



### Online registration open for Camp JP II

Online registration for the Camp JP II summer program is now open. Those interested can register online by visiting the school's website, [www.jp2hs.org/CampJP II](http://www.jp2hs.org/CampJP II).

The Camp JP II webpage also includes a link to the program's brochure outlining the 40 camps being offered this summer, including 18 new camps and the return of many all-time favorites like Science Sleuths, Cupcakes and Cookies and the many athletic camps.

Camps are half-day and last for a week. The cost is \$140 each with the exception of the Civil War in Middle Tennessee and Civil Rights in Nashville camps. Both are full-day field trip adventures in and around Nashville.

New this year, Camp JP II is offering early drop off and afternoon care. "First Burst" allows parents to drop off their camper at 7:30 a.m. each day. "Last Blast" allows afternoon campers to stay until 5:30 p.m.

Sign up now and reserve your space for a summer of fun at JP II.

## NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT JP II FOR MRS. GORDON

Rachel Gordon has always loved the natural sciences, but it was an experience during college that pointed her toward teaching.

After graduating from Mt. Juliet High School, Mrs. Gordon, who teaches biology and AP Environmental Science at Pope John Paul II High School, attended Lipscomb University in Nashville. "I knew I wanted to do something with science," she said.

While a college student, she worked at Walden's Puddle Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center in Joelton. She soon discovered that it was working in the education programs at Walden's Puddle that brought her the most satisfaction. So after graduating from Lipscomb with a degree in environmental science, she earned a master's degree in education from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College.

Before coming to JP II, she taught seventh grade science for two years at Ellis Middle School in Hendersonville. Mrs. Gordon was interested in teaching at JP II, in part, because of the quality of the faculty and the science program. "The colleagues here are fantastic," Mrs. Gordon said, noting that science department chair Jennifer Dye is recognized across the state for her contributions to teaching science. "I'm proud to be here."

JP II's culture contributes to success for teachers and students, Mrs. Gordon said. "You can make an impact with students," she said. "The culture of the school promotes that."

The approach to teaching science at JP II differs from most high schools in several ways, including offering physics in the freshman year, instead of the junior year which is typical. Teaching physics first provides "a very tangible,



Rachel Gordon

concrete introduction to themes they will see through their career here," Mrs. Gordon said. "You can't learn biology without concepts in physics, especially the transfer of energy."

Another difference at JP II is the use of the modeling approach in teaching science. With modeling, students are involved in more hands-on activities to learn concepts in science, which gives them a more complete understanding of the topic. Modeling gives students room to express their personalities more in class, because they have to be more engaged, Mrs. Gordon said. And as their personalities emerge, the class becomes more of a community, she said.

Modeling also requires a different teaching style, Mrs. Gordon said. "It's a very different pedagogy" that requires more preparation from the teacher and a good command of the subject matter, because class discussions can sometimes veer in unexpected directions as the students begin to raise questions. That can force teachers to adjust on the fly to respond to the students' interests, she said.

Switching physics and biology in the order they are taught has contributed to significant gains in ACT scores in the science and reasoning sections by JP II students, Mrs. Gordon said. "We expect to see more improvements with modeling."

Mrs. Gordon is also involved in the school outside the classroom, serving as the chair of JP II's faculty senate. "Our job is to facilitate internal communications" among the faculty, staff and administration, Mrs. Gordon said. "The faculty senate is a place people can come to with questions. We direct them to the appropriate person."

The six-person senate also gathers information by surveying teachers about various aspects of the school's operations. The senate identifies areas for improvement and promotes discussion of ways to make improvements, she said. The attitude is, "Let's make this the best place it can be," Mrs. Gordon said. "I find it very fulfilling."

"I love it," Mrs. Gordon said of teaching at JP II. "There's never a dull moment."

## JP II SENIOR FINISHES FIFTH IN STATE BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Pope John Paul II High School senior Julie Pionk finished fifth in the Division II girls individual bowling state championships held Jan. 26-27 in Smyrna.

After the semifinal round, Pionk was in fourth place with a score of 649, or an average of 162.25. The top six finishers in the semifinals advanced to the final round of match play, where Pionk finished fifth, 230 pins behind state champion Kara Maynard of Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga. It was the second time in her

career that she made it to the final round of the state tournament.

