



Hailey Cleek speaks at TEDx Youth Conference

Senior Hailey Cleek was one of a handful of speakers selected to participate in the TEDx Youth event at Montgomery Bell Academy on Nov. 19. TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to "ideas worth spreading," TEDx, an extension of TED, is designed to give Greater Nashville area high school and college students an outlet to share their ideas in the areas of technology, entertainment, and design.

Cleek was among students from Vanderbilt University, UT Chattanooga, Ravenwood High School, Hume Fogg High School, Brentwood High School and Montgomery Bell Academy.

Cleek's topic was entitled "Behavioral economics: a study of the irrationality in human economic decision making." Prior to acceptance, Cleek was required to submit a brief paper introducing her topic and once the topic was approved, she then provided a second proposal, which included conversational aspects. Cleek spoke to a large audience of peers and adults for 15 minutes.

## COACH BROWN TAKES REIGNS OF BASKETBALL PROGRAM

Kip Brown has known he wanted to be a head basketball coach for a long time. After serving as an off-campus assistant at JPPII for six years, he got an opportunity to serve as head coach of the JPPII boys basketball team and has lead the team to a 7-2 record to start the season. "I love the game, I love the competition," Coach Brown said.



Kip Brown

Coach Brown grew up in the Hendersonville area and was a basketball and baseball star at Beech High School. He went on to play basketball and baseball at both Volunteer State Community College and Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville and graduated with a business degree in 1996.

While Coach Brown was sitting out a redshirt year at Trevecca because of an injury, he coached his younger brother's AAU basketball team. "I immediately fell in love with coaching," Coach Brown said.

He considered changing his major so he could be a teacher and coach, but he was so close to earning his business degree, he set aside his dream. But even while working for Hilton and Gaylord hotels for eight years, "It was burning inside that I wanted to coach," Coach Brown said. When he started coaching his sons, "It hit me again, this is what I wanted to do."

In 2004, he went back to school to earn a master's degree in education and a teaching certificate. The next year he was coaching at Sumner Academy and visited JPPII's former athletics director Julie Rollins about bringing his players to a game. He had played baseball with her son and she told him about an opening at JPPII for an off-campus assistant coach in baseball and basketball.

For the next six years, he served as an assistant coach for the varsity basketball team and the head coach of the junior varsity. When the head coach's job opened up last spring, Coach Brown stepped into the vacancy. Besides coaching the basketball team, he is a physical education teacher.

"I want to be here for a long time," he said. "I'm from the Hendersonville area. I was thrilled when the school went up. ... I'm just very fond of the school's mission and what it stands for. It's a blessing to be able to teach here, to be a student here, to get a great education in a Christian atmosphere. We have a tight knit community here."

Coach Brown sees his role as an "opportunity to help boys

grow into young men and maybe help our community one day," he said.

His ties to the community will help him attract good students and good athletes to JPPII, Mr. Brown said. "Personally, I know from being involved in the community and coaching my sons, I know a lot of kids in the community. I feel good about a lot of perspective kids that are gong to come here. They like the school, (their families) want their son to be put in good hands with good teachers and good coaches."

Helping Coach Brown to coach the varsity, junior varsity and freshman basketball teams will be Charles Wade and Robert Sorenson. Coach Brown and Coach Wade have been close friends since they were teammates at Trevecca, and Coach Wade served as an assistant coach for JPPII's girls team several years ago before taking a job as a teacher and coach in the Metro school system. Coach Sorenson played collegiately at the University of North Alabama and has lived in the Hendersonville area for several years. All three have played with and against each other in adult leagues through the years, Coach Brown said.

Coach Brown has brought a running, pressing style to JPPII. "It's both the style I prefer and we have the quickness and speed to play this way," Coach Brown said. "I think it will be a pleasure for the fans to watch."

He introduced his up tempo style to the players during the summer "and right away they loved it," Coach Brown said. "I thought we had some players that could thrive in" the new system, he said. "This summer it was more than I envisioned how they caught on to the press so quickly. I was really proud of them."

Coach Brown hopes his association with JPPII continues for many years. "There's so many good things about JPPII, and I'm happy to be a part of it."

## JPPII WINS CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Congratulations to our students and faculty for winning the Channel 2 News Second Harvest Canned Food Drive for the fourth year in a row! JPPII collected a total of 19,170 canned food items. The food donations will directly serve families in need in Sumner County.

