



JPII to host open house Oct. 13

Pope John Paul II High School will host an open house 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, for prospective students and their families to meet Headmaster Faustin Weber and other administrators, teachers and coaches. The open house will coincide with the Freshman Year of Studies Fall Fiesta. This event celebrates the early year success of all ninth grade students.

The Freshman Year of Studies program offers support and encouragement to navigate the transition from middle school to high school.

"We recognize there is an 'already but not yet' quality to freshmen in high school," said Luke Diamond, assistant dean of freshman year of studies. "Some are not fully independent enough to successfully juggle the demands of high school without extra attention and care from teachers, parents and the administration."

Guided tours of the campus will be lead by JPII students. Please visit the JPII website www.jp2hs.org for a listing of all admissions events, placement exam dates, and the school calendar.

COACH SERRA TAKES OVER GIRLS BASKETBALL PROGRAM

Karen Serra has taken over the reins of the girls basketball program at JPII, succeeding Julie Rollins, who retired last spring as JPII's athletic director and girls basketball coach.

"I had heard about the JPII job through the grapevine," Coach Serra said, and she called Mrs. Rollins a longtime friend and colleague. "She said it's a great opportunity," Coach Serra said. "She's built an excellent program."

Coach Serra comes to JPII from Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma, where she was the women's basketball coach and taught physical education for the last 14 years. Before taking over the program at Motlow State, Coach Serra was a successful high school coach in Middle Tennessee. She was a biology and honors physical sciences teacher and coached basketball and softball at Portland High School for four years. Before that, she spent five years at Goodpasture Christian School where she started the volleyball program, coached the boys cross country team and was an assistant coach for the girls basketball team under Mr.s Rollins. She also taught and coached in Obion County and Waverly, where she grew up.

"I truly enjoyed my time at Morlow," said Coach Serra, who was twice voted Coach of the Year. But the demands of traveling to games and recruiting left her on the road a lot. "I wanted to be home more often."

Besides coaching basketball at JPII, she serves as an assistant athletic director and teaches women's core



Karen Serra

fitness. As a teacher, Coach Serra has found "kids are so curious," she said. "They constantly want to know why. It's good to open young people's minds."

At a private school, "there are so many things you don't have to worry about," Coach Serra said. "The discipline is better," and the religious character of the school, "is tremendous. It's always been important to me."

Coach Serra also is impressed with the academics at JPII. "The academics here are just amazing." And that's an important part of what makes the school attractive, she said. "We want kids who will be student athletes. They have to put academics first, and be well rounded."

She's looking forward to returning to the high school coaching ranks. "The main thing about this age group is the tradition that you can build," because the girls play together for such a long time, Coach Serra explained. "They can develop chemistry and closeness." And the crowds that come out for high school games build excitement around the program, she said. Those all were things that were difficult to build at the community college level where players are there only two years, Coach Serra said.

Coach Serra wants the Knights to play an aggressive brand of basketball. "I'd prefer to run," she said. "I like to get it and go." She wants that aggressiveness to extend to both ends of the court. "I like to play tremendous pressure defense," she added.

Jimmy Steen will return to JPII as one of her assistants, and Kaneka Brown, a former player of Coach Serra's at Motlow, will join the staff as another assistant. The staff started working with the team over the summer. One of the keys to success for the team, Coach Serra said, will be how the players mesh. "I truly believe in chemistry," she said.

EIGHT STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL MERIT HONORS

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The nationwide pool of semifinalists represents less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors. Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition, including: maintain an outstanding academic record throughout high school; be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal; earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test; submit a detailed scholarship application, which includes the student's essay and information about the semifinalist's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

The names of the scholarship recipients will be released in four

announcements between April and July 2012.

Brescia and Hency are among 34,000 commended students recognized this year, after placing in the top 5 percent of the 1.5 million students taking the qualifying test.

Harris is one of 1,600 African-American students from across the country to qualify as a semifinalist in the 48th annual National Achievement Scholarship Program. The semifinalists will compete for approximately 800 Achievement Scholarships worth more than \$2.4 million to be offered next spring. The program, which is sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corp., recognizes academically promising African-American students throughout the nation.



117 Caldwell Drive
Hendersonville, TN 37075

info@jp2hs.org

www.jp2hs.org

TAILGATE PARTY AT RYAN GAME TO BENEFIT HAND IN HAND

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Proceeds from the tailgate will benefit the Hand in Hand Program. Although the event is a fundraiser, there is another objective, Parks said. "My main goal is to get the word out in the community" about the program. This year, the program has a full complement of five students: Danielle Ritter, Savannah Dolan, Kayla Kirby, Jamie Galvin and Marta Gautsch, Parks said.

