

St. John's Academy Spotlight

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From the Desk of Dr. John

When we showed our nine-year-old daughter photos and videos of St. John's Academy (SJA) on Shawnigan Lake she was immediately intrigued. When my wife and I asked Jade if she would like to move from Beijing to Shawnigan Lake and go to school at SJA she began bouncing. It has been about five months since that conversation and Jade has not stopped bouncing. Truth be told, I'm still bouncing too, though I'd like to think my style of bouncing is befitting SJA's new Head of School.

Hello, I am Dr. John, as I am known by the SJA community. My wife Ida, our daughter Jade, and I joined SJA early January and are thrilled to be planting roots here, making Shawnigan Lake our home. You will not be surprised to learn that all of our expectations and hopes for SJA and Shawnigan Lake have been exceeded. Not only is the valley an incredibly beautiful place to call home, the school's caring culture and commitment to high-quality education are inspiring.



*Dr. John D'Arcy with wife Ida and daughter Jade
St. John's Academy, February 24, 2022*

We look forward to seeing Jade graduate from SJA, though we are in no hurry for her to grow up too quickly.

This is my 35th year as an educator and I am as inspired today by the work as I was when I began, perhaps more. These are, after all, incredibly interesting times to be a teacher. From developmental psychology to cognitive science, we are being challenged to re-think the schooling of our children.

Historically, schools demanded our children wrap themselves around inflexible institutional systems and immovable cultures. High-quality, contemporary education is agile and adaptive. It recognizes learning as both exquisitely robust and incredibly fragile. It challenges our children to share responsibility for their learning, to understand themselves as learners, and to grapple with meaningful academic standards.

More than at any time in human history, we understand how people learn. Though there is still much to discover, we are developing clear understandings about how brains acquire new skills and knowledge, how our brains retain and retrieve skills and knowledge, and how brains use and transfer ideas into novel situations. Indeed, these are fabulous times to be a teacher.

Having lived and worked in amazing places and at incredible schools in Toronto, Hong Kong, Istanbul, and Beijing, I am excited to be taking the helm at St. John's Academy.

I am inspired by SJA's vision and mission, which promote excellence in learning and holistic child development. I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and working with SJA's students, teachers, and parent community as well as members of the larger local community to help this lovely school make its mark in the world.

*John D'Arcy
Head of School
john.darcy@stjohnsacademy.ca*