Ann Holton, anchor for Channel 2 News, and Melinda Judd of Second Harvest Food Bank were on campus to congratulate the student body and present the school a cash prize of \$1,200. The students will donate \$600 to help cover the postage for boxes of gifts collected for soldiers, \$300 to Loaves and Fishes, and \$300 to Ladies of Charity.



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## STUDENTS DEVELOP SPIRITUALLY THROUGH SEARCH

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teacher at JPPII and the club's faculty sponsor. "So many kids get caught up in the hustle and bustle of daily life. It's nice to focus on what we're really here for. ...

"I wish they'd had something like that when she was a student at JPPII and made SEARCH," said Ms. Staley who graduated from JPPII in 2007. She made SEARCH as a junior, was a student leader as a senior, and has continued to participate as an adult leader and co-director of a SEARCH weekend.

One of the benefits of the program is the opportunity it gives students to be leaders, Deacon Edwards said.

"It's so heartwarming to see so many JPPII kids take leadership roles," Ms. Staley said. "It's so beautiful. In my eyes they become heroes," helping their peers.

SEARCH is open to all students, Deacon Edwards said. Although it is primarily attended by Catholics, non-Catholic students have participated and been selected as leaders, he said.

SEARCH weekends are held throughout the school year. Upcoming SEARCH weekends are scheduled for Jan. 27-29, Feb. 10-12, Feb. 24-26, March 23-25 and April 27-29. Applications to attend SEARCH are available at JPPII.

## JPPII EAGLE SCOUTS TO BE RECOGNIZED BY DIOCESE

The Nashville Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting will recognize and award an Eagle Certificate from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to all JPPII students who have earned or will be earning Eagle Scout rank. The scouts will be recognized and awarded the Eagle Certificate during one of two annual Bishop's Scouting Award Masses typically scheduled in the spring and fall held at various churches in Middle Tennessee.

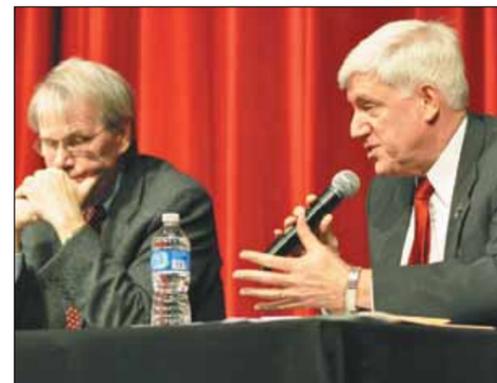
Eagle Scout is the highest rank in Boy Scouting. To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout must progress through six ranks, earn 21 merit badges, serve six months in a troop leadership position, complete a service project, attend a Scoutmaster conference, and successfully complete an Eagle Scout board review. To learn more about scouting, visit [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org). For more information about The Nashville Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, visit [http://www.catholic-church.org/ccos\\_tn/html/index.htm](http://www.catholic-church.org/ccos_tn/html/index.htm).

Pope John Paul II High School has seven Eagle Scouts: Kevin Bell (senior), Collin Bryant (sophomore), Hogan Bryant (senior), Tim Engeman (senior), Ben Geist (junior), Andrew Hnilica (senior) and Eric Stolz (senior). Mike Brown, director of college counseling, is also an Eagle Scout.



DECEMBER 2011

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## WAR AND PEACE

Deacon James Toner, an expert on morality and military ethics and an instructor at the U.S. Air Force Academy and the Air War College, makes a point during the first in Pope John Paul II High School's new colloquium series. Deacon Toner and Dr. J. Patout Burns, left, of Vanderbilt University's Divinity School, spoke on the topic, "A Time for War or a Time for Peace? Counterterrorism and the Catholic Response." Deacon Toner made the point, "Christians are called to the law of love, but never to forget the existence of evil. The reality of the matter is there are bad guys in the world," and it's a mistake not to protect ourselves from them. He added that we live in "a time of great moral darkness and moral evil. In times of darkness we grasp at any light available." Christians are always on the horns of a dilemma trying to do the right thing for Caesar and the right thing for God, Deacon Toner said. "The need is always for virtue."

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## STUDENTS DEVELOP SPIRITUALLY THROUGH SEARCH

The SEARCH program provides an important opportunity for spiritual development to students at Pope John Paul II High School. "It sparks a real sense of faith and belief in God and his involvement in their life," said Deacon Brian Edwards, campus minister at JPPII.

