



JPII Gala drawing near

Planning is in full swing for the 10th annual JPII Gala, set for Feb. 9, 2013, at Bluegrass Yacht and Country Club in Hendersonville. Nashville Bishop David Choby, one of the original members of the school's Board of Trustees, will be the guest of honor at the gala.

As always, the evening will feature silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing. Proceeds from the gala help to fund the general operations of the school. Organizers, under the direction of Gala Co-Chairs Melody Noah and Beth Volz, are focusing on procuring donations, sponsorships and advertisements for the auction book.

Several great auction items have already been donated, including a matching pearl necklace and bracelet, mountain cabin retreats, NASCAR tickets, Predator hockey suite tickets, a Sip and Shop Winery Tour of Natchez Trace, and many others.

For more information about sponsorships, ads, tickets, and donating auction items, including an auction wish list, visit www.jp2hs.org/Gala or contact Jolind Weaver at jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org or (615) 822-2375.

MRS. JANSING-KAESTNER FINDS JPII WELCOMING

After Rebecca Jansing-Kaestner and her husband Andrew decided to move from their home in the Baltimore area to be closer to family in Louisville, Ky., and Indiana, their search brought them to Middle Tennessee. About a week after her husband, an airport engineer, told her he had a job interview in Nashville, Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner saw the posting for an opening as a chemistry teacher at JPII. They ended up traveling to Nashville last spring for job interviews on the same day. "We were both offered jobs within a week," said Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner, who started teaching chemistry at JPII this school year.



Rebecca Jansing-Kaestner

"It's been a very welcoming community," Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner said of JPII. "I feel very much at home here, I feel very much supported here."

Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner – or Mrs. J-K as her students call her – grew up in Louisville and got a friendly push into teaching from a friend, who she was helping with her school work. "One of my friends in high school said, 'You explained that really well. You should be a teacher,'" Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner recalled. "I got into it, and I really liked it. It became a nice intellectual challenge" to take an abstract idea and explain it at a level everybody can understand. Because students have different learning styles, she said, "it's a balancing act to

JPII ALUMNI GATHER FOR BLACK FRIDAY EVENT

JPII alumni gathered at Flyte World Dining and Wine near downtown Nashville on Friday, Nov. 23, for a Black Friday event. The event was a great success with more than 100 alumni attending. Scott Atkinson, owner of Flyte, reserved the entire venue for JPII alumni. Remarkably, every graduating class was represented, from 2005 to 2012.

"The outward support of the JPII alumni program is greatly appreciated," said Megan Forester, JPII alumni coordinator. "JPII alumni are our greatest ambassadors, and we are very proud of everything they have accomplished."

Ms. Forester, who is building the alumni program, would love to hear from alumni and gather their current contact information. To reach her, email megan.forester@jp2hs.org. The next alumni event will be held Saturday, Jan. 5, at JPII. All are invited to come out and support the

make sure you reach everybody."

After college, she took a job teaching science at Valley High School, a Louisville public school, where she stayed for five years. "I decided I wanted to teach at a private school," Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner said. "Actually, I decided I wanted to teach at Presentation Academy," an all-girls Catholic school and the oldest school in Louisville. Her grandmother and cousins had graduated from Presentation, she said. "I knew there was a good sense of community there." It was a good fit for Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner. "I enjoyed it. I loved Pres. I grew a lot there, I learned a lot."

After six years at Presentation, her husband got a job in Maryland and their family moved. She took a job at The John Carroll School, a Catholic co-ed school, where she worked for 10 years, eventually serving as the science department chair. "John Carroll is practically a carbon copy of JPII in term of the demographics," she said.

As the department chair, Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner had helped to set up a shadowing program for John Carroll students. They would serve summer internships at military proving grounds in the area helping with scientific research. "I liked the way our department was headed," she said.

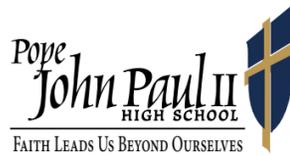
At JPII she teaches four advanced chemistry classes, which is mostly sophomores, and one AP Chemistry class, which is mostly juniors. JPII students are "very polite, very accommodating. They're willing to work," Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner said. The faculty at JPII have been "very welcoming. They're very open," Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner said. "My department is very close knit."

varsity boys basketball team as they take on St. Benedict.

To see more photos from Black Friday, visit www.jp2hs.org/ALUMNI.



