

NOVEMBER 2021

CAMPUS *Connections*

SAINT JOHN PAUL II
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Message From The Regional Director

Dear Families and Friends,

November is traditionally the month in the Catholic Church when we pray for deceased family members, loved ones, and friends. It begins on November 1st with All Saints Day, a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. All Souls Day, which is observed on November 2, is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven. <https://www.catholic.org/saints/allsaints/>

The Latino culture celebrates the Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, it is a two-day festival that also takes place every November 1 and 2. Dia de los Muertos is celebrated throughout Latin America and everywhere with a Latino population. "Families gather together to remember and honor their deceased loved ones. A sacred, joyous time, Day of the Dead traditions include food and flowers, visits with family members, prayers, and stories about those who have died" <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/dia-de-los-muertos/>



Many cultures have a day of remembrance. It is apparent that humans have an inherent need to stay connected to and celebrate those we love and have lost. These holy days in our Catholic faith truly help us stay connected to our loved ones, and they provide an opportunity to grieve, and express love and joy. They remind us that we are never alone, and that we are loved by God, the Saints in heaven and our loved ones who have passed. During this month, we will remember your deceased loved ones as well as all souls as we pray daily with our students and at our All Saint's Masses and celebrations. Our students will be learning more about Saints and even dressing as their favorite Saint. Stay tuned to our social media posts!

Our schools are planning some exciting activities during the week of November 14th to celebrate Discover Catholic Schools Week and all that is great about Catholic Education. Each day will have a theme and you will be informed of any activities in your principal's memo.

We have much to be proud of at the Academy. We completed our first round of MAP testing, even with the craziness of COVID and continued safety measures. Our teachers are reviewing the data to meet the needs of each student. Our test scores are clearly showing the impact of the pandemic on our students. Our professional development and monthly coaching cycles for teachers and leaders are also helping us to address the needs of each student. We look forward to seeing growth in our January testing.

This school year, we have been participating in COVID Pool testing through the State and Broad Institute each week, and all results have been negative. We have had eight total cases in the Academy since September 8th, and there has not been a spread in our schools. All students who tested positive have contracted the virus outside of school. Your help and support have certainly made a positive impact. Our continued safety measures and working together with families will help our schools remain in person and allow our students to flourish.

We also have a flourishing alumni community. 100% of our students who go onto Catholic high schools go to college! The Class of 2021 received over \$1.2 million in scholarships and financial aid. Our high acceptance rate to the exam schools also speaks to our strong academics and teachers!!

SJPIICA is a great place to learn because our students are known, loved, and called to excellence! Thank you for your continued support! During this time of Thanksgiving, I send my heartfelt thanks to you for choosing SJPIICA for your child's education. I wish you all a Thanksgiving filled with family, friends, and God's continued blessings and abundance.

May God continue to bless you and our Academy.

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

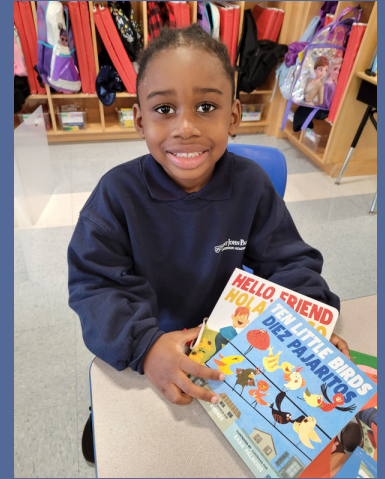
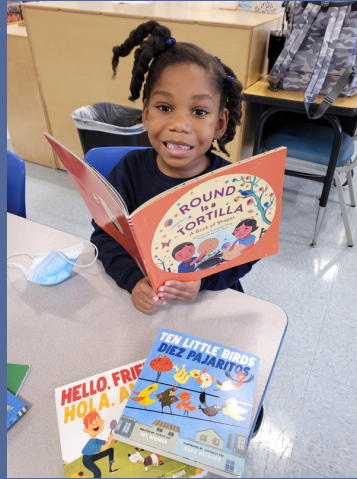
Where students thrive in a safe and diverse community.

