



Caldwell Classic 5K returns Nov. 17

The second annual Caldwell Classic 5K Run/Walk, sponsored by the House of Pius IX, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 17, at Pope John Paul II High School. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Jason Foundation, which is dedicated to the prevention of youth suicide, and the Ronald McDonald House, whose mission is to provide a home away from home for families of critically ill children receiving inpatient or outpatient medical care at Nashville area hospitals.

The race this year will include a middle school 1-mile race before the 5K. Everyone who registers will receive a Caldwell Classic II T-shirt. The cost is \$20 for the 5K and \$13 for the middle school 1-mile fun run. To register, go to <http://www.active.com/5k-race/hendersonville-tn/the-caldwell-classic-ii-2012>.

For a donation of \$150, corporate sponsors will be able to place their logo on the Caldwell Classic II T-shirt, display a banner at the event, and hand out "goodies" to all the participants. For more information about sponsorships, contact Veronica Del Valle at veronica.delvalle@jp2hs.org or Erin Riggs at erin.riggs@jp2hs.org.

EXCHANGE SENT MRS. TAYLOR TO TEACHING

A trip to France as part of an exchange program when she was still in high school set Melanie Taylor on the path to become a French teacher. Living with a host family in southern France for two weeks, Mrs. Taylor was able to get a first-hand glimpse of the beauty of the country and to see historic places she had studied in school. "I was just enamored by the culture," said Mrs. Taylor, who has been the French teacher at JP2 since 2010.



Melanie Taylor

She not only got an education during her trip, but she forged friendships with her host family that have lasted to this day. "My host family was so kind and generous," Mrs. Taylor said. "I had another mom, she just happened to be French."

Mrs. Taylor continued to study French as a student at Carthage College in Wisconsin and studied abroad in the Normandy section of France for a semester. "My French got so much better," using the language every day, she said.

The exchange program helped set her on her career path. "I've always known I wanted to be a teacher, I just didn't know I was going to be a French teacher," Mrs. Taylor said. "I thought I would be a music teacher."

After college, Mrs. Taylor started her teaching career in public middle and high schools in Kenosha, Wis. She went back to college to earn a master's degree in French language

2007 GRAD INTERNING IN COLLEGE COUNSELING OFFICE

Jamila Yorke Wilson, a 2007 graduate of Pope John Paul II High School, has returned to the school this semester to work as an intern in the college counseling office. "It's both weird and exciting" being back at JP2, she said. "There are a lot of familiar faces. Some of the kids are just carbon copies of their older siblings."

After graduating from JP2, Ms. Wilson graduated from Agnes Scott College, a small, liberal arts, women's college in Decatur, Ga., near Atlanta. She received a degree in psychology with a minor in education. "I pretty much knew what I wanted to do when I got there," which was to become a school counselor, she said.

She is now at Vanderbilt University, where she is working on a master's in education in school counseling. As part

and literature at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. While a graduate student, she was selected to go to France for a year as part of an exchange program. While she was studying at the Sorbonne in Paris, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in France, a graduate student from France came to the United States to teach her French classes as a teacher's assistant.

When she and her husband, Steve, returned to the United States, they moved to Nashville where he was a graduate student at Vanderbilt University. She was hired as JP2's French teacher in January 2010, shortly after giving birth to their daughter, Anne Claire. "I love it," Mrs. Taylor said of JP2. "It's just a loving community. And the kids are just great. I just love my kids."

Mrs. Taylor teaches five classes of French 1, 2, 3 and AP French. This is the first year JP2 has offered an AP French class. "Our school has such a good track record with AP classes," Mrs. Taylor said, and she was interested in being trained to teach AP classes after the AP exam for French was changed so that it doesn't focus so tightly on grammar but puts more emphasis on building skills for college and living internationally, Mrs. Taylor said.

Mrs. Taylor has a total of 81 students in her five classes, and she is hoping that the number will grow. "I've got some really talented underclassmen," Mrs. Taylor said, and she encourages more students to consider studying the language.

"French is an extremely useful language for your child to study," Mrs. Taylor said. French is the primary language in countries all around the globe by people of many different ethnicities and on nearly every continent. "It's a really vibrant, diverse, living language."

of her master's program, Ms. Wilson has to complete internships in an elementary, middle and high school. She completed her elementary school internship last semester, is doing the high school internship this semester, and will do an internship in a middle school next semester before graduating in May 2013.

While working at JP2, Ms. Wilson has been asked to take on several tasks, including meeting with students about their college choices and completing the map in the college counseling office that shows where each member of the class of 2012 is attending college. Working on the map has been "a more educational experience than I ever thought it would be," Ms. Wilson said. She learned a lot about what students from JP2 are looking for in a college, as well as information about all the schools the students are attending.



