



Beth Foraker, founder and director of the National Catholic Board of Full Inclusion, left, presents JP II Headmaster Michael Deely with the organization's Dandy Award in recognition of his leadership and support of full inclusion programs.

JP II HOSTS FULL INCLUSION CONFERENCE

The National Catholic Board of Full Inclusion held its first ever Inclusive Catholic High School Conference at Pope John Paul II High School this fall. The conference brought together representatives of 12 Catholic high schools that have a full inclusion program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and 12 that are considering starting one.

JP II Headmaster Mike Deely and Pam Eatman, director of the school's Hand in Hand program, invited the group to hold the conference at JP II. The conference drew nearly 50 educators from Catholic dioceses in Washington, Oregon, California, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Pennsylvania and Tennessee, as well as representatives from three universities, Notre Dame, Vanderbilt and Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles.

While in Nashville, the participants visited Vanderbilt

University Kennedy Center and its Next Steps program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities; St. Ann School, which this year started a full inclusion program for elementary school aged children; and JP II, which has been serving students with intellectual and developmental disabilities for 13 years through its Hand in Hand program.

During the conference, Beth Foraker, founder and director of the National Catholic Board of Full Inclusion, presented Mr. Deely with the organization's Dandy Award in recognition of his leadership and support of full inclusion programs at both JP II and Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego, where he worked previously. The award is named after the dandelion, one of the symbols of the organization's efforts to spread the message about the benefits of full inclusion so it can take root in Catholic schools across the country.



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Knights adopt Christmas Angels

Since 2008, Pope John Paul II High School has participated in Mix 92.9's Angel Tree, led by Math Department Chair Betty Mayberry. This year was no different, as members of the JPII community adopted and purchased gifts for 50 angels.

"Students, parents, alumni, parents of alumni, House advisory groups, faculty and staff members, and Knights athletic teams adopted the angels," Mrs. Mayberry said.

Each angel receives three to five gifts based on a list of the angel's wants and needs. Participants deliver the gifts to JPII; students sort them and load them on a Salvation Army truck, which will deliver them in time for Christmas. This year's gifts ranged from toys to clothes and anything in-between. One lucky angel will even receive a brand new bike!

"It's just very rewarding for me," Mrs. Mayberry said of participating in the project. "It gives our community the opportunity to give gifts to those in need. This year our community adopted 50 angels. How many people can say that they helped 50 children this season?"

FFE PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO GROW

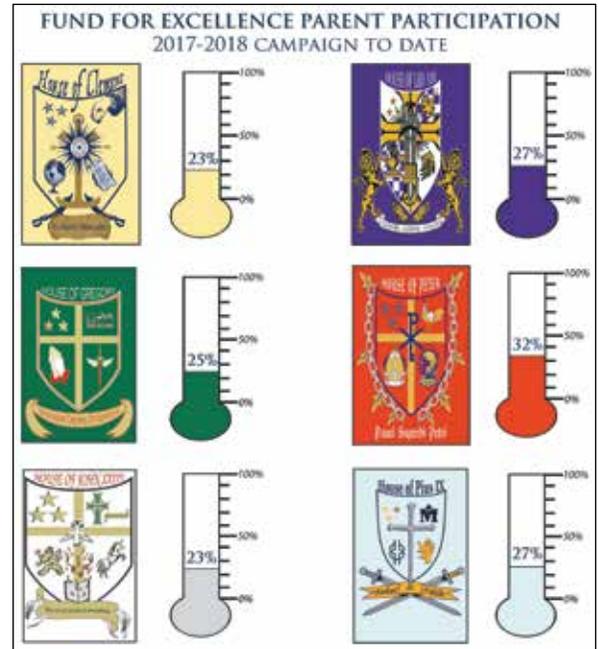
The Fund for Excellence, JPII's primary fundraising effort, is clicking right along, and the friendly competition among the school's six houses to see which one can get the highest number of families participating is heating up.

The House of Peter currently leads the race with 32 percent of its families participating in the FFE, followed by the House of Pius IX and the House of Leo XIII both with 27 percent.

