



# SJA Newsletter - Oct 01 2021

Welcome to October...

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## A Message from our Head of School

Dear Parents and Students

Thank you to the parents that attended our Meet the Advisor presentations on Monday and Wednesday. We hope you found them informative. We enjoy having these scheduled opportunities to discuss the school's philosophy, procedures and most importantly receive your feedback. I had the opportunity to collaborate with Kathy to deliver a presentation, in Mandarin for our Chinese boarding families, which was really informative (and hopefully for our parents as well).

I was lucky enough to have Nadine return from Egypt last Friday and welcome my parents, who are visiting for a couple of weeks from Ontario, as well. We spent part of yesterday touring Victoria. We were able to see some sights, walk around and feel the positive vibes from Canada's first and long overdue Truth and Reconciliation Day. One of the brilliant quotes from Ms Burkie's morning announcements this week made reference to the idea that we need to be mindful of our past and do our part to make the world a better place on a daily basis. I hope you enjoy reading about our action-packed week that included many special activities around this tragic part of our nation's history.

I would also like to thank our students for wholeheartedly participating in the Terry Fox run today as well as all of the parents, students and staff that made generous contributions to this incredibly important cause.

Dave Pontich

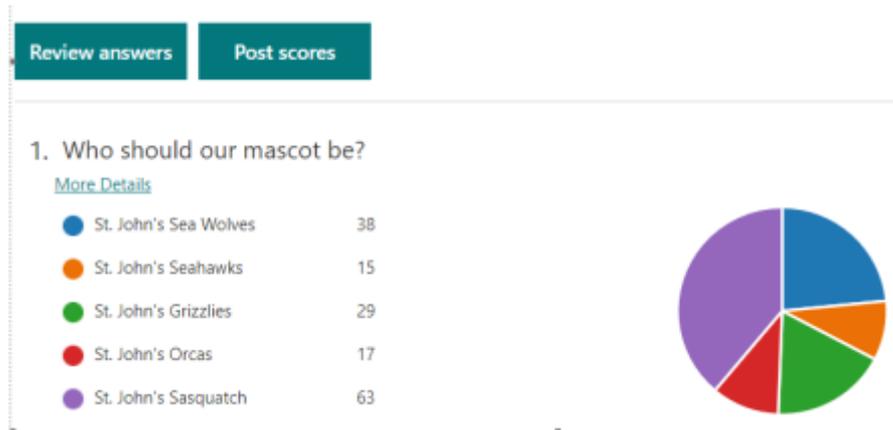
Head of School

## School Mascot Results

Over the last few weeks we have asked our staff and students about ideas for a brand new mascot. Well, the votes are in and the most popular idea was... the St. John's Academy Sasquatch.

We love how the name is rooted in the culture and mythology of our island home. Sasquatch is a Salish word for a mysterious creature who is said to live in the woods of the Pacific Northwest - sometimes called the Bigfoot.

We have approached one of the local First Nations to seek their permission in using the Sasquatch name and image. They have provided their blessing, but as the Shawnigan Lake area was a territory that crossed over with a few different First Nations, we will be doing some additional outreach before confirming this as our new mascot. So, stay tuned...and you just might see the SJA Sasquatch on campus sometime soon.



### 3 Messages from our Director of Academics

#### National Truth and Reconciliation Day

In leading up to the first national Truth and Reconciliation Day, students in English 10 & 12 and students in Individuals and Societies (I&S) have been learning about the history of colonialism and forced efforts to assimilate Indigenous peoples in Canada.

In English they have found and recited thematically related poetry and in I&S they have learned about the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRC) Report, its findings, and the 94 calls to action to support reconciliation in Canada.

On Friday, we had the honour of hosting retired University of Victoria professor Dr. Rennie Warburton. He spoke to all Grade 9-12 students about the topic of "Reconciliation, Restitution and Resurgence: Indigenous Politics after the TRC Report." This was surely a valuable and meaningful discussion with our students as we move towards a more healthy, productive, and respectful relationship with our Indigenous neighbours.





## MAP Growth Assessments

In October of 2020 we began using MAP Growth assessments to monitor the academic growth of our students in reading, language, and math skills. Although these assessments do not count for grades, they do provide parents and teachers with valuable academic information. Over the course of the year MAP results help to identify which specific skills students may struggle with. More importantly, **MAP Growth tests will help us identify students that are below grade-level and who have significant challenges in reading, language, and/or math skills. This information will then inform our after-school interventions for these students.** We will be beginning our first round of MAP Growth tests this October for the current academic year. Testing will take place within English and Math classes. Students do not need to prepare for these assessments.

