



JPII STUDENTS MAKE MISSION TRIP TO UGANDA

Three juniors at Pope John Paul II High School visited Uganda on a mission trip last fall and learned the power of sharing their blessings.

"The experience was amazing," said Michael Koen, who made the trip with classmates Grace Wood and Christian Cook, their mothers, Mary Cay Koen, Jennifer Wood, and Shannon Cook, and several other Hendersonville residents to serve needy children in Uganda through Divine Care Ministries.

"I could tell that every single person I met appreciated me even though I didn't think I had that much to give," Michael Koen said.

The three students participated in the "Goat Project" through Divine Care Ministries, which provides a goat to needy families.

The group also worked in a dental clinic that Mary Cay Koen, a Sumner County dentist, has helped establish in Kampala, Uganda. She travels to Uganda each year to work at the clinic, and during the fall trip she and five others screened and treated more than a thousand children and adults for dental needs at Divine Care Ministries' schools. Soon, they hope to have a full time dentist at the clinic to provide better and more consistent care throughout the year.

In addition to the "Goat Project" and the dental mission, the JPII families volunteered at Divine Care Ministries' schools, spending time with the children, encouraging the staff and teachers, making home visits, and worshipping. In addition, they passed out supplies and gifts they had collected and brought over in suitcases.

"The kids were the best part," Michael Koen said. "I went into the experience with some uncertainty, but after we met the kids, we really felt at home."

Divine Care Ministries is funded mainly through a child sponsorship program, which finds its support primarily in the United States. During the trip, Grace and Jennifer



JPII junior Grace Wood and her family are sponsoring Juliet through Divine Care Ministries in Uganda.

Wood met and formed an instant connection with Juliet, an orphan of AIDS who was separated from her many siblings, but graciously taken in by an aunt. Because of Divine Care Ministries and her new sponsors, the Woods, Juliet will get food, an education, and spiritual guidance. In addition to the sponsorship, the Wood family also financially supported Juliet through a critical operation on her umbilical hernia that she would have otherwise never received.



SOCIAL MEDIA:



A KNIGHT'S TALE



JPII ALUMNI PAGE



ATHLETICS



SCHOOL



@JPIIKNIGHTS

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View Points

CHAIN OF CONNECTIONS: THE LINKS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL

When I walk through the halls of JP II, I pass by students, some familiar and some unfamiliar. There are certainly students I've yet to really get to know, but I know many of these faces well – I've taught them; I've coached them; I've mentored them; I've watched them grow. And subsequently, I've learned as much or more from them.

As I consider the new identities that I have witnessed, I begin to realize the chains of connection that unite us all at our school, our shining city on the hill.

The links in our chain are students, teachers, classes, teams and traditions, and Pope John Paul II High School is strong because of the links that connect and unite us for the common, deeply grounded cause of understanding and living how "Faith Leads Us Beyond Ourselves."

Our chain of connections leads us in the classroom through academic deliberation and maturation and deepens our exchange and experience in the arenas of artistic expression. The chain extends to the domains of impassioned competition in Knights athletics, where individuals are not only driven to improve their talents, but also to raise the expectations of the team as a whole. Most importantly, I have consistently witnessed a deep understanding from students and teachers alike that faith and belief in God is our true, foundational connection. It is through our unity and our faith that we fully serve the mission of our school.

Scott Shaver is a history teacher and the assistant track and field coach.



Scott Shaver

CAMP JP II READY FOR SUMMER

Laura Reynolds, the new director of the Camp JP II summer camp program, has been busy preparing for what promises to be another fun, enlightening and successful summer. Teachers have submitted their ideas for summer camps, and Mrs. Reynolds has developed a schedule of 35 camps. "A lot of (the classes) are the classics," such as Science Sleuths, History of Warfare Through Dodgeball, Cupcakes and Cookies, and a wide variety of athletic camps, Mrs. Reynolds said. And there also will be several new offerings including a robotics camp, a trivia camp and a podcasting camp. The week-long camps are half day and cost \$140.

Totus Tuus, a summer catechetical youth program for children in grades 1-6, will return to JP II this year. The camp will meet 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. July 7-11, and the cost is \$40.

As in the past, the program will offer before and after care for parents who drop off their children and pick them up on the way to and from work, Mrs. Reynolds said. Lunch also will be available for children who attend both morning and afternoon camps, she added.

To view more information about the summer camps or to register, check out the link for Camp JP II on the school's website – www.jp2hs.org – under the Campus Life dropdown menu.

Mrs. Reynolds is new to Nashville and JP II but not Catholic education. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and then a master's in education through Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education program. Through ACE, people earn their master's degree while teaching in an under-resourced Catholic school.

She ended up teaching English at San Juan Diego High School in Austin, Texas. "I loved my job there and moved into administration" as dean of academics and principal of the eighth grade academy the high school created as a feeder school, she explained.