JPII, like most private schools, relies on income beyond tuition to fully support its programs. One of the key sources of this additional income comes from unrestricted gifts to operations through the FFE. Tuition provides 70 percent of our school's operating budget every year. The FFE is the primary fundraising effort relied upon each year to fill the gap between tuition and the actual cost of educating each child at JPII. Since these gifts are used during the year in which they are received, JPII depends on donors to support the FFE every year.

Every aspect of our school is touched by FFE dollars, including: academics, performing and visual arts, athletics, community service, spiritual formation, financial aid, technology, faculty salaries, professional growth and campus maintenance. While JPII's community will find numerous opportunities to contribute to the school, JPII's Board of Trustees has set FFE as its top fund-raising priority because of the critical role it plays in supporting the school's operations.

"JPII is blessed with parents who join our alumni, alumni



parents, grandparents and friends in support of the FFE annually," said Michelle Barber, Director of Admissions and Advancement. "Each gift, no matter the amount, is needed and appreciated."

For more information about how to support JPII through the FFE, contact Mrs. Barber at michelle.barber@jp2hs.org.

GRANDPARENT BREAKFAST CONTINUES TO GROW

This year's Grandparent Breakfast, held on Nov. 21, was one for the record books! More than 600 grandparents attended this year's event, now held in the gymnasium in order to accommodate the growing number of guests.

The morning included a performance by the JPII Orchestra and Choirs, special presentations from grandparents The Honorable Joe and Mrs. Marilyn Brown, Headmaster Michael Deely, Director of Admissions and Advancement Michelle Barber, and students William Pacwa and Owen and Sam McGrath. The grandparents also watched a video of endearing messages from their grandchildren.

Thanks to all who celebrated with us. We look forward to seeing you again next year.



FOUR SENIORS TO CONTINUE ATHLETIC CAREERS IN COLLEGE

Four seniors from Pope John Paul II High School recently signed to continue their athletic careers in college. The JPII signees include:

■ Jake Rucker, who has signed to play baseball at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Rucker, a four-year starter at JPII was the first player to commit under UT's new baseball coach Tony Vitello.

As a sixth-grader, Rucker was a key member of the Goodlettsville Little League team that won the U.S. Championship at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The next year, he was a member of the U.S. Championship runners-up in Little League's Junior League Division.

Last summer, he was a member of Team Tennessee that played in the prestigious Sunbelt Classic tournament in Oklahoma that features some of the top high school juniors and sophomores in the country and attracts scores of college coaches. This fall, Rucker played for the Royals/Mets Scout team, a development program for the two Major League teams.

During his career at JPII, he has played the outfield, second base, third base and pitched. For his senior season, he is expected to be the team's shortstop and closer.

Rucker is the son of Jill and Andy Rucker, and the family are parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Springfield.

■ Matthew Steidl signed to play baseball for Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

The six-foot-four right-hander has been a starter for JPII since transferring to the school in his sophomore year. In the last two seasons, he has recorded 135 strikeouts for the Knights.

He is the son of Joy and Eric Steidl, who both attended Southern Illinois. The Salukis are an NCAA Division I program that compete in the Missouri Valley Conference.

■ Caitlyn Brinkley has signed to play softball at Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tennessee.



Four JPII seniors will be continuing their athletic careers in college, including: from left, Jake Rucker, University of Tennessee, baseball; Caitlyn Brinkley, Tusculum College, softball; Anna Wantz, Campbellsville University, softball; Matthew Steidl, Southern Illinois University, baseball.

Brinkley has been a starter for the Knights since she arrived at the school as a freshman, earning All-State and All Sumner County honors. Her first two years, Brinkley played the outfield, but moved to second base as a junior. She is expected to return to the outfield for her senior season.

She is the daughter of Larissa and C.J. Brinkley. Tusculum College is an NCAA Division II program that competes in the South Atlantic Conference.

■ Anna Wantz has signed to play softball for Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, Kentucky.

Wantz has been a starter for the Knights since arriving at JPII as a freshman and has been the team's top pitcher for the past two years. She also has led the team in hitting, with an average above .500. Wantz has been named to the All Sumner County team in softball and also competed on the JPII golf and swim teams.

