



LORD OF THE RINGS

Juniors Mark Botsko, left, Jovani Martinez, center, and Alex Lanigan show off their class rings after the Junior Ring Mass on April 24. Not only do the juniors receive their rings and a bible with personalized messages from faculty members, but the ceremony serves as a commissioning rite for the class as they take over leadership of the school from the seniors.

JPII SCHOLARS FOR 2014-15 ANNOUNCED

Nine returning and new students at Pope John Paul II High School have been selected as JPII Scholars for 2014-15 in recognition of their academic achievements and commitment to academic excellence. JPII Scholars will receive a tuition remission for next year.

Awardees are selected on the basis of their academic achievement, as determined by placement tests and academic record for new students and exceptional performance in our honors/AP curriculum and on national tests for returning students. The

scholarship is a true "merit" award, independent of financial need. It is highly competitive.

Recipients for next year are: Grace Adcox, a rising junior; McCain Brown, a rising freshman; Devpaul Chani, a rising junior; Robert Ficarro, a rising junior; AnMei Little a rising freshman; Miranda MacNaughton, a rising junior; Alyssa Rentuza, a rising junior; Jack Schumacher, a rising sophomore; and Skyler Voisin, a rising sophomore.



A KNIGHT'S TALE



JPII ALUMNI PAGE



ATHLETICS



SCHOOL



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WITNESSING CANONIZATION WAS 'INCREDIBLE'

When St. John Paul II was elected pope in 1978, Bozena Lawson was a young girl living in a small town outside Warsaw, Poland. She remembers that her mother and grandmother were crying at the election of a Polish pope.

Poland had suffered through the Nazi occupation and then the communist regime. "He carried the load of a very difficult history of the Polish people," Mrs. Lawson said of John Paul II. "He was giving us hope and strength with his words."

On Sunday, April 27, Mrs. Lawson, the Latin teacher at JPII High School, was among the throngs of people, many of them Poles, who had descended on Rome to witness the canonizations of two popes, John Paul II and John XXIII. "It was an incredible event," she said of the canonization. "It will stay with me the rest of my life."

"As a Pole, I was overjoyed and very grateful that a Polish pope became a saint," Mrs. Lawson said. "I was very humbled to be given a chance to represent our school at the canonization," Mrs. Lawson said.

She was part of a small delegation of teachers, students and parents from the school who made the trip to Rome for the canonization, including Deacon Brian Edwards, students Donald Kollai, Kira Romeo, Ryan Helbig and Jack Palen, Donald's mother Cathy Kollai, and Ryan's mother and grandmother, Angela Helbig and Marjorie Rippy.

While the delegation was in Rome, the school was celebrating the canonization of its namesake in other ways. On the day of the canonization, the annual spring choral concert was, in part devoted to a celebration of the canonization, featuring some of the hymns and songs that were most significant in St. John Paul II's life.

On Monday, April 28, a special Mass was celebrated at the school in honor of the canonization. Beside the altar during the Mass was a ski jacket that was owned and worn by St. John Paul II. Former Nashville Bishop Edward Kmiec arranged the donation of the jacket, which is now classified as a second class relic, to the school.

In Rome, the crowds were everywhere. "It was crazy," said



The delegation of faculty, students and parents from Pope John Paul II High School enjoys a day in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. They were on hand for the canonization of the school's namesake St. John Paul II and St. John XXIII.

freshman Jack Palen, a parishioner at Holy Rosary Church. "There were so many people. You could not even move if you were standing up in the middle of the boulevard. ... I knew it was going to be bad, but it was crazy."

The canonization "was beautiful," said Palen, who ended up just at the edge of St. Peter's Square. "The music was amazing. It sounded heavenly."

From his spot on the Via della Conciliazione, the main boulevard leading to St. Peter's Square, Deacon Edwards saw Pope Francis ride by. "It was just a joy," Deacon Edwards said of seeing the pope. When people realized the pope was passing by, he said, "the cameras go up and the cheers go up. There's a real sense of joy and fun. All I could do was smile."

After returning to school, Deacon Edwards gave each student at JPII a medal of the new saint that had been blessed.

JPII CELEBRATES CINCO DE MAYO

Cinco de Mayo honors the bravery and victory of General Zaragoza's small, outnumbered army at the Battle of Puebla against the French army during the French invasion of Mexico City. Cinco de Mayo is mainly celebrated in Puebla, Mexico, but this year Ms. Davis and Ms. Taylor

had a joint celebration with the French and Spanish clubs.

The students enjoyed French crepes, Mexican cookies and soft drinks while making miniature piñatas and learning the real history behind this yearly celebration.



