

DECEMBER 2022

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

In December, Catholics have two days dedicated to the Virgin Mary. On 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 night sleep and on time arrival 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 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.



Just a 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 RENWEB/FACTS parent portal.

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

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!

God Bless,

Kate Brandley
Regional Director

Where students are known, loved and called to excellence.

Where students become leaders with faith and values.

Where students succeed with outstanding academics

Where students thrive in a safe and diverse community.

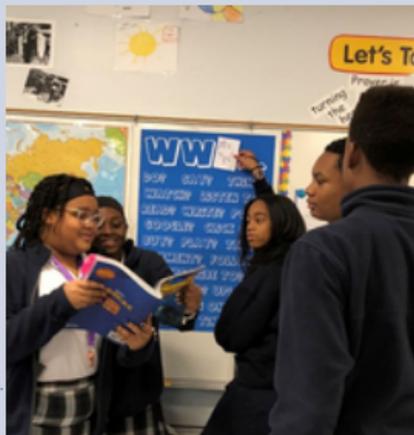


Lower Mills News

Lower Mills LEADERS in the K1A class love learning and practicing letter formation and sounds! We use a multi-sensory approach to learning. For tactile learning, Handwriting Without Tears "sticks and curves" supports letter formation. Our auditory learning uses Lively Letters music. This reinforces both proper mouth and tongue placement and each song is a catchy tune! Children love it! These strategies are English Language Learner (ELL) friendly, and we are building a strong foundation for word formation and reading!



The energetic and effervescent students of Lower Mills 8B have been hard at work on several fronts during this busy, last first term of their careers at SJP. In Religion, the topics of moral decision-making and the Ten Commandments inform our discussions and written work, as our curriculum and the Created for Love course provide essential Catholic guidance for young people growing up surrounded by media and mixed messaging. Here students are considering a timeless question...It is good to ask ourselves "What would Jesus do? (WWJD?) in life's many situations; here, 8B students are pictured as they consider also the example of their SJP leaders such as Ms. Warshafsky, Principal of Lower Mills..." What would Ms. W do?"



Applications to high schools are underway and Grade 8 was fortunate to have had the opportunity to practice for entrance examinations under the tutelage of Mrs. McPherson and Mrs. Eaton with HSPTprep classes. One thing I am particularly proud of - and families should be too - is how well the students of 8B perform when called upon, as 8th graders often are called, to accompany the Kindergarteners to Mass, to guide pre-K students to their classrooms, and to assist at any time when the Administration or the Parish need some help. Working together presents an opportunity to do their best and fosters a spirit of community and virtue.

Lower Mills News



For example, during the recent field trip to Hale Reservation we witnessed many instances of teambuilding and positive encouragement in the face of adversity, challenge, and a little wet weather in the autumn woods. Seasons change, as our 8th graders are aware, and for present and future challenges SJP students can carry confidently with them the tools of prayer, virtue, and leadership.

Our Lower Mills 2B class loves learning about God and His Saints. We have learned that Saints are ordinary people who, like all of us, made mistakes and asked God for mercy, but continued following God. These saints were Jesus on Earth for many people. During Catholic Black History Month three of the Saints we learned about were Saint Josephine Bakhita, patron Saint of the Sudan who was kidnapped and made a slave until some Italian sisters spoke on her behalf; Saint Martin de Porres, Patron Saint of people with mixed races, barbers, innkeepers and public health workers who had so many miracles attributed to him including the multiplying of food; Saint Peter Claver, the patron Saint of black missions, assisted slaves and brought them comfort as they came off the boats from Africa. He is also known for baptizing and converting nearly 300, 000 slaves. 2B was amazed at the love these Saints had for God and His people.



Columbia News

This month we read a book called the Gratitude Jar by Katrina Liu. It discussed what it means to be thankful for the people, things, and places around you. We then brainstormed who or what we are thankful for. The students love animals, so we picked some animals to depict; parrots, lions, bees, and ducks. Students got to pick an animal which we recorded on chart paper. Then we counted how many there were of each animal. This also allowed an introduction to how we write the numbers in tally marks. K1A students compared the number of parts each animal had or if it had wings or not. We also discussed what things these animals do or give us to be thankful for. A bee spreads pollen for the flowers and creates honey. A parrot can imitate speech and has beautiful colors to see. A lion has a strong roar sound which we can appreciate.



