



THE WEEKLY

Warrior

THE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V ISSUE XXV

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Campus Expansion Project Update

The first Friday of each month I will provide our school community with an update to our campus expansion plan and capital campaign. We have made significant progress since December.

New Soccer Field (Phase I) – A new soccer field has been built beyond the baseball field. We needed to relocate the existing field which will become a parking lot. The field is almost complete with the new scoreboard going in, new player benches with sunshades, bleachers for both the home and away side are on site and being assembled, and a fence has been installed around the regulation sized pitch. JP II will now have a soccer field to rival any high school around. The field will be ready to host games by March.

New Parking Lot (Phase I) – A 140 vehicle parking lot will be constructed behind the athletic center. When the athletic center was built, the school did not include additional parking capacity. With the growth in enrollment, and the increased use of our campus 7 days a week, expanding parking is a necessity. I am pleased to announce that the lot has made it through the approval process, no easy matter, and will be scheduled to commence sometime this spring. Expect the lot to be ready for the start of school in August 2024.

Innovation Center (Phase II) – The design of this exciting new building is in its final stages and will be priced one more time by Choate Construction. The permitting process with Jasper County will begin this month. The exact date we break ground remains TBD. Construction still hinges on both the completion of the permitting process and financing. The diocese will require a significant downpayment of cash before the construction loan can be obtained. The capital campaign continues in full force (see below) and the timing of both construction and move in will depend on achieving our goal. The Innovation Center will add over 45,000 square feet of space and will cost in the range of \$26,000,000.

Capital Campaign – With the receipt of some very good donations in January, the Where Faith and Innovation Meet Campaign has raised \$5.3 million for the project (Phases I and II). While there is much to be thankful for, we still have a ways to go to reach our goal of \$14,000,000. For those who have made their pledge, we thank you for getting us this far in a short period of time. For those who are still contemplating making a donation, the sooner we get closer to our goal, the sooner the diocese will provide the loan for construction to begin.

School Uniform Reminders

The months of January and February in a school year can sometimes prove to be difficult. Christmas is behind us, and it feels like Easter and spring break are months away. We see our students trudging through the day-to-day routines of school. As a result, it is not uncommon for teachers to notice students sliding into habits that seem to be blatantly disregarding rules and policies that students know—but would rather pretend that they didn't. Uniform rules and policies are an area that we see students disregarding, but honestly, are quite easily remedied with support from home.

At the beginning of this school year, both parents and students diligently reviewed and signed the handbook, familiarizing themselves with the policies, including the uniform guidelines and dress code requirements. This collaboration is integral to maintaining a respectful and focused learning atmosphere.

In our shared commitment to the success and well-being of our students, we kindly request your assistance in reinforcing our uniform policies and rules at home. This will help create a consistent experience for our students, fostering a sense of pride and unity within our school community.

Here are a few key points to emphasize with your child:

1. **Adherence to Uniform Guidelines:** Please ensure that your child is consistently following the guidelines outlined in the school handbook regarding the proper uniform attire.
2. **Understanding the Importance:** Remind your child of the significance of adhering to our uniform policies. A uniform not only promotes a sense of identity and unity but also instills a sense of discipline and responsibility.
3. **Personal Grooming:** Encourage your child to maintain good personal grooming habits, including neatness in appearance and adherence to the specific guidelines outlined in the school handbook. Please review pages 43-47 in our school handbook: <https://johnpaul2schoolorg.finalsite.com/student-life/handbook>
4. **Open Communication:** If there are any challenges or concerns regarding the uniform policies, please feel free to communicate with us.

Your continued support and cooperation are invaluable in maintaining the high standards of John Paul II Catholic School. Together, we can create an environment that fosters academic excellence, personal growth, and a strong sense of community.

Tuition Assistance and Acceptance Letters are in the Mail

Acceptance letters for new students applying to JP II have been mailed. Expect to receive them any day now. You will also receive a follow-up email from Admissions on Monday, February 5 with instructions on how to enroll. If you applied for tuition assistance, both new and returning students, your letter will go out early next week. Please note that we have changed the letter slightly to reflect the total award per family. Keep in mind the award does not include the Catholic or sibling discount, or scholarships from non-JP II sources, so your actual discount might be greater than what's shown. Tuition statements will be mailed in early March.

