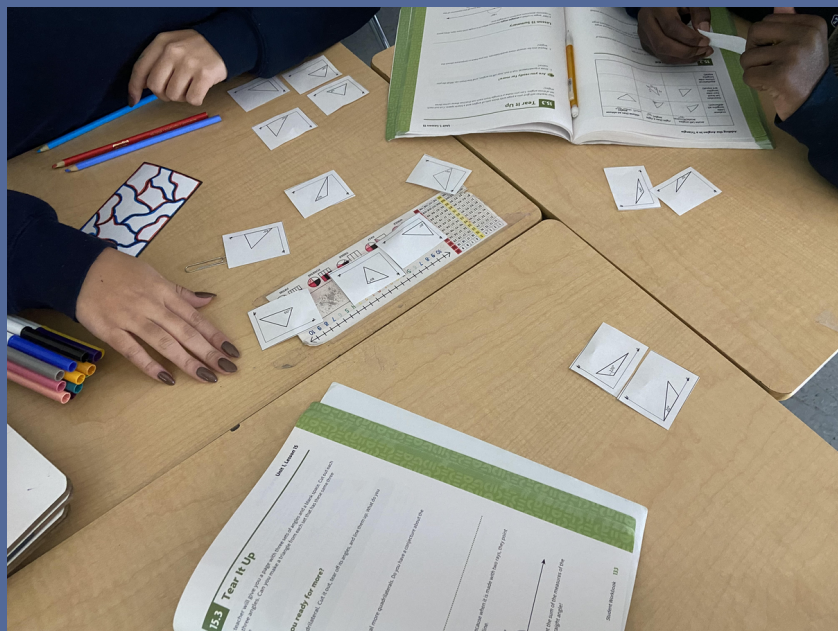
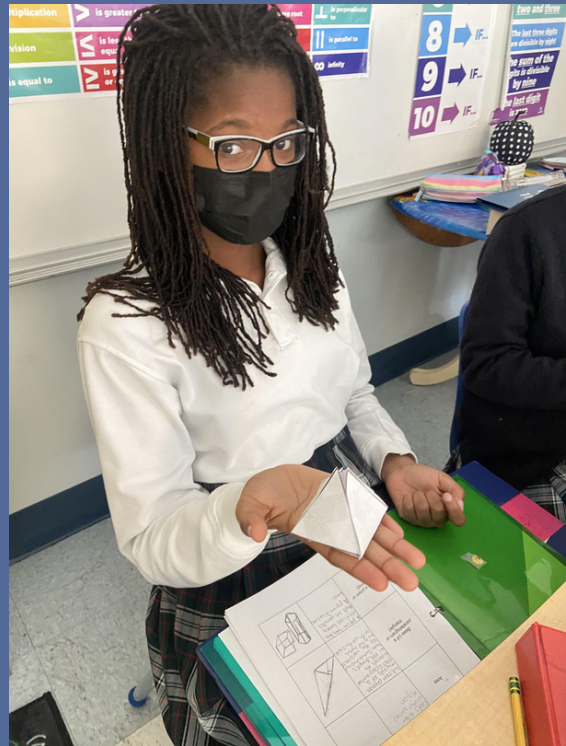
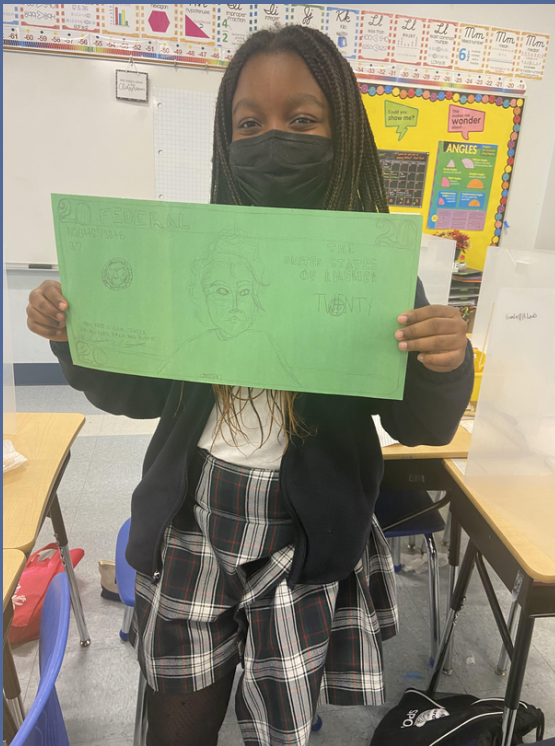
#LowerMillsLEADERS in 1A have been spending time during November, Black Catholic History month, learning about Black Catholic saints, as well as several other significant Black Catholic leaders throughout history. We have spent time during Religion class talking about the importance of knowing and celebrating the proud heritage and history of Black Catholics from all over the world. We loved learning about Martin de Porres, a charitable Saint from Peru, who became the first Black saint to be canonized. We studied his life and all of the ways he shared his compassion with the world. Grade 1 students will continue to learn about Black Catholic leaders such as Pierre Toussaint, Mother Mary Lange, Father Augustus Tolton and Julia Greeley, We know that the learning of our Black Catholic leaders does not end when November is over, we will continue this rich and diverse learning throughout the school year.



