



VOLUME VI ISSUE XVI

November 15, 2024

## Evaluating a School Threat and Actions Taken

Unfortunately, JPll was the victim of an online social media threat yesterday along with another private school in our area. We were informed early in the morning by the Jasper County Sherriff's Office after they were notified by a parent who saw it. After careful assessment with law enforcement, we determined the threat was not credible and likely not authored by one of our students. We cannot share the actual language used or any other details as this is an ongoing investigation being conducted by SLED (South Carolina Law Enforcement Division). An online threat of this nature can be considered a felony with significant penalties.

Even though the threat was deemed non-credible, we still, out of an abundance of caution, took steps to make everyone feel safe. We are fortunate to have armed security on campus and added a 2<sup>nd</sup> officer for the day. Jasper County Sherriff had a cruiser frequently drive through the campus. Our goal was to make our students and staff feel safe so the day could go on as normal. There were no significant disruptions to the school day.

We informed parents shortly after 8:00am. While we realize a threat of this nature creates anxiety, we ask that you have confidence in your leadership in our ability to make decisions in the best interest of your child's safety. We have lots of experience in school threats, mostly occurring in other school districts. I have been personally trained by the F.B.I. in threat assessment. If we believed at any time this threat was credible, we would not have been in school. However, at any time as a parent you feel your child is not safe in school you certainly have the right to dismiss them. Parents were overwhelmingly supportive of our actions, and we thank you for that.

School safety remains our number one priority; there is nothing more important. Unfortunately we live in a world where these threats occur with all too much frequency and even a school like JPll is not immune from a rogue post trying to strike fear in others. We will always take these types of events seriously until they prove not to be. I will update our school community once I learn more from the SLED investigation.

## Student Activities

Here we are, just one week from Friendsgiving and after that just 2 school days stand between us and a well-deserved Thanksgiving break. I am grateful to each and every one of you all for bringing in food for our Mercy Mission food drive (this week was rice and next week, our last week, is jars of spaghetti sauce). We have made a huge impact on our community already and are looking forward to continuing to make a difference for those who need our help the most.

Another huge thank you to families who have already pledged a contribution to our Friendsgiving feast for next Friday. Through House, students/their families can sign up to bring in dessert to share with the school or a monetary donation. The donation can be charged through FACTS (send an email to [anissa.sauls@johnpaul2school.org](mailto:anissa.sauls@johnpaul2school.org) with the amount and "Friendsgiving- Your student's name and house" so Finance can charge you the amount you are pledging. Catering and planning for this day has been a challenging but rewarding experience. I am looking forward to a day of filled with academics, fellowship, and fun!

An important detail for Friendsgiving is attendance and dismissal. Because we are having academic classes on that day, attendance is counted as a school day. The Friendsgiving Final Powderpuff game is scheduled for 2:30. Busses will still leave at their regularly scheduled time in the afternoon. Drivers may leave campus slightly earlier depending on when the game ends. It is expected that students will be present for the Powderpuff game as attendance will be taken in house mentor groups prior to the game starting.

We will round out our season of giving and our months of Service and High Expectations by encouraging peer tutoring in House and doing one final collection for gift cards and a few small items to bolster the Christmases of many families across our community. More information will be coming through House shortly on this, our final big push of the season before Christmas break.

Finally, details about a Christmas spirit week, the week of December 9<sup>th</sup>, will be coming out shortly! Student leaders in House and Student Leadership Council are excited to bring us some fun days of dress down, some games, and decorating competitions. Stay tuned.

### Upcoming Events

November 17th: Open House

November 22nd: Friendsgiving, final day of Mercy Mission Food Drive, 1 jar of spaghetti sauce due/per student and Powderpuff final.

December 5th: 9th grade retreat (St. Peter's)

December 9th: Start of Christmas Spirit Week; last week before Finals!

December 10th: Choir performs at Okatie Pines

December 12th: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass; Lessons and Carols

December 18th-20th: Semester Exams

December 20th: Last day of Semester 1; Christmas break begins after exams

January 6th: Semester 2 begins

## **Pickleball Intramural Club**

This year JPII is introducing its first ever Pickleball Club that was entirely student interest driven! At this time, interested 10th-12th graders are invited to join! Meetings will take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30-4:30, throughout the winter athletic season, on the new outdoor basketball court, weather permitting. Lines will be drawn and nets set up for two courts to be played at a time. Once a month, brackets will be made for tournament play and a winning pair will be declared. Participants are asked to bring their own paddle, as they gather with a partner to enjoy the great outdoors and some good old fashioned pickleball!

## **DECA Shines at Regions**

The DECA Students continue to shine! DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

Our results from our Region competition are as follows:

In Apparel & Accessories Marketing Series: Michael Fitzgibbons finished in second place and Lily Kate Garrick was a finalist.

In Accounting Applications Services: Angelo Iskandar was a finalist.

In Automotive Services Marketing Series: Megan Fox finished in second place.

In Business Finance Series Event: Isabella Perez was a finalist.

In Entrepreneurship: Alan Wolf was a finalist.

In Food Marketing Series: Trice McClure finished in second place and Maddy Burke was a finalist.

In Restaurant and Food Service Management Series: Hannah Ketchledge finished in second place.

In Retail Merchandising Series: Marie Sophie Alvarez and KP Santos finished in third place and Aadi Patel was a finalist.

In Sports and Entertainment Marketing Series: Ryan Bertagna finished in second place.

Congratulations to all our students for their efforts in this very competitive endeavor. The skills learned through participation in DECA are life skills for future careers. Also, congratulations to Mrs. Sklarin, their advisor, who has built our DECA club into a very strong extracurricular activity.

## From Your Athletic Boosters



### ALLOW US TO SERVE YOU AT THE FOLLOWING GAMES

DATE	OPPONENT	MS GIRLS	MS BOYS
11-18	St. Francis	4:00	5:00
12-9	HH Prep	4:00	5:00
1-6	Bridges Prep	4:00	5:00
1-21	HHCA	4:00	5:00
1-22	Riverview	4:00	5:00
1-29	Riverview	4:00	5:00

### MENU

HOT DOGS  
BBQ SANDWICHES  
SODA  
GATORADE  
CANDY  
CHIPS  
COTTON CANDY  
"FRESH BAKED COOKIES"

**A PORTION OF ALL SALES  
GO TO SUPPORT YOUR  
JP II DECA CLUB.**

## Open House is this Sunday

As we begin our Discover Catholic Schools Week, I would like to invite all prospective students and their families to our annual open house on Sunday, November 17 at 1:00pm in the athletic center. Even if you are already a JP II parent, attending open house is well worth the time. There is always so much to learn. Also, we are giving away a \$1,000 deposit discount on tuition. Even if you are a current JP II parent, but have an incoming child in any grade, you are eligible. You must be present to win.

## Admissions Events

- November 17 Open House @ 1:00 – 3:00pm
- November 20 – Feeder Schools Visit JPll @ 9:00am (SGG/St. Peters 6<sup>th</sup> grades & St. Francis 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

In His Purpose,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John E. McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light yellow rectangular background.

John E McCarthy  
President