Play Like a Champion Today the Warrior Way

John Paul II Catholic School is embarking on an exciting venture with the launch of the Servant Leadership Council, a new club deeply rooted in the echoes of the "Play Like A Champion Today" program from the University of Notre Dame. This innovative initiative is tailored for student-athletes, providing a platform to integrate Catholic faith into their athletic endeavors while fostering a commitment to servant leadership. Central to the club's philosophy is the integration of Catholic faith into the lives of student-athletes. The Servant Leadership Council sees sports as a powerful vehicle for spiritual growth and character development. Through regular meetings, prayer sessions, and reflections, the club aims to create an environment where athletes can strengthen their faith while navigating the challenges of competitive sports.

The club draws inspiration from the Play Like A Champion Today program, a renowned initiative from the University of Notre Dame that emphasizes the importance of character development in sports. By aligning with this program, the Servant Leadership Council at JP II seeks to create a culture where athletes not only strive for victory on the field but also aspire to be exemplary individuals off the field.

Setting and achieving goals is a core component of the Servant Leadership Council's mission. The club encourages student-athletes to dream big, fostering a mindset that goes beyond athletic achievements. Whether it's excelling academically, contributing to the community, or growing spiritually, the Servant Leadership Council empowers its members to set holistic and meaningful goals.

Teamwork is another cornerstone of the club's philosophy. Recognizing that success in sports and life often hinges on collaboration, the Servant Leadership Council organizes team-building activities, workshops, and discussions. By promoting a sense of unity and camaraderie, the club aims to enhance the overall experience of student-athletes at JP II.

Mentorship plays a pivotal role in the Servant Leadership Council's approach. Brady Mahoney, as the student president, and Javi Jimenez, as the vice president, serve as role models for their peers. They lead by example, demonstrating the values of humility, dedication, and service. Additionally, the club encourages peer-to-peer mentorship, fostering a supportive network where experienced athletes guide and inspire others.

The Servant Leadership Council envisions a future where student-athletes not only excel in their respective sports, but also emerge as compassionate leaders with a strong moral compass. By intertwining Catholic faith, goal setting, teamwork, and mentorship, the club aspires to shape well-rounded individuals who positively impact both their immediate community and the broader society.

As JP II takes this meaningful step with the Servant Leadership Council, it reflects a commitment to nurturing the spiritual and personal growth of its student-athletes. Under the guidance of Brady Mahoney, Javi Jimenez, and the 52 dedicated members of the council, the school's athletic community is poised to embark on a transformative journey, embracing the values of faith, leadership, and service both on and off the field.

"Do the right thing, do the best you can, and always show people you care." -Lou Holtz. In our pursuit of goals, teamwork, and mentoring, may these principles guide us, creating a culture of faith, leadership, and service within our JP II athletic community. If your son or daughter is interested in joining this club or you'd like to learn more about our Servant Leadership Council, please contact Stephen Gaylets, Assistant AD and Varsity Baseball Coach at Stephen.gaylets@johnpaul2school.org

Marching for Life

A group of our students recently braved the snow and cold of Washington, D.C. to participate in the national March for Life rally. One of the basic tenets of our Catholic faith is that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral society. We celebrate our students and faculty for standing in solidarity for the right to life. Led by Fr. Rafael Ghattas, Ms. Hayley Pina, and Ms. Ava Hill, the following students participated; Olivia and Nick Klepesky, Reynaldo Hernandez, Renzo Cedeno, Keannen and JoJo Hill, Jetzel Jimenez, Camryn Webster, Cooper Baroni, Alec Yanachik and Karsyn Kaminsky.



Congratulations Parker Melvin

Congratulations to 7th grader Parker Melvin after she took home the top award for her artwork at the St. Catherine Art Expo! Works from students across the state were entered in this first annual show sponsored by the Diocese of Charleston. Winners were announced after the Bishop's Mass on January 30th as part of the Catholic Schools Week celebration. Parker's work will now be displayed prominently in the Diocesan Offices!

From the Sports Desk

Girls Varsity Basketball came out hot and never slowed down, defeating BA, 80-28. Rebounding was the biggest highlight of the night with 62 and several girls had career highs in different categories. Brady Mahoney led the scoring with 30 points, 16 boards, 5 steals. Savannah Trott added 17 points and 7 rebounds. Lily Termini had 13 points, and 15 rebounds. Emma McKamey chipped in with 10 points, and 7 rebounds. Cayce Graves also scored 7 points to go along with 8 assists and 10 rebounds. We have HH Prep away on Friday.