Pionk also led the JP II team to the tournament for the Division II team state championship, but the Knights fell in the first round to eventual state champion GPS by a 25-2 score. Pionk had the match high series, a season high 576, including a 205 and 202. Junior Danielle Bourget contributed a 402 series.



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## Faith Leads Us Beyond Ourselves

### NEW CLASSES ADDED FOR NEXT YEAR

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The additions of the AP classes and the lab are part of the school's efforts to enhance its AP options and to have more students take AP classes, Ms. Phillips said. "It's been a goal of the school's to involve every student in at least one AP class. We still hold that out as a goal." The percentage of students taking AP classes in rising, she said, reaching more than 70 percent in some years. The new AP language classes will bring the total offered at JP II to 22, Ms. Phillips said.

Some classes will be offered during registration that have been offered before, but haven't had enough students to include in the master schedule, Ms. Phillips said, such as AP Music Theory and a philosophy class. Other classes are returning to the schedule, including a Global Studies class that is tied to the school's Model UN program. Students in the class will be required to participate in at least one Model UN conference, Ms. Phillips said.

In January, teachers began making recommendations for students' classes next year, and the students met their advisors to discuss their options and choices in February. Registration will be open at the end of February and early March, Ms. Phillips said. After that the master schedule of classes will be determined based on the course requests, she said.

More information about registration will be sent to students and parents in the coming weeks, Ms. Phillips said.

### JP II, HOUSE OF PIUS IX TO HOST CALDWELL CLASSIC 5K RUN

Pope John Paul II High School and the House of Pius IX will host the inaugural running of the Caldwell Classic 5K run to raise funds for the T.J. Martell Foundation, which supports research into treatments for leukemia, cancer and AIDS.

The race will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 31, at the Jim Carell Athletic Complex. Besides the race around the campus, the event will feature music and lots of fun.

Runners and walkers who register before March 14 will receive a free T-shirt commemorating the event. The cost of registration is \$20, and online registration is available at <http://www.active.com/5k-race/hendersonville-tn/the-caldwell-classic-5k-2012>.

### THREE HOCKEY PLAYERS NAMED ALL STARS

Three JP II students were selected to represent Team North in the GNASH hockey league All Star game: junior defenseman Mark Vanderslice, senior forward Clay Brewer and junior forward P.J. Fogolin. Brewer and Fogolin were selected as starters based on the number of votes they received.

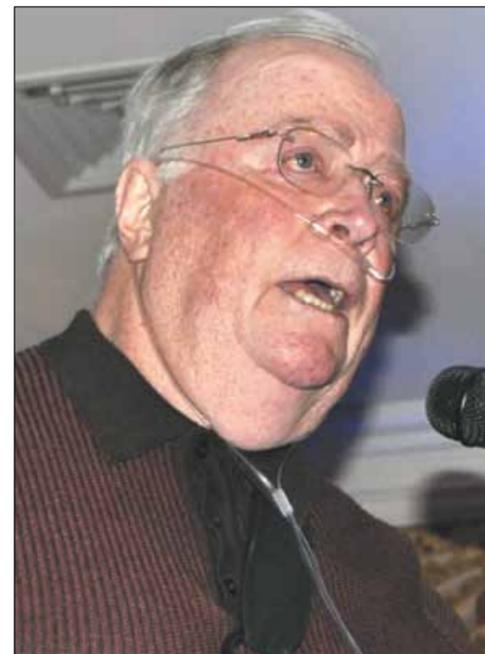
The game will be held at 6:40 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Centennial Sportsplex in Nashville.



Faith Leads Us Beyond Ourselves

FEBRUARY 2012

Headmaster Faustin Weber ■ 615-822-2375 ■ [www.jp2hs.org](http://www.jp2hs.org)



Jim Carell, who donated the funds for the Jim Carell Athletic Complex at Pope John Paul II High School, was the honoree at the JP II Gala on Feb. 11.

## JP II SALUTES JIM CARELL

Pope John Paul II High School honored Nashville businessman and philanthropist Jim Carell at the school's annual gala, held Saturday, Feb. 11, at Bluegrass Country Club in Hendersonville.