"Every student is evaluated on a case by case basis," Parks said. The students in the program have a mix of intellectual abilities, Parks said. "We're looking for a student that has potential to grow in academics. We're looking for a student who is going to be appropriate in social settings. ... We're looking for students who would not be successful in our college prep program at JPII but are still interested in the Catholic identity that the school offers."

The students spend time in class with Parks as well as several inclusion classes throughout the day, such as theology, studio art, physical education, theater, U.S. history, beginning women's chorus, 3-D art, personal finance and women's core strength and conditioning. Each of the Hand in Hand students have peer buddies in their inclusion classes, fellow students they can go to for help, Parks explained.

JPII also offers the Exceptional Learner elective class for juniors and seniors interested in learning more about special education and working with the students in the Hand in Hand program, Parks said.

The students in the Exceptional Learner program help the Hand in Hand students with their studies as well as completing independent study of the law regarding special education and specific disabilities, Parks said.

The interaction between the Hand in Hand students and the rest of the student body is one of the most important aspects of the program, Parks said. "The Hand in Hand Program and the peer buddy program create a ripple effect within the community," Parks said. "Students learn to respect others because of who they are and not because of what they can or can't do."

"I think our peer buddies would tell you disabilities don't define a person," she added. "And I feel like these students are more like typical high school students than they're different."

Getting the word out about the program among people in the community at large and the Catholic community in particular, Parks said, "is huge." "I know there's a need," she said.

Parks is looking forward to another big turnout for the tailgate party on Oct. 7. "We're really excited to have that support and to be able to do the fellowship part, which I think is very unique and very special."

For information about the tailgate party or the Hand in Hand program, e-mail Parks at adrienne.parks@jp2hs.org. Information also is available on the JPII website, www.jp2hs.org; go to the Admissions tab and look for the Hand in Hand link.



OCTOBER 2011

Headmaster Faustin Weber ■ 615-822-2375 ■ www.jp2hs.org

TAILGATE PARTY AT RYAN GAME TO BENEFIT HAND IN HAND

Pope John Paul II and Father Ryan high schools are rivals in numerous endeavors, but every year the communities of the two schools come together to support JPII's Hand in Hand Program for students with intellectual disabilities.

That camaraderie will be renewed this year before the annual Bishop's Cup football game between the two schools on Friday, Oct. 7, at JPII's Jim Carell Athletic Complex. The Knight Athletic Booster Club from JPII and the 12th Man Booster Club from Ryan will once again co-sponsor a tailgate party before the game to raise funds for and awareness of the Hand in Hand Program, which is in its eighth year.

"Now that we have this beautiful venue and we're so thankful to the 12th Man Booster Club and the Knight Athletic Club we wanted to thank them by not making them cook" this year, said Adrienne Parks, the Hand in Hand director.

In the past, members of the two booster clubs provided and prepared the food. But this year, Center Point Barbecue in Hendersonville will prepare all the food, she said.

The event will be held 5-6:30 p.m. in the plaza of the new Jim Carell Athletic Complex.

EIGHT STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL MERIT HONORS

Eight JPII seniors have been honored by the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program, including five National Merit semifinalists, two National Merit commended students, and one National Achievement Scholarship semifinalist.

"We're proud of these kids," said Headmaster Faustin Weber. "Though they've done well on a national test, we know them by more than their test scores. They're football players, basketball players, all-state chorists and artists. They take our most demanding classes and excel in our Advanced Placement program. They're young men and women of faith, leaders in service to others and in the spiritual life of the school."

"They're true 'Renaissance' kids," he said, "the kind of people we want all of our students to become."



Danielle Ritter, center, helps fellow Hand In Hand student Jamie Galvin with her folder, while Hand In Hand Director Adrienne Parks, in the background, works with another student. The JPII Knight Athletic Booster Club and the Father Ryan 12th Man Booster Club will once again co-sponsor a tailgate party before the JPII-Ryan football game on Friday, Oct. 7, to benefit the Hand In Hand program.

"It's very exciting to use the facility, to be able to be right there in the middle of everything," Parks said.

Tickets for the meal are available for purchase at the gate before the game for \$8 each for adults and \$5 for children.

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MEGAN CLARK

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DAY OF SERVICE

HONDURAS TRIP

OPEN HOUSE

KAREN SERRA

Admissions Office
615-822-2375
info@jp2hs.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

PLACEMENT EXAMS FOR 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR

**OCT. 22
NOV. 12
DEC. 10
JAN. 21**

8 A.M.-NOON

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!

View Points

GIRLS LAX COACH HELPS U.S. TEAM WIN WORLD TITLE

Megan Riley Clark, the girls lacrosse coach at JPII, has had a spectacular 2011. She was an assistant coach for the U-19 women's national team that won the world championship in Hannover, Germany, in July. And in September, she was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame for her alma mater James Madison University.