JPII students perform with Real Life Players

JPII has a long tradition of students participating in Real Life Players, the only teen owned and operated theater company in the country, and this year is no exception. Sophomore Phillip Baker and senior Reuben Hoyos joined the group of talented teens.

Real Life Players is a teen theater company in Nashville that writes and directs new and original plays every spring. This year the company celebrated its 20th anniversary in April with aptly titled comedy "Back In The Day" performed at the Darkhorse Theater.

At the core of their works is the idea that young people and adults have lives that are far more similar than they are different, regardless of age, creed, color, gender or socioeconomic status. This year's production considered the idea that our lives are driven by our choices not our circumstances.

Over the years, Real Life Players has had more than 100 players from 17 high schools throughout the Nashville area. Every play is written, produced and performed by the cast and crew of teens.

JJ EBELHAR, FOUNDING MEMBER OF FACULTY, RETIRES

Jj Ebelhar's 45-year career as a music educator came to an end on stage at Pope John Paul II High School surrounded by students past and present. At the conclusion of the annual spring choral concert at JPII – the last for Mrs. Ebelhar as the school's choral instructor – the alumni in the audience were invited to join the current choral students on stage to sing the school's alma mater, which Mrs. Ebelhar wrote.

But before the concert came to a close, this year's students had a surprise addition to the program: they sang the Irish Blessing to say goodbye to their teacher as she heads into retirement.

"I thank all of you students – current and past – for enriching my life in ways which are immeasurable and for deeply imbedding both musical and magical memories into my mind and my heart," Mrs. Ebelhar said in her closing remarks at the April 27 concert.

Mrs. Ebelhar was an accomplished and award-winning choral instructor at St. Cecilia Academy for a decade before she joined the faculty at JPII as it prepared to open the school in 2002.

Part of what drew her to the school, located in Hendersonville where she and her husband Doug Ebelhar live, was the "highly qualified, excellent faculty here," she said.

"All of us set the standard for the school. It was a challenge. Nothing was easy," said Mrs. Ebelhar, who served as JPII's first and only fine arts chair for the last 12 years.

She set a standard for excellence for JPII's choral program right from the start. With only freshmen and sophomores the first year, she took a women's choir to the district and state festivals where they did well. Since then, JPII students have been a fixture in the All-State choirs.

Her goal as a teacher was to inspire her students to become self-sufficient, independent musicians, who will continue to be active participants or educated consumers of music throughout their lives, she said.

The fine arts have been an important part of the curriculum at JPII since the very beginning. Hans Broekman, the founding headmaster of the



Jj Ebelhar conducts the JPII choirs in her final concert as the school's choral instructor. Mrs. Ebelhar is retiring after 45 years as a music educator.

school, had a vision "to educate and develop renaissance students," balancing academics, the fine arts, the spiritual and athletics, Mrs. Ebelhar said.

That vision gave students "opportunities to develop the emotional side as well as the academic side" of their personality, she said. "Without that a person is truly not whole."

JPII students are required to take at least three years of a fine art. "It allows students to develop an interest in a particular art and grow and develop," Mrs. Ebelhar said.

While at JPII, Ebelhar's choirs have sung for Mass at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican and at Carnegie Hall, where she served as guest conductor of a 150-voice choir. "My heart was pounding when I walked on that stage," Ebelhar said. "We all have dreams. I don't think I ever dreamed I would be a conductor at Carnegie Hall."



Jj Ebelhar, who is retiring this year after serving as JPII's first and only choral instructor and fine arts department chair, is joined onstage at the end of her final concert by alumni who sang in her choirs.

THREE JPII SENIORS TO CONTINUE ATHLETIC CAREERS

Three seniors at Pope John Paul II High School recently signed to continue their athletic careers in college.

Gunnar Scholato will play football for Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. Scholato, the son of Thomas and Susan Scholato, played linebacker and fullback for the Knights and was named to the All Region team for Division II-AA East/Middle Region his junior and senior years, after being named honorable mention his sophomore year.

He also was named to the All Sumner County team three times – the first team as a junior and senior and the second team as a sophomore – and played in the Toyota East-West All Star Football game after his senior season.

Scholato also played basketball for JPII for four years, baseball for two years, and ran track for one year, helping to set the school record in the 4x400 relay in 2013. He also has been awarded a Dixie Youth Baseball Scholarship for college.

Austin Hayes has signed to play football at Centre College in Danville, Ky. Hayes, the son of Martha and Craig Hayes, was a four-year letterman in football and a three-year starter at tight end and linebacker. He was named to the All Sumner County Team his junior and senior years and joined his teammate Scholato in the Toyota East West All Star Game last December.