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GOING BEYOND CLASSROOM FOR DAY OF SERVICE

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the poor and disadvantaged, both close to home and across the globe.

"People need to give back," said Gabe Armshaw, a sophomore at JP2, who sorted donated meat at Second Harvest Food Bank.

"It makes me sad that there are so many across our state that go hungry. I am happy that I have this opportunity to do my small part in making their lives better," added freshman Caelyn Armshaw, Gabe's sister.

Students spent time visiting with homeless people and preparing meals at the Nashville Rescue Mission. They packaged more than six-and-a-half tons of food at the Second Harvest Food Bank. They stocked and organized warehouse facilities at Project Cure, a medical clearing house that helps equip medical missions abroad. Other locations included By Faith Farm and St. Luke's Community House (House of Gregory), HomeSafe for Sumner County (House of Peter), Loaves and Fishes and Camp Marymount (House of Leo XIII), Matha O'Bryan Center, Napier School, the Nashville Food Project (House of Clement), the Jason Foundation and St. Pius X Classical Academy (House of Pius IX), Feed the Children, Cottage Cove Urban Ministries and Room In The Inn (House of John XXIII).

Hand in hand, students, faculty and staff worked hard at locations across the community helping to accomplish tasks that would be impossible without the army of support that went forth from JP2.



Freshman Macy Hanson picks squash at the Nashville Food Project garden as part of JP2's Day of Service.

"Our kids were a powerful force for good; we can all be proud of them," said Headmaster Faustin Weber. "The Day of Service is an opportunity for the JP2 community to put the school's mission in action and demonstrate that Faith Leads Us Beyond Ourselves."



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

GOING BEYOND CLASSROOM FOR DAY OF SERVICE

Pope John Paul II High School students put faith into action during the second annual "Day of Service" held on Wednesday, Sept. 19, when 685 students, faculty and staff put their books on a shelf and spent the school day laboring to improve our community and world.

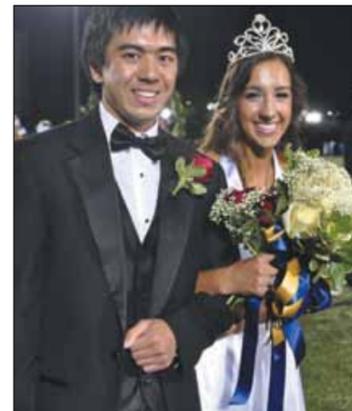
The day began with a brief assembly and prayer service asking God to bless the day's work. The entire school then loaded buses, made possible by David Rhoten and A-1Diesel, and traveled to 17 different project sites across the local community helping organizations that minister to



Seniors Bailey Pate, left, and Taylor Wallace paint a pavilion at Cottage Cove Urban Ministries in Nashville as part of JP2's Day of Service.

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HOLLY GIBBENS CROWNED HOMECOMING QUEEN



Senior Holly Gibbens was crowned Homecoming Queen at halftime of JP2's homecoming football game against Battle Ground Academy on Friday, Aug. 31. Gibbens is the daughter of Dub and Kathy Gibbens. She was escorted by Gabe Tiamson. The homecoming court included: from left, freshman attendant Mercedes Smith, escorted by her brother Griffin Smith, junior attendant Jacqueline Ramos, escorted by Ford Sanger, senior attendants Maddie Bologa, escorted by Brennan Belew, and Casey Sterrett, escorted by Aidan Leonard; junior attendant Victoria Brasili, escorted by Josh McConnell, and sophomore attendant Marta Gautsch, escorted by Rivers Hinson.



THIS ISSUE:
DAY OF SERVICE
HOMECOMING QUEEN

JP2 PEOPLE
FRENCH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

ADMISSION DATES
NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

FBLA
BROWN SIGNS

ALL-STATE CHEERLEADERS

FIELD DEDICATED COLLEGE FAIR

CALDWELL CLASSIC

MELANIE TAYLOR

JAMILA WILSON

Admissions Office
615-822-2375
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NEW TRACK, SOCCER FIELD DEDICATED



Jim Carell, far left, helps with the coin toss for the soccer match between JPII and Ensworth. Before the match, JPII's new track and renovated soccer field, built with a donation from Mr. Carell, was blessed and dedicated by Bishop David Choby.

blessed the fields and prayed that it be a place for students to relax their minds and exercise their bodies. He encouraged everyone present to run the race and seek the true prize; eternal life in heaven. The bishop also expressed his personal appreciation for all that Mr. Carell has done for the Catholic school community of Nashville.

The opening ceremony concluded with Mr. Carell making the coin toss and the start of a hard-fought contest, during which the Knights fought back to earn a 2-2 tie with Ensworth.