In July, she and her husband moved to Nashville, where he is working toward his doctorate in education at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. "We both just love Catholic education. I knew I wanted to get involved with the Catholic schools somehow," Mrs. Reynolds said. JP II Headmaster Faustin Weber "allowed me this opportunity."



UPCOMING EVENTS

WRITERS' CAFE

6 P.M.

MONDAY
FEB. 10

Creed Owens earns Eagle Rank

Creed Owens, son of Don and Bekki Owens, recently earned his Eagle rank from the Boy Scouts of America. Creed is a member of Troop 460 in Greenbrier and a junior at JP II.

The Eagle rank is the highest honor achievable in the Boy Scouts and requires the implementation of a major community project. Creed's Eagle project included planning, overseeing, and assisting with tree, brush and fence removal, as well as the installation of a new fence at his church in Springfield, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Creed was assisted by his brothers, also Scouts, as well as members of Troop 460.

Congratulations, Creed!

JP II PREPARES FOR CANONIZATION WITH DAY-LONG FAITH RALLY

As Pope John Paul II High School prepares for the upcoming canonization of its namesake, the school will set aside one day during Catholic Schools Week for a day long faith rally, featuring nationally known speakers and musicians.

“This is something that can be unique for the kids who go here to JP II, to enliven their faith ... to reinvigorate their faith,” said Father Terry McGowan, a theology teacher and chaplain at JP II.

“For us, particularly this year, this is part of our year of preparing for John Paul II’s canonization,” Father McGowan said. The day is an answer to John Paul II’s challenge to Catholic schools, he added, “to remember our Catholic identity and what Catholic schools are there for, which is Christ.”

Providing all the music for the day will be Catholic singer and songwriter Matt Maher, who performed at World Youth Day in Brazil last summer. He has been nominated and received numerous awards from the Gospel Music Associations for the United States and Canada and other organizations.

Maher moved to Nashville from Tempe, Ariz., after signing with Essential Records.

Father Stan Fortuna of the Community of Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in New York City, a musician, rapper and speaker who has appeared at youth retreats around the world, will be one of the speakers and will celebrate Mass during the day.

Chris Padgett, a musician, comedian, speaker and catechetics professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, will give two talks during the day.

JP II Admissions Director Dan Hodes made the arrangements to bring all three to the youth rally, having worked with them before when organizing similar rallies at Franciscan University and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Maryland.

“The goal of the day is to have our students experience a new evangelistic Catholic outreach and experience their Catholicism in a new and different way,” Hodes said. “We’re trying to reach out to our students and give them an opportunity to see another side of Catholicism.”

“We’re all excited,” Father McGowan said. “It’s going to be a little different day for us. That’s always exciting. ... I’m sure the kids will appreciate it too.”

The rally is one of several events the school has planned throughout the year leading up to the canonization of Blessed John Paul II in April. Blessed John XXIII will be canonized on the same day.

Deacon Edwards will lead a delegation of JP II students, teachers and staff to Rome for the canonization. The Mass will be held in Rome on Sunday, April 27, and the school will mark the canonization with an all-school Mass the next day on Monday, April 28, Hodes explained. Deacon Edwards will send back video messages from the canonization that will be played for the students at the school Mass, he added.

The school also is trying to organize a summer trip to Krakow, Poland, where Blessed John Paul II served as Archbishop before his election as pope in 1978.

JP II STUDENTS HONORED IN SCHOLASTIC ART COMPETITION

Five students at Pope John Paul II High School have received honors in the regional Scholastic Art and Writing Competition, the nation’s oldest continuously run art competition and a source of scholarships for young artists.

Gold Key winners, the highest level of achievement on the regional level, include Kate Cannon for her entire portfolio of work, “Portraits of Anxiety,” and Alie Ward for her photograph, “Self Loathing.” Silver Key winners include Marlowe LeBlanc for her digital art, “O.C.D.,” Ben Stringer for his drawing, “Objects,” Megan Gerstner for her painting, “Light Through Leaves,” and Kate Cannon for her sculpture, “Rock Hard Abs.” Students receiving Honorable Mention for painting include Ben Stringer, Reygan Putman, Jordan Lee, Loraine Illia and Kenzie Carver; for drawing, Julia Meyer; for photography, Bailey Pate, Ally Jenkins and Kate Cannon.

The Gold Key works will be on display at Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art from Jan. 31-March 2. Gold Key winners



Students recognized in the regional Scholastic Art and Writing Competition include: (front row, L-R) Bailey Pate, Julie Meyer, Marlowe LeBlanc, Alie Ward, Ally Jenkins, Kate Cannon; (back row) Kenzie Carver, Reygan Putman, Megan Gerstner, Jordan Lee, Ben Stringer and Loraine Illia.

will have their work submitted to the national competition, making them eligible to win scholarships and a trip to New York.

