



## 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](http://www.jp2hs.org/Gala) or contact Jolind Weaver at [jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org](mailto:jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org) or (615) 822-2375.

## MR. ALEXANDER MOVED FROM NFL INTO THE CLASSROOM

Brent Alexander spent his middle school and high school football careers languishing on the bench. "Before my senior year, I was pretty much ready to be done. Playing sports in college never even crossed my mind."



Brent Alexander

But Jerry Joslin, then the defensive coordinator at Gallatin High School, told him, "If they're not going to use you on offense, I'll use you on defense," Mr. Alexander said. "Lo and behold, I ended up starting at quarterback and defensive back" his senior year and opening doors that eventually led to the National Football League.

Mr. Alexander, an algebra teacher and assistant football coach, is in his first year as a teacher at JPII. He's been reunited with Coach Joslin, now the head football coach at JPII, and Math Department Chair Betty Mayberry, who was his Algebra II teacher at Gallatin High.

After completing his high school football career, Mr. Alexander again thought he was done with football, and despite several offers to play college football, including at Tennessee State University, was considering attending Tennessee Tech University where his two older brothers had studied.

When he received a full academic scholarship to TSU he decided to give college football a try. He spent his first year as a redshirt at wide receiver. Among the starting defensive backs on the team was Roger Jones, the track coach at JPII. "Roger taught me how to back pedal," Mr. Alexander said. "Roger was probably one of those hidden inspirations. He wasn't very big, but he was strong. One of the fastest guys I've seen, one of the quickest guys I've seen. His work ethic was unbelievable. I learned a lot from him."

The third NFL alumni on the staff at JPII is Justin Geisinger, the strength and conditioning coach for the Knights who played offensive line for Vanderbilt University, the Buffalo Bills, Washington Redskins and Tennessee Titans. "It's neat being with a group of guys who know the highs and lows of the game," Mr. Alexander said. "It's learning how to compete on the field. It's all about getting better."

After his freshman year in college, Mr. Alexander was ready once again to give up football and focus on academics. His

father told him if he was going to quit, he should, "be a man about it" and tell his head coach, the late Joe Gilliam, in person. But Coach Gilliam wouldn't let him quit. He saw the potential that turned Mr. Alexander into an all-conference and consensus All-American defensive back. He wasn't drafted, "but before the draft was over I had 18 offers to go to camp with NFL teams," Mr. Alexander said. He chose the Arizona Cardinals. "I took the smallest offer, but it was the best offer for me," Mr. Alexander said. He ended up as a starter at cornerback during his rookie year. He went on to a 12-year career in the NFL with the Cardinals, Carolina Panthers, Pittsburgh Steelers and New York Giants.

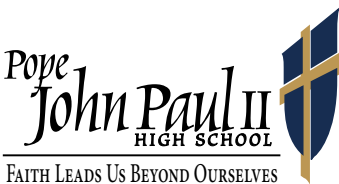
After retiring in 2006, Mr. Alexander moved into a new career, teaching. In his family, education was highly valued and the first priority, Mr. Alexander said. After the NFL, he had several career choices. "I wanted to do something where I can bring kids a different perspective," he said. "When I was in high school, I didn't know there were so many things I could do in this world. I thought I had limited career choices." So when he is teaching algebra to JPII freshmen, he tries to explain to them all the ways the subject can be used and what kind of careers it can lead to so they know "there's a bigger picture to it."

Mr. Alexander started teaching in 2007 at Station Camp High School, and joined the JPII faculty this year. His reception at JPII by the rest of the faculty and staff has, "been extremely welcoming, helpful," he said. "The collaboration here is excellent."

He also has been impressed with the students at JPII. "The kids are extremely respectful," he said. "The kids know when they can be a kid and when it's time to work. They take it seriously."

### JASON FOUNDATION CHOOSES JPII STUDENT'S CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN

The Jason Foundation, Inc., an organization dedicated to preventing teen suicide, selected a design by Christina Yi, a sophomore at Pope John Paul II High School, for its 2012 Christmas card. Yi's design will be seen by Jason Foundation's constituents world wide. JPII students have chosen the Jason Foundation as a charity to support during the 2012-13 school year. To learn more about the Jason Foundation, which is headquartered in Hendersonville, visit [www.jasonfoundation.com](http://www.jasonfoundation.com).



