



VOLUME IV ISSUE IX

September 30, 2022

TROPICAL STORM DAYS ARE STILL SCHOOL DAYS

When we announced there would be no school on Thursday and Friday of this week, there was a deafening roar heard throughout our hallways and modular classrooms. It reminded me of my days in New England calling a snow day. However, this is different. Thursday and Friday are still considered school days and count towards our 180-day requirement. Students must access Google Classroom and complete all assigned work. On Thursday, high school students can expect to have their Gold Day scheduled classes posted, and on Friday it will be Blue. There will be no virtual classes held. Middle school students will have their core classes posted each day. They will not have work posted for specials (art, PE, tech, music). Please make sure students are checking Google Classroom and completing all assigned work.

While the announcement to close school was primarily weather related, having four consecutive days away from one another may help curb the flu outbreak that has been running rampant at our school this past week. Please stay safe, healthy and away from one another.

LOOK FOR THE LIGHT

JPII has published a new fall magazine entitled *The Light*. The name comes from a speech our patron saint, John Paul II, gave at the World Youth Day in Toronto. His quote, and challenge to the youth assembled that day, was to “let yourselves be taken over by the light of Christ wherever you are”. That light is something we strive to embed in our students each and every day, not only while they are at school, but wherever they go. It’s also something our school receives every day from the generosity of so many.

The magazine essentially covers the 2nd half of last year and provides a recap of annual giving for the 2021-22 school year. You will learn that the generosity of our donors allowed us to raise over \$1,000,000 in gifts of time and treasure. You will also learn that the real cost to educate one student at JPII is over \$18,000. So as you can see, it takes a lot of that light to make this all work. As the school grows in enrollment the cost to educate will gradually decrease and start to get

closer to the tuition charged. Somewhat offsetting this decrease is the inflationary cost to educate, so each year there needs to be a tuition increase.

You will be receiving our annual fund appeal within the next few weeks. With the highest tuition charged being under \$14,500, there remains a fairly large gap between the cost to educate and revenue per student. While subsidies from our parishes and the diocese help to close this gap, those fall well short of being balanced. The *Warrior Fund* is necessary to close this gap. Since our school is so young and our alumni base virtually non-existent, we must rely on others for annual giving donations. We set a goal of giving at 100% participation for faculty and staff as well as parents. The amount given is totally up to the individual based on personal finances. Some families generously give more than the cost to educate, while others give what they can afford. No amount is too small. It's the spirit of giving that makes the *Warrior Fund* a success. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the *Warrior Fund* this year.

NEW STUDENT ENROLLMENT OPENS OCTOBER 1

We will officially begin accepting applications for new student enrollment on October 1. This early admissions period, which will close on December 1, provides interested students the opportunity to ensure they have a spot at JP II for the 2023-24 school year. With our increasing number of new students, as well as a strong retention rate of current students, we anticipate waiting lists for several grades next year. Applying early also allows incoming 9th grade students the opportunity to compete for merit-based academic scholarships.

Re-Enrollment of current students will open on Thursday, October 13. All students must re-enroll each year by February 1 to secure their spot. After February 1, we will admit on a space available basis only. Once the school has met its goal of 400 students, admission is not guaranteed for anyone, including currently enrolled students. Rising 9th graders (currently enrolled 8th graders) have the opportunity to compete for academic scholarships by taking the HSPT in November.

Applications for tuition assistance will also open early this year and close on January 1. We will notify families of their tuition assistance award before the February 1 re-enrollment deadline. The only supporting document that will need to be uploaded to FACTS will be your 2021 Federal Tax Form. This will help streamline the process and allow the school the ability to notify families earlier than in the past. Failure to complete the application prior to January 1 will eliminate our ability to provide you with tuition assistance, or at minimum, significantly reduce your award. Your attention to these deadlines and requirements is greatly appreciated.

ADMISSIONS EVENTS IN OCTOBER

With applications now open, the effort to recruit new students has begun. Current 6th graders at St. Peter's and St. Gregory the Great have already visited, and we will be hosting St. Francis' 8th

graders next week. We will also be hosting visit days for students not enrolled in our Catholic feeder schools on days when the public schools are not in session and JPII is.

The best recruitment we have is word of mouth. Current students and families play an important role in this by sharing their experiences with friends and families. It provides our community the opportunity to shape the culture of the school for years to come. JPII in the Neighborhood events are parent-to-parent socials featuring wine and appetizers. If we are coming to your neighborhood we need you to attend and bring friends. If we are not coming yet, please contact Anne McClure and help us get into your neighborhood in November.