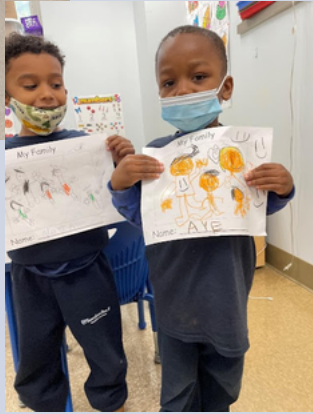
PreK-B has been rocking our second OWL unit on Friendship! We have been learning how to be a Superfriend. Superfriends work together to solve social problems. Our favorite strategy to use is "get a timer". Sometimes it can be hard to know how to share our classroom materials when they are all so fun to use! #LowerMillsLEADERS are experts at problem solving. They are able to use a timer to make sure everyone gets a chance to use all of our classroom manipulatives. Our friend Noisy Nora taught us that it can be difficult to wait, but using a timer makes it a lot easier. It can even be fun! Pictured are Londyn and Aria using a timer to take turns cooking on the stove. They didn't even need a teacher to help them! Way to go PreK-B friends, we are so proud of you!

Lower Mills News

Math class has been a blast in middle school at Lower Mills this year! In 6th grade, we are currently working through some geometry topics such as finding area and surface area, and defining shapes such as polyhedra and polygons. This week, 6th grade worked on constructing polyhedra from their net state to their three dimensional shape in order to find surface area. In 7th grade, we just finished up what a scale copy is and how to find it's factor. They are currently working on their final scale model projects to finish this unit. In 8th grade, we are finishing up using transformations and seeing how these shapes, lines, and angles are congruent to each other. Grade 8 #LowerMillsLEADERS have also been preparing for the High School Placement Test (HSPT) coming up in December. It is my goal to prepare our middle schoolers with the math content, tools, and skills to be ready to move on to high school while having fun doing so!



Columbia News



In K1A this month we are spending time to learn about a word that starts with T, Thankful which also is perfect for our letter of the week. K1A is thankful for family. We were able to share family photos and use our new family vocabulary words such as cousin, uncle, and grandma. We read stories in our OWL unit such as Peter's Chair and discussed having a new sibling, which did happen for a student in K1A! Our class read a story called "What is a Family on Sesame Street?", by Craig Manning which shows students that families can be unique. Families come in different sizes, and the members do not have to be related to be considered family. We brainstormed ways that our class is a family. Our school family is always learning and playing together while we show how care for one another. Another thought we had was about nature and being thankful for God's creations. Our class read a scholastic news journal about being thankful for Nature. We then created a list of things we really like in nature and can be thankful for. In the pictures students drew their families and on the leaves each student named something in nature for which they were thankful.

In the second grade at Columbia we have a student who our principal, Ms. Sheridan, affectionately calls "The Mayor." She does this for one very specific reason, which is his behavior during morning assembly. Each morning, even on a Monday when everyone is just plain exhausted from their weekend, this student comes in, big smile in his eyes, and says good morning to just about every single student in the room. He calls each of them friend, offering an elbow bump to just about anyone he passes, whether they be a big eighth grader or our neighbors in the third grade, he says hi to everyone. "The Mayor" brightens the morning of every student during our morning assembly and prayers. "The Mayor" also continues his efforts in the classroom. It is common for him to cheer on his classmates when they get the correct answer to a question or to do his rounds during snack time to play rock paper scissors with whoever will participate. We have a lot to learn from the Mayor, from his kindness, his enthusiasm and his ability to elevate the people around him.