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## JPII TO WELCOME INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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Hodes, "speak very well in the international marketplace."

JPII hopes to start with about 10 international students, with at least half from China, Mr. Hodes said. After four years, the program could build to up to 40 international students. They will be 9th and 10th graders. Unlike the German student exchange program now in place at JPII in which the students only stay at JPII for one school year, the students in the International Scholars program will attend JPII for three or four years.

To house the students, JPII is looking for host families among current and prospective JPII student families, Mr. Hodes said. Educations will pay the host family \$600 a month for 10 months and JPII will give host families an additional \$4,000 tuition discount to use for their own child. The total would nearly offset the cost of tuition for one

## PARTNERS IN EDUCATION HELP SUSTAIN LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

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The Knight's Society is JPII's leadership giving society recognizing donors whose financial contributions ensure the excellence of a JPII education. The levels include: Knight's Court Society (gifts of \$10,000 and above); Lords and Ladies Society (gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999); Page and Squire Society (gifts of \$2,500 to \$4,999); Caballarius Society (gifts of \$1,500 to \$2,499); Coat of Arms Society (gifts of \$1,000 to

student, Mr. Hodes said.

Host families have to have a spare bedroom with a desk for their international student and more than one bathroom, Mr. Hodes said. Educations will conduct background checks on the host families and a home visit, he added. The company also will appoint a site coordinator to serve as a liaison to the host families.

Many international families want their children in the home of a host family to help them learn English, Mr. Hodes said. JPII would like to expand the boarding program to also include students from other parts of Tennessee and the United States to help "Catholic families in rural areas, who don't have access to a Catholic education," Mr. Hodes said.

For more information about the program, e-mail Mr. Hodes at [dan.hodes@jp2hs.org](mailto:dan.hodes@jp2hs.org) or call him at (615) 590-6006.



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## PARTNERS IN EDUCATION HELP SUSTAIN LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

From JPII's perspective there is nothing more essential to the financial health of the school than the Fund for Excellence (FFE), our annual fund for operational support. We count on the partnership of our extended JPII family to sustain a legacy of excellence.

Tuition revenue today only covers 81 percent of the cost to educate a JPII student. Gifts to the Fund for Excellence and other philanthropic support subsidize the operating budget, reducing the cost of tuition by more than \$2,300 per student.

But the Fund for Excellence is more than just dollars and cents. It is more than just bridging the gap between tuition and the cost of a JPII education. Shared values exist among families who chose to invest in private school education. Supporting the Fund for Excellence is one way that parents, alumni, grandparents, and friends can come together to show their support for these ideals.

Specifically, gifts to the Fund for Excellence ensure that Pope John Paul II High School is able to recruit and retain the best and brightest educators, supply students and teachers with the most up-to-date technology, maintain and improve the campus, ensure that deserving students receive financial aid, and ultimately, enhance the quality of a JPII education for every student.

## JPII TO WELCOME INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Pope John Paul II High School's motto is "Faith Leads Us Beyond Ourselves." The school is following that motto to new frontiers with its International Scholars program for students from around the globe, which will begin with the 2013-14 school year.

Dan Hodes, JPII's director of admissions, has experience working at Catholic boarding schools in the Northeast. "I started considering JPII's global emphasis in its mission statement," he said. "How do we go beyond our boundaries ... not only the physical boundaries. We already had the exchange programs. We wanted to see if there's traction for a boarding program ... in Middle Tennessee. This could be the Catholic international boarding school in



The Fund for Excellence helps make JPII a wonderful experience for our students.

The leadership for the 2012-2013 Fund for Excellence includes: Annual Fund Chairs Scott and Christine Bryant; House of Leo Chairs Keith and Glenda Burke; House of Gregory Chairs Steven and Irene Leonard; House of Peter Chairs Larry and Andrea Bringard; House of Clement Chairs Pete and Martha Williston; House of John Chairs Bill and Michele Vanderslice; House of Pius Chairs Albert and Jennifer Tieche.

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Middle Tennessee."

JPII has an agreement with Educations International to market the school in China, South Korea, Brazil, Mexico and Scandinavia. International students typically want to go to American universities and view studying in the United States in high school as a path to that goal, Mr. Hodes said.

