



VOLUME V ISSUE XXVIII

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## JPII's First Ever Day of Giving is Scheduled for March 21

One of the things that makes JPII so special is the unselfish giving of the entire school community. Whether it's through the Booster Club, business sponsorships, scholarships, the Warrior Fund, restricted giving, or the *Where Faith and Innovation Meet* capital campaign, the total giving at JPII, without an alumni base, is extraordinary. Our families and friends view this school as a precious resource in the Lowcountry and have supported its growth from inception through today. Quite frankly, it's an important chapter in our remarkable success story.

It is with this in mind that I announce the 1<sup>st</sup> annual JPII Day of Giving on March 21<sup>st</sup>, the first day of Spring. Think of it as a day to "Spring into Giving". The purpose of this day is to reach our **Warrior Fund Goal of \$200,000**. The Warrior Fund is made up primarily of three sources of revenue, annual giving, business sponsorships, and the golf tournament. We have already surpassed \$140,000 in contributions to date, and we hope to reach our goal through this campaign.

The Warrior Fund primarily serves to support two very important aspects of our school program. One, annual giving directly increases the amount of tuition assistance we distribute. This allows JPII to remain an elite school that is not elitist. Second, the fund, through business sponsorships, supports the extra and co-curricular program separate from athletics. So, this fund helps all of our clubs and activities, such as DECA, robotics, ACTS29, choir and band, etc., as well as co-curricular activities such as class retreats, Kairos, March for Life, and the Senior Mission Trip. Every student in the school benefits from the Warrior Fund.

There are a couple of ways to participate. One, at any time, you can go to our website and donate securely online. Just click on Support JPII on the Homepage and then Donate Now. A one-time donation between now and March 21 will count towards the Day of Giving. Or you will be receiving the Spring edition of the Light Magazine in early March. Inside you will find a pledge card. Simply fill it out and drop it in the mail with your check. We will be launching our social media blitz next week welcoming your participation. We can do this!

## Help us Spread the Word about South Carolina's Voucher System

After many years of trying, the South Carolina Legislature finally passed a voucher system that allows qualified families to use \$6,000 in state funds towards private education, including faith-based schools. The Diocese of Charleston strongly advocated for this piece of legislation. Sadly, despite efforts to publicize this program, it appears that very few people have heard about it. So far only one applicant to JP11 next year has applied and qualified. Time is running out. The window for applications closes on **March 15**.

To qualify for the Educational Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF), a child must be currently enrolled in a South Carolina Public School. A family of four's income must not exceed the Federal Poverty Level by up to 200%. That's about \$60,000 per year. It's higher for a larger family. The income level will increase to 300% in 2025-26 and then 400% in 2026-27. Families that qualify now will continue to qualify as long as they remain within these income guidelines. This program has the potential to change a child's life.

Please help spread the word to any family you believe might qualify and who's child would make a positive contribution to the culture of our school.



**NEW**

**\$6,000**  
**K-12 Scholarships**  
**for Qualifying**  
**South Carolina Students!**

**APPLY**  
**BY**  
**MARCH 15!**



■ [www.classwallet.com/SCESTF](http://www.classwallet.com/SCESTF)

## From the Sports Desk

### Girls Basketball Advances to the State Final for the First Time in School History

The JP11 Girls Basketball team will face off against crosstown rival Hilton Head Christian for the SCISA 3A State Championship on **Saturday at 7:00pm at the USCB gymnasium in Okatie**. There is no advance ticket sales, and we expect a large crowd, so we encourage everyone planning to attend to arrive early. Go Warriors!

**Girls Varsity Basketball** advanced to the SCISA 3A Championship game with a 46-41 victory over undefeated Orangeburg Prep. A great team effort, especially defensively. Everyone stepped up big time amidst having 4

girls in foul trouble. So proud of their effort. Congratulations also to Brady Mahoney on joining the 1000-point club. Players of the game were Cayce Graves with 13 points and 6 rebounds, Lily Termini who also had 13 points and 6 rebounds, and Savannah Trott with 7 points and 7 rebounds.

Girls Varsity moved on to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the playoffs by beating Florence Christian 44-31. It was a great team defensive effort. Brady Mahoney finished with 24 points and 16 rebounds. Lily Termini added 13 points and 7 rebounds. Cayce Graves was our defensive player of the game and took great care of the ball on offense.