Hayes also was a three-year letterman in basketball for JPII and a four-year letterman in baseball. He is a two-year starter in baseball.

Kyndal Hale has signed to play basketball at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin. Hale, who played varsity all four years while at JPII, finished her career with 1,076 points and is second in



Austin Hayes, left, Kyndal Hale, center, and Gunnar Scholato have signed to continue their athletic careers in college. Austin will play football at Centre College in Danville, Ky., Kyndal will play basketball at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, and Gunnar will play football at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky.

school history in three-point shots made.

Hale was named to the All-Region and All Sumner County teams her sophomore, junior and senior seasons. She also was named to the TWSA All-State team for the 2013-14 season.

At Ellis Middle School, she led Sumner County in scoring as both a seventh and eighth grader and her 2008 AAU team won the National Classic Championship. She is the third generation of her family to play in the girls state tournament, following in the footsteps of her mother Christy Hale and grandmother Claudine Brown. Hale also will receive the U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award, which both her mother and her brother Tanner Hale, a 2012 graduate of JPII, received.

SPRING SPORTS ENJOY SUCCESS

Congratulations to the girls' softball team for advancing to the state semi-finals in Murfreesboro. To earn their trip to the Spring Fling, the Lady Knights beat Harpeth Hall convincingly in a best of three series by winning the first game 10-0 and the second game 8-3. It is the second year in a row to make the state semi-finals for the Lady Knights. Last year, they made it all the way to the state championship game before losing to Baylor in the final game of the tournament.

The boys' baseball team finished a magnificent season, finished tied for first in the Division II-AA East/Middle Region. The Knights narrowly lost two of three to Baylor in the state quarterfinals, ending their season. The Knights exceeded all expectations after graduating seven key seniors in 2013 and finished with a 23-12 record. It was the fifth straight 20-win season for the Knights, establishing them as one of the top baseball programs in the state.

The boys' soccer team had a late season surge that saw them defeat Brentwood Academy 5-3 in the first round of the state tournament. The Knights fell to Christian Brothers in Memphis 4-0 in the quarterfinals, ending their season.

The girls lacrosse team finished regular season with a 10-5 record, peaking at the end of the season. In the state playoffs, the Lady Knights defeated Harpeth Hall 14-13 before falling to Houston High School from Memphis 13-10. The boys lacrosse team finished their season with a 9-8 record.

The girls tennis team posted a combined record of 7-3 (3-2 in the district). They finished the regular season as the fifth seed and lost in the first round of state tournament to the sixth seed Brentwood Academy. The girls team had its best season yet and played great tennis from the very start of the season.

The boys team finished winless on the year and lost in the first round of the tournament to fourth seed Ensworth. Inexperience proved to be a big factor in some key matches but all players showed much improvement.

Congratulations to all of these teams for representing our school so well, and especially to our graduating seniors who have recently ended their careers.

HARVEST AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Twelve members of the Pope John Paul II High School faculty were recipients of the annual Harvest Awards recognizing excellence in teaching as voted on by the students.

The recipients were history teacher Andrew Griffith, theology teacher Brian Thomas, Spanish teacher Veronica DelValle, theology teacher Brad Peper, math teacher Amanda Youell, English teacher William Hooper, Math Department Chair Betty Mayberry, history teacher Paul Saboe, Foreign Language Department Chair Jackie Beals and math teacher John Cooper.

Football coach Jerry Joslin was chosen Most Inspirational Coach and Scott Shaver was chosen Most Inspirational Teacher.



JP II STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT SELECTED FOR PUBLICATION

A research project by Pope John Paul II High School Senior Emily McRen has been selected for publication in the 2013 Handbook and Proceedings of the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science.

McRen presented her paper on her research at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Junior Academy of Science on April 25 at Belmont University in Nashville. The topic of the paper was “Microorganism Presence in the Decomposition of Flesh.”

The Tennessee Junior Academy of Science was founded to promote science education in Tennessee high school schools by encouraging original scientific research by secondary school science students.

Each year, the academy invites high school students from across the state to submit papers based on research problems, with evidence of creative thought. A panel of readers and judges evaluates each paper, based on a set of pre-determined criteria, and approximately 20 are selected to present their research to their peers during the annual meeting.

McRen’s paper was selected as one of the top eight in the state that will be published in the handbook. She also received a prize of \$200.

McRen is one of four National Merit Scholarship Finalists in the Class of 2014 at JP II.