She is the daughter of Chris and Wayne Wantz and a parishioner at St. Joseph Church in Madison. She also is a graduate of St. Joseph School.

JPII STUDENTS CAST IN 'NASHVILLE'S NUTCRACKER'

Two students from Pope John Paul II High School were selected by the Nashville Ballet to perform in the youth cast for "Nashville's Nutcracker: Celebrating 10 Years!" Dec. 2-23, 2017, at TPAC's Jackson Hall.

Trista Brantley, daughter of Wendy and Bobby, was cast as a Bon Bon, and Carissa Surber, daughter of Jennifer and Joel, was cast as Clara, one of the lead dancers in the production of the holiday favorite, "The Nutcracker."

Nashville Ballet premiered "The Nutcracker" in 1989, but the production was reinvented as "Nashville's Nutcracker" in 2008 with a unique concept incorporating Nashville's vibrant past – the city's Centennial Exposition – along with new choreography, sets, costumes and on-stage magic tricks.

Beginning at the 1897 Centennial Exposition in Nashville, Clara and her Uncle Drosselmeyer meet a colorful cast of characters from faraway lands. When Uncle Drosselmeyer gives Clara a wooden Nutcracker on Christmas Eve, the toy magically transforms to life as a handsome prince and leads her through a remarkable adventure. Clara visits everyone from the Snow Queen to the Sugar Plum Fairy, including the spell binding characters she met at the Exposition. When Clara finally returns home, the audience is left to decide if it was all just a dream – or not.

This year's youth cast marks the organization's largest to date, with 296 dancers from the School of Nashville Ballet and the community at large alongside Nashville Ballet and the Nashville Symphony performing Tchaikovsky's celebrated score.

FIVE JPII STUDENTS SELECTED FOR MID-STATE ORCHESTRAS

Five Pope John Paul II High School students have been named to the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association's Mid-State Orchestras, the most of any Catholic high school in the state, according to Jordan Tupper, Director of Bands at JPII.

Senior John Paul (JP) Quiampang and junior English Chesser were both named to the 11th/12th grade orchestras, and sophomore Jadyn Tarver and freshmen Camille Quiampang and Simon Whiteley were named to the 9th/10th grade orchestras.

"I am elated and excited for them," Tupper said of the students. "This is a very competitive event, with over 4,000 students auditioning from the Mid-State region. These students earned it. They all work really hard and are very deserving of this recognition."

A Holy Rosary alumnus and St. Stephen parishioner, JP Quiampang will be performing in his third straight Mid-State concert, this year reaching sixth chair as a viola player. Outside of the band room, he is a member of Voices uKnighted, the cappella choir at JPII, and was selected to the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association's All-State Choir as a second tenor. JP also performs in the Curb Youth Symphony through the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University and attended the Governor's School for the Arts at Middle Tennessee State University.

English Chesser, a St. Joseph School alumna and Our Lady of the Lake parishioner, will play violin in her first ever Mid-State concert. In fact, this will be one of her first concerts outside of JPII in her short-lived career, as she just picked up the violin as a freshman. When she isn't practicing violin, English is an Irish step dancer, performing in competitions around the region. She is also on House Council for the House of John at JPII.

Jadyn Tarver, a graduate of Madison Campus Elementary, will be playing violin in her second Mid-State concert. Jadyn is a member of the JPII



Five JPII students have been named to the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association's Mid-State Orchestras. Pictured are, from left, Camille Quiampang, English Chesser, Jadyn Tarver, Simon Whiteley, John Paul Quiampang and Director of Bands Jordan Tupper.

Model United Nations team and the Math team and participates in Youth In Government.

Camille Quiampang, a Holy Rosary alumnus and St. Stephen parishioner, will be joining her older brother at the Mid-State concert, playing violin in the 9th/10th Grade Orchestra. She also performs in the Curb Youth Symphony. Outside of the band program, Camille is interested in playing lacrosse for the Knights.