Columbia News

In fourth grade this month, we are exploring in our Number Corner calendar how we use math every day. We have examined elapsed time on a clock, as well as the difference between midnight and noon. Students enjoyed making "Gallon Man", making his body with construction paper showing different liquid measurements, such as gallons, quarts, cups, and pints. In our Bridges math unit, we are examining how fractions and decimals are in the same family. Students have learned how to convert fractions into decimals and vice versa. The students especially enjoy playing the Workplace games that Bridges provides on their Chromebook. As the famous educator, Maria Montessori, says "Children learn through playing".

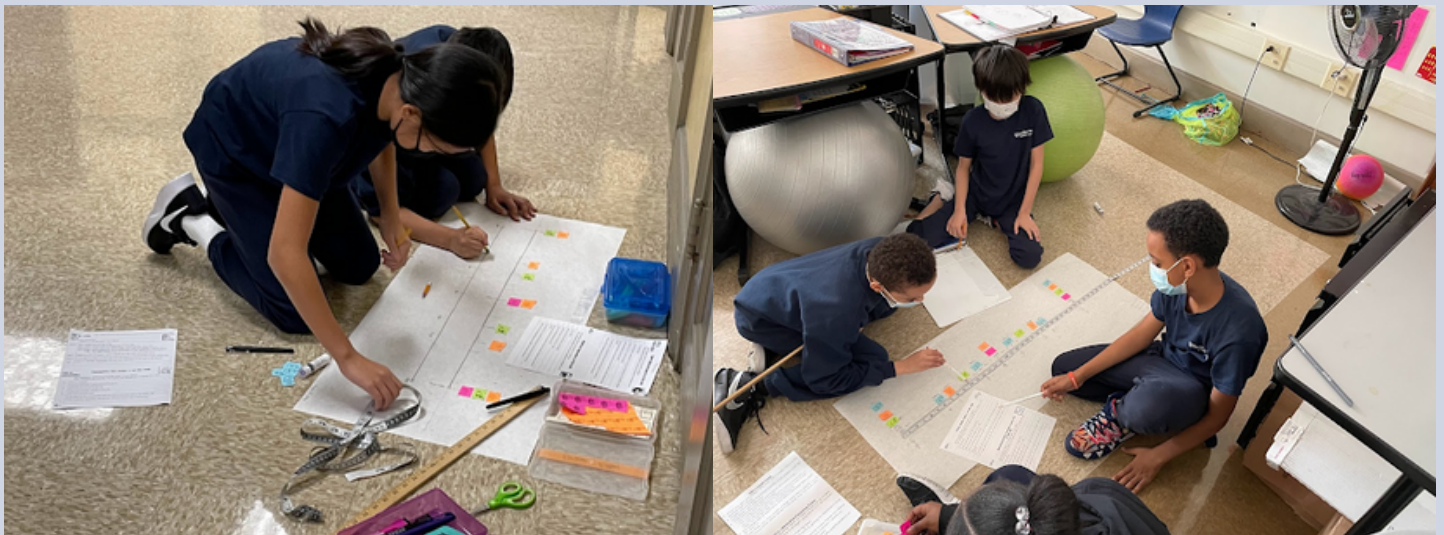


Fourth graders are reading the story Molly's Pilgrim by Barbara Cohen in social studies class. In the story, Molly is teased by her classmates and made to feel different because she is Jewish and Russian. When asked to make a pilgrim for a Thanksgiving project, Molly's mother creates a doll that resembles a Russian girl. Her mother explains that since their family came to the United States to freely practice their religion, they are pilgrims like the English pilgrims at the First Thanksgiving. They have come to America to live a better life. Molly's Pilgrim project required fourth graders to decorate a clothespin to represent the area of the world from which their family originates. Many Americans come from diverse backgrounds, so each child chose a country or area that he/she identifies with or is interested in representing, and are excited to welcome their Pilgrim doll to their family's Thanksgiving celebration.

Our Fourth Graders also experienced the timeless novel, Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo. During this shared reading, students were able to develop comprehension skills through deep thinking, conversation, rereading, and writing. This special story focuses on the themes of loneliness and loss, friendship and community, healing and moving forward. Students were wrapped up in the characters and their problems, witnessing the growth and life's lessons learned by the main character, Opal. Friendship fills an empty heart while honest conversation brings a father and daughter closer together. In the story, Opal's father, the Preacher, gives a blessing for a very special party which brings our lonely characters together. It is a beautiful blessing which can be memorable for all of us. "Dear God, thank you for warm summer nights and candlelight and good food. But thank you most of all for friends. We appreciate the complicated and wonderful gifts you give us in each other. And we appreciate the task you put down before us, of loving each other the best we can, even as you love us. We pray in Christ's name. Amen." According to Ailany, this was the best book she has ever read, while Malia came up and thanked Mrs. West for sharing such a wonderful book!

