



JOHN PAUL II

~ Regional School ~
Experience, Empower, Excel
WINTER 2014

We have much to be proud of mid-year at John Paul II Regional School! As we celebrated Catholic School's Week last month, and in this month's first issue of *The Hawk's Nest* newsletter, we are sharing our student experiences and successes with you to remind you of our school's commitment to academic excellence in faith based environment. We look forward to celebrating the gifts our community shares in faith, knowledge and service as our year together continues.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: COMMUNITIES OF FAITH, KNOWLEDGE, AND SERVICE

Community is defined in one way as "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals." Parents choose a wonderful community to be part of at John Paul II Regional School! Many saw firsthand that our community shares an attitude to create and awesome **experience** for students from events held this year. Our community shares the goal to uphold our school for many years to come. We are generating new ideas, developing plans, and are implementing new strategies for sustainability. We are not standing still at John Paul II School! Community is written on our rather short, but strong five year history bringing us to where we are today to develop strong faith, academic outcomes, and a call to serve others!

Today, our community is much broader than in 2008 and includes: faculty, staff, administration, parents, students as well as grandparents, parishioners, alumni and business leaders. All share in the common interest to help John Paul II Regional School grow in its student body, financial stature, and in its Catholic identity! Without community, it just wouldn't work!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S WEEK 2014



Students represented our school at both St. Lawrence Church and St. Luke Church for our Catholic School's Week opening Masses thanking our parishioners for their prayers and continued support. Hospitality followed with refreshments served at both sites.

*Congratulations to
 Rev. Joseph Capella and
 Mrs. Helen Persing!
 National Catholic Education
 Association Distinguished Pastor
 and Principal Nominees
 and
 Camden Diocese Pastor and
 Principal of the Year!*



*Thank You
 to all who helped!*

Our parent community jumped in to set up and serve students at our annual Thanksgiving Feast and Breakfast with Santa making both events fantastic experiences for all!

CHAMPIONS



of JOHN PAUL II

~ Regional School ~

CHAMPIONING OUR PARENT COMMUNITY



We celebrated parents and shared our school day with them with Bring your Parent to School Day and playing "Are You Smarter than a JPIL Student."

CHAMPIONING OUR STUDENTS



We celebrated JPIL students with the Olympic theme representing all countries in the classrooms, playing fun games, winning prizes, and a pep rally to cheer on the HAWKS!

CHAMPIONING OUR FACULTY AND STAFF



Our students gathered to acknowledge our dedicated faculty and staff at JPIL. Mrs. Persing called all 40+ members by name recognizing their special contribution to our school and student council presented each with a special gift. Applause and big cheers filled the gym for these dedicated individuals.

CHAMPIONING ALL WHO SERVE



Veterans and first responders were honored by JPIL students with a special Mass. Each shared how they serve our community and nation with students.

CHAMPIONING OUR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY



We celebrated all who volunteer on a regular basis to keep John Paul II Regional School going strong with a "Breakfast of Champions". From the Wednesday AM BINGO team to lunch volunteers, coaches and room parents, we could not do it without their support.

JPII WELCOMES BISHOP SULLIVAN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2014

Bishop Dennis Sullivan responded "yes" to our fifth grade's invitation to visit our school during Catholic School's Week. He commented that he had to come after reading the rhyming line in the letter, contributed by student Angwi Moutchia, *"you may say no, you may say yes, we just want to show you John Paul II is the best."* Bishop Sullivan was very impressed with our students, programs and campus.



Our grand finale of Catholic School's Week is our annual PTA Spaghetti Dinner. We had a full house enjoying delicious food, music and dancing, and a photo booth to capture many happy faces.

COMMUNITY OF FAITH

It is our aspiration that through the collaboration of church, school and faculty, our students will lead lives rooted in Christian values and commitment to a better society. Blessed John Paul II's canonization take place on April 27th and we will celebrate it together in a big way. Stay tuned! Our students look to his example of unconditional love and serving others as they experience how to develop a deeper faith.

HOW DO JOHN PAUL II STUDENTS LEARN THEIR FAITH?

- **Students celebrate weekly Mass together.** Middle school students and their preschool and kindergarten buddies come together, classes each plan a Mass throughout the year and students share the reading and join in song.
- **Classroom instruction with Seminarian, Ed Kennedy.** Mr. Kennedy visits our 7th and 8th grade students weekly to teach religion.



- **Learning the Rosary.** Parishioner Eileen Donahue visits fourth grade weekly to teach students about the Blessed Mother and reciting the Rosary.