MAP Growth tests are premised on students and parents maintaining a growth mindset – this is the belief that we are all capable of improving and learning regardless of our natural abilities. MAP Growth tests are unique, and it adapts to your child’s responses to measure your child’s skill level. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. These results will provide a more complete picture of what your child knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below their grade level.

The assessments were developed by the NWEA which is a research-based, not-for-profit organization. For 40 years, NWEA has developed Pre-K–12 assessments and professional learning offerings to help advance all students along their optimal learning paths. Our tools are trusted by educators in more than 24,500 schools, 9,500 districts, and education agencies in 145 countries.

MAP Growth reports also provide typical growth data for students who are in the same grade, subject and have the same starting performance level. Following each testing period, you will receive a Family Report showing a summary of how your child is performing academically.

We are truly excited to focus on your child’s individual growth and achievement. For more information about MAP Growth, visit [NWEA.org/familytoolkit](https://nwea.org/familytoolkit). For student practice and guidance please follow [this link](#).

Here is a brief overview of the MAP Growth assessment. [NWEA MAP: Prepare for the 2021 MAP Growth \(+ Practice Tips & Sample Questions\)](#)

## Grade 10 (MYP Year 5) - Personal Project

Our Grade 10 students have now formally begun their Personal Project journey. Although our returning students were introduced to the Personal Project last June, all Grade 10s have now set their learning goal (what they would like to learn) and their product goal (what they would like to

create). As a result of them setting their goals, they have been matched with a Personal Project Supervisor who will help support them throughout the process. For more on the Personal Project, please look [over this website](#) that I created or also [view this website](#). Based on the goals, we are set to have our most exciting year of projects yet!

To see the video from the Personal Project Exhibition from last year, please watch [this video](#).

[Grade 10 Personal Projects Exhibition 2021 - Full](#)

If you have any questions about the Personal Project, please feel free to contact me directly at [Bradley.myrholm@stjohnsacademy.ca](mailto:Bradley.myrholm@stjohnsacademy.ca).

Bradley Myrholm

Director of Academics

## Student Reflections on the 2021 Canadian Election

To help our students learn about the political process in Canada we all followed the election quite carefully. We even had our own mock election within the school. With so many students new to Canada it was wonderful to see how they engaged with the process and learned about how our government functions. Here are a few snippets from their social studies reflections in the past week:

### Noah - Grade 10

"Monday, September 20th, elections were both held within St. Johns Academy and across Canada. Comparing results, here at St. John's Academy, and at a riding level, both students of St. Johns. Academy and the voters of Cowichan-Malahat-Langford largely voted in support of the NDP candidate Alistair Macgregor. The grade six students showed great interest and were well spoken during the campaign, and they succeeded in getting their points across in a clear and understandable way for all ages to understand, while also retaining the ability to answer questions from potential voters. Good job grade sixes!"

### Cienna - Grade 10

"While I am able to identify with many political values, they often do not belong on the same side, nor do I agree with multitudes of the same group. Due to lack of representation, I might find it hard to just vote for one party in the future, as my familial values and social learning clash a bit. On election night there were no quarrels between any of my family members as far as I know, nor has there ever been, as everyone tends to vote the same, year and year again. Perhaps change will come, though it never will come alongside an election."

### Suzy - Grade 10

"Monday's election was intense, and everybody was rushed to get their vote in on time. Even though it was rushed I felt like I could take my time... The political spectrum is technically an invisible line on the left side there is the left wing and on the right side there is the right wing. If you were having an argument with let's say 3 people and two of them are thinking the opposite things then one will go to the right wing and the other person goes to the left. The third person, if they agreed and disagreed, would go in the middle or more to the right or left depending on which one, they agree with more."