In weeks 6 & 7 of the Building Blocks for Math, Early Childhood is verbally counting to five and understanding how to make groups of up to five. This activity reinforces these objectives and allows students to connect numbers with the groups they represent. Each student took a turn placing magnets on the whiteboard to make the appropriate set. If a child struggled with their number, we asked other students to "help them out". Even though one student at a time is creating the set, all students are involved in "checking" and "helping." Students become familiar with connecting number words to the quantities they represent, and they enjoy a cooperative group activity. Students are loving learning math!

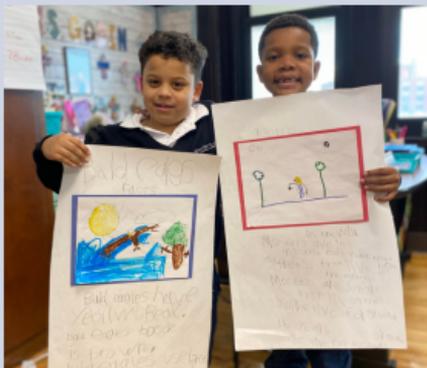


Columbia News

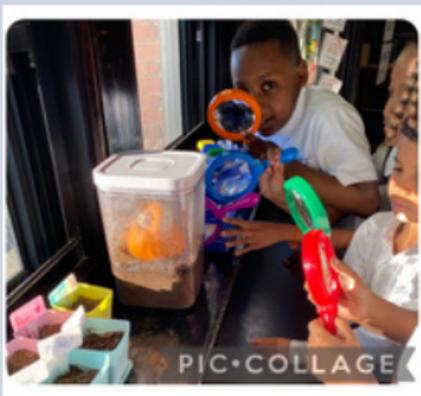


Grade 2 has been working on our +8 fluency facts. We are learning about measuring both length and perimeter using bean sticks, garden beds, and Unifix cubes. We are continuing to work with hundreds, tens and ones.

In reading, students are continuing to review short and long vowels. We are still focusing on grammar; commas have been introduced and there has been a lot of work with nouns this month! We also read about Eagles and Bears.



In STREAM students continued their zookeeper challenge. This week we picked a specific animal to research and began making our posters to share with our class. In science students continue to observe our pumpkin, water levels, and our plants. We are learning about how matter can change from state to state. For example, the way water can turn to ice. We are excited about all our learning here in Grade 2.



Neponset News

On the 15th of November, 8th Grade Neponset Leaders met as a group to have a retreat. Our goals were to have time to be quiet, reflective, and to be open to experiencing a higher level of knowledge about ourselves, a better relationship with our classmates and check in on our relationship with God. Through music, meditation, reflection, prayer and journaling we hope to begin a period over the next few months of learning better insights into ourselves. With the assistance of Fr. Chris, the 8th Graders created their own prayers of the Faithful and were thankful to participate in their own mass.

We would like to thank Fr. Chris, Mrs. Chouinard, Ms. Miller, Maryanne Curley, Ms. Kelly and the 8th grade home room teacher Ms. Quinn for their support and assistance of this spiritual retreat. Mrs. Costello would like to thank the 8th Graders for beginning a journal of self-discovery until they leave SJP for high school.



Our SJP Neponset school family participated in our annual food drive, filling the stage with canned goods for the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Students were incredibly generous and thoughtful in their donations providing stuffing, canned vegetables, gravy, soup, and more. Starting off our holiday season by helping those in need!



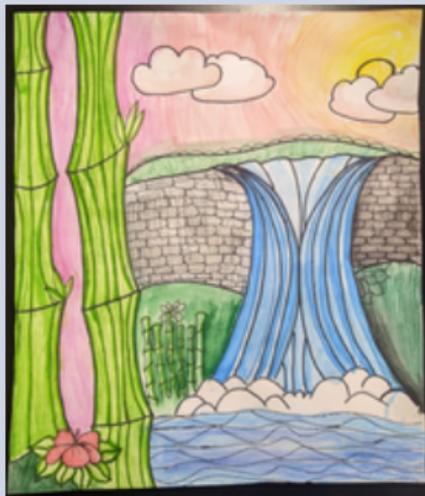
SJP Neponset participated in their first school-wide STREAM project this month! Students in each class worked together to design and create a recyclable box to be used to deliver lunches to the needy in their community. Designs were innovative, thoughtful, and impressive! Students thought of everything including ways to insulate the boxes so food stays warm, wheels and handles for easy carrying, and even little boxes filled with prayers to help uplift spirits.