- **Parishioners sharing talents with our students.** Our fellow OLOG parishioners are wonderful examples of giving your time to others. Several reach out in faith and volunteer their talents for middle school electives that include: ceramics, knitting, cooking, community service, as well as, serving on our board.

COMMUNITY OF KNOWLEDGE

“Knowledge is love and light and vision.” Helen Keller. John Paul II School faculty, staff and administration work each day to empower students to achieve their academic potential and encourage a love for learning. We recognize student individuality and provide personal attention in their experience to be inspired to help others develop their abilities.

MEETING ALL ACADEMIC LEVELS

The Learning Center is unique to John Paul II School, enabling us to empower students academically on an individual basis. Mrs. Joyce Romano, Learning Center Coordinator, puts her passion and energy in implementing this program. Its purpose is to meet students, who need additional assistance academically, where they are to help each reach their personal best. This is accomplished through one on one instruction, supplemental resources, and most importantly, encouragement.

Mrs. Romano holds a B.A. degree in both elementary education and special education. Her 20+ years of teaching experience includes special education, early childhood, and secondary education.

In addition, Mrs. Romano is our Bridge Program Adviser. The Bridge program is a peer support program to encourage, promote, and enrich positive life styles of adolescents inside and outside of school. Students in grades 5th to 8th are invited to “drop in” any of the group’s afterschool sessions. Student leaders learn how to guide the group through discussions and activities to build character and self esteem. The benefits of this program shine brightly in our students!

EXPANDING CURRICULUM

This past summer faculty members: Joyce Romano, Mary McKeown, and Jackie Salter participated in Notre Dame’s ACE Collaborative Program. These teachers are leading faculty with initiatives to update our K-8 math and science program and develop goals for each level and raise the bar above common core standards. *What does that mean for your child?* It means that faculty and administration are diligently working to develop a strong curriculum above the national core academic standards in education so that your child continues to be challenged and experience success. It also means that faculty and administration value collaboration to develop programs that builds on each grade level for better academic preparation for your child.

LEADING IN SCIENCE

Our Science Center is one of our campus highlights. However, it is what takes place in the Science Center that matters for students. Science is a core subject in our elementary and middle school curriculum. Our Science Center is equipped with material, tools, technology, and resources for hands-on learning in physical, chemical, and biological science.

Mrs. Danielle Hurd, middle school science teacher, brings her passion for learning the sciences to our middle school. Mrs. Hurd holds a B.A. in elementary education and psychology with 15+ years of teaching experience. Students are sharpening critical thinking skills while developing hypothesis, implementing lab experiments, and writing lab reports. They are well prepared for high school science. Mrs. Hurd also coordinates our very popular “Science Explorers” afterschool program for students in grades 1st through 5th. The group meets weekly in the Science Center to dig into fun learning projects like “matter monsters,” glowing slime.



Younger students also visit the Science Center. Middle school students share their experiments, findings and projects with younger students periodically, which is mutually beneficial for both groups.

WRITING FOR SUCCESS

Writing is a top priority at John Paul II School beginning at the preschool level with letter recognition and sentence structure. In fourth grade, the focus is on building strong writing skills essential for middle school, high school and college. Fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Jaclyn Salter develops writing skills in her students with creative, effective, and fun ways in all subject areas and incorporates technology.

Mrs. Salter holds a M.A. in elementary education from Farleigh Dickinson University with 10+ years of teaching experience. Mrs. Salter also coordinates our school's Yearbook Club, along with teachers, Miss Bigos and Miss Coleman, guiding our student Yearbook Committee club to create memorable yearbooks each year. These three teachers also give their time and energy to "Camp Fun," our summer camp program for children in grades Preschool 4 through 5th grade.

COMMUNITY OF SERVICE-SERVING STUDENTS, SERVING PARENTS, SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

John Paul II Regional School's commitment to a better society is alive in our student outreach initiatives. We provide opportunities for students to excel in mind, body, and spirit. This year, our collaboration with both Knights of Columbus organizations at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish has had a positive impact on our entire community.



Partnering with Knights of Columbus, Lindenwold, students collect food and diapers for the St. Vincent de Paul Society on an on-going basis. To date, over 1700 lbs. has been collected. Our school's goal is to reach 5000 lbs. by June. Feel free to drop your donation in the blue cans located in our school lobby. Knights of Columbus, Lindenwold are also providing our 8th Grade students opportunities for service work by stocking food shelves in the St. Vincent de Paul pantry to

prepare for distribution.