Katie Gibbens, Andrew Holt and Olivia Walker, all members of the Class of 2005, enjoy the alumni Black Friday event.



117 Caldwell Drive
Hendersonville, TN 37075

info@jp2hs.org

www.jp2hs.org

JPII HONORS MSGR. BEVINGTON

Continued from page 1

of the new Jim Carell Athletic Complex last spring as he traveled the perimeter of the complex in a golf cart sprinkling holy water on the field and gathered students, faculty and friends whom he loved.

Last May, the JPII board established The Bevington Scholarship in honor of his contributions to the Catholic community. During the All Souls Day service, celebrated by Bishop David Choby, the school dedicated the chapel entryway by unveiling a plaque as a permanent reminder of the impact of Msgr. Bevington on the life of the JPII community. A reception followed the Mass in the Puryear Library for family members, friends, faculty and students.

For information on The Bevington Scholarship and how you can donate, visit www.jp2hs.org/BevingtonScholarships.

JPII WINS CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Pope John Paul II High School won the Channel 2 News Second Harvest Canned Food Drive for the fifth year in a row. JPII collected 15,590 canned food items, an average of more than 25 cans per student. The donations from JPII are estimated to feed more than 12,000 families.

Ann Holt, anchor for Channel 2 News, visited the school to present the students with a cash prize of \$1,200. The students will spend the money by adopting six Christmas angels and buying presents for them.

SECOND ANNUAL CALDWELL CLASSIC A GREAT SUCCESS

The second annual Caldwell Classic 5k was held on Nov. 17 with a record number of participants. This year's event included 220-240 runners of all ages. The winner was JPII sophomore Michael Simpson with a time of 18:07.51. This year's top female runner was junior Paige Scheriger with a time of 19:54.12. In the adult category, JPII physics teacher Jon Hall came in first, and fourth overall, with a time of 18:56.63. Tammy Richardson was the top adult female finisher with a time of 22:54.45. New this year was the Middle School Fun Run. Top finishers were Tiegian Clausen and Taw Owens.

Many thanks to Veronica Del Valle, Andrew Griffith and the House of Pius for coordinating the event. This year's sponsors included Mary Cay Koen DDS, Dennis Sinor Insurance, Willoughby Inc., YMCA, Regency, CSI Medical Inc., Southern Sports Medicine, North America Administrators, Smile Solutions, Star Heating and Air, Pinnacle, St. John Vianney, Will's Irrigation, Becker's Bakery, Rivergate Dermatology, Dominion Payroll Services, United Health Group, Purity, Hunt Brothers and Richards and Southern.

All proceeds from the event were donated to the Jason Foundation, a charity that works to prevent teen suicide. To learn more about the Jason Foundation, visit www.jasonfoundation.com.



DECEMBER 2012

Headmaster Faustin Weber ■ 615-822-2375 ■ www.jp2hs.org



LEADING THE PACK

JPII Headmaster Faustin Weber takes the lead at the second annual Caldwell Classic 5K held Saturday, Nov. 17. This year's race attracted a record number of runners to raise funds for the Jason Foundation. For more details, see story on page 6.

JPII HONORS MSGR. WILLIAM BEVINGTON

Students, faculty and friends gathered early Nov. 2, All Souls Day, to honor the late Msgr. William Bevington during a Mass dedicating the Pope John Paul II High School chapel entryway in his memory.

Msgr. Bevington, former pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville, served on the Board of Trustees at JPII for many years and played a pivotal role in the early formation of the spiritual life of the school.

During the service, Headmaster Faustin Weber reflected upon the life of Msgr. Bevington and his affection for the students of JPII. Mr. Weber fondly recollected Msgr. Bevington's last official act at JPII during the dedication

Continued on page 6

JPII TEACHER WINS TWO SCIENCE EDUCATOR AWARDS

Pope John Paul II High School science teacher Rachel Gordon recently received two prestigious awards: Outstanding Biology Teacher of the Year and the Tennessee Science Educator of the Year.

The Outstanding Biology Teacher Award recognizes an outstanding biology educator in grades seven to 12 in each of the 50 states; Washington, D.C.; Canada; Puerto Rico and U.S. overseas territories. Nominees must have at least three years public, private or parochial school teaching experience and must have specialized in biology/life science.

Candidates are judged on their teaching ability and experience, cooperativeness in the school and community, inventiveness, initiative, and student-teacher relationships.