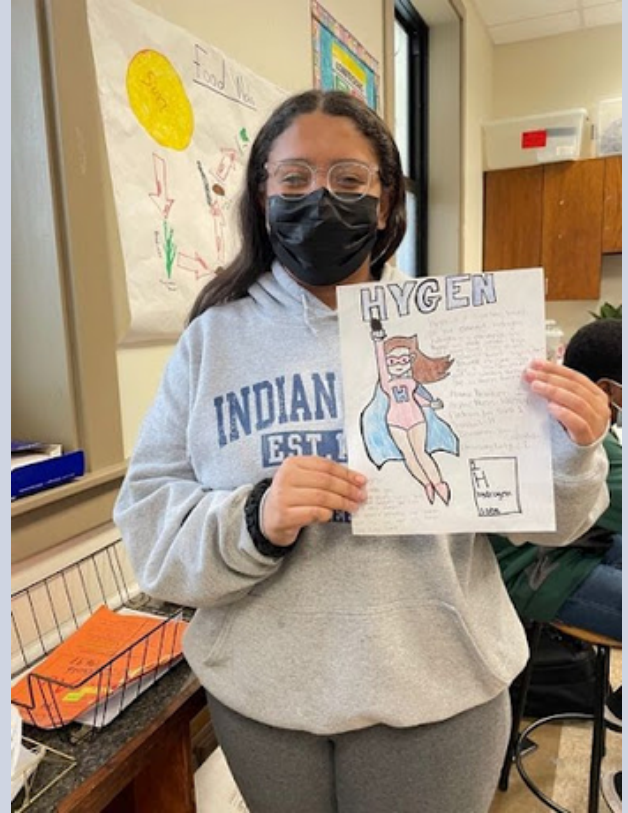
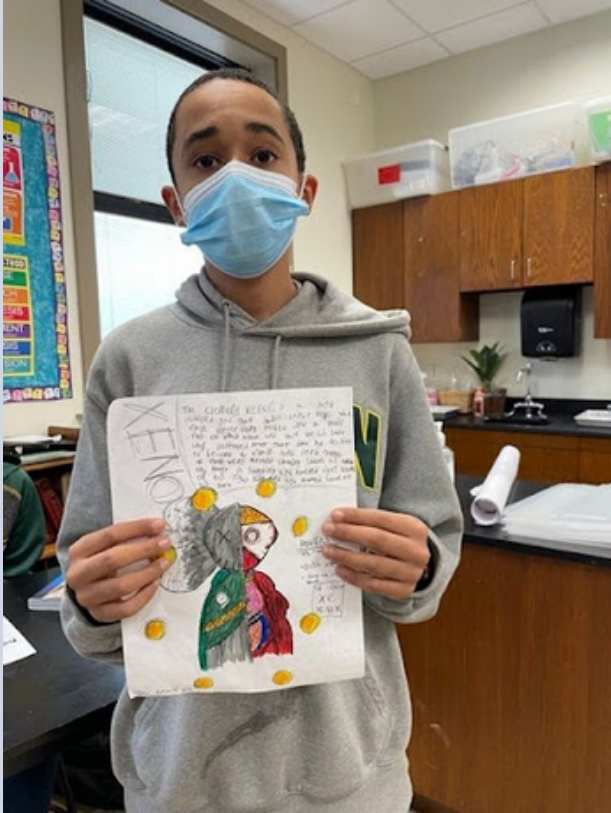
Neponset News

Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy's third grade took a trip to Plymouth Plantation on Friday, November 12th. Over the course of the past few weeks, third grade students have been studying the life of the Wampanoag tribe and the journey of the Pilgrims on the Mayflower. On their trip, they were able to explore how both colonists and members of the Wampanoag tribe lived and how different life is today!