LANGUAGE STUDENTS EARN HONORS ON NATIONAL EXAMS

JP II students have been honored for their scores on the National French and Latin exams. French students Maria Alonzo (French 4) and Anna Reding (French 3) had scores among the top 10 in the state of Tennessee. Students who earned the Certificat d’honneur (Honor Certificate) for placing in the top 20 percent (80th percentile or above), include: Nisha Monteiro, French 1; Phillip Baker, French 2; and Katie Swaringen, French 4. French students who received Certificats de réussite (certificates of success) for placing in upper 50th percentile include: French Level 1 – Sterling Bishir, Frank Hernandez, Hannah Jones, Sarah Malone, Abby Mysinger, Katie Ray, Skyler Voisin, Connie Waller, Kathleen White, Jack Williams; French Level 2 – Ian Atkins, KC Doman, Jonathan Miranda, Zarina Tan, Jordan Wirth and Hayden Yates; French Level 3 – Olivia Snell; French Level 4 – Hunter Williams.

Forty-six Latin students at JP II earned awards based on their scores on the 2014 National Latin Exam. Gold Medal and Certificate of Honorable Merit “Summa Cum Laude” students included: Susanna Edwards, Daniel

Edwards and Tyler Dorr. Silver Medal and Certificate of Honorable Merit “Maxima Cum Laude” students included: Jacob Telli, Sterling Bishir, Jordan Kimmel, Devpaul Chani and Ben Silverman. Bronze Medal and Certificates of Honorable Merit “Magna Cum Laude students included: Greg Silverman, Avery Glenn, Maggie Mann, Miranda MacNaughton, Kendall Kelly, Sam Kniery and William Sanford. Certificate of Honorable Merit “Cum Laude” students included: Claire O’Connell, Taylor Smith, Natalie Wieber, Carly Holton, Ellie Rivera, John Pate and Daniel Smith. Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Achievement and Purple Ribbon students include: Taylor Pepper, Perry Minichan, Morgan Sims, Alie Ward, Gregory Herzer, Grace Eatman, Macey Crow, Jackson Hagar and Christopher Odom.

Recognition and Certificates of Honorable Merit for year one students include: Stratton Clausen, Creed McEntire, Ilinca Sipos, Sammy Alkasem, Madeline Davanport, Luigi Sosta, Skylar Carson-Reynolds, Irina Sipos, John Layne, Henry McLeod, Daniel McRen, Grace Singer, Ben Brooks and Jonathan Miranda.

MRS. BROWN IS 'ALL IN' WITH JP II

Karen Brown, the new registrar at Pope John Paul II High School, has experienced the school as both a parent and an employee. Her son Whit graduated from JP II in 2007 and since 2008 she has worked as the assistant to Karen Phillips, the Assistant Head of School and Dean of Studies at JP II. Her husband Mike is the school's director of college counseling and next fall, their daughter McCain will be a freshman at JP II.

"Our family is definitely all in with JP II," said Mrs. Brown, who took over as the school's registrar after the retirement this spring of Faye Girten. "I think the school feels like a family," Mrs. Brown said. "I don't think there's a better faculty anywhere. They are concerned about their students, dedicated to their work."

A native Nashvillian, Mrs. Brown graduated from St. Henry School and St. Cecilia Academy before earning a bachelor's in business administration from Middle Tennessee State University. Before working for JP II, she was the manager of a print shop in Belle Meade.

Her introduction to JP II came when her son Whit was a student at St. Henry and they were considering where to send him for high school. "We thought this would be a really good opportunity for (Whit), and it turned



Karen Brown

out to be." Whit started at the school in the fall of 2003 and graduated in 2007. "One of the things that was great for Whit was he was able to establish relationships with his teachers that he still values and talks about," Mrs. Brown said of her son, who now works as an auditor with the Ernst and Young accounting firm in Nashville.

In her new job as the school's registrar, Mrs. Brown is responsible for all the record keeping at the school. She currently is working on students' class schedules for next year, making sure there are no conflicts. She also handles transcripts for alumni and transfer students, parking permits for the students and compulsory attendance forms for students.

"I'm in charge of registration during the summer," Mrs. Brown said. "Once we close out this school year, a lot of my attention will be focused on that."

Mrs. Brown had worked closely with Mrs. Girten before she retired, so she was familiar with some of the responsibilities of the job, and she also saw it as a new challenge, she said. "And it enables me to continue to work with Mrs. Phillips, which I really enjoy. ... She's just great, kind, compassionate, smart, a great leader and a great boss."

She's gotten to know plenty of JP II students in her role at the school. "They're dedicated," she said of JP II students. "They want to learn, they want to do well. I think they care about each other ... It's fun to watch the relationships form as they progress through the years here."

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