Continued on page 3



Rachel Gordon



Nashville Bishop David Choby blesses and dedicates a plaque honoring Msgr. William Bevington in the entryway of the school's chapel. Also pictured is Deacon Brian Edwards of JPII.



THIS ISSUE:

RACHEL GORDON

MSGR. BEVINGTON

JPII PEOPLE

AUTHOR VISITS

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

GOLDEN TATE

CHELSEA GETTELFINGER

HONORS CHOIRS

CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

SIGNINGS

ALL-REGION

JPII GALA

REBECCA JANSING-KAESTNER

BLACK FRIDAY

CALDWELL CLASSIC

FOOD DRIVE

Admissions Office

615-822-2375

info@jp2hs.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD INVITATIONAL

SATURDAY JAN. 12

Author Allan Wolf leads writing workshop

Allan Wolf, acclaimed author of the book "The Watch that Ends the Night," a novella in poems about the sinking of the Titanic, led a writing workshop on Nov. 13 for students at Pope John Paul II High School.

Mr. Wolf said the people whose voices are heard in the poems "lived and breathed and loved. They were as real as you or me. They could have been any one of us. And that is why, after a century, the Titanic still fascinates."

The visit was made possible through a grant from the JPII Parent Association and was organized by librarian Joan Lange and English Department Chair Jennifer Smith. To learn more about Mr. Wolf, visit www.allanwolf.com.

View Points

GOLDEN TATE VISITS HIS ALMA MATER

Golden Tate, a 2007 graduate of Pope John Paul II High School and a wide receiver for the Seattle Seahawks in the NFL, took time during his team's bye week recently to visit his alma mater. Tate's visit was two fold: to support former classmate Megan Forester '06, JPII's new alumni coordinator, in her efforts to build the alumni program, and to show off his beloved school to Seahawks teammate Jermaine Kearse.



2007 JPII grad Golden Tate embraces his former chorus teacher Jj Ebelhar.

Tate spent several hours on campus visiting students and reminiscing with faculty and staff. As he walked the halls, he proudly pointed out key features of the school to Kearse. "I'm so jealous of the new field," said Tate to Kearse of the new turf football field. "We didn't have this when I was here, this is great!"

Tate also introduced several of his former teachers, including chorus teacher Jj Ebelhar. He gave her a big hug and smiled as he described her teaching as "tough, but excellent."

Tate rounded out the day by autographing a few JPII baseball caps for the school's upcoming gala. Tate said, "I'd love to be here for the gala if my schedule permits."

Of the alumni program, Tate said, "Megan and I have been friends a long time, and I know she's going to do a great job with this program." Tate has a message for all JPII alumni. "I want to encourage the alumni to contact Megan and help her get the alumni program off to a great start!" Tate added that he looks forward to reconnecting with classmates during future alumni events.

If you are JPII alumni, please contact Megan Forester to join the alumni association. When you provide your contact information, you will receive invitations to all the alumni events. Megan can be reached at megan.forester@jp2hs.org.

JPII PEOPLE: SCHOOL CONNECTION

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

Holy Rosary Academy

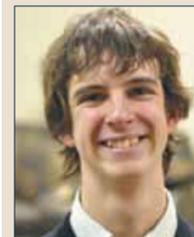
Alyssa Rentuza and Phillip Baker have gone to school together since kindergarten, first at Holy Rosary Academy and now at Pope John Paul II High School, where they are freshmen this year.

Phillip followed his older brothers Christopher and Nicholas, both juniors to JPII. "When they were looking at the school, I also looked around," he said. "I picked JPII because it's a Catholic school, has good academics, and a strong theater program. That was everything on my list," he said. Like Phillip, Alyssa, who has a strong interest in math, was looking for a high school with good academics and found it at JPII. "I like the smaller school atmosphere," she added. "I feel like



Alyssa Rentuza

I'm close to everybody in our grade." Although Alyssa and Phillip are carrying a heavy academic load, they are enjoying the challenge. Alyssa's cousin Jacqui Ramos is a junior at JPII. "She told me it's a lot of fun here." That is what she's found as well. "It's been good," Alyssa said.



Phillip Baker

Both Alyssa and Phillip said being involved in extra-curricular activities has helped them to make new friends. Phillip got a head start on meeting people at JPII last year as an eighth grader when he got a part in the spring musical "Oliver." Phillip has continued his involvement with JPII's theater program this year with parts in both the fall play "Our Town" and the upcoming spring musical "Into the Woods." Alyssa also has a part in the musical and has competed in several math competitions for JPII.

