



For his Eagle Scout project, senior Hunter Williams built a prayer garden with the Stations of the Cross in the wooded area at the entrance of JP11.

## STUDENT BUILDS PRAYER GARDEN FOR SCOUT PROJECT

Pope John Paul II High School has a new addition to its campus, the Christocentric Prayer Garden, featuring the 14 Stations of the Cross, thanks to senior Hunter Williams, who oversaw the construction of the Stations as his Eagle Scout project.

In looking for a project, "I decided to help my school out," said Hunter, a graduate of St. Joseph School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 74 at Madison Church of Christ.

Hunter worked with Deacon Brian Edwards, school chaplain, to find a site for the Stations, which depict the events of Christ's crucifixion. The Stations are located in the wooded area at the entrance of the school behind Bishop David Choby's house on Caldwell Lane.

"I got a bunch of my friends to come out in the summer, and we cleared a path and built 14 Stations," Hunter said. He and his dad, Joe Williams, brainstormed on a design for the pedestals that hold each Station and then got a donation of two-by-fours and four-

by-fours from Home Depot to build them.

Deacon Edwards helped them pick out copper Stations of the Cross that were then attached to the pedestals. He also helped with the ordering of the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue at the entrance of the Stations, Hunter said. The statue was donated by Deacon and Mrs. Brian Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kevin Edwards, Ms. Mary Margaret Edwards, and Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Edwards in memory of Eddie and Lucille Edwards, their parents. Mr. Kenny Jansen also donated his time and talents, along with volunteers from the Catholic Heart Work Camp to help complete the project.

Hunter, the son of Joe and Nanci Williams, is in the final stages of qualifying for his Eagle rank, the highest honor a Scout can earn. "I'm almost there." Hunter has been involved in Scouting since he was in the first grade. "It helps you in life," he said.



### SOCIAL MEDIA:



A KNIGHT'S TALE



JP11 ALUMNI PAGE



ATHLETICS



SCHOOL



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## View Points

### THE SENIOR CLASS PROJECT: FAITH LEADS US BEYOND OURSELVES

About seven years ago two students asked me to sponsor a service project. Given my background in community development, it was an easy “yes” to support them and the cause; Mr. Harvey Arche and I have been the Senior Service Project sponsors ever since.

Each year the senior class selects a charitable organization about which they feel passionate. We have supported international causes related to raising awareness about child soldiers; we have helped local agencies, including Habitat for Humanity and Operation Stand Down; we have supported medical research related to cancer and ALS.

It is truly because Faith Leads Us Beyond Ourselves that our seniors participate in this project year after year. As a club, we raise awareness about important causes, support nonprofits financially, and reach beyond our school community. Over the years, we have raised donations and sent care packages to veterans, held two homeless simulations in which the seniors have spent the night outside in 30-degree weather while fasting all in an effort to understand the plight of the homeless, and helped build a Habitat for Humanity home.

Recently, the class of 2014 voted to support the Ronald McDonald House near Monroe Carell, Jr. Children’s Hospital, which offers the families of patients in critical care an affordable place to stay while their child gets treatment or recuperates. We have begun fundraising with quarterly Waffle Wednesdays and started planning our annual Talent Show. In addition, we hope to have an outdoor concert and a school drive for needed items. We will also visit the Ronald McDonald House at least three times to provide meals and items that will make their stay more pleasant.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please email Jackie Beals at [jackie.beals@jp2hs.org](mailto:jackie.beals@jp2hs.org).

*Jackie Beals is the Foreign Language Department Chair and Assistant House Master for the House of Gregory.*



Jackie Beals

### CATHOLICS, MUSLIMS SHARE HISTORY OF DISCRIMINATION

The theme for this year’s colloquium, which was held during the school’s Pope Week to honor its namesake, was “Toward Mutual Understanding: The American-Muslim Experience and the Catholic Response.”

