



VOLUME IV      ISSUE VIII

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## ADMISSIONS SEASON HAS BEGUN

Even though the school year is only a month old, our admissions season officially kicked off this week with a visit to JP II by 6<sup>th</sup> graders from St. Gregory the Great and St. Peter's Catholic Schools. This will be followed by St. Francis' 8<sup>th</sup> grade on October 5. Students from these schools tour JP II, spend time with current student ambassadors, attend mass, and enjoy a pizza lunch before heading back to their schools. We find this is a far better way for future Warriors to learn what makes our school the BEST in the Lowcountry. All students walk away with a *Property of JP II* t-shirt. We encourage parents of these students to contact Anne McClure in Admissions at [anne.mcclure@johnpaul2school.org](mailto:anne.mcclure@johnpaul2school.org) to schedule a follow-up personal tour. We have also scheduled visit days for Riverview Charter School's 8<sup>th</sup> grade as well as any public school student in grades 5 – 10 on days when the Beaufort County Schools are closed and we are open. To see JP II first hand is to understand what the experience is truly all about.

Parents can also greatly assist us with the recruitment of new families to JP II. As we grow we have the opportunity to create the school culture we want JP II to be. If you know of a great student and family out there who could benefit from a JP II education and contribute to our school in a positive way, then spread the word. Word of mouth is our most effective means of recruitment...and it's free! We will have some **parent-to-parent events** throughout the months of October and November to share our story. So far, we are scheduled in **Palmetto Bluff on October 4, Oldfield on October 21 and Cypress Ridge on October 25<sup>th</sup>**. Come at 5:30pm and enjoy a glass of wine and lite bites, and please bring friends with you. If you would like to schedule us in your neighborhood contact Anne McClure. We are more than happy to come.

We also plan to be out at the parishes in October and November with coffee, donuts and conversation, as well as at the Bluffton Farmer's Market and the Habersham Harvest Festival.

- St. Gregory the Great: 10/16 @ 9:00 and 11:00
- Holy Family: 10/23 @ 8:00 and 11:15
- St. Peter's: 11/6 @ 9:00 and 11:00
- St. Francis: 11/13 @ 9:00 and 10:30

For current families you might have noticed that we are starting the admissions process earlier than ever. That is because our school is approaching capacity and we want to be sure that all who want to attend JP II have the opportunity to. We now have an early admissions period as well as regular admissions. Your best chance of enrollment is by applying early and securing your spot. The admissions schedule can be found below.

## **Admissions Dates for the 23-24 School Year Applicants**

### **Early Admissions**

- Saturday, October 1 – school and financial aid applications open
- Saturday, November 5th at 9am - placement testing (grade 9 only)
- Thursday, December 1 – school application due
- Monday, January 2 – tuition assistance application due
- Week of January 9, 2023 – admissions notifications and financial aid awards are mailed
- February 1st – new student enrollment and deposit due

### **Regular Admissions**

- Saturday, January 21st at 9am - placement testing
- Wednesday, February 1 – applications due
- Week of March 1st – admissions notifications are mailed
- March 20 – new student enrollment and deposit due

After February 1, we handle applications on a case-by-case basis in grades where space is available.

## **NEW! Academic Scholarship Opportunity for Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Graders**

In an effort to attract and retain the best and brightest students, John Paul II Catholic School is pleased to announce **four academic scholarships** that will begin with next year's 9<sup>th</sup> grade. These scholarships are need blind and families are *not* required to apply for tuition assistance for their child to be eligible. To be eligible, a student must take the High School Placement Test (HSPT) on the first date administered by the school (**November 5**). Currently enrolled 8<sup>th</sup> graders are eligible and will be administered the test on a school day. Students who score in the top 10% of those taking the test at JP II will be considered semi-finalists and will be notified by the school prior to January 1. The student will then be required to submit a 250-word essay on "Why I want to become/remain a Golden Warrior" to be eligible for consideration. A scholarship committee consisting of the principal, a counselor, and a 9<sup>th</sup> grade teacher will then select four finalists for interviews. One of those students will be awarded the **Monsignor Ronald Cellini Scholarship**, consisting of a \$5,000 award towards tuition each year they are enrolled at JP II, provided they remain a student in good standing. The three remaining finalists will receive \$2,500 towards their 9<sup>th</sup> grade tuition. Students must enroll no later than February 1 to receive the award.