Simon Whiteley, a Sumner Academy alumnus, will be performing in his first Mid-State concert, reaching the eighth chair of the cello section as a freshman. Simon is a member of the National Honor Society and the men's lacrosse team.

Both the 9th/10th Grade Orchestra and the 11th/12th Grade Orchestra will perform at Blackman High School on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018.

ACTORS SHINE IN FALL PRODUCTION

Audiences were delighted by JPII's fall production of "You Can't Take It With You," written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, Nov. 17-19. Among the production's cast were, from left in photo below, Catherine Bender, Stephen Smart, William Fussell and Liz Wood.



HONORED FOR THEIR SERVICE

At this year's football playoff game, JPII honored six men who have contributed mightily over the years to make JPII's athletic events such a success. Those honored for their dedication and service to JPII athletics were: from left, Rick Barry, Joe Barry, Matthew Lascara, Kenny Janson, Tony Davis and Toby Werrbach.

HOGAN BRYANT'S PATH TO SUCCESS RUNS THROUGH JPPI

Hogan Bryant, a 2012 graduate of Pope John Paul II High School, has taken his first steps in a career in finance. And it was his experience at JPPI that pointed him in the right direction.

"I have always kind of enjoyed finance," said Hogan, who has been working for Caterpillar Financial since graduating from Vanderbilt University in 2016. "I realized how much I like that stuff when I took Coach (Bob) Page's economics class at JPPI. Understanding how money moves and operates and grows, that just fascinates me."

After graduating from Vanderbilt with a major in political science and a minor in financial economics, Hogan was accepted into Caterpillar Financial's Finance Foundation Program. The company, whose international headquarters are in Nashville, hires fresh college graduates who spend three rotations of a year or year-and-a-half each in different departments. At the end, they move into management.

It's been a lot of work, Hogan said, but that is something JPPI helped prepare him for. "JPPI instills a certain amount of work ethic," Hogan said. "JPPI will either teach you how to work hard, or you will struggle so much you'll realize you have to work hard."

He has been putting in 12-hour days at work, which can be daunting. But then he recalls his days at JPPI getting on the bus to school from his home in Clarksville at 6 a.m. and not getting back until 6 p.m. "Twelve-hour days is not something foreign to me," he said.

The high academic standards at JPPI helped prepare Hogan for Vanderbilt. "The transition to Vanderbilt is tough for some students," he said. "JPPI prepared me to work hard so I could succeed."

There were other ways JPPI started him on a path to success. The school, with its many extracurricular opportunities, provides opportunities "to learn a little about everything," Hogan said. While at JPPI, he participated in forensics and debate and found out how much he enjoyed public speaking. "Those public speaking



JPPI alumn Hogan Bryant and his wife Mary Katherine were married in the summer of 2017, after meeting as students at Vanderbilt University. Hogan is pursuing a career in finance.

skills really stayed with me through college and now, whether it's speaking to a group or even to a supervisor," Hogan said.

And as a student in Coach Justin Geisinger's strength and conditioning class, Hogan learned the importance of taking care of himself physically. "To perform well at work you have to take care of yourself," he said. And the community service opportunities at JPPI "really showed me the value of volunteering and working in the community," Hogan added. He and his wife, Mary Katherine, are working with the parish youth group at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church in Nashville. "My well-rounded JPPI Catholic education provided me with a variety of experiences that have positively impacted many of my decisions and interests over the years since high school."

CALDWELL CLASSIC AND COLOR RUN HELPS JASON FOUNDATION

The seventh annual Caldwell Classic 5K Run and Color Run once again provided a morning of colorful fun, all for a good cause.

The event, held Saturday, Nov. 11, for the second year in a row featured a color run, inspired by the Indian "Festival of Colors," which signifies the victory of good over evil. Color stations were located at several points along the course, which wound through the JPPI campus, and when the runners went through the station volunteers threw colored powder on them.

Once again, the proceeds from the Classic will benefit the Jason Foundation, which works to raise awareness of teen suicide. Over the years, the event has raised about \$40,000; \$30,000 of that has gone to the Jason Foundation, which also is located in Hendersonville.