While Phillip advised prospective students not to procrastinate on their homework, Alyssa encouraged them to get involved in extra-curricular activities early.

JPII people ... Alyssa Rentuza and Phillip Baker!

CHELSEA GETTELFINGER NAMED STATE'S TOP CHEERLEADER

Chelsea Gettelfinger, a senior at Pope John Paul II High School, has been named Tennessee's Cheerleader of the Year after an extensive competition that judged participants on their tumbling and cheering skills, their grades, extra-curricular activities, and a personal interview.

"I was surprised, actually," said Gettelfinger, the first cheerleader from JPII to win the honor. "I didn't really know what they were looking for."

The selection process began last summer when Gettelfinger and several of her teammates on the JPII football and competitive cheer squad were nominated by their coaches at JPII, Erin Riggs and Betsy Pierpaoli. The cheerleaders then had to submit their school transcripts, two letters of recommendation, a list of community service and extra-curricular activities and an essay.

After the application process, 27 cheerleaders from across the state were invited by the Tennessee Cheerleading Coaches Association to participate in an all-day interview and try-out session. Gettelfinger was one of five JPII cheerleaders invited to the tryout.

First came the interview, then all the cheerleaders were taught a cheer they had to perform. "We tried out by ourselves, which was nerve-wracking," Gettelfinger said.

The performance part of the competition also required the applicants to demonstrate their skills in tumbling, cheer, jumps and dance. The tryout was her strong suit, Gettelfinger said. "I excel in the tumbling and dance cheer area."

At the end of the tryouts, 12 cheerleaders were chosen for the All-State Cheerleading Squad, including Gettelfinger and her JPII teammate Aly Cox. The team will cheer at the Toyota Tennessee East-West All-Star football game on Dec. 8.



Chelsea Gettelfinger

At the 2012-2013 TSSAA cheerleading state championship in Murfreesboro on Saturday, Nov. 17, Gettelfinger, with the highest score from the application and tryout, was announced as the state Cheerleader of the Year. She received a \$500 scholarship, a Tennessee Cheerleader of the Year jacket and a plaque.

"Chelsea is someone who is immensely talented, yet still continues to work incredibly hard to perfect her skill," said Erin Riggs, Gettelfinger's coach at JPII. "That drive makes coaching her a lot of fun."

Gettelfinger has been a member of JPII's cheer team all four years and has been captain for two years. Gettelfinger, the daughter of Lori and Scott Gettelfinger, hopes to continue cheering in college. She plans on attending the University of Louisville and will try out for the cheer team there in May. "They actually have the number one all-girl program in the U.S.," she said. "I have five of my friends cheer there right now."

JPII STUDENTS NAMED TO STATE HONORS CHOIRS

Nineteen choir members at Pope John Paul II High School were named to Tennessee's state honors choirs. They were among 1,400 students from 62 Middle Tennessee schools who auditioned the weekend of Sept. 28.

The students selected for the Freshman Honors chorus, All-State member and All-State Alternate participated in the Mid-State Honors Choir Festival on Nov. 8 at Christ Church in Brentwood.

Freshman singers selected include: Anna Bass, Emily Galluzzi, Kendall Kelly, Malia Lane and Michael Locke. Upper classmen singers chosen for Mid-State were: Teresa Gilstrap, Olivia Drennan, Sarah Link, Rebecca Sullivant, Whit Drennan, Kenzie Farless, Jenny Cawood, Michelle Moore, Beth Bender, Zach Janson, Jacqui Ramos, Rachael Leonard, Loraine Ilia and Madi Leonard.



JPII TEACHER WINS TWO SCIENCE EDUCATOR AWARDS

Continued from page 1

Gordon was honored during the National Association of Biology Teachers Professional Development Conference in Dallas, Texas.

The Tennessee Science Educator of the Year Award, presented by the Tennessee Science Teachers Association, recognizes outstanding science teachers from across the state. The Tennessee Science Teachers Association is the largest representation of science educators in Tennessee and was established in 1975 as the Science Association of

Tennessee.

Gordon received her award at a luncheon in Murfreesboro on Nov. 2 in conjunction with the association's annual professional development conference.

Gordon joined the JPII faculty in 2008 and teaches biology and AP Environmental Science. Prior to joining JPII, she taught seventh grade science at Ellis Middle School in Hendersonville.