Lower Mills News

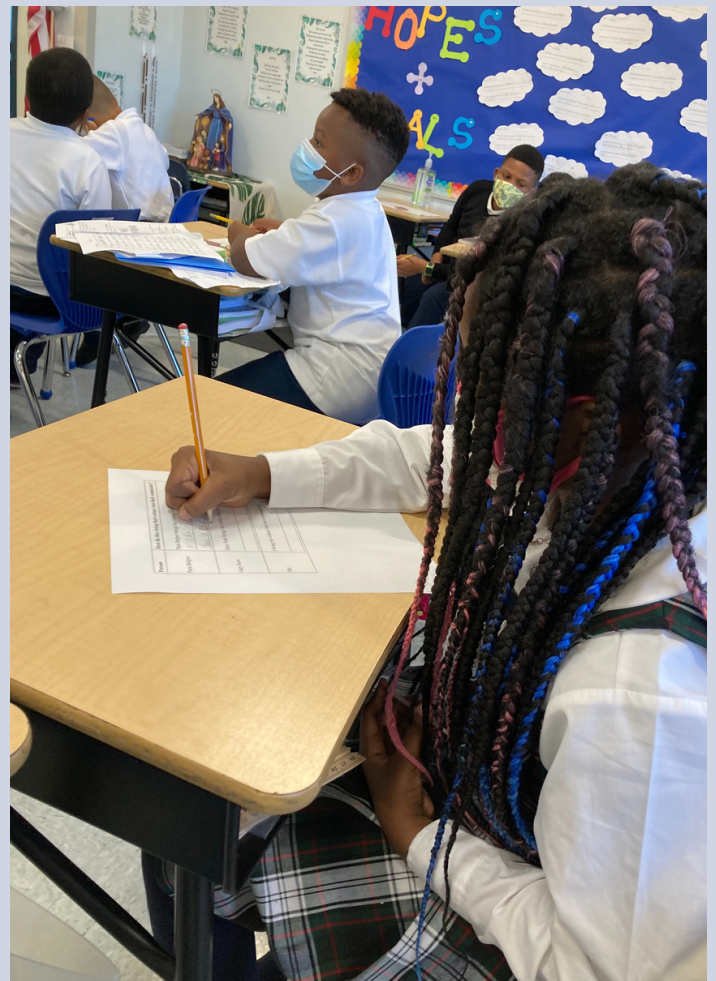
K1A Celebrates Hispanic Heritage!

Uno, Dos, Tres

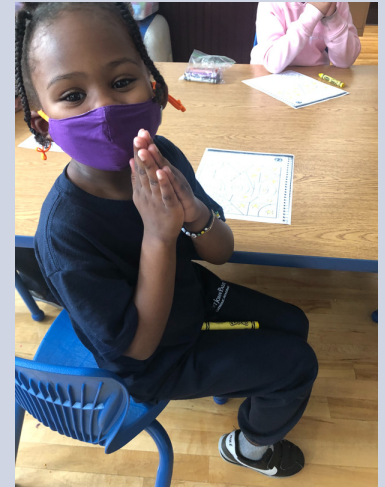
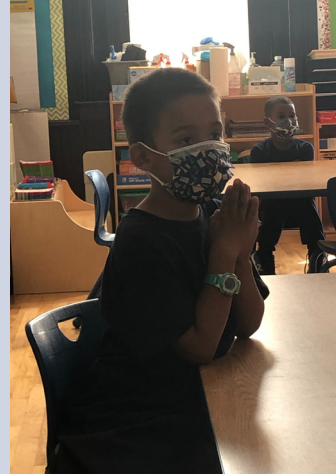
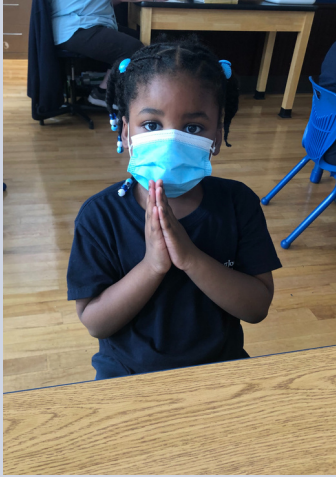
K1A #LowerMillsLEADERS have been celebrating Hispanic Heritage month! During this time of year people all over the country celebrate the culture and traditions of Hispanic people. We have enjoyed a variety of stories, songs and poems. We are even counting in Spanish. Uno means one. Can you count to diez? Muy Bien!



