



Runners in the third Caldwell Classic 5K Run pour through an archway made of balloons to start the race, which was held to benefit the Jason Foundation.

## JPII HOSTS THIRD CALDWELL CLASSIC

More than 260 people participated in the third Caldwell Classic 5K Run, sponsored by Pope John Paul II High School as a fundraiser for the Jason Foundation, which educates people around the country about teen suicide.

"I think it went very well this year," said JPII Spanish teacher Veronica Del Valle, one of the chief organizers of the event. "We had more students than the year before."

The first Caldwell Classic was held in April 2012, Ms. Del Valle said, but the following fall, organizers moved it

to November after the football season so more students could participate. The race is open to everyone in the community.

The five-kilometer – or 3.1 mile – course wound around the JPII campus finishing on the football field in the Jim Carell Athletic Complex. JPII sophomores Jordan Wirth and Dylan Lanas crossed the finish line together to tie for first. The top girl finisher was JPII senior Paige Scheriger,

*Continued on page 3*



### SOCIAL MEDIA:



**A KNIGHT'S TALE**



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**ATHLETICS**



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## View Points

### JPPII STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE EARNESTNESS, INQUIRY

Recently, Pope John Paul II High School hosted a colloquium entitled “Toward Mutual Understanding: The American-Muslim Experience and the Catholic Response.” Scholarly guests, Dr. Todd Green from Luther College and Dr. Ossama Bahloul from the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro, attended the dialogue meant to generate better understanding of the common threads between our two Abrahamic faiths, as well as to cast light upon common misconceptions that can often lead to divisiveness and injustice.



Lisa Deal

The responses of our students to the evening are etched into my memory. One after another, JPPII students raised their hands, rose and directed informed, cogent and thought-provoking questions to our guests. The discussion gradually encompassed a broader view of humankind’s missteps and interconnectedness.

Following the talk, each speaker was completely flanked by eager students even well after the audience had been excused for the evening. Passionate inquiries reflected the students’ sincere drive to better understand their world. Their clear resistance to simplified stigmatizations and dedication to embodying Christ’s compassion on earth truly moved me.

This small evening demonstrated the qualities of earnestness and inquiry that are fostered in our school, the daily challenge to allow faith to lead us beyond ourselves. The students embodied the words from Ephesians to “rid ourselves of brawling, slander and any form of malice ... and to be kind and compassionate to one another.” (Ephesians 4: 31-32)

*Lisa Deal teaches 2D art and photography in JPPII’s Fine Arts Department.*

### SWIM TEAM PREPARING FOR REGION, STATE MEETS

The Pope John Paul II High School girls and boys swimming teams are busy working to improve their times so they qualify for the region swim meet at the end of the January and the state meet in February. The teams are coached by Andreea Mitrofan, a native of Romania and a coach for the Excel Aquatics team.

JPPII is dealing with an imbalance on its roster, Coach Mitrofan said. “We have 36 swimmers. I have seven boys and 29 girls,” she said. “We have a very small team of boys and it’s pretty hard to keep up with all the other teams in our division. However, the girls team has a good number of year round swimmers that they do well.”

Coach Mitrofan is impressed with the progress of her team. “Four of the seven boys are learning the strokes now” and are new to swimming, she said. “It’s amazing how fast they learn.”

Members of the girls team include: seniors Courtney Baldrige, Natalie Cannella, Victoria Dolan, Rachel Gonzalez, Maddie Kolbe, Bailey Pate, Paige Scheriger, Ilinca Sipos; juniors Carlie Campbell, Anna Fox, Rachael Leonard, Michelle Moore, Claire O’Connell, Kira Romeo; sophomores Sarah Brau, Emma Evans, Holly Houdeshell, Ariel Pol, Allie Riley; freshmen Olivia Balkon, LaraBeth Case, Grace Eatman, AC Herline, Annie Kyriakidis, Charlsi Jayne Patterson, Elizabeth Perrone, Lauren Price, Kayla Putman, and Anna Zikovich. The boys team includes: senior Angelo Calvo, junior Luke Whittington, sophomore Greg Cannella and freshmen Seth Kyriakidis, Chris Odom, Nate Pianto and Brennan Smith.



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

### KAC CHILI COOK-OFF

5 P.M.

FRIDAY  
JAN. 10

### Spring musical auditions

JPPII has the honor of performing the first ever fully staged production of Sarah Hart and Brian Hull’s musical, “Bernadette of Lourdes.” All JPPII students are encouraged to audition and become a part of the celebration of St. Bernadette and the Immaculate Conception. No preparations are necessary. Come as you are. This is a celebration of faith, miracles and the renaissance vision of JPPII.