SEARCH is a youth retreat program for juniors and seniors that is operated by the Diocese of Nashville's Catholic Youth Office. The retreat, held at Camp Marymount, lasts the weekend and features talks on a variety of subjects led by teens who have already completed

## JPPII'S CHARACTER ESTABLISHED FROM THE EARLIEST DAYS

As the walls of Pope John Paul II High School were rising, the faculty and staff of the new school were busy building a curriculum and mission. "We wanted strong academics," said Karen Phillips, who is JPPII's first and only dean of studies and part of the team that opened the school in the fall of 2002. "We wanted the arts to take a prominent role."

Academics and the arts have been important parts of the school's foundation since before it opened. "One of the things that has endured is our continual searching for the best, most effective academic programs that we can deliver," said Ms. Phillips. "Academics are part of our brand, some people would say. It's part of our character."

As the school heads toward the 10th anniversary of its opening next fall, 14 members of the faculty and staff who helped open JPPII are still employed at the school. Besides Ms. Phillips, they include: Facilities Director Ken Billbrey, Admissions Department Administrative Assistant Sheree DiMenno, Science Department Chair Jennifer Dye, Fine Arts Department Chair Jj Ebelhar, Campus Minister Deacon Brian Edwards, Registrar Faye Girten, Dining Services Manager Jason Jones, Assistant Athletics Director Roger Jones, Math Department Chair Betty Mayberry, School Nurse Jody McLaren, Dean of Students

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SEARCH, and group discussions.

"I've seen the excitement on their face" after completing a SEARCH weekend, Deacon Edwards said. "It's something they'll always remember. I made SEARCH when I was in high school and I still remember it very vividly."

Last year, students Jackson Vaughn and Mary Leonard, who graduated in May 2011, started a SEARCH Club at JPPII. The club provides a support system to keep the spirit of SEARCH alive, said Julianne Staley, a theology

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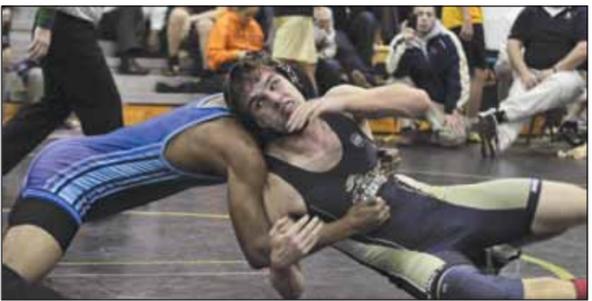
**EAGLE SCOUTS**

**Admissions Office**

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## WINTER SPORTS IN FULL SWING



Junior Cody Burchwell, right, makes a move against an opponent during the Knoxville Catholic Invitational Tournament. Burchwell finished sixth in the tournament, which drew 30 teams.

Sophomore Kyndal Hale and freshman post player Lauren Ransom also provide scoring punch, together with junior point guard Demisha Porter and sophomore Sierra Anglin.

After dropping its season opener by 5 points, the men's team has built a 6-2 record using a 13-14 player rotation, a full court press, and a running offense that is exciting from start to finish.

Three Knights wrestlers won medals at the Knoxville Catholic Invitational Tournament Dec. 2-3. Seniors Brandon Sinor and Andrew Scruggs finished fourth in their weight classes, 152 pounds and 182, respectively. Junior Cody Burchwell finished sixth in the 170-pound weight class.

The Hockey team has started the season 6-4-2 and is in third place in the Gold Division of the Greater Nashville Area Scholastic Hockey league. Sean Brewer is leading the Knights in scoring with 27 points on 17 goals and 10 assists. Paul Fogolin is second in scoring with 24 points on 10 goals and 14 assists.

The winter sports seasons are in full swing and JPII's teams are already racking up wins and accomplishments.

The JPII swim team won the Sumner County championships at Gallatin Civic Center on Saturday, Dec. 10. Led by Brittany Zobl, Maddie Kolbe and Paige Scheriger, the girls team won the girls division outright, and a clutch 400-meter relay victory by the boys in the last event of the day gave the team the overall title.