"I played on the 1995 (U-19) women's team" in the World Championships, Coach Clark said. "I had always known at some point I wanted to be part of it again."

"It gives you the chills" to hear the national anthem as a player representing your country, Coach Clark said. And the feeling was exactly the same as a coach, she added.

The U.S. team posted a perfect 8-0 record in the World Championships, beating Australia in the championship game 14-11. The U.S. had defeated Australian 20-7 earlier in pool play, but in the championship game they fell behind 6-3 before storming back to claim the title.

"It was a much better game" in the championship matchup, said Coach Clark, who worked with the team's offense. "It made it fun, We hadn't had any games close since we've been together for about a year."

Coach Clark was "shocked" when she learned she was to be inducted into the JMU Athletics Hall of Fame. "It's very exciting, a huge honor," she said. "Something I didn't expect."

Coach Clark started all 72 games James Madison played during her four-year career at the school from 1996 to 1999. She led the team to two conference championships while being named All South Region four times and all conference three times. Coach Clark was named to the Colonial Athletic Association's 25th Anniversary Team, which was the top 25 players in the last 25 years. She also was named US Lacrosse first-team All-America and twice to the IWLCA first-team. Coach Clark was a member of the U.S. Developmental Lacrosse Team from 1998-99.

Last spring was Coach Clark's second year at JPII, and she led the team to its first appearance in the elite eight of the state playoffs. "I had a great group of girls," led by 2011 graduate Mary Leonard, who was an All-American and now plays for Davidson College.

"I think the girls really looked up to Mary and the other girls and aspire to be like that," Coach Clark said. "I'm really looking forward to next year."

JPII PEOPLE: SCHOOL CONNECTION

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

Ellis Middle School

Freshmen Kaity Petty and Jacob Telli are part of a steady stream of students who have come to Pope John Paul II High School from Ellis Middle School. They are among 10 former Ellis students in this year's freshman class.

"Ellis and JPII have about the same amount of students, but the buildings are different," Jacob said. The classes for each grade at Ellis were all together in the same section of the building, he explained, but at JPII, students walk from floor to floor to their classes.

Another difference at JPII is the amount of homework required of students. "Some of the subjects you've never had before, like language," Jacob said. "And physics," added Kaity.

But "you get used to it pretty quickly," Jacob said. The key to success is to make sure you don't put off your homework, Kaity said. Both Kaity and Jacob have found it easy to make new friends at JPII. "You're put in a class with new people, so you make friends with them, that and freshman retreat. Freshman retreat was big" for meeting new people, Jacob said.

Kaity and Jacob are also involved in extra curricular activities. Kaity is a football manager and will play basketball and lacrosse this year, and Jacob will wrestle and play baseball. He also is a member of the Foreign Language Club.

To prospective JPII students, Kaity advised, "It's a lot of work, so you need to be prepared. But it's fun." The College Application Saturdays help the students get started on their applications, Mr. Dempsey said. By December nearly everyone will have applied to a college, he added. "We're already getting acceptances," said Mr. Brown.

JPII People ... Kaity Petty and Jacob Telli!



Kaity Petty



Jacob Telli

A QUEEN AND HER COURT



Senior Anna Duzane, above with her escort Michael Scheriger, was crowned the JPII 2011 Homecoming Queen during halftime of the Sept. 9 football game against Goodpasture. The court and their escorts this year included: (from left) freshman Anna Fox and Whit Drennan, junior Tate Bailey and Luke Massa, seniors Courtney Sims and J.D. Burchfield, Anna Duzane and Michael Scheriger, Brittney Brescia and Hogan Bryant, junior Montana Hinson and Rivers Hinson, and sophomores Victoria Brasili and Josh McConnell.

COLLEGE COUNSELING STAFF HELPING STUDENTS TAKE NEXT STEP

Representatives from more than 120 colleges and universities from across the United States filled the JPII gym on Sept. 29 for the school's annual college fair. For seniors nearing their final choices for college next year, the college fair is an opportunity to focus on their choices and to talk to the representatives of all the colleges they're interested in, said Mike Brown, director of college counseling at JPII.

The college fair also gives seniors an opportunity to meet the admissions counselor who will be reviewing their application and to help the counselor put a face with the name, said JPII College Counselor John Dempsey.

The college fair is only one event the school sponsors to aid students in their search for a college or university. JPII's college counseling staff has hosted two College Application Saturdays this fall. Seniors were invited to come to JPII where they could use the school laptops to start working on their college applications. "It's a good social event also," Mr. Brown said. "They start talking with each other and the staff about schools." The College Application Saturdays help the students get started on their applications, Mr. Dempsey said. By December nearly everyone will have applied to a college, he added. "We're already getting acceptances," said Mr. Brown.