The Knights organizations have each made generous monetary donations towards the purchase of our two new scoreboards and donations of time at school events such as Breakfast with Santa. We sincerely thank them for their support.

EXAMPLES OF JPII STUDENT SERVICE

- Stocking shelves in the food pantry
- Serving meals to the less fortunate
- Organizing collections of toiletries for the Mental Health Association
- Collecting "Pennies for the Poor" and purchasing food gift certificates
- Organizing donations for our Coat Drive.



Student Council organized its annual "Pink Out" day in October to support breast cancer awareness and raised \$250.00 for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Students brought their gifts of canned goods for St. Vincent dePaul Society to our Happy Birthday Jesus party in December.



School spirit is alive in our sports programs. Cross Country was added this year. Our cheerleading squad consists of over 40 girls from Kindergarten through 8th grade and place in outside competitions. We are grateful for all our volunteer coaches!



ADVANCING JOHN PAUL II REGIONAL SCHOOL WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE WANT TO GO?

ENROLLMENT

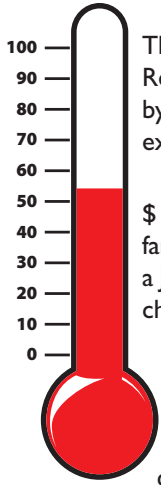
Our student enrollment is 335 in Kindergarten through 8th grade and 55 enrolled in our Preschool. Our 2014-2015 enrollment goal is 346 in K-8 and 60 in Preschool with three 4-year-old classes. New families are registering now and our current families have been re-registering.



- Visit us at our **OPEN HOUSE** - Monday, February 24th 6:00pm - 7:30pm and Tuesday, March 25th 9:00am - 11:00am
- Be a HAWK for a Day and shadow a JP II student
- Call for a personal tour any day of the week!



ANNUAL FUND-ON OUR WAY TO \$75,000



Yes, we surpassed our initial Annual Fund goal mid-year and now at \$54,000! The work continues towards \$75,000. Join others in supporting the John Paul II Regional School experience by making a gift electronically at www.jp2rs.org or by mail. Funds raised enable us to continue providing programs, resources, and experiences for our students to empower them and excel.

Our Scholarship Golf Outing this past fall was another success raising over \$12,000 for tuition assistance for our school. Over \$135,000 is awarded to families each year. This helps to support our goal to help all children benefit from a John Paul II R.S. experience. Thank you to Grant Schuhl and Brian Murtaugh for chairing this annual event.

We held our first Alumni event this past November-5K Run-Walk. It was a success bringing over 60 people out to participate including alumni, current families, parishioners, and community members. We thank Matt and Bernadette Strickland for chairing this event our event sponsors: This was a community builder; however, over \$1,000 was raised! Mrs. Persing is purchasing a new rolling basketball net for the playground in the spring. Students will be very excited!

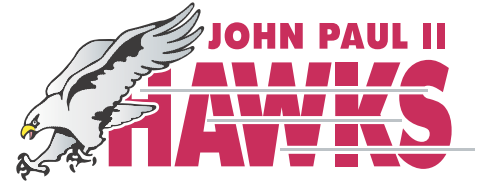
COMMUNICATION

Facebook pages have been created for the school and alumni and continually updated. Please "like" them and share with your FB friends. Our website is continually updated for current and prospective parents and donors. Our electronic newsletter, the Paperless Post, is sent weekly to faculty, staff, parents, and board members. Also, Twitter is coming. All of these vehicles are in place to keep current families informed as well as for marketing efforts.



We are forming a Grandparent's Association at John Paul II School. We already have 20 interested grandparents to date and are planning a kick-off meeting in the spring. For more information, please contact Christine Willard, Advancement Director at 783-3088

We thank our faculty, staff, administration, School Board, Board Committee Members and parent volunteers for making our efforts in advancing John Paul II Regional School a success! Comments and suggestions are welcome!



**BECOME AN ACTIVE
PART OF THE HAWK
COMMUNITY!**

FIRST FRIDAY MASS

9am at St. Luke Church

BASKET AUCTION

March 1st

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

April 1st

SPRING CARNIVAL

May 7th-10th

RACE FOR EDUCATION

May 20th

BEEF-N-BEER

Saturday, June (TBA)



This is made possible because of the generous time of parishioners and BINGO chairs, Donna Freiling and Renee Gilson as well as families and parishioners who volunteer their time. We ask every family to volunteer at least one night this year to work BINGO. We hope you can give one evening to support our school. Email Bingo@jp2rs.org today to schedule your day.