Over the course of the season, many JPII swimmers have posted qualifying times for state and regional competitions. They are: Courtney Baldrige, regionals in 100 Breast and 200 Free; Angelo Calvo, regionals in 100 Free, 100 Breast, 200 Free, 200 IM, 100 Fly; Ryan Edwards, regionals in 100 Fly, 50 Free, 100 Free; Ben Geist, regionals in 200 Free, 100 Free, 50 Free, 100 Back; Ashlyn Keightley, regionals in 100 Fly, 200 IM; Maddie Kolbe, state in 200 Free, 200 IM, 50 Free, 100 Fly, 100 Free, 100 Back, 100 Breast; Bethany Loven, regionals in 50 Free, 100 Breast, 100 Back; Hallie Lycin, regionals in 200 Free; Nick Massa, state in 100 Back, 100 Breast, 200 IM and regionals in 50 Free; Caleb Pracht, regionals in 200 IM, 100 Free, 500 Free, 100 Fly, 100 Back; Kira Romeo, regionals in 100 Fly; Paige Scheriger, state in 200 Free, 200 IM, 50 Free, 100 Fly, 100 Free, 100 Back, 100 Breast, 500 Free; Ilinca Sipos, regionals in 200 IM, 500 Free, 50 Free, 100 Back, 200 Free; Evelyn Southard, regionals in 50 Free; Brittany Zobl, state in 200 Free, 200 IM, 50 Free, 100 Fly, 100 Free, 500 Free, 100 Back, 100 Breast.

Both the women's and the men's basketball seasons are off to solid starts under new coaches Karen Serra and Kip Brown. Coach Serra's girls' team has begun the season 7-2, behind senior Sarah Galvin, who leads the Knights in scoring, and senior point guard Emily Peel.

## STUDENTS LAUNCH ONLINE NEWSPAPER

This year, JPII launched a new online student newspaper, *The Herald on the Hill*. The school started a journalism class, which produces the paper, because English Department Chair Jennifer Smith wanted students to have more opportunities to write in different platforms, explained Andrew Griffith, the teacher of the class and faculty sponsor for the paper.

"With online platforms we can write stories of any length and allow us to be more contemporary," Mr. Griffith said. New stories are posted about three times a week, he said. Students have a chance to write articles about events at school, teachers and fellow students. They can write satirical pieces and articles about topics of general interest in current events, he said.

The 23 students in the class "get an opportunity to write in a wide medium because we're not limited by space," Mr. Griffith said.

## JPII'S CHARACTER ESTABLISHED FROM THE EARLIEST DAYS

All of the department heads were local people, except for Ginger Farry, the school's first foreign language department head who came from New York, Ms. Phillips said. It was easy to find good teachers who wanted to come to JPII, Ms. Phillips said. "The mission appeals to a lot of teachers. They had an opportunity to create something they had control over."

The department heads and administration collaborated to develop JPII's unique eight-course rotating schedule, Ms. Phillips said. "I really haven't seen that anywhere else." Students take eight courses each year, but take only five 80-minute classes a day, except Wednesdays when they take four. The schedule rotates with classes one through five on Monday, six through two on Tuesday, and so on. Students are in each class three times a week. "That schedule has been our basic template since the beginning," Ms. Phillips said.

The schedule allows students to earn 26 credits in the key content areas and six elective credits during their four years at JPII, Ms. Phillips said. Among the advantages are an ability to take courses in key content areas every year for the whole year, she said. Also if a student performs better in the morning than the afternoon, the rotating schedule will avoid a student always having the same class in the afternoon, she added. The longer class periods means more time in class, which contributes to greater productivity in the arts and science lab classes, Ms. Phillips said. And the homework load is a little easier preparing for five classes a day than all eight. Because teachers don't see their students in class every day, students have to better organized, Ms. Phillips said.

The goal at JPII is not only to prepare students for college and for life, she said, but to try to instill in every student the desire to do everything as well as they can. It is part of God's plan for each person to develop to their fullest potential. "As a Catholic school," Ms. Phillips said, "that's part of who we are."

culinary arts, Mrs. Parks said. "He really enjoys working in the kitchen."

Project Opportunity is a vocational training program funded by the state, and operated at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Mrs. Parks said. Will McMillan completed that program and was hired at the Children's Hospital before he decided to enroll in Next Steps, she said. "Attending college was always his goal."

The Hand in Hand program prepares its students for the next step in their lives, whether its vocational training or post-secondary education, Mrs. Parks said. In their junior and senior years at JPII, the Hand in Hand students take a Career Explorations course to develop a better understanding of what career areas are available to them and what their strengths and interests are, she explained. The students in the course will visit Next Steps and Project Opportunity this year, Mrs. Parks said.

"Our students want to go to college, and they want to be with their same-age peers," she said. "We're very excited about the Hand in Hand students moving on to other programs."