## Truth and Reconciliation Poetry

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*Every child matters*

*by Logan Li*

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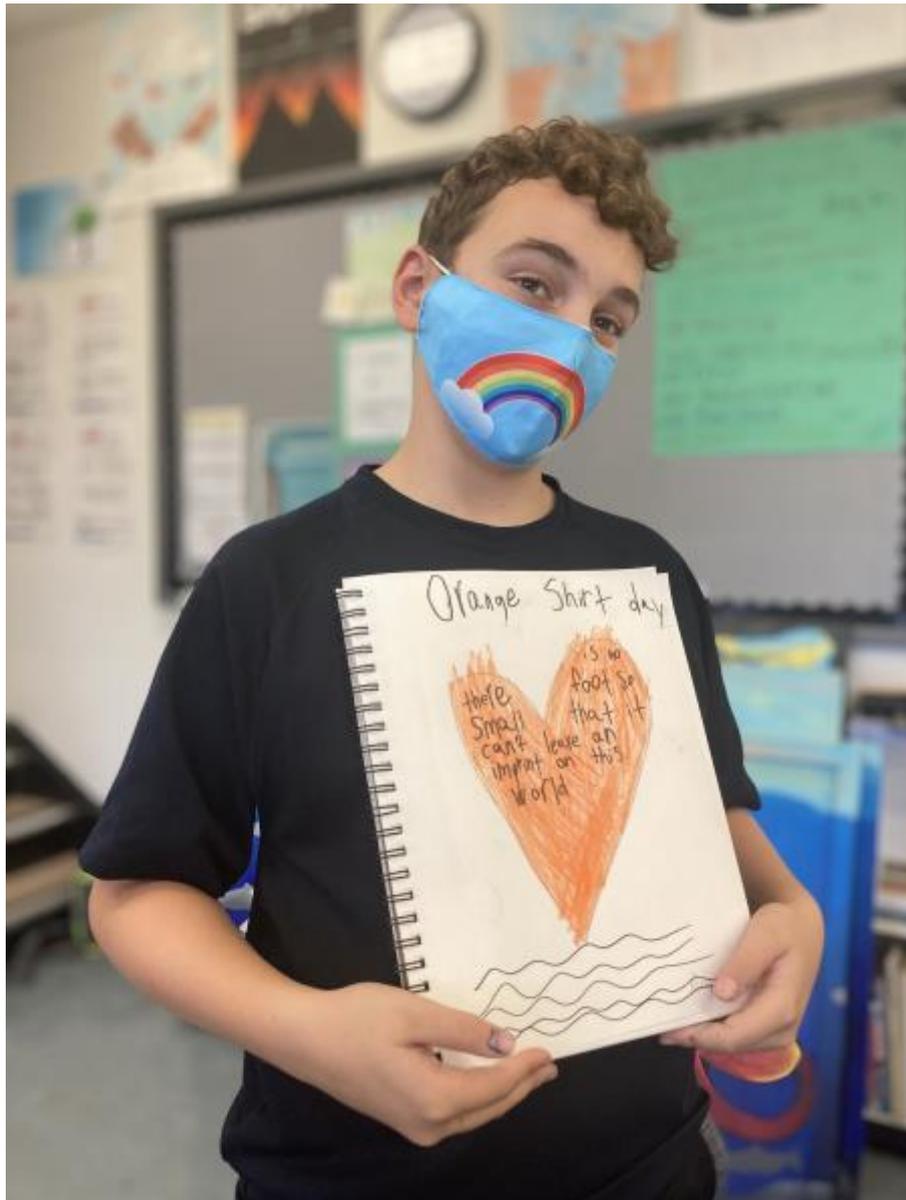
Feels like this whole world is so damn unfair  
Sees a lot of broken heart on these stairs  
Feels like the governments don't really care  
Five o'clock news telling us chaos happening around the world  
Another children died because of poverty  
A young boy's house got blown up in Afghanistan  
A young girl fallen into the river in Louisiana  
I wish all the children can have a good life  
Because they don't deserve to be hurt like this  
Let's sing a song for them  
Let's sing every child matters  
Let's help them cross the river  
Tell them that we're in it with them together  
Every child matters  
We are gonna come to rescue them when they are in cloudy weather  
Let's all work together  
Let's make their lives better  
Because every child matters  
Some children are living a fancy life  
Some children are dying in the street  
Some children hate to go to school  
Some children cannot even have a chance to read a book  
Some children can enjoy the fireplace  
Some children don't even have a torch in their hand  
Let's sing a song for these broken souls

Because they should've never been hurt like they did  
Let's sing every child matters  
Let's help them cross the river  
Let's tell them we're in it with them together  
Every child matters  
Let's bring them the burning fire  
Let's fulfill their little desires  
Let's all work together  
Let's make their lives better  
Because they're just like our brothers  
Because they're just like our sisters  
Every child matters  
Every child matters  
Let's make sure all the children can go to school  
Let's make sure they don't have to die from poverty  
Let's make sure they won't end up in a tragedy  
Let's make sure they all have clothes to wear  
Let's make sure we give all of them equal care  
Let's help them to keep their faith  
Let's put a smile on their innocent faces  
Let's sing a song for them  
Let's sing every child matters  
Every child matters  
Let's tell them we're in it with them together  
Let's all work together  
Let's make their lives better  
Every child matters  
We are gonna come to rescue them when they are in cloudy weather  
Every child matters  
Every child matters  
Every child matters

# Every child matters













Terry Fox Run Photos



















## Grade 4-7 Cross Country Photos

Excellent showing by our grade 4-7 runners at the PCS Invitational!