The new track and soccer field at Pope John Paul II High School was blessed and dedicated on Tuesday, Sept. 4, completing a major upgrade of the school's athletic facilities made possible by a donation from Nashville Catholic businessman and philanthropist Jim Carell.

Last year, JPII completed work on a new concessions and restrooms building at the football stadium, as well as installing field turf and making other architectural upgrades to the stadium.

The \$2.5 million project also included the construction of an eight-lane track around the soccer field, lights for the track and soccer field and a terraced spectator area, which were completed this summer.

Before donating money for the stadium upgrades, Mr. Carell also made a donation that paid for the renovation and remodeling of the school's weight room.

The dedication of the track and soccer field was held before the girls soccer match against Ensworth High School, the first game on the renovated field. JPII Headmaster Faustin Weber took the opportunity to thank Mr. Carell for his generosity, which made the new facility possible. He spoke of how proud the school is to have the new facility and how grateful the entire school community is for Mr. Carell's generosity.

Mr. Carell told the gathered students and parents that he was thankful for the opportunity to be part of Pope John Paul II High School. "It's me who is thankful", he said. "I have worked hard my whole life and have been blessed with success. I am happy to be able to give back, particularly when it helps children."

Following Mr. Carell's remarks, Nashville Bishop David Choby

145 COLLEGES VISIT JPII FOR COLLEGE FAIR

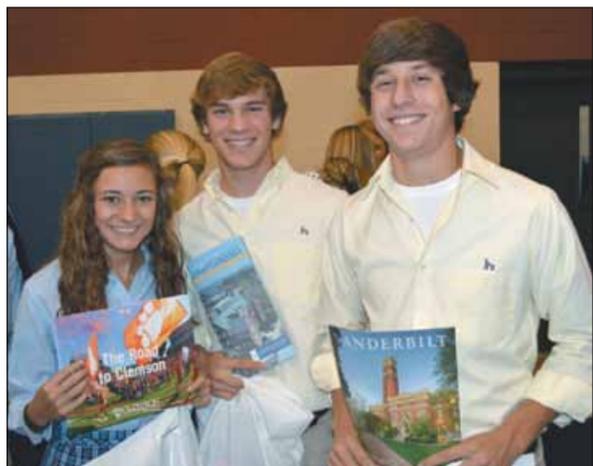
More than 145 colleges and universities set up shop in the JPII gymnasium to talk with students about their options after graduation during the school's annual College Fair, held on Sept. 27.

Every student, freshman through senior, had the opportunity to walk through the stations during the two-hour fair. Many bee-lined it to a particular college they had in mind while others took the opportunity to learn about the countless choices available.

Some of the schools represented were Wake Forest, University of Tennessee, The University of the South, Kalamazoo College, The University of Colorado at Boulder, Villanova, Vanderbilt, Notre Dame, Cornell University, and the U.S. service academies, among many others.

Admissions counselors were equally excited to talk to JPII students, recognizing the school's excellent academic preparation and ACT scores.

Victoria Hickam, Alex Fordham and Josh McConnell checked out a variety of schools during JPII's annual College Fair.



TWO SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALISTS



Six JPII seniors were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corp. for their performance on the PSAT test taken during their junior year. Brennan Belew, far left, and Nathan Edwards, third from left, were named National Merit Semi-finalists, while Ford Sanger (from left) Allie Smith, Alyson Cox and Miranda Mysinger were named National Commended Students.

Alyson Cox, Greg Mills, Miranda Mysinger and Allie Smith. They are among the nation's top 50,000 highest scoring seniors.

Congratulations to all six National Merit honorees!

JPII seniors Brennan Belew and Nathan Edwards were recently named National Merit semi-finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corp., placing them among the academic elite of the country's high school seniors.

The semifinalists were among 1.5 million high school juniors who entered the 2013 National Merit program by taking the 2011 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test last fall. The 16,000 semifinalists represent less than 1 percent of this year's U.S. high school seniors.

To be considered for a scholarship, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition, including submitting a detailed application about their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities and honors and awards received. They also must be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay and earn SAT scores that confirm their earlier performance.

About 15,000 of the semifinalists are expected to be named finalists, and more than half of the finalists will be awarded a scholarship. The scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2013.

Also recognized as National Commended Students were seniors

JPII STUDENTS COMPETE AT NATIONAL FBLA CONFERENCE



JPII Future Business Leaders of America team members who competed at the national conference this summer included: (from left) Alex Abdo, Lennart Funke, Raina Devrai, Aly Cox, Nick Massa, Carlee Pritchard, Ashlyn Keightley, Zach Pelka and Connor McCarthy

Congratulations to the JPII FBLA Team!

Under the guidance of Coach Bob Page, several team members of the Future Business Leaders of America chapter at JPII competed in regional and state conferences during the 2011-12 school year. Nine members qualified for the National FBLA Conference held in San Antonio, Texas, over the summer.