The musical runs March 6-9. Auditions are the first week back from Christmas break, Jan. 8 and 9, 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Callbacks, as needed, are Friday Jan. 10. If you can’t make either date and still want to audition, please see Theater Director Zac Campbell to make arrangements.

## NEW VENUE FOR GALA ALLOWS SPACE FOR MORE FUN

The 11th Annual JPII Gala — “The Golden Age of Cinema” — will have a new home this year to accommodate the growing crowds attending while providing room for future growth as well.

“We’re really excited about this year, especially with the new venue,” said Gala Chair Cindy Wallace. The Gala will be held Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014, at the Marriott Airport Hotel. The venue will have room for 400 people and more, Mrs. Wallace said. “We hope to get lots of friends and family and grandparents involved this year.”

The honoree for this year’s Gala will be Jennifer Dye, the chair of the science department at JPII and an award-winning member of the faculty since the school opened in the fall of 2002. The evening also will feature fine dining, dancing, and a live and silent auction.

With the larger space, the silent auction items will be displayed in the same banquet room where the dinner will be held, Mrs. Wallace said. Among the silent auction items will be gift baskets sponsored by JPII’s various athletic teams. The theme for the hockey team’s basket is “A Knight on Ice” and will include Predators tickets, dinner and an overnight stay in a downtown hotel, Mrs. Wallace said. For the basket sponsored by the JPII Knight Star Dance Team, the theme is “Green

Eggs and Ham” with a Green Egg smoker/grill donated by Foxx Pools in Hendersonville, and everything to go with using the Green Egg including a country ham, Mrs. Wallace added. “We’ve got lots of ideas for our themed baskets,” she said.

Gala organizers, including co-chairs Martha Hayes and Holly Burwell, are still accepting items for both the silent and live auctions, Mrs. Wallace said. Various levels of sponsorships and advertisements in the program are also available. For information about buying a ticket, donating auction items, becoming a sponsor or buying a program ad, contact Jolind Weaver at (615) 590-6008 or [jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org](mailto:jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org).

The goal for this year’s Gala is to raise \$125,000, Mrs. Wallace said. The proceeds help “in so many ways,” she said. “It helps pay for technology, faculty salaries, school maintenance. It helps pay for scholarships for children who normally couldn’t afford the education JPII has to offer. It helps in every avenue of the school. We depend on it every year.”

The Gala is a great opportunity not only to further the mission of JPII High School, but to enjoy a fun evening with friends. “It’s going to be a lot of fun,” Mrs. Wallace said. “I hope everyone comes.”

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*Continued from page 1*

the third time she has finished first among the girls. John Cooper, a new math teacher at JPII was the first adult finisher.

Proceeds from the fund-raiser benefit the Jason Foundation, which is headquartered in Hendersonville. Clark Flatt, the founder and executive director, was able to be on hand for the event. “They were very excited to be involved in the community,” Ms. Del Valle said.

Several sponsors helped with the event, Ms. Del Valle said, including Dr. Joe Fox, who provided water for all the runners, and Hunt Brothers Pizza, which provided pizza for the participants.