Throughout much of Catholics’ history in the United States, they faced the same perceptions and biases now facing Muslims in this country, said Dr. Todd Green, one of the two speakers at the annual colloquium at Pope John Paul II High School.

Since the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Church has been a leader in interfaith dialogue with Muslims and in allying itself with Muslims facing discrimination in the United States and Europe, said Green, an assistant professor of religion at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, whose current research focuses both on the decline of traditional Christianity and the rise of anti-Muslim sentiment in Europe.

The second speaker at the colloquium was Dr. Ossama Bahloul, the imam of the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro, which became a target of opponents when it sought approval for plans to build a mosque and community center.

When Bahloul’s community pursued approvals to build a mosque and community center, they were met with stiff opposition, including protests, lawsuits, a bomb threat, and an arson involving construction equipment on the site.

“Islamophobia in the United States in my opinion is a business” that some use to make money and some politicians use to get elected, Bahloul told the audience of students and members of the community.

A federal judge eventually ruled in favor of the Islamic Center, leading to the opening of the new facility in November 2012. The process “made me respect the Constitution more,” Bahloul said.

“There’s something good that can come out of anything,” Bahloul said. “We can allow ourselves to listen to each other. ... We can disagree but we can not lose respect.”



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

### CHRISTMAS INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT

7 P.M.  
MONDAY  
DEC. 9

#### Grandparents Breakfast set for Nov. 26

We will be holding our annual Grandparents Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26, in the main gym.

There has always been a huge turnout and the event has outgrown the dining hall. It is a beautiful event that the students and grandparents share.

Please make sure we have updated grandparent information in Veracross so we don’t miss anyone. If you are unsure how to do it, just send the address to Jo Lind Weaver at [jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org](mailto:jolind.weaver@jp2hs.org) to have it updated.

Be sure to save the date!

## ADMISSIONS STAFF COMPLETING BUSY FALL

The Pope John Paul II High School Admissions Office is having a busy fall that should continue through the rest of the school year.

JPII is on track for another incoming class of 165 freshmen and about 15 transfer students next year, said Dan Hodes, the school's admissions director. JPII is receiving more interest this year from students now attending Sumner County public schools. "We're getting a lot more interest from Ellis and Knox Doss" middle schools in Hendersonville, he said. "It's a good sign. Speaking as a school, we are very much rooted in our geographical location. We are very much a Sumner County institution."

The next testing date for prospective students will be Saturday, Dec. 7, beginning at 9 a.m. in the school library. New this year, for students from Nashville area Catholic schools, JPII will accept as their placement test their Explorer test scores, which all eighth graders take. The Catholic school students are only required to attend a testing date to complete a writing sample.

Providing the writing sample takes about 45 minutes, and parents are invited to enjoy breakfast on JPII while they wait for their students. Wi-fi also is available for parents who want to use their computers while they are waiting.

The deadline for applying for Early Action acceptance is Friday, Dec. 6, and Early Action acceptance letters will be sent out by Dec. 17. The open enrollment period begins in January. "Eighty-five percent of our freshman class is typically accepted before Christmas," Mr. Hodes said.

The Admissions Office also will be hosting Middle School Movie Night



JPII Admissions Director Dan Hodes makes a point during a recent Open House for prospective students and their families. The next testing date for students interested in attending JPII is Saturday, Dec. 7.

on Friday, Dec. 6. The free event is open for any seventh or eighth grade student, who will be able to enjoy watching the movie in the JPII auditorium and concessions. "You and your friends can have a night at the movies for free at JPII," Mr. Hodes said.

## JPII TEACHER BECOMES U.S. CITIZEN IN FRONT OF STUDENTS

Veronica Del Valle, a Spanish teacher at Pope John Paul II High School, has lived and worked in the United States for a long time, but on Friday, Nov. 1, it truly became her home.

Ms. Del Valle, who was born and grew up in Monterey, Mexico, was sworn in as a United States citizen during an assembly before the student body. "It was finally time," she said. "This place is more like home because I care about it so much."