JPII TO STAGE PREMIERE OF 'BERNADETTE OF LOURDES'

JPII will premiere a new musical, "Bernadette of Lourdes," for its spring theater production. "This will be the first time it's ever been performed onstage. We're very excited about it," said Zac J. Campbell, director of theater arts at JPII.

The play is about St. Bernadette, to whom the Blessed Mother appeared, highlighting the journey she took as a young girl and the challenges she faced from those who doubted the appearance, Mr. Campbell said.

In 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared as the Immaculate Conception to the young, poor and uneducated miller's daughter. In the 18 apparitions, the Blessed Virgin asked Bernadette to relay her request that a chapel be built on the site. While some believed Bernadette, others dismissed her accounts of the apparitions. Eventually, the Catholic Church declared the apparitions as authentic, and the grotto where the Blessed Mother appeared is one of the most popular pilgrimage sites in the world. Over the years, nearly 70 cures of people who have visited the site have been verified by the Lourdes Medical Bureau as "inexplicable."

The play explores the themes of "how God speaks to us and who God speaks to," Mr. Campbell said. It also considers the tension between faith and science, he added. "Can you have faith in a world of science?"

The play was written by two Nashville area artists, Sarah Hart, a nationally known Catholic singer and songwriter, and Brian Hull,

the master puppeteer at the Nashville Public Library and director of the library's children's theater program. Through connections in the community, Mr. Campbell learned that Ms. Hart and Mr. Hull had an original work "and it fit our culture" at JPII, he said.

"I grew up with Lourdes water around the house, so it spoke to me right off the bat," Mr. Campbell said. "When I met with Sarah, she mentioned this has really been a labor of love for her."

Although he has appeared in an original play as an actor, this will be the first time Mr. Campbell has directed a play that has never been performed before, he said. "It's a fun process." It has to be a collaborative effort involving the writers, the director and the actors, he said. "The creators have their vision. They have to let go a little bit. I have to be receptive to their needs."

Performing a new play promises to be a challenge for the student actors as well, Mr. Campbell said. "They have to bring their own interpretation. ... They have to bring their own style to it."

Kyle Hankins, also known as Krazy Kyle the organist for the Nashville Predators, will be the musical director for the play, and Mr. Campbell will be working closely with JPII's choral department, he said.

The dates for the play are March 6-9. "The kids are excited," Mr. Campbell said.

STUDENTS TRY HAND AT COMPUTER CODING

JPII students got an introduction into computer coding as part of the national Hour of Code program held in conjunction with Computer Science Education Week.

"The goal was to have kids across the country exposed to computer coding," said JPII math teacher Amanda Youell, who led about 20 students through the process.

Using an online curriculum, the students used Java script to write an online quiz and to keep score, Ms. Youell explained. Some of the students attending the session are members of JPII's new robotics team and were familiar with writing code, but most of the students had no previous experience with programming, she said.

Ms. Youell surveyed the students to see if any would be interested in taking a computer science class in school, attending a summer camp session on the topic, or joining a computer science club. "Most of them said yes to all those," she said. "We're looking into a way to get something started." She hopes to have more afternoon sessions in the spring.

JPII students learn the basics of computer coding as part of the national Hour of Code program held in conjunction with Computer Science Education Week. About 20 students participated in the program, and JPII Math teacher Amanda Youell is hoping to expand the offerings in the future.



ROBOTICS TEAM OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS

Pope John Paul II High School has expanded its opportunities for students interested in science with the formation this year of a robotics team. The team, the JPII Electric Knights, traveled to McDonough, Ga., for a competition with 15 other teams from Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee. The team's faculty advisor, Rebecca Jansing-Kaestner, is planning in-house competitions in the spring.

"I'm going to give them a challenge," that will require the students to build a robot using a Lego Mindstorm kit and write the necessary computer coding to program it to complete the challenge autonomously, Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner said.