The national event included more than 8,000 participants from all over the country. JPII team members participated in six events and performed exceptionally well for its first year competing as a team.

"In just their first year of competition, making the FBLA National Conference is quite an impressive honor for these students," said Mr. Page. "Their attendance at the national conference represents a reward for top finishes throughout the year at regional and state competitions.

"Equally impressive is the subject areas in which they excelled: accounting, economics, entrepreneurship, management decision making, and impromptu speaking," Mr. Page said. "The team displayed great sportsmanship and friendship at every level of competition and looks forward to starting back this fall."

BROWN SIGNS TO PLAY BASEBALL WITH BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN

Matt Brown, a 2012 graduate of Pope John Paul II High School, has signed a scholarship offer to play baseball for Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Ala. Brown, an infielder and pitcher for the Knights, is the son of Steve and Lisa Brown.

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

Sophomore Laura Knight and freshman Emma Grace Evans both attended Summer County public schools from kindergarten through eighth grade. But upon entering high school, they were looking for something different.

"I wanted a change," said Laura, who was eager to move from her classes with nearly 30 students at Ellis Middle School to classes with 15-20 students at JPII. "I wanted to be more prepared for college. ... I just wanted a different atmosphere to learn in."



Emma Grace Evans

Spending a day at JPII shadowing her friend Hallie Lycans last year, helped convince Emma Grace that JPII was for her. "I really liked it," she said.



Laura Knight

Both had friends who were already attending JPII. "They said it's a lot of hard work, but it'll pay off in the end," Emma Grace said. Now in her second year at JPII, "I really like it here," Laura said. "Everyone's all together. Everyone talks to everybody." Making new friends has been easy at JPII, Emma Grace said. She met many of her new classmates at the freshman retreat before the school year started. She's also getting used to life at JPII. "There's a lot of homework, that is totally different than middle school," Emma Grace said. But the homework has been "manageable," she added.

Emma Grace said she would recommend JPII to prospective students. "It's great. You meet new people and worship God." Laura also was enthusiastic about recommending JPII. "Definitely come. It's a good place to learn," she said. "It's not too big where you're drowning in a sea of people, but it's not too small either. The teachers are good. It's just a really good place to come to school."

JPII people ... Laura Knight and Emma Grace Evans!

View Points

JPII EXPLORING EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH FRENCH SCHOOL

JPII is working to add to the opportunities it offers students to travel abroad. The latest initiative would be an exchange program with a school in France.

"There is no experience like being in another culture," said Melanie Taylor, JPII's French teacher. Spending time in another country can educate you about that culture as well as yourself, she said.

During fall break, Mrs. Taylor and JPII Dean of Studies Karen Phillips will travel to Amiens, France, about an hour's drive north of Paris, to visit Lycee St. Riquier. "If we like our visit and all goes well, we anticipate having French students at JPII in either April or August," Mrs. Taylor said.

The new exchange program will modeled after JPII's Loughlin Scholars program with St. Edmund's College in England. Like the Loughlin Scholars, students in the French exchange program would spend two weeks living with a host family in France and then host their French counterpart during a two week trip to the United States.

Students who have finished their third or fourth year of French would be eligible to participate, Mrs. Taylor said. About 15 JPII students have expressed a serious interest in participating, Mrs. Taylor said, and she expects about 10 to participate in the first year.

"We're going to be signing kids up before Thanksgiving break in November," she said, and the tentative dates for the JPII students traveling to France are May 25-June 9, 2013.

JPII hosted a group of students from Lycee St. Riquier a few years ago, and during their visit, their teacher, Pascal Cardinalli, suggested an ongoing exchange program between the two schools, "which has always been a dream of mine," Mrs. Taylor said.

She has visited and lived in France as an exchange student three times, once as a high school student, again as a college undergraduate, and finally as a graduate student. "I just loved it."

Exchange programs allow the students "to see what each other's life is like, how they are similar or different," Mrs. Taylor said. Often, it can result in friendships that last for years, she added. "Sometimes," she said, "it leads to better global understanding."



UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY
OCT. 25

6:30 TO
8:00 P.M.

Admissions Office events

The Admissions Office at Pope John Paul II High School will host several events this fall for prospective students and their families.

The final "Coffee with the Headmaster" is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 5. Families can enjoy coffee and pastries with Headmaster Faustin Weber, meet members of the faculty and staff and tour the school. Coffee with the Headmaster begins at 10 a.m.

Placement exams for prospective students are scheduled for 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on: Saturday, Oct. 27; Saturday, Nov. 10; and Saturday, Dec. 8.

For more information about JPII and how to apply, go to the Admissions tab on the school webpage - www.jp2hs.org - or call the school at (615) 822-2375.