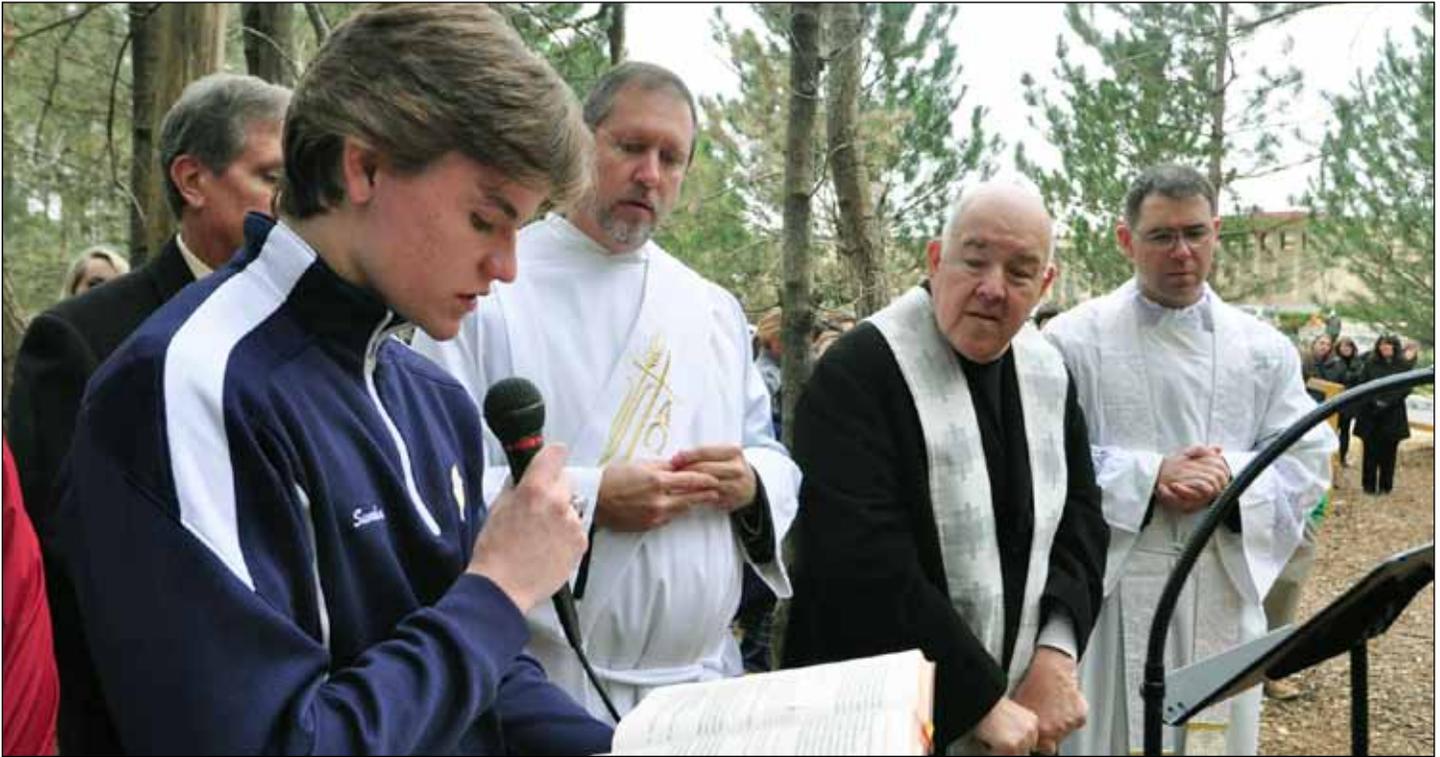
For next year’s classic, Ms. Del Valle is thinking about how to reach out to more businesses, more people in the community and more students, she said. “We’re trying to get a bigger percentage of the students involved” so they can see what they can accomplish when they come together, Ms. Del Valle added.

When JPII expanded its house system in 2012 from four houses to six, Ms. Del Valle and JPII Social Studies Department Chair Andrew Griffith were the housemasters for the House of Pius IX, one of the new houses. They helped the students in the House of Pius to organize the Caldwell Classic with hopes it would turn into a tradition for the house and the school, she said.

“It’s quickly becoming a tradition,” said Ms. Del Valle. “I know it has a lot of potential.”



JPII faculty members Karen Phillips, left, and Jj Ebelhar greet the race mascot during the Caldwell Classic.



## BISHOP CHOBY BLESSES CHRISTOCENTRIC PRAYER GARDEN

Nashville Bishop David Choby came to JPII to dedicate and bless the new Christocentric Prayer Garden in the wooded area at the school's entrance. Senior Hunter Williams, above, who built the garden as his Eagle Scout project, read one of the scriptural passages during the blessing as JPII Campus Minister Deacon Brian Edwards (from left), Bishop Choby and JPII theology teacher Father Terry McGowan listen with the rest of the school. Bishop Choby, at right, blessed the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the center of the garden. The statue was donated by the families of Deacon Edwards and his siblings in honor of their parents Eddie and Lucille Edwards. Deacon Edwards, JPII parent Kenny Janson and teens from the Catholic Heart Workcamp helped Hunter design and build the prayer garden last summer.



## FOOTBALL PLAYERS NAMED TO ALL-REGION TEAM

Four football players from Pope John Paul II High School have been selected by a vote of coaches to the 2013 Division II-AA All-Region Team for the Middle/East Region.

The JPII players selected include: Lucas Pulliza, receiver, Academic MVP; Daniel Al-Nimri, offensive line; Austin Hayes, receiver; and Gunnar Scholato, linebacker.

Hayes and Scholato have also been selected to play in the seventh

annual Toyota Tennessee East/West Football All-Star Classic on Friday, Dec. 13, at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville.

They will play for the West team to be coached by Jeff Porter of White House High School. JPII Head Coach Jerry Joslin will serve as the West team's defensive coordinator.

Players on the All-Star teams were chosen by a committee of coaches selected from across the state.

# JPII ATHLETES SIGN SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS

Three seniors at Pope John Paul II High School recently accepted scholarship offers to continue their athletic careers in college.

Paige Scheriger, the daughter of Justine and Todd Scheriger, has signed a scholarship offer to swim for the University of Florida, one of the top college swimming programs in the nation.

During her swimming career, Scheriger, who attended Ellis Middle School before coming to JPII, has been a Southeastern Champion, a Tennessee High School finalist and a high school Swimming and Academic All American. As a high school sophomore in 2012, she qualified for the Olympic trials.