Girls JV Basketball had a dominating win against HHCA by the score of 44-18. Again, the defense led the way for the Warriors, creating turnovers and scoring off of them. Great job ladies!! The Warriors led in scoring by Hollis Melnick with 15 points, Gabby and Ellie Heathcott each with 8, Megan Fox with 3 and Millie Cornejo, Chase Brienza, Bella del Mazo, Madison Burke and Rachael Brenneman each scored 2 points.

Girls Middle School Basketball fell 1-point short Tuesday night to Beaufort Academy with a score of 11-12. Alivia Ogden led the team with 5 points while Destiny Godsun, Grace Buckland and Roxy Remigio added 2 points apiece.

Boys Varsity Basketball had a night of redemption from the free-throw line as the Golden Warriors converted 13 of 17 in the second half to edge Beaufort Academy on the road by the score of 52-47. Freshman Sean Phelan led the way for JP2 with a team-high 14 points and senior co-captain James Keefer iced the game in the closing minute with 4 clutch free throws to deny the Eagles the opportunity to tie or take the lead. The win elevates our season record to 11-8 as the team looks forward to taking on SCISA AAA #1 ranked Hilton Head Prep Friday night on the Island.

Boys Middle School Basketball got back on the winning track defeating Beaufort Academy by a score of 55-24. A strong second half was the key to victory as the Warriors outscored their opponents 32-12. The trio of Chase Cotter, Zachary Moulton, and Leiland Fripp combined for 35 points. JP11 shot an outstanding 9 of 11 from the free throw line. All 10 available players saw significant playing time.

Boys Middle School Basketball were beaten for the first time in over 2 months by Hilton Head Christian Academy by a score of 49-33. Too many turnovers and a poor shooting performance led to the team's defeat. HHCA opened the game on a 13-2 run. JP11 kept the game in reach but could never quite get over the hump. Chase Cotter led the team with 21 points, while Leiland Fripp and Zachary Moulton each contributed with 7 rebounds. The Warriors hope to bounce back with 3 games at home this week.

Boys Middle School Basketball defeated St. Francis by a score of 45-31. The first half was very close with JP11 leading 19-18 at halftime. A 13-0 run for the Warriors to open up in the third quarter helped put the game out of reach. Leiland Fripp led the team in scoring with 14 points. Zachary Moulton was strong on the boards pulling down 11 rebounds. All 12 players had significant playing time in a strong team win.

Varsity Wrestling defeated Heathwood Hall 48-30 on Wednesday night in the quarterfinals of the SCISA dual playoffs. In front of the home crowd at the Warrior Coliseum, the wrestlers came out ready to wrestle and won the pivotal swing matches. Jude Witkowski led it off with a 2nd period pin. Brandyn Horton won a 12-7 decision over the top ranked opponent in his weight class. Renzo Cedeno won by pin fall in the 3rd period to secure the team victory. Jase Reynolds finished out the team scoring for the Golden Warriors with an exciting 10-8 overtime win when he scored a takedown in sudden victory over a wrestler he had lost to earlier in the

season. Also, earning forfeit wins were Daniel Snyder, Brian Orta, Matei Porcelli, Chris Orta and Gavin Byrne. With the win, the team advances to the semifinals of the tourney and will travel to Hammond High School on Friday to square off against the Hammond Skyhawks. Go Warriors!



JOIN THE ND CLUB OF HILTON HEAD FOR OUR FREE HESBURGH LECTURE

SPEAKER: PROFESSOR JAMES SCHMIEDELER, PROFESSOR OF AEROSPACE AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.

TOPIC: ROBOTICS IN REHABILITATION: ENHANCING RECOVERY OF WALKING ABILITY FOLLOWING AMPUTATION, SPINAL CORD INJURY AND STROKE



FEBRUARY 6TH
ST. FRANCIS CHURCH
45 BEACH CITY RD
HILTON HEAD ISLAND
6:30-8PM

MERGING MECHANICAL ASPECTS OF ROBOTICS IN MEDICAL APPLICATIONS, PROF SCHMIEDELER'S REVOLUTIONARY RESEARCH IS CHANGING LIVES

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT JOHN FROMAN AT
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In His Purpose,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John C. McCarthy'.

President