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala to be held this spring, and three, put on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## STATE-OF-THE-SCHOOL ADDRESS

Each year since I've been at JPII I have provided our community with a state-of-the-school address to update stakeholders on the financial health of the school and plans for the future. We also take this opportunity to announce the 2023-24 tuition and re-enrollment process. In my first year this was an in-person meeting. Since COVID struck we moved to Facebook Live. Even though we can now meet in person, Facebook is a much more effective way to communicate this information with as busy as our families are. This year **the State-of-the-School will take place on Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00pm**. Please save the date and I will share more information on how to connect in next week's Weekly Warrior.

## PIZZA WITH THE PRINCIPAL IS BACK

COVID restrictions the past two years, we all still remember 6 feet apart, put a damper on these luncheons, but now they are back. I will begin having pizza again with students and look forward to putting on a few extra pounds as we create the best school experience possible. In my first year as principal, I used these opportunities to meet with a small group of students to get to know them and gauge their satisfaction with the JPII experience. When COVID shut the world down, we continued these meetings virtually with pizza delivered to each student's home. The end result was a series of changes to improve the overall experience...and guess what happened, year-to-year retention shot up to over 90%. The value of student voice goes a long way in building a positive school culture.

## **PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOL SAFETY**

John Paul II Catholic School is partnering with Jasper County Sherriff's Department (JCSD), Jasper County Fire & EMS along with other state and local agencies to improve our school safety plan. As our school has grown into a campus environment so has the need to re-examine our plans. The school, in conjunction with Jasper County first responders, will periodically hold drills to practice elements of the plan.

The first such drill was held today involving the K-9 Department from JCSD showing our staff and student body how they work and how they can detect various substances. As part of our safety plan, the K-9 unit will periodically visit the campus to ensure we remain a drug free school. The demonstration today was simply to show the capability of the dogs.

Other drills will be scheduled throughout the year related to lockdowns, evacuations, weather emergencies, etc. The complexity of a campus vs. a single school building requires extra planning and execution. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns. We will continue to keep you updated as these events take place. Thank you for your continued support as we work to make JPII the safest possible school environment for your child(ren).

## **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 on Wednesday, visit [www.explorica.com/woodham-4082](http://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 Blood Drive was a huge success! Thanks to all who donated. One Blood collected 27 units which is a record for us! Not only did we save lives we made \$270 for our student fund. The blood drives are part of Lisieux House's annual service projects.

## Homecoming “Spirt Week” is Upon Us!

Next week we are celebrating our annual **Homecoming Spirit Week**. This year our theme is **"Back to the Future."** All next week students will have an opportunity to participate in spirit dress down days and on Friday we end with our annual student tailgate and pep rally! 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!

### Schedule for Homecoming Week

- Mon-Fri: Dress up according to the daily themes
- Fri: Schoolwide tailgate and pep rally
- Fri: Homecoming Football game @7pm at our home field in Hardeeville with Homecoming Court presentation at halftime.
- Sat: Homecoming dance in the athletic center from 7:30-10:00 open to all 9th-12th graders. [Click Here to Purchase Tickets](#)

### Spirit Week Dress Up Daily Themes

- Monday- Jocks and Skaters (Biff and Marty)
- Tuesday- Doc Brown Day (Mad Scientist)
- Wednesday- Student Staff Switch Up (Students dress up as their teachers, teachers wear student uniforms)
- Thursday- Back to the Future I, II, III: Savio-80s / Lisieux-50s / Sebastian-Western / Kolbe- Future
- Friday- Vintage Blue & Gold Spirit Day

*As with any spirit week, students must remember that academics always comes first – this is a fun week, but a work week. Have a great time but remember that all school rules still apply.*

### Preview of Coming Attractions:

#### September:

- 26-30: Homecoming Spirit Week
- 30: Homecoming Football Game vs. Cardinal Newman