"Thank you for allowing me to be here," Mr. Carell told the crowd gathered to honor him and support the school. "I've been very fortunate in life."

Nineteen years ago, he was seriously injured in an accident. "I was told I wasn't supposed to live," Mr. Carell said. "I just wouldn't die. It wasn't my time. God kept me alive and put me on a mission."

In recent years, Mr. Carell and his family have been generous supporters of various charitable endeavors, including schools. Among the schools he has helped is JP II. Last year, he donated \$120,000 to the school to pay for the renovation of its weight room. At the dedication of those improvements last May, Mr. Carell surprised JP II's coaches by announcing that he would donate another \$2.33 million to have a new artificial field turf installed in the football stadium, to build a concessions building and restrooms for the stadium, and build a new eight-lane track around the school's soccer field.

Mr. Carell has devoted much of his philanthropic efforts to

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## NEW CLASSES ADDED FOR NEXT YEAR

As students prepare to register for classes for next year, they will notice several additions to the curriculum. Among the changes will be two additional Advanced Placement language classes and support classes to help students succeed on the ACT test and in their AP classes, said Dean of Studies Karen Phillips.

Currently, JP II offers AP Spanish and plans to add AP Latin and AP French next year, Ms. Phillips said. This year, a couple of students are taking an AP German class online. "I'm interested to see what their results will be," Ms. Phillips said.

Juniors will be able to register for an ACT prep class to help them boost their performance on the test, she said. And seniors taking at least three AP classes will be able to register for Lab: Advanced Placement Test. The AP lab class is for students in the upper end of academic achievement, Ms. Phillips said. The goal of the lab class is to give them more time to prepare for their AP exams. The class will be monitored by a faculty member but will be self-directed rather than instructional, Ms. Phillips said.

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**CALDWELL CLASSIC 5K**

**HOCKEY ALL STARS**

**Admissions Office  
615-822-2375  
[info@jp2hs.org](mailto:info@jp2hs.org)**

## THREE KNIGHTS SIGN ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS



JPII seniors Cailin Harris, left, Tanner Hale, center, and Lucy Martin have signed scholarship offers to continue their athletic careers in college. Harris will play soccer for the University of Kentucky, Hale football at Cumberland University, and Martin volleyball at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

University of Kentucky. During her four years at JPII, Cailin was named the Sumner County Player of the Year in 2008, All-Region in 2009, All-Region, Offensive Player of the Year and Most Outstanding Player of the Year in 2010, and the Sumner County Player of the Year and All-Midstate in 2011.

### SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT, NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT FINALISTS

Six Pope John Paul II High School seniors have been named finalists in two of the country's most prestigious scholarship competitions. Andrew Gilstrap, Michael Scheriger, Emily Peel, Courtney O'Connor and Andrew Scruggs have been selected as National Merit Scholarship finalists, and Cailin Harris has been named a finalist for a National Achievement Scholarship.

Each National Merit finalist will be evaluated based on their academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, the high school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the finalist's essay.

Approximately 8,300 finalists across the country will receive one of three types of Merit Scholarship award: National Merit \$2,500 Scholarships, Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards, and College-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards.

Cailin Harris has been named a finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program, an academic competition for outstanding African-American students administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corp.

In September, Harris was one of 1,600 students across the country named a semifinalist in the program and was announced as one of 1,300 finalists in January. About 800 finalists will receive a \$2,500 National Achievement Scholarship.

Three JPII seniors have signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers in college. Tanner Hale, Cailin Harris and Lucy Martin were honored during signing ceremonies held in JPII's Puryear Library on Wednesday, Feb. 8.

Lucy Martin signed to play volleyball at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She is the first student from JPII to receive a scholarship to play volleyball in college. She overcame injuries early in her high school career to become a two-year starter for the Knights. She was selected the Co-Player of the Year for Sumner County in 2011. She led the team in kills and digs and was voted the team's Most Valuable Player.