**Girls JV Basketball** wrapped up the season and what a fabulous season it was! The girls finished 10-0. They were led in scoring by Ellie Heathcott, Gabby Heathcott and Hollis Melnick, but it was defense that the entire team excelled at. Our offense came mostly from our defense. I have coached many good, even undefeated teams in my many years coaching, however I have never had a team accomplish the following stat: 10-0 equals 40 quarters. In those 40 quarters, our defense gave up 1 basket in 13 quarters and 0 baskets in 12 quarters, including 6 consecutive scoreless quarters. We strived to make the other teams life miserable with our defense!!! This team worked very hard to get better and every single one of them did, and they did it filled with joy and love for each other! Awesome season! One proud coach! Debbie Retzer

**Girls Middle School Basketball** lost a hard-fought battle to Riverview Friday night taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Dolphin Jam Tournament. Even though the Warriors lost 14-28, they never gave up and fought hard until the very end. Riverview played tough defense against Alivia Ogden. She scored 24 points the last time these two teams met, tonight, Riverview kept her to 10. Destiny Godsun and Grace Buckland each scored 2 points. This weekend the girls are headed to Greenville to play in the Diocesan Tournament.

**Boys Varsity Basketball** could not recover from a 14-0 deficit after the opening minutes of their first round SCISA AAA playoff game to Orangeburg Prep, ultimately losing 57-37 on Saturday afternoon. The gap was closed to 8 points on multiple occasions in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters, but JP2 could get no closer as the Indians pulled away late. Christian Tilton led the Golden Warriors in scoring with 15 points, supported by 10 from Niko Atkinson. Thanks to everyone for your great support throughout this successful season.

**Boys Middle School Basketball** suffered a heartbreaking loss to Hilton Head Christian in overtime in the finals of the Dolphin Jam Championship. The game was thrilling throughout as there were 6 ties and 9 lead changes. The Warriors had the largest lead of the game in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter at 30-25. Unfortunately, they could not hold on and eventually fell in OT. Leiland Fripp led the team in scoring with 12, and Zachary Moulton led the team in rebounds with 10. The team is proud of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy they will bring back to the school. They will compete this weekend in the Diocese of Charleston Tournament to conclude their season.

**Boys Golf** started their season with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in a 7-school match at the Country Club of Hilton Head. Finishing in complete darkness, the Warriors finished behind Hilton Head Prep, with a score of 156, and Heritage Academy, the host school, had a total score of 159. JP11 finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with a score of 175 ahead of 4 other schools, Holy Trinity 206, Colleton Prep 212, Beaufort Academy 222 and Thomas Heyward 239. JP11 was led by Dylan Folscroft 41, Ryan Geroge 42, Freddie Weniger 45, Will Debrovner 47 and Adrian Simmons with a 48. The next match for the will be Wednesday the 28<sup>th</sup> at Hilton Head Lakes hosted by Hilton Head Christian Academy.

## **Athletics Servant Leadership Council to March in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.**

In an effort to further incorporate *Play Like a Champion Today* into JPII's Core SHIELD Values, a Servant Leadership Council has formed. Under the direction of Mr. Stephen Gaylets, Assistant Director of Athletics, this club will look to develop Christian leadership on our courts and fields. On Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Servant Leadership Council, as well as the entire JPII Baseball Program, will lead the Hilton Head St. Patrick's Day Parade. Prior to that, on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Varsity Baseball Team will host rival Thomas Heyward for a St. Patrick's Day themed game. We will be wearing green jerseys (donated by the Ancient Order of Hibernians). To add to this theme, we have also created an online store that will hopefully generate funds in support of the entire JPII Athletics Program. The store is only open for 7 days so order this weekend. Click on the following link to order. [http://stores.inksoft.com/JPII\\_baseball/shop/home](http://stores.inksoft.com/JPII_baseball/shop/home)

## **DECA State Conference**

We had a full weekend with competitions at the DECA State Conference. Our highlights: There was a record number of competitors competing in over 50 categories from across the state at this year's DECA State Conference. With 25 JPII students attending and competing we are proud to announce the top finishers:

- Michael Fitzgibbons finished top ten in Automotive Services Marketing Series
- Isabella Perez finished top ten in Business Finance Series
- Aadi Patel finished top ten in Employment Acquisition
- Chris Orta finished in 2nd place in Employment Acquisition
- William Rooney finished in the top ten for his Innovation Plan (With Christian Tilton and James Keefer)
- Kathleen Hammett finished top ten in Marketing Communications Series
- Daniel Snyder finished 5th in Principals of Marketing and
- Elle Borgan finished top ten in Sports and Entertainment Marketing Series

In addition to the competitions our students attended leadership seminars and enjoyed time together.

## **Important Dates to Put on Your Calendar**

**February 26, 6:00 – 7:00pm – TCL-JPII Dual Enrollment Program @ TCL's New River Campus**

**March 1 – 4, No School – All Day Faculty In-Service**

**March 16, 8:45 – 11:45AM – Placement Test for New 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and HSPT for 9<sup>th</sup>**

**March 16, 7:30 – 9:00PM – Middle School Spring Fling Dance**

**March 16, 7:30 – 9:00PM – Middle School Parent Mixer at Southern Barrel in Bluffton**

## The New Blackbox Theater

A Blackbox theater is a multipurpose space for the performing arts and other use. This new theater, to be located at one end of the Innovation Center, will provide a well-equipped performing space for our growing theater, chorus and band programs. Seating over three hundred patrons on comfortable retractable seating along with a mezzanine, the theater will feature a professional quality lighting and sound system, a performing arts classroom with space for a band or choir of up to 40 students, along with practice and dressing rooms and ample storage. However, what's equally impressive is that the seats fold up, the curtains are pulled back, and the stage removed creating a space for all sorts of use to include dance, wrestling, cheer, robotics, etc. The space will serve House and class meetings along with a place for lectures and films during the school day. We envision the Blackbox theater to be a hub of student activity throughout the day and night.



This theater can be named for a pledge of \$2,500,000. This beautiful and much needed expansion of JP II needs your **HELP** to get out of the ground. It will take the entire community to make our **VISION** become a **REALITY**. We currently sit at \$5.7 million raised but will need another \$5 million to begin construction. We can do this!

*Let us remember the past with gratitude,  
Live the present with enthusiasm, and  
Look forward to the future with confidence*

St. John Paul II

# JPII – TCL DUAL ENROLLMENT PARENT NIGHT

All John Paul II Catholic School students and families are invited to TCL's New River Campus to learn about our new Dual Enrollment program. Reduce the cost of college education, lighten your college load, learn to handle college-level work, and explore career paths and majors! Qualifying high school students in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties, whether attending public, private, or home education school, may receive college credit and high school credit for designated courses. JPII will use this partnership to introduce it's new business and entrepreneurship program. This is a fantastic opportunity for students interested in business.

**Monday, February 26, 2024, 6–7pm**  
**TCL New River Campus, Room 106**  
**100 Community College Drive, Bluffton, SC 29909**

## Warrior Way-In for St. Clare's Home

Thank you to our students, families and staff for **EXCELLENT** participation in the Drive for St. Clare's Home. We announced the results at our Warrior Way-In today.

- Grade 6 – 32% participation with more than 10 boxes of trash bags
- Grade 7 – 43% participation with over \$500 in Walmart gift cards
- Grade 8 – 32% participation with over \$500 in CVS gift cards (ice cream party winner for creativity)
- Grade 9 – 46% participation with LOTS of newborn, age 1 and age 2 diapers
- Grade 10 – 42% participation with LOTS of size 3, 4 and 5 diapers (ice cream party winner for creativity)
- Grade 11 – 45% participation with LOTS of wipes, paper towels, and toilet paper
- Grade 12 – 49% participation with 37 bottles of detergent
- Faculty & Staff – 57% participation with over \$900 in gas cards (dress down day winner)

We were also able to highlight excellent play from our girls basketball team, excellent coaching from Mrs. Floyd, and excellent performance over four years from Brady Mahoney. This concludes our month of **EXCELLENCE**. Next month we focus on the **SHIELD** value of **LEADERSHIP**.

In His Purpose,



President