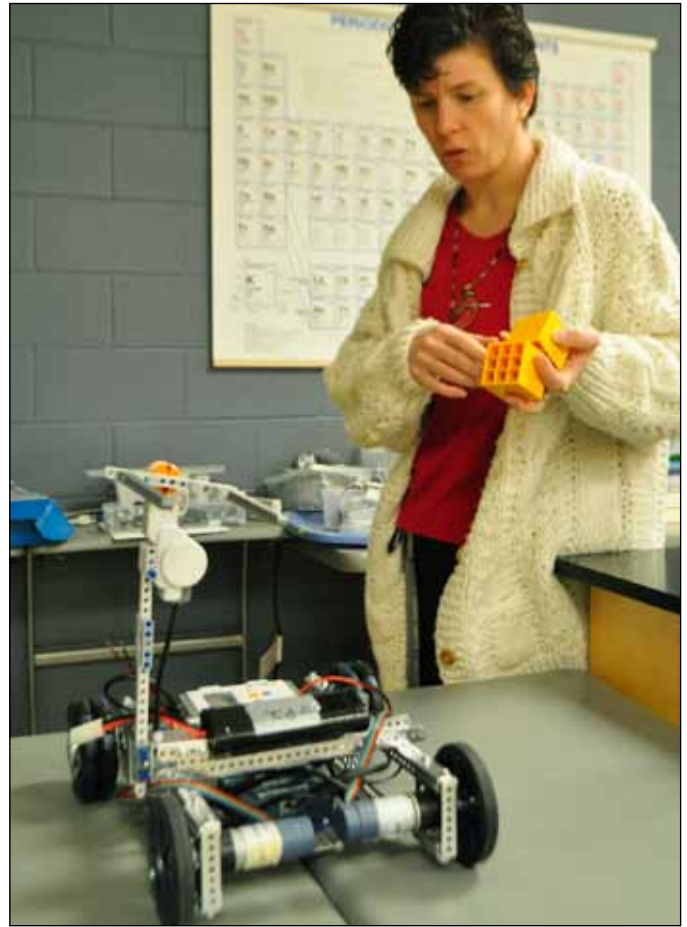
One challenge she is considering is to build a robot that can dance. She would like that challenge to be open to girls only as a way to attract more girls to explore their interest in the sciences, Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner said.

The challenges require students to learn about writing computer codes and mechanical engineering, Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner. She is looking for corporate sponsors and mentors with expertise in those fields to help the students.

The team will meet after school on Thursdays and students are welcome to join the team at any time, Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner said. She is also hoping that having weekly meetings after school during the spring will give more students, some of whom may have had conflicts in the fall semester, the opportunity to participate.

For more information about the team or becoming a corporate sponsor or mentor, e-mail Mrs. Jansing-Kaestner at rebecca.jk@jp2hs.org.

Rebecca Jansing-Kaestner, faculty advisor for the robotics team and a chemistry teacher at JPII, demonstrates one of the robots team members have built.



RAMOS AND LI IN MID-STATE ORCHESTRA

Congratulations to Jacqui Ramos, left, and Remilia Li, who were selected to participate in the Mid-State Orchestra weekend in Murfreesboro. Remilia was selected to participate in the Mid-State orchestra for ninth and tenth graders based on her audition, and Jacqui was awarded the third chair in the first violin section and will once again participate in the All-State Orchestra during the Tennessee Music Educators conference in Memphis, this coming April.

HOCKEY SEASON WINDING DOWN



Senior captain David Campeotto patrols the slot in front of the goal for JPII's hockey team. The Knights are winding down their season as they head toward the playoffs in February.

JENNIFER DYE WILL BE HONORED AT GALA

When Jennifer Dye was a student at Portland Middle School, she participated in the school's Science Olympiad team. "We went to the very first state competition. We made it to nationals that year and every year after." Through science and Science Olympiad, the girl from the small town of Portland was able to visit some of the best research universities in the country. "It opened this huge world for me."

As the science department chair at Pope John Paul II High School, Mrs. Dye has been working since the school opened in 2002 to open that world not only to her students, but to students across the state. For her contributions to JPPII, Mrs. Dye will be the honoree at the 11th annual JPPII Gala on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Marriott Airport Hotel in Nashville. "I'm extremely honored, but I'm also humbled by it," Mrs. Dye said.

She was the co-chair of the science department at Gallatin High School before coming to JPPII to help start the school. She was reluctant at first to leave public education, but in the end, was lured because "I had the latitude to do whatever I thought was best for the students. They treated me as a professional. That was so invigorating."

While at JPPII, Mrs. Dye has overseen several initiatives that have led to



Jennifer Dye

improved performance by the students that she has documented through research. The first big change was to adopt a Physics First curriculum. Rather than teaching physics in a student's junior year, which is typical, JPPII moved it to freshman year because physics provides a foundation for the science classes that follow. Next, the school adopted a modeling approach to teaching.

"Modeling is real science," Mrs. Dye said. Rather than giving students the answers, modeling requires the teacher to guide the student to their own discovery, allowing them to raise questions along the way, she explained. "Science is extremely hard because it's unknown, and it's exhilarating because it's unknown. That's what brings me back to school every day. I love it."

Mrs. Dye has tracked scores on standardized tests to document the success of the initiatives. "The gains were just unbelievable," she said. "What's cool is it's not just our top kids making gains ... it's our lower performing kids as well. We set the same bar for them. They really made strides."

Mrs. Dye has received several state and national awards, including being named Outstanding Science Teacher by the Tennessee Academy of Science in 2006 and receiving the Presidential Award of Excellence in Math and Science Teaching in 2000.

"The people make it special" at JPPII, Mrs. Dye said. The faculty and staff "always work ... to make this place the best place possible."

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