Tanner Hale has been a three-sport star at JPII, starting in football, basketball and baseball. He accepted a scholarship offer to play football at Cumberland University in Lebanon. Tanner has been a three-year starter in football for the Knights, logging time as quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back. He was named to the All-County team the past three years.

Cailin Harris is one of the most decorated soccer players in the school's history and one of the most sought-after recruits from Tennessee. She has accepted a scholarship offer to play women's soccer at the

### WOMEN'S CHORUS SINGS FOR TELEVISION COMMERCIAL

Pope John Paul II High School's Beginning Women's Chorus is appearing in commercials for Miracle Ford, which is owned by Jim Galvin, a JPII parent.

"Back in the fall at a football game, Jim Galvin said he'd like to have one of JPII's choruses sing in a commercial for his car dealership," said Jj Ebelhar, the director of JPII's choral program. She chose the Beginning Women's Chorus, which is made up of freshmen and sophomores. "It's an excellent group, very motivated."

Mrs. Ebelhar prepared a three-part harmony for the car dealership's jingle and the chorus worked on it in class, she said. Several versions of the commercial were shot at JPII, Mrs. Ebelhar said, one with the 29 girls in the chorus standing on risers, another with them starting out with their backs to the camera and then turning around to sing their parts, and a third in the hallway of the athletic wing with the girls popping out of the doorways as the camera moves down the hallway. The commercials began airing during the Fox 17 news at 9 p.m. Feb. 12 and will continue through the end of February. They also will be showing during the primetime hours of 5-11 p.m. on several Comcast cable channels, including Fox News, ESPN, ESPN 2, A&E, History Channel, Spike TV, FX, USA and CMT. "The girls are very excited," Mrs. Ebelhar said. "I think they were honored that I selected them. They're one of the hardest working and talented groups I've had here."

## MARCH FOR LIFE INSPIRES PARTICIPANTS



Photo by Maggie Musacchio

JPII senior Maria Bednar was among the students who traveled to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life.

said. "We talked about the connection of their personal chastity and the very public issue of abortion," she said. "Their actions regarding their own sexuality make a difference in this very public conflict in our society."

Jeffrey LeCave, a JPII sophomore who has participated in the Washington march the last two years, wants to help others avoid abortion. "Society should support those who do choose life," he said. "It seems like when you make a mistake, there's no one there to support you. I want to be there to support them."

LeCave plans to continue participating in the Washington march. "I'll keep going back until we get heard."

### JPII'S FBLA TEAM QUALIFIES FOR STATE

Under the sponsorship of social studies teachers Bob Page and Erin Riggs, JPII has revived its Future Business Leaders of America team. On Jan. 9, the team competed for the first time in the FBLA Region 5 Conference at Tennessee State University and walked away with several first place awards and top five finishes. Winning first place in individual competitions were: Aly Cox, Accounting I; Alex Abdo, Economics; and Zach Pelka, Impromptu Speaking. Winning first place in team competitions were Lennart Funke and Ashlyn Keightley in Management Decision Making. Also placing in individual competitions were: Carlee Pritchard, fourth, Accounting I; Clay Brewer, fourth, Economics; Dylan Zenga, third, Public Speaking II. Placing in team competitions were: Kushal Shah, Newton Welch and Hunter Williams, fifth, Entrepreneurship; and Raina Devrai, Nick Massa and Connor McCarthy, third, Entrepreneurship. In addition to the team's success, Zach Pelka was elected President of Region 5 for 2012-2013. The team advanced to the Tennessee State Conference to be held in Chattanooga April 16-18.

## JPII PEOPLE: SCHOOL CONNECTION

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

### Station Camp Middle School

When Madison Taylor and David Rivera decided to come to Pope John Paul II High School from Station Camp Middle School, they had their eyes fixed on their future. David was looking for a better private school education, he said. And Madison was looking for a school that would help her to reach her dream of playing soccer in college. "I thought this school would give me the education I need and set me up for a scholarship."



Madison Taylor

More than half way through their freshman year, Madison and David are enjoying their time at JPII. "In class you get more attention" from the teachers, who also are available for tutorials before and after school, Madison said. "That's probably my favorite part of this school," David said. "The teachers really want to help you. They'll spend extra time outside their regular time."



