

A Family Tradition

BERT DE ALEJO &
BRUCIE DE ALEJO PITINO

As alumni of St. John's who attended the school in the '80s/'90s—now with their own kids enrolled as current Eagles—siblings Bert de Alejo and Brucie de Alejo Pitino say with pride that being at St. John's is “a family tradition for us.” Brucie paved the way, starting at SJE in K5 and graduating in 1995, with younger brother Bert attending SJE all 10 years and graduating in 1997.



L to R:
Brucie de Alejo Pitino and Bert de Alejo during their schooldays as St. John's students in the 1990s

Bert recounts their parents' original motivation for enrolling them at St. John's being the school's rigorous academic program, as well as the school's structure and values – which remain a big attraction for parents.

Today, the family tradition continues, with both siblings' children enrolled at St. John's as current or rising students. Brucie and husband Christopher have three students at the school, including Andrew (rising Grade 7), James (rising Grade 5), and Nicolas (rising K4). Bert and wife Becca have Sebastian (rising Grade 1) at SJE, as well as Savanna who will join her cousin Nicolas in K4 in the fall.

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR AMBITIOUS FUTURES

With Bert a Managing Partner at real estate investment firm Laurel Ridge, and Brucie an independent attorney, the siblings agree that the building blocks of their career success came during their time as students at St. John's.

“I had such a great experience as a student at St. John's; it provided me with such a strong academic foundation,” Brucie enthuses. “In fact, I think we would both agree, we were challenged the most [in all our schooling] at SJE. That preparation made the rest of our academic and business endeavors easier. SJE taught us how to work independently, work hard, be prepared – and those lessons have served us very well.”

Enduring friendships and even business relationships have been another benefit, says Bert. “I have lifelong friends from St. John's, including my dentist and several attorneys I work with. And when you're sourcing something you need [professionally] it's funny how you find people you knew from St. John's who can help you out.”

“The Christian-based value system that the school has stayed

“The Eagles Fund enhances the experience of all kids who attend this school. Dollar for dollar, you get incredible value for your donation.”

true to since opening is another reason we chose this school for our kids,” Bert says. “And there’s a level of diligence here that other schools don’t necessarily focus on. The diligence you come out of St. John’s with prepares you for any workload.”

SUPPORTING THE EAGLES FUND

That appreciation for the school over multiple generations led the siblings to support the Eagles Fund annually. For those considering giving, Brucie and Bert say they do it because giving is a recognition of the value they’ve observed first-hand in a St. John’s education.

“Our parents always stressed the importance of a strong education,” Bert explains. “So if I’m going to give to a charity, one of the first will be one that promotes education. The Eagles Fund enhances the experience of all students who attend this school. Dollar for dollar, you get incredible value for your donation.”

“One of the reasons to give is seeing how the Eagles Fund can help with professional development for the teachers,” adds Brucie. She says that wish list items granted to teachers through the fund—including technology and athletic program resources—are also big motivators for her family to give.

Ultimately, giving to the Eagles Fund comes down to supporting teachers and students. “My son comes home talking about how he loves his teachers,” Bert says. “Supporting that through the Eagles Fund is key.”



L to R:
Brucie and Christopher with kids Nicolas, Andrew, and James



L to R:
Becca and Bert with kids Sebastian and Savanna