#### October:

- 1: Homecoming Dance in Athletic Center and Alumni Social at Southern Barrell
- 2: Alumni Mass
- 4: JP II in the Neighborhood at the Lodge in Palmetto Bluff @ 5:30-6:30pm
- 4: Sebastian House sponsoring \$5 dress-down day, proceeds to JARM
- 4: Sebastian House sponsoring Blessing of Animals by Deacon Heathcott-3PM front oval
- 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: Home Football Game (Note this is a Thursday)
- 14: Fall Bash: Movie Night on the Lawn from 7:00-9:00pm
- 17: Prospective Student Visit-Non-Feeder Schools
- 20: Senior Retreat
- 21: JP II Day of Service/No Color Day
- 21: JP II in the Neighborhood at Oldfield @ 5:30-6:30pm
- 22: Robotics Tournament
- 24-28: Gym Closed-floors being redone
- 25: JP II 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 2-2 with a road loss to region foe Pinewood Prep. It was an exciting back and forth contest with the Panthers pulling away at the end by a score of 40-26. Tonight the team hosts Florence Christian in a region game at Gray's Sports Complex in Hardeeville. Kickoff is set for 7:00pm.

The Middle School Football team defeated Thomas Heyward 44-8! Jackson Reilley lead the Warriors with 4 touchdowns and an interception as well. Alan Wolf ran for 2 touchdowns and passed another to Sean Phalen. The Warriors remain undefeated and travel to take on Northwood Academy next Thursday at 5:30pm.

### Tennis

The tennis team defeated May River High School by a score of 5-1. Cypress and Anson Daniels, Trice McClure and Samantha Reilly took their singles matches and Chloe Maillet and Alivia Ogden won at doubles. On Wednesday, the team lost a hard fought match to Hilton Head Prep by a score of 6-3. Anson Daniels continued winning sets at #3 singles, and Anson Daniels and Trice McClure, as well as the tandem of Samantha Reilly and Alivia Ogden won at doubles.

### Volleyball

The Varsity volleyball team traveled to Colleton Prep for their second meeting of the season! The Warriors took the match 3-0, downing the War Hawks in straight sets 26-24, 25-8, 25-9. Emily O'Sullivan had a strong night leading with 7 aces and 6 kills on the night. Lili Lutheran also had 7 aces on the night as well as leading the defense in digs with 19. Cayce Graves led with

assist with 12 and notching 5 aces of her own. Lily Termini added 5 kills and Bela Crespo followed with 4 on the night.

The Varsity Volleyball team then welcomed region rival Hilton Head Prep for their first meeting of the season. The Warriors came out strong and took the match 3-0 with sets of 25-16, 25-15 and 25-15. The entire team contributed to a fabulous performance with 27 kills on the night led by Bela Crespo with 7, Emily O'Sullivan with 6 as well as Camryn Michael and Lily Termini with 5! This marks the 22nd win for the Warriors making them the winningest team in JPII history. The girls will travel to Savannah Country Day next Tuesday.

The middle school volleyball team defeated Colleton Prep 2-0. Great serving from Ava Stabak led the Warriors to a victory in the first set. Ellie Heathcott, Finley Borgan, and Ava Stabak had great kills assisted by setter Gabby Heathcott in the second set. On Thursday the team defeated rival Hilton Head Prep. There were a lot of great defensive saves and kills during both sets. The Warriors played great against a strong team and their hard work paid off. The team has a few days off until they face Hilton Head Christian next Thursday at 4:00 pm.

### **Cross Country**

Cross Country had a successful meet at Hilton Head Prep. The varsity boys and middle school girls both finished second place as teams. Some highlights from the night: Brayden Frickel: 5th with a 16:17 4k. Ayla Reynolds: won the MS girls race with a 15:59 4k. Sebastian Frickel: 2nd with a time of 18:08. Blake Hubik: 6th with a time of 18:56. Zac Henderson: 8th with a time of 19:37. Brady Mahoney: 5th with a time of 24:28.

## **CURRENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**We have the following positions available.**

- 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](mailto:john.mccarthy@johnpaul2school.org) or pass along to someone who might be.

Sincerely,

*John E McCarthy*

Principal