Admissions-related events in October

- October 4: JPII in the Neighborhood at the Lodge at Palmetto Bluff @ 5:30-6:30pm
- October 5: St. Francis 8th Grade visit
- October 6: Bluffton Farmer's Market @ 1:00-5:00pm
- October 12: State-of-the-School on Facebook @ 7:00pm
- October 15-16: Habersham Harvest Festival @ 10:00am-6:00pm
- October 16: Coffee and Donuts after Mass at SGG @ 9:00 and 11:00am
- October 17: Prospective Student Visit / Non-Feeder Schools (must pre-register)
- October 20: Bluffton Farmer's Market @ 1:00 – 5:00pm
- October 21: JPII in the Neighborhood at Oldfield @ 5:30 – 6:30pm
- October 23: Coffee and Donuts after Mass at Holy Family @ 8:00, 11:15 and 1:00
- October 25: JPII in the Neighborhood at Cypress Ridge @ 5:30-6:30pm
- October 27: Bluffton Farmer's Market @ 1:00 – 5:00pm

CONSIDER JOINING THE PTO

Last year JPII revived the PTO that had been dormant for many years. The purpose of the PTO is not to raise funds, but to raise community. We look to our PTO to help us build a strong network of parents as we grow. The PTO will have three primary functions this year. One, help us through the recruitment and admissions season by hosting or attending a JPII in the Neighborhood event. Two, help plan our huge 10th Anniversary Gala to be held this spring, and three, put on the 2nd annual middle school mixer for all the new families. PTO also helps at other school events, such as the New Family B-B-Q in May and Teacher Appreciation Week. The PTO is open to any JPII parent who wants to help build our school community. Meetings are typically held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm. The first meeting of the new school year is **October 12**. Tracee Spencer is our PTO President. Please consider joining us.

JPII IS TRAVELING TO EUROPE AGAIN

The Diocese of Charleston has lifted the overseas travel ban imposed in the Spring of 2020. JPII is going abroad! Join our group of travelers as they experience culture and history, outside of the

classroom. This trip, open to all current JPII high school students and their parents, will visit London, Paris (and Versailles), Assisi, Florence and Rome. If you missed the Europe 23 meeting, visit www.explorica.com/woodham-4082 for details on the itinerary, as well as to sign up for this amazing trip. Reserve your spot for only \$50 and use code back2school before the end of the month for \$100 off! Our next meeting will be at 5:30 on 10/4 in the Commons where we discuss fundraising opportunities and answer any questions you might have!

FROM STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Storm somewhat interrupted our Homecoming Spirit Week activities. These activities will be picked up again during the week of October 10. On Thursday, October 13 we will have our pep rally and tailgate picnic. We kindly ask families to donate items needed for our picnic. Please use the Sign-Up Genius link if you are able to donate! [Click here to donate for the tailgate.](#) Thank you so much for your support!

The Homecoming Football Game will be Thursday night at 7:00pm with the Homecoming Court presented at halftime. The Homecoming Dance will be Friday, October 14 in the athletic center from 7:30-10:00. It's open to all 9th-12th graders. [Click Here to Purchase Tickets](#)

Alumni activities will be scheduled at a later date.

Preview of Coming Attractions:

October:

- 4: JPII in the Neighborhood at the Lodge in Palmetto Bluff @ 5:30-6:30pm
- 4: Europe 2023 Meeting at 5:30pm in the Commons
- 5: Feeder School Visit from St. Francis
- 7: Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta Day Celebration during House
- **10: No School-Columbus Day**
- 12: PSAT Testing/SAT Testing/No Color Day/**Early Out @ 12:30**/6th grade Field Trip
- 12: State-of-the-School Address @ 7:00pm on Facebook Live
- 13: Homecoming Football Game (Note this is a Thursday)
- 14: Homecoming Dance 7:30 – 10:00pm
- 17: Prospective Student Visit-Non-Feeder Schools
- 20: Senior Retreat
- 21: JPII Day of Service/No Color Day
- 21: JPII in the Neighborhood at Oldfield @ 5:30-6:30pm
- 22: Robotics Tournament
- 24-28: Gym Closed-floors being redone
- 25: JPII in the Neighborhood at Cypress Ridge @ 5:30-6:30pm
- 26: Make-up Pictures/Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences 3-7pm-No Advisory/DOCS
- 27: 7th Grade Retreat
- 28: Powder Puff-Round 1 and Senior Night Home Football Game / Staff Tailgate

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Football

The Varsity Football Team dropped to 2-4 and 0-2 in Class 3A with losses to Florence Christian 35-16 and Class 4A Cardinal Newman, 69-40. With a depleted squad due to the flu, and in a game moved up due to Hurricane Ian, the Warriors put up a fight against the bigger Cardinals but ultimately were outscored in the end. Next up for the Warriors is a big game next Friday at Hilton Head Prep where they will look to get into the Class 3A win column.