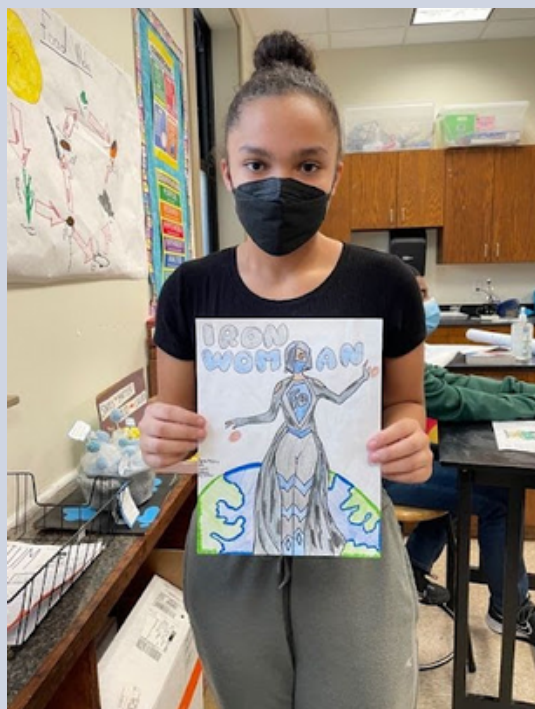


Fifth graders used a real life situation about canoeing down a River Trail in order to create equivalent fractions, multiply whole numbers by fractions, and add and subtract fractions with different denominators. They created posters showing a 30 kilometer trail and split it into fractions of $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{5}$, and more, finding both the kilometer and fractional distance. They then used their posters to solve addition and subtraction problems.

Neponset News



Eighth grade students worked hard to create Element Superheroes in Science class at SJP Neponset. Students used their knowledge of elements and the periodic table to design and draw a superhero that embodies the properties of their chosen element. Presentations of the projects included sharing the atomic number, important uses of the element, atomic mass, and strengths and weaknesses of each superhero based on the element. Heroes included Iron Woman and Hygen, who uses her element property of gas to sneak through cracks! Students were proud to share their knowledge and creativity with their classmates!



Artists of the Month



Eliana Taylor-Young
Grade 4
Lower Mills Campus



Georgia Kelly
Grade 3
Neponset Campus



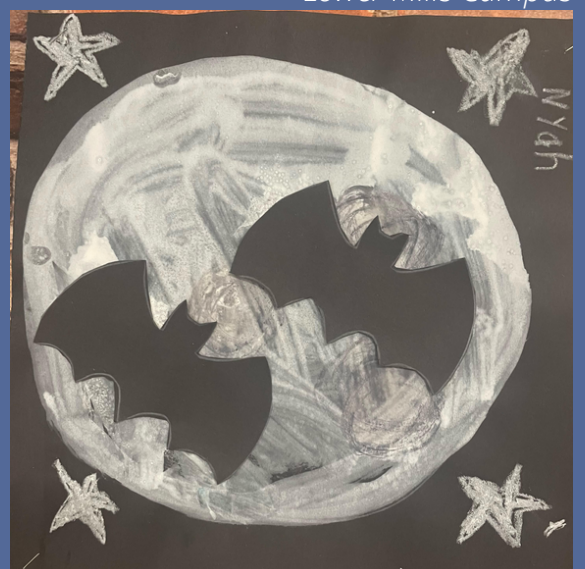
Lenise Young
Grade 4
Neponset Campus



Azariah Mills
Grade 3
Columbia Campus



Ayla Olivera,
Grade 3
Columbia Campus



Nyah Tripp
Grade 2
Lower Mills Campus

Notes from the Business Office

Happy Fall and we hope this new school year is off to a wonderful start! Please remember to contact the Business Office with any questions or concerns regarding your tuition or payment plan.

FACTS Payment Plan:

All families in the Academy must be enrolled in the FACTS payment plan. More information about the FACTS Payment Plan application can be found on the home page at www.sjp2ca.org. You may also access FACTS through your ParentsWeb account. If you need to change the bank information, make telephone payments or access to the payment plan account, please contact FACTS directly at 800-624-7092.

Tuition payments:

If you are behind in tuition payments, you must contact the Regional Business Office located at 1 Eliot Street Milton, MA immediately. At this time 40% of your total tuition is due not including any scholarships and financial aid received.

Please note, tuition payments begin in July. If you have missed any payments at this time you must make those payments online or by calling FACTS Management at 800-624-7092. Your child's continued enrollment in the Academy is dependent on prompt tuition payments. Please refer to the tuition policy on our website at www.sjp2ca.org and available in the Student/Parent handbook.

Vouchers:

If your voucher is updated or renewed by your ABCD facility, please make sure that you fax, bring or email a copy of it to the Business Office.

If you would like to make an appointment with the Business Office, please call or email tuition@sjp2ca.org to make your appointments.

CONTACT US:

Financial aid: 617.265.0019 x 7004, 7202 or tuition@sjp2ca.org or mhegarty@sjp2ca.org

Tuition Payments: 617.265.0019 x 7004, 7202 or tuition@sjp2ca.org or mhegarty@sjp2ca.org

Vouchers: tuition@sjp2ca.org