Educations did a market test in the target countries, Mr. Hodes said. "They came back with a very favorable response. (Prospective students) liked the AP classes, the campus, the decorated faculty." Those attributes, said Mr.

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- ALL SUMNER COUNTY
- HOCKEY WALK
- DANCE TEAM
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- BRENT ALEXANDER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**FINANCIAL AID DEADLINE**

**FRIDAY FEB. 22**

**Andrew Carr '11 stars in NYU production**

Former JPII theatre performer Andrew Carr starred in New York University's Tisch School of the Arts' production of "Black Comedy," a one-act farce by Peter Shaffer that made its Broadway debut in 1967 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre.

Carr has been cast in a lead role as Brindsley Miller, a young sculptor and two-timing fiancé who has stolen antique items and furniture from his neighbor Harold Gorringer, in an attempt to spruce up his apartment in order to impress a wealthy art collector. One mix up leads to another providing the audience with plenty of laughs.

Carr graduated from JPII in 2011.

*View Points*

**CLASS RETREATS PART OF SPIRITUAL LIFE AT JPII**

Part of the spiritual component of the education offered at JPII is the retreats held throughout the year for each grade. "It's important to what we do," said Deacon Brian Edwards, the campus minister and chair of the theology department. "It's a sign of its importance to take an entire day to step outside the normal school schedule to focus on our faith."

The sophomore class held its retreat Nov. 7 at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville and the senior retreat was held at Camp Boxwell on Oct. 17. The freshman retreat is planned for Feb. 6 at St. Stephen Church and the junior retreat will be on March 20.

The retreats are organized by the students in Deacon Edwards' Leadership in Retreats and Liturgy class, an elective course for seniors. The students plan the retreats as part of the course, and the class serves as "a great sounding board on whether the retreat can speak to the students," Deacon Edwards said. The 14 seniors in the class also give some of the talks and lead small group discussions at the retreats, Deacon Edwards said.

The goal of the retreats is to balance activities that are fun with those that challenge the students on a spiritual level, he said. That's not always easy, because not all students are at the same place in their spirituality, he said.

Unlike the others, the senior retreat is more of a leaderless retreat, Deacon Edwards said. This year the seniors created a time capsule that they can open at some future reunion. Among the items in the capsule were letters the seniors wrote to themselves. The process is, "a way to look back at senior year and hopefully it sparks them to look forward to the rest of their senior year and to make the most of it," Deacon Edwards said.

**TYLER DORR WINS WRITING CONTEST**

English Department Chair Jennifer Smith presented Tyler Dorr with the Best Story award in the annual Scary Short Story Contest. The challenge in this year's contest was to incorporate the song lyrics "A Few of My Favorite Things" from "The Sound of Music" into their stories. Tyler won for his sophisticated insights with his use of imagery and descriptive language. Tyler's story was to be published online at the student school newspaper website, "Herald On The Hill."

**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*

Carolyn Bologa and Sam Garretson followed a well-worn path from Station Camp Middle School to Pope John Paul II High School this year. Both have older siblings who have either graduated from JPII or still are JPII students.

Carolyn started thinking about eventually coming to JPII when her older brothers, Alex and Michael, both 2010 graduates of JPII, enrolled as freshmen. Her older sister, Maddie, is a senior this year.



Carolyn Bologa

From watching her older siblings Carolyn realized JPII gives its students a good preparation for college, she said. Her siblings assured her she would do well at JPII, she said. She also had the support of several friends who are at JPII. "That made it easier."



Sam Garretson

Sam is following his older brother Ben Garretson, a 2010 graduate, and his sister Emily Garretson, a 2012 graduate. He wanted to come to JPII, he said, because, "I wanted a better education, and I wanted to go to a smaller school" than Station Camp High School. "It felt comfortable," Carolyn

said of JPII.

Both Carolyn and Sam have been active in extra-curricular activities their freshman year. Carolyn played soccer in the fall and is playing basketball this winter. "I just made the lacrosse team for the spring," she said. Sam is playing basketball this winter and hopes to play lacrosse in the spring.

The faculty at JPII has also helped them with the transition to high school, Carolyn and Sam said. "The teachers will talk to you one on one" to help you with your studies, Carolyn said. "They're more concerned that you do well," Sam added.