The college counseling office also is updating the Knights Quest blog under the

College Quest tab on the JPII website, which gives helpful information about the search for a college. Among the topics addressed on the Knights Quest are campus visits, testing advice, suggestions for writing college application essays and questions to ask when meeting with admissions counselors.

The staff also has hosted a test prep class for students taking the ACT and SAT, and a senior parent night to go over the college search process, Mr. Brown said. There will be a similar event for the parents of juniors in February, and at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, JPII will host a financial aid information night for students and their families, Mr. Brown said. Throughout September and October, students will have the opportunity to meet admissions counselors from a variety of colleges and universities visiting JPII.

The college counseling staff also will be meeting individually with the seniors to discuss their college search. "Our primary mission and goal is to assist kids in making the next step," Mr. Brown said.

"We believe the earlier they make a choice the better," Mr. Dempsey said, and applying early is important particularly for the more selective schools. Also, when a student settles on a college choice earlier in the school year, it allows them "to get on with being a senior in high school and enjoying the year," Mr. Dempsey added.

JPII DEDICATES DAY TO SERVING COMMUNITY

Pope John Paul II High School shut down for a day on Wednesday, Sept. 14, so all of its students, faculty and staff could fan out across the area for a day of service.

"We are a school of service. As a Christian school we have to be the hands and feet of Christ. That is who we are," said Melissa Vaughn, the Christian Service Internship coordinator at the school.

JPII students are required to complete at least 40 hours of community service each year, up to one half of those hours at one agency. This is the first time the school has sponsored a Day of Service.

Among the agencies visited and aided by JPII were Camp Marymount, the Nashville Rescue Mission, Room In the Inn, Second Harvest Food Bank, Feed the Children, the Cumberland River Compact, St. Pius X Church and Classical Academy and Soles4Souls.

"Getting 660 students and faculty back and forth to 11 different sites was an ambitious project!" said Headmaster Faustin Weber. "I was able to visit seven of the sites and work alongside them for a time. They worked hard, but they did so with infectious enthusiasm

and joy.

"I told them afterwards," he added, "they were a powerful force for good that day. I couldn't have been prouder."

The students, faculty and staff donated more than 2,400 hours of service during the day.

Vaughn expects the students to come back changed by their experience. "The message we're trying to send is everybody fits into service," she said. "It can be a part of your life for the rest of your life."



JPII teacher Paul Saboe and a group of students clear brush at St. Pius X Church as part of JPII's Day of Service.

STUDENTS VISIT HONDURAS ON MISSION TRIP

JPII English teacher Devin Donovan led four JPII students on a mission trip to Honduras over the summer. "We went with Hope for Honduran Children," a non-profit organization operated by her aunt and uncle, Ms. Donovan said.

"It was an amazing trip," Ms. Donovan said. The group from JPII were part of a larger group of high school and college students, she said. "Our students got to see models of individuals who spend their lives doing service."

Hope for Honduran Children focuses its efforts on organizing mission trips to several orphanages for boys and girls in the country, Ms. Donovan explained. "The purpose of each of the orphanages is to provide care for the children and to equip them with a skill that will help them succeed on their own," she explained. The orphanages offer computer classes to teach business and computer skills, as well as carpentry and hair dressing classes to teach the children job skills.

All of the orphanages are self sustaining. The children living there help to grow crops and raise livestock to provide all their food, Ms. Donovan said.

The JPII students on the trip, seniors Taylor Dunn and MacKenzie Mayberry and juniors Jack Duffin and Erin Riss, brought donations with them that they then distributed to the boys living in the Flor Azul orphanage and the surrounding communities. They also helped the boys with their English and prepared lessons on the body, the Seven Wonders of the World and arts and crafts that they taught to children in the surrounding

communities.

When Taylor Dunn showed up in the village of El Campo, she thought she would be leading a lesson for the children of the community. She was surprised when the whole village showed up. "It was very humbling to see every one in the community come out to see us," Taylor said. "They were so thankful we were there."

"All the kids loved it," Taylor said of the lessons, which the JPII students delivered in English and Spanish. "They loved coloring. They loved learning the English words. You could see the spark of recognition in learning. It was just beautiful."

In the evening, the JPII students talked to the boys of the orphanage about their lives in the United States.

"They were definitely interested in our culture, our music," Taylor said. "They loved hearing about our lives individually, where we lived and what we did on a day to day basis, what our plans are. ... It was really inspiring to see that amount of desire to learn. They studied more than anyone I've ever seen."

Ms. Donovan would like to bring more JPII students to Honduras. "I think we'll aim to do it annually," she said. "We're looking to do it in June 2012 and as often as there's enough interest."

She needs a group of at least 10 students to make the trip feasible, Ms. Donovan said. She plans to do a presentation for JPII students on the trip and future trips in October. For more information, contact her at JPII.