Her father worked for American companies for many years, and while she was growing up in Monterey, "we always had a home in Texas," Ms. Del Valle said. She moved to the United States in 2000 to finish her college at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and came with legal residency status. The rest of her family already has dual citizenship status, she said. "I was the last one. ... They' were like, 'It's about time.'"

When she finally decided to become a U.S. citizen, school officials suggest she do it at the school. "To do it here at school was really special," said Ms. Del Valle, who has taught at the school since 2003. "In a way I was able to do this with family because this school is my family."

After the school celebrated Mass for All Saints' Day, the oath was administered by federal Magistrate Judge Joe B. Brown, the father of Mike Brown, director of college counseling at JPII. "I was very scared repeating the words. I have a fear of stages and microphones," Ms. Del



Photo by Rick Musacchio

JPII Spanish teacher Veronica Del Valle is sworn in as a U.S. citizen by federal Magistrate Judge Joe B. Brown, the father of Mike Brown, director of college counseling at JPII.

Valle joked. "I was very nervous but very excited."

In the end, the administering the oath, in which Ms. Del Valle swore to support and defend the Constitution and laws of the country against all enemies, foreign and domestic, was an important lesson for the students, she said. "The words in the oath are so meaningful," Ms. Del Valle said. "These are words every American should hear."

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SINGERS GATHER FOR CHORAL FESTIVAL

About 80 middle school aged students from Nashville area Catholic Schools gathered at Pope John Paul II High School on Sunday, Oct. 20, for the first Nashville Catholic Youth Choral Festival.

“There’s never been an opportunity for students from Catholic schools to sing together, especially at the middle school level,” said Jj Ebelhar,



JPII Choral Director Jj Ebelhar conducts a choir of middle school singers during the first Nashville Catholic Youth Choral Festival, which was held at JPII.

JPII’s choral director and fine arts department chair. “It gives students opportunities to grow and sing.”

The idea for the choral festival began with Renee Thompson of St. Edward School, Chris Melton of Holy Rosary Academy and Marcina Clark of St. Ann School, Mrs. Ebelhar said. The group began meeting last summer to select the music and organize the event.

The students arrived at JPII at 12:30 p.m. Sunday and began rehearsing at 1 p.m., Mrs. Ebelhar explained. At 5 p.m., they performed the music in a concert. “They came knowing the music well,” Mrs. Ebelhar said. “They were very well prepared by their music teachers.” Mrs. Ebelhar’s role was to refine the student’s work to prepare for the performance.

Members of JPII’s stagecraft class took care of the sound and lighting and members of the Beginners Women Chorus were on hand to help throughout the event, Mrs. Ebelhar said.

The singers “were very enthusiastic to be part of this group,” she said. “We hope to involve other Catholic schools for next year. We want it to be an annual event.”

## JPII CHORAL STUDENTS SHINE IN MIDSTATE COMPETITION

Twenty-seven choral students at Pope John Paul II High School have been selected for All-State, Midstate and Freshmen Honors choirs after auditioning at Stewarts Creek High School.

More than 1,500 students from 58 public and private schools in Middle Tennessee auditioned for the Freshmen Honors Choir. The 10 JPII students selected for the choir were the most of any private school and the second most among all schools.

“Our students have a good work ethic and they’re very prepared, which gives them confidence going into the audition,” said Jj Ebelhar, JPII’s Director of Choral Music. “They performed well under pressure. I was particularly happy about how well they did in the sight-reading component.”

The JPII members of the Freshmen Honors Choir are: Danna Latiolais, Skylar Carson-Reynolds, Sarah Gould, Macey Crow, Morgan Locke, Emma Horton, Carlee Campbell, Cassidy Ohlwein, Jon Layne, Perry Minichan, Joey Deaton and Brennon LeCave.

“Our freshman singers are just fledglings, and some have never even sung in a choir before,” Ebelhar said. “But Mrs. (Jeanette) MacCallum and I were able to work with them to train them in a manner that gave them confidence, even though they were very nervous. I always tell them: ‘If you are well prepared, your nerves will work for you and not against you.’”