Artist of the Month



KRyleigh Huynh, Grade 1 Neponset Campus

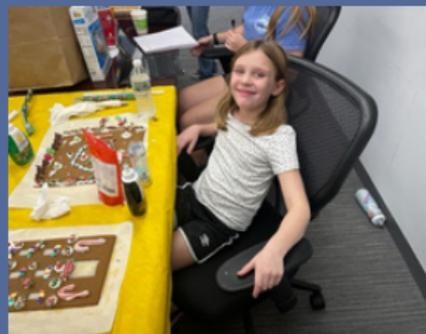
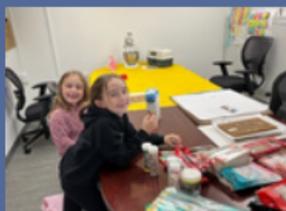


Jordyn Simpson-Holland,
Grade 7 Lower Mills Campus



The Early Childhood classes at the Columbia Campus all came together to make a quilt. The theme was "being thankful." The children drew pictures, painted and man's made collage pictures. They dictated to their teachers what they are thankful for. This group activity coincided with our religion lesson on being thankful for all the blessings God gives us.





"Neponset Leaders helping to decorate a Gingerbread House replication of the SJPIICA Neponset campus and Saint Ann's Church"

SJP Academy News

The School Guidance Counselors at SJP came together to coordinate an academy-wide High School Information Night in October. We invited Catholic high schools, independent and preparatory high schools, vocational and agricultural high schools, co-educational high schools, all-girls high schools, and all-boys high schools to the event. Each school enthusiastically sent their admissions representatives to our Neponset campus to meet our 8th graders and their respective parents and guardians graciously and enthusiastically. Between our three campuses, 86% of our 8th graders attended the event. Several 7th graders also attend to get ahead of the curve. The admissions representatives said that ours was the most populated, dynamic, and successful high school fairs they have participated in. We could not be prouder of our SJP families and 8th graders. Here's to a wonderful admissions season!



Way to Support our SJP2CA Community

Advent is a time of thoughtful preparation, thankfulness, and celebration, and at Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy we are grateful for you, for our students, and for our teachers. As you reflect on this holiday season, please consider a few ways you can support SJP2CA and be part of our community of those who care



#1 Follow Us on Social Media

Help us **spread the word** about our great Columbia, Lower Mills, and Neponset campuses. Follow, Comment, Like, Post, Tag, and Share our social media posts! [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#). Ask our alumni and friends of SJP2CA to **Follow Us on Social Media** so everyone can see the amazing happenings on campus!



#2 Amazon Smile

Use [AmazonSmile](#) to make a difference while you shop in the Amazon App or online, at no extra cost to you! Simply log in to your Amazon account and follow the instructions to select "Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy Inc" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile. They'll donate a portion of your eligible purchases to us.



#3 Make a Difference with a Donation

You don't have to wait until Giving Tuesday on November 29, **you can make a gift to SJP2CA any time of the year**. Your donation will have an immediate impact on more than 1,100 pre-K to Grade 8 students across all three campuses. [Visit our website](#) to learn more. Here's how you can help:

\$250 – Provides tuition assistance for one student

\$100 – Buys supplies for classrooms, such as magnetic building sets or sheet music

\$50 – Purchase curriculum items for our STREAM programs (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math)

\$35 – Supports Faith Formation for all grade levels



#4 Recommend the Academy

You know firsthand that SJP2CA provides a quality Catholic education rooted in academic excellence. Share our [Open House Information](#) with friends and co-workers who have school-aged children.

Way to Support our SJP2CA Community



#5 Stay Connected

Head to our website to **fill out the [Update Your Information](#)** form online and stay in the SJIICA loop.



#6 Pray for SJP2CA

Every school day starts and ends with prayer. Please remember our students and teachers in your [prayers](#) this Advent. We strive to provide our students an opportunity to know our loving God as well as become Christian leaders for the world.



Notes from the Business Office

Happy Fall! 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.

To make an appointment with the Business Office, please call or email.

CONTACT US:

Financial aid:

Phone: 617-265-0019 x 7004, or x 7202

Email: tuition@sjp2ca.org or mhegarty@sjp2ca.org

Tuition Payments:

Phone: 617.265.0019 x 7004, or x 7202

Email: tuition@sjp2ca.org or mhegarty@sjp2ca.org

Vouchers: tuition@sjp2ca.org