JPII BASKETBALL TEAMS TO HOST CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

JPII will host its first ever Christmas Classic Dec. 20-22 featuring boys and girls basketball teams from throughout Middle Tennessee as well as a Memphis team and one from Germany.

The German team, Urspring, sends players to Division I college programs in the United States every year, and one of its former players, Kevin Bright, is on the Vanderbilt University roster, explained JPII Boys Basketball Coach Kip Brown. The Urspring coaches are bringing the team to Nashville to see Bright and Vanderbilt play. They contacted the Vanderbilt coaches about helping them to find an opportunity to play while they are here, Coach Brown said. Eventually, they were referred to JPII. "I thought it was an opportunity we couldn't pass up," Coach Brown said.

The eight boys' teams playing in the tournament will be JPII, Urspring, Station Camp, Hillsboro, Nashville Christian, Hendersonville Christian Academy, Aaron Academy and Memphis Northside. The girls' side won't be a tournament like the boys, but instead will use a "classic" format. The girls' teams participating include JPII, Hillsboro, Nashville Christian, Hendersonville Christian, Macon County, Red Boiling Springs, Hampshire and Maplewood.

On Thursday, Dec. 20, the girls will start play with Hendersonville Christian v. Maplewood at 10 a.m., Hillsboro v. Nashville Christian at

11:30 a.m., and JPII v. Macon County at 1 p.m. On Friday, Dec. 21, Red Boiling Springs plays Hillsboro at 10 a.m., Hampshire v. Hendersonville Christian at 11:30 a.m., and JPII v. Maplewood at 1 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 22, the action includes Hendersonville Christian v. Red Boiling Springs at 8:30 a.m., Maplewood v. Hampshire at 10 a.m., Nashville Christian v. JPII at 11:30 a.m. and Hillsboro v. Macon County at 1 p.m.

The boys' tournament starts at 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, with Aaron Academy v. Hillsboro, followed by Urspring v. Nashville Christian at 5:30 p.m., Hendersonville Christian v. Station Camp at 7 p.m., and Memphis Northside v. JPII at 8:30 p.m. On Friday and Saturday, the boys games will begin at 4 p.m. On Thursday, the JPII boys junior varsity will play Aaron Academy's junior varsity at 2:30 p.m.

The week after the JPII Christmas Classic, JPII's boys' team will travel to Atlanta to play in the Christmas tournament hosted by St. Pius X High School in Buckhead on Dec. 27-29. The tournament will feature eight Catholic high school teams from eight states, Coach Brown said.

The tough competition the Knights will face in both tournaments should help boost the basketball program's exposure and prepare them for the upcoming region schedule, Coach Brown said. "We're trying to take our program to the next level."

JPII SENIORS SIGN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Four seniors at Pope John Paul II High School have committed to continue their athletic careers in college: Braxton Brinkley, Andy Druffel, Ricky Heagarty and Josh Phillips.

Brinkley has signed to play baseball at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky. He is the son of J.C. and Larissa Brinkley and started at shortstop for the Knights since his freshman year. He was named to the All Sumner County team in 2010, 2011 and 2012 and the All-State team in 2012.

Heagarty has signed to play baseball at Christian Brothers University in Memphis. He is the son of Rick and Kristin Heagarty. He is a pitcher who recored a 4-3 record and 3.02 ERA in 2011.

Druffel, the son of Margie and Thom Druffel, has signed to play tennis for the University of Dayton. He was the number one singles player for JPII his sophomore, junior and senior years, with a singles record of 21-3 his sophomore and junior seasons. As a junior, Druffel became JPII's first boys' tennis player to qualify for the state tournament, and he is ranked in the top 10 in Tennessee and 269th nationally in his class.

Phillips, the son of Derrick and Tami Phillips, has signed to play basketball at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. As a junior, he was named to the All Sumner County, All Region and All State teams. He also was named to the Bob Gibbons AAU All Tournament first team.



Seniors Ricky Heagarty, from left, Andy Druffel, Braxton Brinkley and Josh Phillips have signed college athletic scholarships.

FOOTBALL PLAYERS NAMED ALL-REGION

Five football players from Pope John Paul II High School have been named to the 2012 All-Region team for the Division II-AA Middle/East Region. Senior offensive lineman Joseph Lascara was named the team's Academic MVP. Others named All-Region were: senior offensive lineman Matt Hanson; senior running back Robert Davis; senior wide receiver Brad Jarreau; and junior linebacker Gunnar Scholoto.