JPII people ... Carolyn Bologa and Sam Garretson!

**REGISTRATION FOR CAMP JPII NEAR**

Registration will open this month for Camp JPII in the summer, featuring a wide array of camps in the arts, athletics and academics. "We're putting the finishing touches on that right now," said Camp JPII Director Gail Greene.

JPII will be building on its best summer camp ever. In the summer of 2012, 48 camps were offered and 422 campers registered for 557 camps, with several enjoying more than one camp, she said. That was an increase of nearly 100 campers from the previous year.

The week-long camps typically last from 9:00 a.m. to noon or 12:30-3:30 p.m. Like last year, First Burst and Last Blast before- and after-care will be available. First Burst will be offered 7:30-9:00 each morning, and Last Blast will be offered 3:30-5:30 p.m. Campers also will once again be able to bring their lunch or purchase a meal in the JPII dining hall.

**JPII GRAD LOOKING TO LAUNCH NEW BUSINESS**

Tanner Taddeo, a 2010 graduate of JPII, is working to launch a new business, offering free and legal downloads of music. "It will give upcoming artists a marketing platform unlike others to increase their fan base," said Tanner, who is attending William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Va., on a golf scholarship.

He and some of his college friends came up with the idea during their freshman year. "We're all into music. We all play instruments. We were sitting around the dorm room playing instruments and started talking," Tanner said.

Originally, the idea was to offer the service as a charitable cause, he said. But they found out investors wanted to put their money into a business instead, Tanner said. "We still have charitable intentions for the future."

Tanner and his partners are still working toward a hoped-for launching in 2014, he said. "We're reaching out to publishing companies, record companies and artists to give them our pitch for what we think is the wave of the future."

In the meantime, Tanner is trying to raise awareness of the site, and he hopes his classmates and friends from JPII will follow the venture on Twitter at @musieekll.

**CHILI COOK-OFF SET FOR JAN. 12**

The Knight Athletic Booster Club will host its fourth annual Chili Cook Off on Saturday, Jan. 12, following the girls and boys basketball games that day against GPS and McCallie, respectively. "It's really a community building event," said Knight Athletic Club President Celeste Duzanne. "All the money we make, which is very little, goes to support JPII's athletic teams. It's for everybody to come as a family and enjoy a night out and support your sports team."

One family from each of JPII's teams is asked to bring a pot of their favorite chili. All the visitors can then roam the dining hall tasting each team's offering, Mrs. Duzanne said. People use their admission ticket to vote for their favorite. "There's always a lot of different kinds of chili," she said,

Among the returning camps will be the ever-popular sports camps for boys and girls in baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, soccer and wrestling, as well as Science Sleuths taught by JPII Science Department Chair Jennifer Dye and History Through Warfare taught by JPII history teacher Paul Saboe.

New camps this year include Mysteries and Riddles taught by JPII art teacher Lisa Deal, Unleash Your Inner Scooby Doo, Fun in the Kitchen Lab taught by Sharon Hager, and a Bible study class.

There are camps available for children from 5 years old and up. For more information about the camps being offered, costs or online registration visit the school website at www.jp2hs.org or e-mail Gail Greene at camp@jp2hs.org.

Besides playing golf for William and Mary, Tanner is majoring in philosophy and sociology. "This is my business degree trying to get (Musieek) started," he said. "We're learning by trial and error."

**DR. SWAN INSTRUCTS ANATOMY CLASS**

Students recently received first-hand knowledge from Nashville cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgeon Dr. Chad Swan of Swan Surgical. Dr. Swan visited Abby Drumwright's Anatomy and Physiology class where he led students in a sheep heart dissection. Students were able to identify anatomical structures of the heart and review the path of blood flow through a real heart rather than a two-dimensional diagram on paper. Prior to his classroom instruction, Dr. Swan addressed the entire student body during assembly about the lesser-known risks of smoking and nicotine addiction. After the assembly, Dr. Swan shared stories and pictures straight from the operating room. In the photo above, Dr. Chad Swan explains where to make the cut for dissection to students Andrew Smith (left) and Demisha Porter.



**KNIGHTS NAMED TO ALL SUMNER COUNTY TEAMS**

Several JPII Knights have been named to All Sumner County teams in various fall sports.