Students in 3B are proud to integrate Spanish into their teaching and learning community. Ms. Smith proudly has a Masters Degree in Education with an Extension in Bilingual Spanish, and also taught English at the University in Spain. #LowerMillsLEADERS in 3B are connecting their Wonders Reading Genre, Narrative Nonfiction, to Hispanic Heritage month through a mini-study of authors Pura Belpré and Gary Soto. Students worked to unpack our guiding question: How do people from different cultures contribute to their community? Third graders read the text Gary the Dreamer by Gary Soto, an author who identifies as Mexican, from their Wonders Literature Anthology. They later watched a narrative depiction about the life of Pura Belpré, a Puerto Rican immigrant who addressed the lack of multicultural texts in her New York City Library by writing her own and sharing stories in English and Spanish. After learning about how Pura and Gary shared their culture through their stories, students pictured are brainstorming ways they share their culture with their community. Students will be using these mentor texts to develop their own personal narratives in the form of a graphic novel! Stop by 3B in the coming weeks to see the final products!

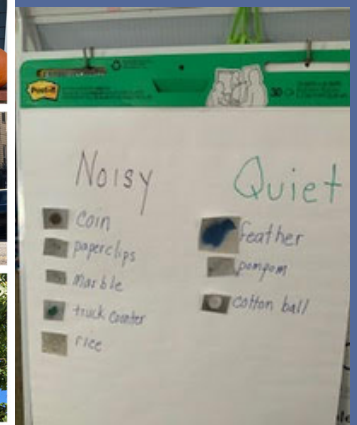


For Holy Hour on Fridays, 4A watches the daily mass from the Saint Ignatius Chapel in Pickering, Ontario. Fr. Michael Coutts, S.J. is lovely and is a great example of a multicultural priest. He is a wonderful role model for our children.



PreK is exploring week two of the family unit in the OWL curriculum. The students listened to a new story this week. The book *Noisy Nora* is about a girl who is getting less attention from her parents because she has younger siblings that her parents must also attend to. Nora finds many ways to make noise and get the attention she is seeking. The class experimented with different materials to discover which ones made a loud noise and which ones were quiet. Next week the students will choose the objects that they wish to use and put them in a plastic container to make a sound shaker. On Wednesday, we had a fire drill and the children had lots of questions. We used this opportunity to talk about fire safety and what to do in an emergency.

On our neighborhood walk we discovered that many neighbors have decorated their homes for Halloween. The class got very excited when they saw pumpkins, ghosts and bats on the houses and even in the trees!





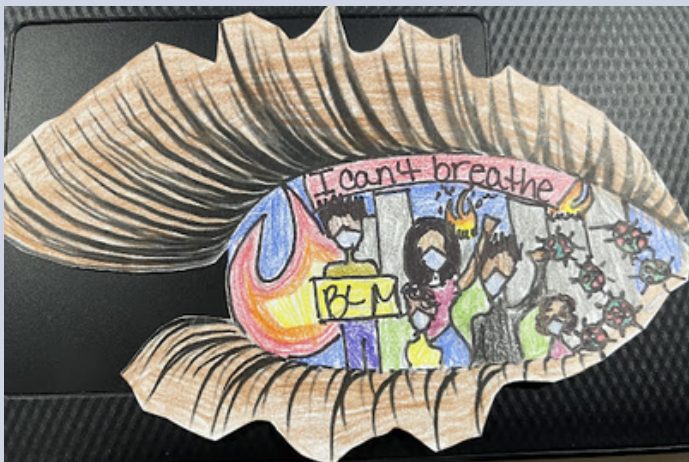
K2 and 1st grade spent a beautiful day visiting Honey Pot Orchards! Both classes enjoyed a hayride, picking apples, apple cider donuts, and apple cider! Students have been reading fall books, participating in science activities, and learning all about the orchards before they went on their trip! We can't wait to hear about what students made with their apples!



K2 students have been working hard during their small group reading time! Students are working on writing and identifying lowercase letters! Ms. Costello added to the fall fun by using orange eggs to match lowercase letters to their uppercase match!