## JPII PEOPLE: SCHOOL CONNECTION

We hope to highlight the high school careers of some of our students with reference to their "feeder school."

### St. Pius X Classical Academy

Lauren Ransom and Briah Boyce have been friends since kindergarten. "We're more like sisters," said Lauren. When they were attending St. Pius X Classical Academy and we're trying to decide where to go to high school, together they decided on Pope John Paul II High School. "We convinced each other to come to JPII," Lauren added. "It's just the people," Briah added. "We felt more comfortable here."



Briah Boyce

The girls had visited the JPII campus numerous times before they arrived in August as freshmen. As eighth graders they were members of the St. Pius girls basketball team that played for the Parochial League championship at JPII, and both had attended various camps. Those experiences helped them meet

people, Briah said. And they also were a good way to meet people in different grades, Lauren said.



Lauren Ransom

"They said it was going to be hard, but they challenge you so it's worth it," Lauren said of the advice she received from the older students at JPII that she knew. Their teachers at St. Pius helped prepare them for the academic workload at JPII

"with loads of homework," Lauren said. The workload has been "what I thought it would be," Briah said.

Both Lauren and Briah are involved with athletics. Lauren is staring on the varsity girls basketball team as a freshman, and she hopes one day to play Division I basketball in college. Briah is both a basketball and volleyball player.

Briah said prospective JPII students should "study hard, be prepared for the work, but they'll love the experience of coming here. Don't let the work scare you." Lauren advised, "Be appreciative of all the work and take it seriously because in the long run it can take you where you want to go."

JPII people ... Lauren Ransom and Briah Boyce!



## View Points

### CAMP JPII PROMISES LOTS OF SUMMER FUN

Camp JPII, the school's summer camp program, will feature 18 new camps and several other changes for the summer of 2012. The camps are open to everyone in the community, and there will be activities for a wide range of children from 5 through 17. The camps typically last a week and are held from 9 a.m. to noon or 12:30-3:30 p.m. "We have children who spend their whole summer here," said Gail Greene of the Admissions Office. "There are some kids who look forward to those camps all summer."

The camps fall into one of three areas: arts, academics and athletics. Besides the annual camps for baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball, lacrosse, golf, wrestling, an all sports camp, tennis and cheerleading, there will be a fishing camp that will conclude with a two-day fishing tournament.

Several popular academic camps are returning, such as Science Slueths taught by JPII Science Department Chair Jennifer Dye, essay writing and "The World of Hogwarts," both taught by Social Studies Department Chair Paul Saboe. History teacher Dr. John Barrow will teach a week-long course on the Civil War in Middle Tennessee. In the arts, JPII's theater teacher Zac Campbell will lead several camps: Creating Characters and Auditioning for the Camera. There will also be camps on improvisation and piano basics. Five- and 6-year-olds will be able to enjoy "My First Camp," which will feature various fun activities such as telling stories, singing songs, playing games, and making crafts.

The full list of camps will be posted in February on the school's web page - www.jp2hs.org - under the Campus Life tab. The price for each camp will be \$140, said Mrs. Greene. The school is also offering a "Pick Four" option, offering four camps for the reduced price of \$525, she added. There will once again be online registration.

For the first time, Camp JPII will be offering First Burst and Last Blast, before and after care programs. Parents will be able to drop their children off at the school after 7:30 a.m. and pick them up by 5:30 p.m. each day. The cost will be \$30 per week for each or \$55 per week for both. Camp JPII organizers are hoping the First Burst and Last Blast will make it more convenient for parents who work, said Becky Roy of the admissions office.

The school hopes to have more than 400 young students on campus during Camp JPII. And because so many of the camps are led by JPII faculty, students can get a glimpse of what teachers at JPII are like, Greene said. "It's a great marketing tool for our school."

### UPCOMING EVENTS

### PLACEMENT EXAM FOR 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR

JAN. 21  
8 A.M.-NOON

### Become part of JPII history

As JPII celebrates its 10th anniversary and the opening of the Jim Carell Athletic Complex, we invite you to become part of history!

JPII is blessed with the extraordinary gift from Mr. Jim Carell. How do we respond to such generosity? "Pay It Forward" with the purchase of a customized \$500 paver that will be placed between the pillars in the front entrance way. Alumni and current students may also be honored with the purchase of a customized \$150 brick engraved with their name and year of graduation.

Contact Patrick Weaver, director of advancement and admissions, at 590-6013 for information on pavers and alumni bricks.

Go Knights!