Most heats had around 50 or more runners in them. 15 of our 20 runners placed in the top 20 and received ribbons. Distances ranged from 1.3 - 2.1 kms.









Next Week's Menu



**Monday October 4th**

- Pizza Bagel-Bagel, pizza sauce, pepperoni, cheese
- Orzo Pasta Salad
- Split Pea Soup

**Tuesday Oct 5th**

- Perogies with mixed cheese & bacon
- Sauteed vegetables
- Sour cream
- Green Salad

**Wednesday Oct 6th**

- Philly Cheese Steak
- French Fries
- Potato Bacon Soup

**Thursday Oct 7th**

- Greek Chicken
- Naan & Tzatziki
- Spanakopita
- Caesar Salad

**Friday Oct 8th**

- Beef Burrito
- Tortilla Salad
- Three Sisters Soup

## Polite Reminders



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*If your child comes to school without a mask and asks for one they will be given a disposable one and it will be charged to their account. Disposable masks are \$1.00 and reusable St. John's masks are \$10.00. If you want your child to purchase a reusable St. John's mask, please email Jenny with permission. [jenny.boomer@stjohnsacademy.ca](mailto:jenny.boomer@stjohnsacademy.ca).*

*When submitting e-transfers for Monthly Invoices, please use the password: shawnigan*

*Please note that we are a scent free school.*

*Casual Day is October 5th, but please wear your Formal Uniform on Oct 6th, as it is our Picture Day.*

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## Upcoming Important Dates



- **October 4-8th - MAPS Assessments**
- **October 5th, Tuesday, - Casual Uniform Day**
- **October 6th, Wednesday - Formal Uniform Day for School Photos. Photos start at 9am. Please note there won't be onsite photo-retakes this year.**
- **October 11th, Monday- Thanksgiving Monday, no school, offices closed.**

## Contact Us

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250-220-4888

***info@stjohnsacademy.ca***

***admissions@stjohnsacademy.ca***

Visit us on the web at

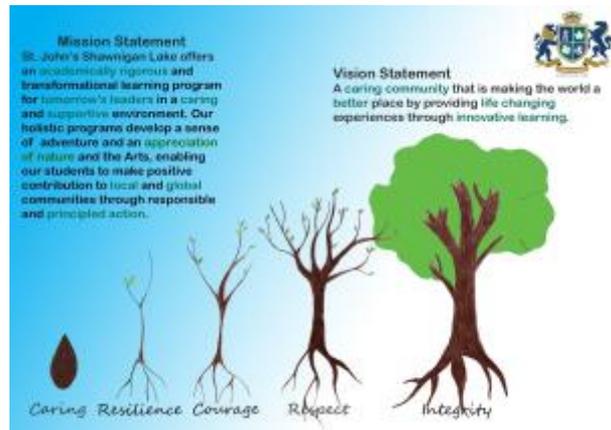
[shawniganlake.stjohnsacademy.ca](http://shawniganlake.stjohnsacademy.ca)

School Video: [St. John's Academy Shawnigan Lake Video](#)

Campus School Video: [Virtual Tour](#)

Follow us at

Instagram/Facebook: Stjohnsacademyshawniganlake



**Mission Statement**  
St. John's Shawigan Lake offers an academically rigorous and transformational learning program for tomorrow's leaders in a caring and supportive environment. Our holistic programs develop a sense of adventure and an appreciation of nature and the Arts, enabling our students to make positive contributions to local and global communities through responsible and principled action.

**Vision Statement**  
A caring community that is making the world a better place by providing life changing experiences through innovative learning.

*Caring Resilience Courage Respect Integrity*

The graphic features a tree that grows from a single seed on the left to a large, leafy tree on the right. The tree's growth is divided into five stages, each labeled with a value: Caring, Resilience, Courage, Respect, and Integrity. The tree's roots are visible and spread out across the ground. In the top right corner, there is a small crest or logo.