Senior Mia Buda was named by *The Tennessean* as the Sumner County volleyball player of the year. Buda also was named to the Tennessee Sports Writers All State Volleyball Team. A middle/outside hitter, Buda had 300 kills, 327 digs, 73 blocks, and 24 aces for the Lady Knights.

Buda and Chelsey Smith were both named first team All Sumner County, while Jessica Herrera and Hannah Lees were named second team and Alex Price and Erin Riss were named honorable mention.

In girls soccer, *The Tennessean* selected Sierra Anglin, Liz Edwards and Evelyn Southard to the All Sumner County first team for their outstanding seasons in the fall. Also congratulations to Hallie Lycans and Madison Taylor, who were named to the second team, and Sydney Dawson, Brandy Herrera and Cameron Stewart who were honorable mention selections.

In golf, Alex Matheny and Connor McCarthy were two of the six members chosen as first team All Sumner County on the basis of their outstanding senior seasons in golf. Also congratulations to Carson Riley, who was a second team selection. On the girls' All-Sumner County teams, Laura Knight and Christina Lindahl were named to the second team.

In football, seven Knights were selected. Brad Jarreau, Matt Hanson and Gunnar Scholato were all named to the first team;



JPII students named to All Sumner County teams this fall include: (back row, L-R) Austin Hayes, Jocquise Upton, Gunnar Scholato, Mia Buda, Alex Matheny, Carson Riley and Connor McCarthy; (front row) Jessica Herrera, Stephanie Simpson, Hallie Lycans, Madison Taylor, Cameron Stewart, Liz Edwards, Brandy Herrera, Sierra Anglin, Sydney Dawson, Hannah Lees, Chelsey Smith, Laura Knight, Christina Lindahl and Maddie Bologa. Not pictured are Robert Davis, Jack Duffin, Matt Hanson, Brad Jarreau, Vincent Perry, Alex Price, Erin Riss and Evelyn Southard.

Austin Hayes and Vincent Perry were named to the second team, and Robert Davis and Jocquise Upton were named honorable mention.

In cross country, three Knights were named to the All Sumner County team. Jack Duffin was named to the boys team and Maddie Bologa and Stephanie Simpson were named to the girls' team.

Congratulations to all the honored Knights!

**JPII ROYAL DANCE TEAM WINS SECOND PLACE**

Congratulations to the JPII Royal Dance Team for winning second place in the Cunningham Cheer for the Cure Cheerleading and Dance Competition in December.

"This was the first time in its five-year history that the JPII dancers have competed and squad members Lauren Guider (captain), Anna Bass, Zita Cabello, Melissa Maros and Lauren Newman did a fantastic job," said Coach Lynlea Keightley. "And we're proud to bring a trophy home to JPII!"

The squad performed to Chris Brown's "Turn Up the Music", and judges complemented the girls on their technique, choreography, great smiles and use of music.

Through two days of lunchtime sales of baked goods and suckers, the squad members also raised \$95 for cancer research.

Be sure to catch the squad's performances at home basketball games in January and February.



**JPII HOCKEY TEAM WALKS FOR CURESEARCH**

The JPII Knights Hockey Team took part in the CureSearch Walk for Children's Cancer on Sunday, Nov. 11, in support of Michael Lewandowski who lost his battle with neuroblastoma cancer in 2005. Michael is the brother of Steven Lewandowski who graduated from JPII in 2010 and was the team captain for the Knights his senior year. The team joined Michael's Army and helped to raise \$13,499 to help fund life saving research in childhood cancer. It was great to see JPII's current and past hockey players come together for such a great cause and to support the Lewandowski family. This was the first CureSearch walk to be held in Nashville. In total, the walk raised \$36,197.

including white chili, venison chili, some spicy, some mild. For the first time, the winning chili will receive a \$250 prize for their team and a gift card for the individual chili cook, Duzanne said. Prizes also will be awarded for the team that prepares the best display for their table, she said.

The cook-off isn't just for the school's sports teams, Mrs. Duzanne said. "We support athletics, but if other school groups want to bring a chili, they are welcome. Everyone can participate."

The booster club also will have hot dogs and drinks available, Mrs. Duzanne said. Tickets are \$5 per person, and kids are welcome. "It's really a lot of fun and it's really grown each year we've had it."