The Middle School Football Team remained undefeated as they won a hard fought battle with Northwood Academy!! The Warriors were resilient as they overcame several obstacles to win 28-22! Our next game is against Hilton Head Prep on October 6th at 6:00pm in Hardeeville.

Tennis

The Girls Tennis Team continued its winning ways downing May River HS by the score of 4-2. Winning their singles matches were Cypress Daniels, Trice McClure, Anson Daniels, and Samantha Reilly. They followed that up with a 9-0 whitewashing of Colleton Prep. Cypress Daniels, Anson Daniels, Paige Weniger, Samantha Reilly, Alivia Ogden, and Chloe Maillet swept the single matches, while the doubles tandems of C. Daniels-Weniger, A. Daniels-Reilly, and Brie Suiter-Ann Elisa Harrel were victorious. The Golden Warriors are now 10-2 and have two huge matches coming up this week against Heritage Academy on Tuesday and Hilton Head Prep on Thursday, both at the courts at Oldfield. Come out to support the girls!

Cross Country

Everyone had a great meet on Fripp. The Varsity boys won the meet by 23 points, and the girls varsity finished in 2nd place. Leo Iskandar finished in 5th place for middle school with a 4k time of 16:05. Sebastian Frickel was 4th in the 5k with a 19:35, Blake Hubik was 5th with a 20:12, and Zac Henderson was 9th with a 21:35.

Swimming

The Swim Team once again had a strong showing at the Region 7 Championship meet on September 24. Beau Ryan (7th grade) had his two best times in the 50 and 100 freestyle events. The four girls on the team had some up and down swims, but overall are heading into the SCISA State meet on October 15th in good positions relative to their competition. The girls swam in two relays, posting best times for each event (200 free relay and 400 free relay). Individual Results: Riley McGoldrick (9th grade): 12th 200 free, 11th 100 free; Kendall Porada (SGG 6th grade): 17th 200 free, 19th 100 free; Aubrey Porada (8th grade): 5th 200 IM, 3rd 500 free; Nel Winslow (7th grade): 31st 50 free, 14th 100 back; Beau Ryan (7th grade): 34th 50 free, 31st 100 free; Next meet, SCISA State Championships October 15th at the North Charleston Aquatic Club.

Possible New Sports at JPII

There will be sign-up meetings next Wednesday after mass for students interested in playing boys tennis this spring, as well as future clay shooting and lacrosse opportunities. In all three

cases, these sports require prior experience and equipment. They are not intended for beginners. Boys tennis is a definite provided we have enough players and a coach (know anyone?), however clay shooting and lacrosse are only exploratory at this point.

When considering to add sports at JP II, there are several factors that enter into the evaluation. The first is whether our enrollment is sufficient to add a sport without detracting from another. For example, if we added lacrosse as a spring sport, but it negatively impacted track, baseball or softball, we would not move forward. While our school enrollment is growing, we are still small compared to the program we offer. The second factor is whether it is a SCISA sanctioned sport. All three of the aforementioned sports are, so they can be considered. Boys volleyball, at this time is not, so it would be eliminated from consideration. The third factor is a sufficient number of local teams to play where we would be competitive. We do not want our teams to regularly travel long distances just to find equal competition. This travel would negatively impact academics. The fourth factor is budget. The three sports under consideration all require very specific equipment. The fifth and final factor is the availability of practice and game fields/courts.

While it won't be too long before JP II has the largest private high school enrollment in the region, we need to be careful not to dilute the number of athletes to the point where our teams become less competitive. Our long-term goal is to have sufficient athletic opportunities for every student to participate while fielding very competitive teams.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Part-Time Custodian (4:00-10:00pm) \$16.50 per hour / 29 hours per week
- Bus Drivers (must possess valid CDL with passenger endorsement) \$25 per hour
- Spring Musical Director – Stipend
- Girls Basketball Middle School Assistant Coach – Stipend
- Boys JV Soccer Coach – Stipend
- Boys Tennis Head Coach – Stipend

Consider joining the BEST school in the Lowcountry. If interested, please email me at john.mccarthy@johnpaul2school.org or pass along to someone who might be.

Sincerely,

John E McCarthy

Principal