David Rivera

Before coming to JPII, Madison and David heard from students already here. "I knew one person at JPII," Madison said. "She said she absolutely loved it. She said it's hard, it's a challenge, but you can do it." David also heard from an acquaintance. "She said she really liked it here."

David and Madison are active in extracurricular activities. Both play basketball and Madison also plays soccer while David is planning to play tennis in the spring.

Madison and David would recommend to prospective students considering JPII that they come. "If you're up to the challenge, if you want to be pushed, here they will make you use your whole brain," Madison said. "If you really value going to the school you want to in the future," David said, "you should consider going here."

JPII people ... Madison Taylor and David Rivera!

Piling into buses for a long ride to Washington, D.C., about 70 students from Pope John Paul II High School joined other high school and college students from the Diocese of Nashville to participate in the annual March for Life to protest the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

"There are so many people it's moving to be there," JPII junior Caroline Vaughn said of the hundreds of thousands of people at the march. "We're all there for the same thing and we all have such strong feelings about it. It is powerful."

Groups organized by JPII, Aquinas, Father Ryan High School, St. Cecilia Academy, Our Lady of the Lake Parish and the diocesan Catholic Youth Office participated in this year's march to the steps of the Supreme Court building. The marchers from Nashville also participated in the youth rally and Mass at the Verizon Center in Washington before the march on Monday, Jan. 23.

Over the years, the march has become an event that has attracted more and more young people. "They see themselves as part of something so much bigger than themselves, something that is at the core of who they are, the sacredness and dignity of human life," said Deacon Brian Edwards, campus minister at JPII.

"It's important for them to experience a spiritual and political movement that has been so adopted by their generation," said Patri Deffendall, youth director at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville. She brought a group of 21 high school students from her parish to the march, including several JPII students.

The March for Life can be an important teaching moment, Deffendall

## CARELL HONORED AT GALA

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help children. "God only loans these kids to us," he said. "Let's take care of our kids for they are our future."



Patrons at the JPII Gala check out the silent auction items.

## View Points

### ACADEMIC TEAM COMPETES IN QUIZ BUSTERS

The Academic Quiz Bowl Team at Pope John Paul II High School is becoming more active and increasing the number of competitions it participates in. For the last four years, the team has competed in the Westfield Insurance Quiz Busters television show on WNAB-Channel 58. This year, JPII finished in a tie for fifth.

"I've always wanted to do more than just that one tournament," said the team's faculty advisor, Mike Brown, Director of College Counseling at JPII. This year, he said, "I've got some students who really wanted to do more."

Nathan Edwards is spearheading the expanded effort along with fellow students Logan and Spencer Frost and Brennan Belew.

On Saturday, Feb. 4, the team competed in the Groundhog Day Tournament at Lincoln County High School. Thirty-four teams from Tennessee and northern Alabama competed, including teams from Ezell-Harding, Martin Luther King Academic Magnet school, Battle Ground Academy, University School of Nashville, Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet School, Farragut, Webb School of Bell Buckle, Franklin Road Academy and McCallie in Chattanooga.

JPII had two teams in the tournament and won several rounds, Mr. Brown said, but did not qualify for the championship rounds. Each team competes against another team for six rounds, answering questions on a variety of topics, including literature, science, math, history and current affairs, Mr. Brown said. Successful teams have a blend of students with different interests and strengths, he said.

The JPII team practices twice a week and is hoping to qualify for the state competition next year, he said. The team is open to all students, Mr. Brown said.

### LENTEN RETREAT PLANNED FEB. 25

The Nashville Guild of the Catholic Medical Association is hosting its annual Lenten Evening of Reflection on Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Dominican Motherhouse, 801 Dominican Drive in Nashville. Dinner starts at 5:45 p.m., to be followed by a presentation at 6:45 p.m. by Father Jacek Kopera, O.P., on "Personal Encounters with Mercy Incarnate." An opportunity for confession will follow. All medical professionals are invited to attend; you do not have to be a member of the guild to come. For more information, contact Dr. Rachel Kaiser at rtkaiser@comcast.net.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### ORIENTATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

FEB. 28  
5:30-8 P.M.

#### 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!