Besides swimming for JPII, Scheriger also has been a member of the Excel Aquatics swim team since she was 9 years old. "She obviously is a very talented young lady. However, her talent is not all that led her to this success," said Mark Walker, the head coach of Excel Aquatics. "She is a very dedicated and hardworking young lady."

Sierra Anglin, the daughter of Ron and Lauri Anglin, has accepted a scholarship offer to play soccer for Lipscomb University in Nashville. Anglin attended East Robertson Middle School before coming to JPII.

"She was one of our most dynamic players on the field," said JPII girls soccer coach Megan Forester. "I asked her to fulfill several roles for us throughout the season. At times she was our main defender ... and then at the other end she was our fast forward up top with an incredible ability to finish the ball.

"It is no surprise that she was named to the All-Region and All-State team this year," Coach Forester said. "She was also named our MVP for this year and this was due to her work ethic, leadership qualities and ability to generate results on the field."

Brandy Herrera, daughter of Nick and Patty Herrera, has signed a scholarship



Brandy Herrera, left, Paige Scheriger, center, and Sierra Anglin all signed scholarship offers to continue their athletic careers in college. Brandy signed to play soccer at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Paige signed to swim for the University of Florida, and Sierra signed to play soccer at Lipscomb University.

to play soccer for the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She attended Pleasant View Christian School before JPII.

"Brandy was one of our strongest and most aggressive players this season," Coach Forester said. "She was an anchor in the center, and she had the ability to see the field and find the seams to distribute the ball!"

The three signed their scholarship offers during ceremonies on Wednesday, Nov. 20, in the school library.



## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

The choral and instrumental music students at JPII opened the Christmas season with a pair of concerts. Many braved the cold, wet weather on Dec. 5 to enjoy the annual Christmas choral concert which featured a stunning performance of Vivaldi's "Magnificat." On Dec. 9, it was the turn of the JPII Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble, who put on their annual Christmas concert under the direction of Alan Suska. Senior Jaqui Ramos, right, performed a violin solo during the concert.



# MS. LIBARDI COMBINES LOVE OF TEACHING, LITERATURE AT JP II

Julie Libardi has joined the Pope John Paul II High School faculty this year as a new English teacher and yearbook advisor. But JP II had been on her radar for a while before she landed the job.

After earning her master's degree in education through the Alliance for Catholic Education Program at the University of Notre Dame, Ms. Libardi taught middle school English at Overbrook School in Nashville. She would accompany students from Overbrook on visits to JP II. "I was impressed with the school and the atmosphere" of JP II, she said, and she kept the school in the back of her mind as she continued her career.

After Overbrook, Ms. Libardi opted for a change. "I decided to go up to Boston and try something completely different," she said. She joined the staff at a failing public school serving primarily the children of immigrants from the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico living in Lawrence, Mass., an old mill town. She was part of a faculty hired to completely reorganize the school, creating a new culture.

The experience "helped me shape my thoughts on education and how I should run my classroom," Ms. Libardi said. "I like my classroom to be

student centered, discussion based, focused on learning and growing and improvement."

But Ms. Libardi, whose parents had moved to Franklin, Tenn., wanted to come back to the Nashville area, so she applied at JP II where she was hired to teach sophomores European literature. "It's fun because I haven't done that before." She also is new to her role as yearbook advisor. "That's been quite an adventure," she said. Her students "are so helpful, they teach me."

She's enjoyed her time at JP II. "I think it's a really cool learning environment," Ms. Libardi said. "They make an effort to let kids be individuals but to push them to grow and decide who they're going to be."

Ms. Libardi grew up in Alpharetta, Ga., near Atlanta, and graduated from Chattahoochee High School. From there it was on to Notre Dame where she earned an undergraduate degree in English and anthropology and her master's in education through the ACE program, whose students teach in under-resourced Catholic schools for two years while completing their course work. While an undergraduate at Notre Dame, Ms. Libardi participated in the women's boxing program. "I was totally intrigued by (boxing). ... It was a good workout. It was intense. I liked the one-on-one competition," she said.

When it comes to teaching, "I really enjoy the energy of spending the day with the kids," Ms. Libardi said. "My favorite part is the discussions we have and getting to know who they are and what they think and getting to help them develop that. I love literature too, so it's fun."



Julie Libardi



## THE GOLDEN AGE OF CINEMA

### POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL 2014 GALA & AUCTION

— SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2014 —

HONORING  
MRS. JENNIFER DYE

6:00 P.M. PREVIEW ~ 7:30 P.M. DINNER ~ LIVE AUCTION ~ DANCING  
NASHVILLE AIRPORT MARRIOTT

INFORMATION / TICKETS

JO LIND WEAVER 822-2375 OR JOLIND.WEAVER@JP2HS.ORG