Students selected for the All-State Choir are: Teresa Gilstrap, Michelle Moore, Zach Janson. All-State Alternates are: Gaby Aguilar, Anna Bass, Beth Bender, Hillary Edwards, Emily Ernst, Loraine Ilia, Madi Leonard, Rachael Leonard, Michael Locke and Bob Shin.

Selected for the Mid-State Choir were Jacqui Ramos, Taylor Smith and



Twenty-seven choral students at Pope John Paul II High School have been selected for All-State, Midstate and Freshman Honors choirs.

Kendall Kelly.

In January, all of the All-State alternates and All-State members are required to pass a second tier audition. If they pass, the All-State members are officially members of the All-State Choir, which performs in April in Memphis. The alternates are now qualified to advance if any alternate in their voice part drops out or does not pass the second tier audition.

All 27 singers participated in the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association Honors Regional Choir Festival on Thursday, Nov. 7, at Christ Church in Brentwood.

## JPII SONGBIRDS FORM KNIGHTINGALES

Three juniors at Pope John Paul II High School who share a love for music and singing have formed the Knightingales, an a capella girls ensemble. “The three of us have always loved music and singing and harmonizing any random song,” said Mia Herrington, who formed the group with her friends Abby Fox and Sarah Link. “There was no reason we couldn’t do it, no reason not to.”

“We started it mainly to bring people together who normally wouldn’t be together,” said Abby Fox. “What they have in common is music.” Sarah Link added: “It’s been amazing how well the girls have acclimated to” each other. “It’s really awesome to watch.”

The three girls all came to JPII from Sumner Academy. For their chorus exam their freshman year they sang an a capella version of a pop song, which was a big hit among their classmates, Sarah said. At the end of their sophomore year, they decided to start the Knightingales and held auditions. Almost 30 people auditioned, but the three girls decided that would be too many and decided to start with about 15.

“It’s completely run by us,” Abby Fox said. “It’s definitely a group effort.” The group sings a capella versions of pop songs, including a mashup of Justin Timberlake’s “Cry Me a River” and “Mirrors.” JPII Choral Director Jj Ebelhar wrote arrangements for the “Star Spangled Banner” and the “Tennessee Waltz” for the group to sing. “We want to build a set of four to five songs,” said Abby. “We want a show,” added Mia.

The Knightengales have already had several public performances and hope to add more. They sang at Monthaven, the home of the Hendersonville Arts



Sarah Link, left, and Kendall Kelly perform with the Knightingales during a recent Open House.

Council, and at a recent Open House. They also sang the National Anthem before the JPII-Father Ryan football game. The three girls plan to donate to charity any money they make from future performances.

The Knightingales are the first a capella girls ensemble ever formed by JPII students, noted Mrs. Ebelhar, who is the group’s faculty advisor. “I’m so proud of the girls’ leadership and ability to pull students together for the group.”

## JPII LOOKING FOR MORE WRESTLERS

Pope John Paul II High School wrestling team is looking for athletes who want to help build the team while honing personal characteristics that can last a life time. “Some of best lessons about life – hard work, toughness, never giving up – I learned in wrestling,” said Coach Joshua Myers, who is in his first year at JPII.

Wrestling also promotes healthy living habits, such as eating healthy and regular exercise, that a wrestler can carry throughout their lives, Coach Myers said. It also helps build determination, persistence, physical and mental strength and endurance, he said. Because wrestlers compete in from 106 pounds to heavyweight, athletes of any size or body type can excel. Wrestling also helps young athletes in other sports, including football, lacrosse, rugby, baseball, soccer and others.

Anyone interested in trying wrestling is welcome to come by the wrestling gymnasium. The Knights practice Monday through Friday, beginning at 4:45 p.m., which leaves wrestlers time right after school to work on their homework.

## GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TAKES VICTORY

The JPII girls cross country team won the Silver Division at the Mid State Cross Country Association Championships, beating out 12 other teams. Senior Stephanie Simpson finished with a season’s best 21:37 and seventh place on the 5K course. Aiyannah Simms was 31st in 23:37, Mollie Schindler 41st in 24:05, AC Herline 42nd in 24:08, Loraine Iliia 70th in 26:21, and Lauren Price 112th in 29:37.

## ‘GREATER TUNA’ TO BE PERFORMED NOV. 15-17

The JPII Theater Department is inviting people to visit Tuna, Texas, the state’s third smallest city where the Lions Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies. For its fall production, JPII is presenting the comedy “Greater Tuna,” which offers a hilarious take on small town life, Friday-Sunday, Nov. 15-17. The Friday and Saturday shows will be at 7 p.m. and the Sunday show will be at 2 p.m., all in the Ann and Monroe Carell Auditorium.

The show was written for two actors to play all the inhabitants of Tuna, including men, women, children and animals. Innovatively, JPII theater

teacher Zac Campbell has divided the parts among 24 student actors. The cast includes: Ben Stringer, Briah Boyce, Caelyn Armshaw, Cassidy Ohlwein, Indigo Barnett, Chrissy Pederson, Connie Waller, Emily Ernst, Estefany Asencio, Ethan Keene, Grace Adcox, Grace Singer, Hailey Lavender, Hannah Craighead, Ian Atkins, Jack Williams, Jaime Rochester, Julia Colello, KC Doman, Kiera Reeves, Olivia Zimmer, Phillip Baker, Reuben Hoyos and Taylor Smith. General seating/admission is \$8. JPII students pay \$5 with a current school ID card.

## MARK CROWLEY ENJOYS 'SENSE OF PURPOSE' AT JP2

Mark Crowley, who is in his first year at JP2 teaching English and Latin, comes from a family of teachers. Both his parents are teachers and his brother and sister-in-law are teachers. "Teaching is what we do," he said. "We like to talk about things and explain things."

Teaching provides an opportunity to "share something you really love with people and share it with a new generation of students every year. It's always new," said Mr. Crowley.

He comes to JP2 after earning an undergraduate degree in Classical Culture and Latin, studying the history, archeology, literature of the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations, and a graduate degree in Latin with a focus on teaching methods. He earned both degrees from the University of Georgia, where he taught Latin for two years. After the University of Georgia, Mr. Crowley and his wife, Beth, moved to Saint Simons Island, Ga., where they were teachers at Frederica Academy, a small pre-K-12th grade independent school. He taught AP Latin, Latin 4 and a seventh grade class on Greek and Roman history. His wife taught drama.

The Crowleys were looking to move to a bigger city and started exploring



Mark Crowley

the possibility of moving to Nashville. Both are musicians, Mr. Crowley said. "I've been playing in bands since I was a kid," he said, and his wife is a singer and songwriter who has had some online success. A video of her singing one of her songs has had 1.5 million hits on YouTube, he said.

When Mr. Crowley was looking into job possibilities in Nashville, he reached out for advice from a former teacher, JP2 Headmaster Faustin Weber. Mr. Crowley graduated from Montgomery Catholic High School in Alabama when Mr. Weber was principal there and his mother taught French there for about 25 years.

JP2 ended up hiring Mr. Crowley to teach four sections of freshman English and one section of the Latin 3 class. He will also be helping to coach the boys soccer team in the spring.

"I love it here," Mr. Crowley said. "What I've been impressed with is there's a very clear sense of purpose" at JP2. "As a teacher, you want leeway in how you teach your classes but you want some kind of structure, some sense of purpose. This is where we're going and this is why," he said.

"I've been really impressed with the character of the kids here," Mr. Crowley said. The students "get what it means to be in school."

He's also been impressed with the quality of the faculty at JP2. "I have something to learn in every conversation with every teacher here," he said. "Everybody seems to genuinely like to be here and what they're doing here."

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