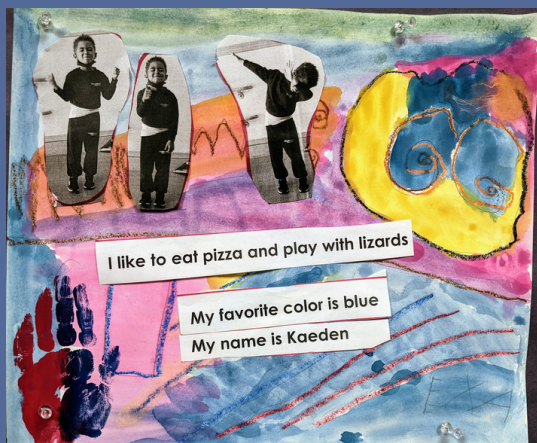


After having had the past two school years interrupted by a global pandemic, we all thought that having students come back to school in September would be a difficult task. As a School Counselor, my main concern was the social-emotional health of the scholars. Upon their arrival, the students have shown us just how wrong we all were. They are very excited to be back in school. They are happy to be with their friends. They are enjoying the supportive classroom environment that our fearless teachers provide for each grade. Watching them thrive over these past several weeks has been inspiring. We are no longer as worried about their ability to get back into the swing of things; we can now focus on moving forward as a community through our "next normal." Our 8th graders have all begun their journeys to finding a good fit for their high school careers. Our early learners are working on socializing and learning the foundations of knowledge. Our elementary and middle school students are thriving, and it has been a gift to get to watch them grow through this journey. Here's to a strong start for our community as a whole! - **Ms. Bayazid, Columbia Guidance Counselor**



Our school year has only just begun, yet Lower Mills middle school scholars have been going strong! We are deep into our first novels. In fact, our teachers and staff will be interviewed by our grade 8 leaders about their eating habits as it relates to the novel, *Chew On This*. All of our MS scholars have taken a simple idea to great heights with their impeccable creativity. They were tasked with illustrating how they view the world inside an eye template, dubbed: Eye See the World; this display is awe-inspiring. Aside from delving into the depths of our literature, Lower Mills middle school scholars have been writing up a storm! They each created a 100 Word Essay based on a theme of giving after reading and analyzing an Alberto Rios poem, "When Giving is All We Have" as a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. We have also recently created our annual Blotz, an alliterative creation of a fictional character. It's only October! We are on track for greatness; but that is what #LowerMillsLEADERS are destined for! - **Ms. Eaton, Lower Mills ELA teacher**

Artists of the Month



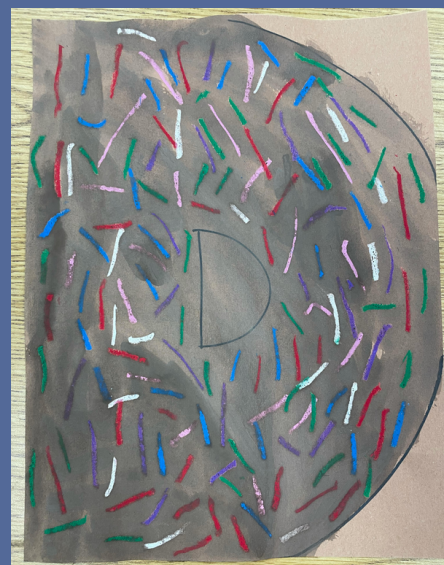
Kaeden DeGraca,
Grade K2
Neponset Campus



Alexander Edwards,
Grade 3
Lower Mills Campus



Nam Tran,
Grade 2
Neponset Campus



Miriam Scanlon-
Doucet, Grade K2
Columbia Campus



Ivan Rivera,
Grade K2
Columbia Campus



Elina Telishnor,
Grade K2
Lower Mills Campus

Alumni Spotlight



We are so proud of one of our Lower Mills alums, Alicia Dennergy! She is currently a freshman at Boston University, and was awarded the [Thomas M. Menino Scholarship](#). The university offers this scholarship to a student who graduated from Boston Public Schools "on basis of academic achievement, leadership, and merit by a committee of representatives from Boston University". Alicia graduated from Boston Latin Academy last spring, and from our Lower Mills campus in 2017. Her twin brother Alvin also attended our academy, as well as many of their cousins. Alicia is a first-generation American, with her parents having arrived here from Haiti as teenagers. Her father passed away years ago, leaving her mother to care for her and her twin brother on her own. "I applied for this scholarship because it would be very hard for my mom to pay for me out of pocket, and I got it. I was very, very excited and grateful. To be awarded this scholarship is like a huge burden taken off her," she says. Congratulations, Alicia! We know you will go so far!

To read the full article on Alicia in *BU Today*, click [here](#).

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