

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING, PARENTS!

On behalf of the school, we thank you for the opportunity to work with your Guardian.  
We hope that all of our families have a great Thanksgiving and a restful vacation.  
We give thanks to God for you all!

**NOTE: Mass next week – Tuesday, 29 November – 9:15 a.m. in St. Joseph’s Chapel!**



### PRINCIPALS RETREAT

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the school will be hosting all of the principals within the Archdiocese on Wednesday, 30 November for the Department of Catholic Schools annual retreat for principals. We will be providing the morning food, helping to serve lunch (students), and singing at the 11:15 a.m. Mass that day.

[NOTE: The school’s student Mass that week will be celebrated on Tuesday, 29 November.]

**MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED SO FAR TO HELP.** We still need help with:

- **Fruits**
- **Dessert-type foods: cookies, bars, treats of all kinds and flavors. \*\*\*\***

Please contact the Guardian Parents Executive Board members to let them know if you can help.

Theresa Berger, [thberger@satx.rr.com](mailto:thberger@satx.rr.com); Tanya Moczygomba, [tjmoc@satx.rr.com](mailto:tjmoc@satx.rr.com)



### TRANSPORTATION ADVANCEMENT!

We have an exciting development to share and need parent feedback on this. Mrs. Darlene Champion, a Sts. Peter and Paul parent and one of our bus drivers, has expressed an interest in helping to run a daily morning shuttle service from the Sts. Peter and Paul parking lot to JP II. The service would be run using the SPP bus, and would carry a charge to cover the cost of the service (gas, mileage). Note that the service would only run in the morning. Once we have the basic number of families/students who would be prospectively be involved, we could calculate a cost. Essentially, the costs would be daily about 2 gallons of diesel fuel (\$7.50), and mileage costs (20 miles round trip at \$.50-.75), plus something for the driver.

**If you are interested, we will have a page up on our web site to register your interest.**

This is a part of our larger desire to add transportation of up to three bus routes: a) *Seguin to New Braunfels to JP II*; b) *above 1604 to JP II*; and c) *Windcrest to OLPH to JP II*. This first step will help us understand how this can best be done, what the challenges are, and what the actual costs are.

**We thank to SPP for their willingness to support this venture!!**



### GRADUATION UPDATE

Our Senior Year parent committee has been at work on graduation and Baccalaureate Mass location and dates, and they wanted to share with the community where they are in planning with the hopes for some feedback. The parents of the Class of 2013 have felt that having both events on the same day would make the most sense for our community. A Baccalaureate Mass is a Mass in celebration of students graduating, and is usually complete with a student talk, a blessing of students – a thanks-giving around the Table of the Lord. Graduation is a formal academic proceeding, with the conferring of diplomas on students who have completed a course of study. It has the normal ‘pomp and circumstance’ that any graduation would have (pun completely intended).

The dates for 2013 are prospectively Saturday, 18 May 2013, with a second choice of Saturday, 19 May 2013. (18 May is JP II’s birthday.) The timing would be during the day (possibly 1 and 3 p.m. or 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. this has not yet been determined).

So far we have looked at two different venues. First, we have looked at Blessed Annunciation Parish, for the church and their John Paul II Center. The parish has great significance for our school, as the host of school retreats and the JP II Papal Mass Chair. The church is large enough for the Mass; the JP II Center has some limitations as a graduation site. It would require bringing in more chairs, and a better stage. It is possible, though. The parish is very easy to book in advance.

The second location is Texas Lutheran University, Mass in their chapel and graduation in the Jackson Auditorium. The auditorium is an ideal location for a graduation, but the chapel has some limitations. It is obviously not Catholic, but can serve as a location for a Catholic Mass; it also only seats 250. Secondly, the university will rent to us, but will not allow outside groups to reserve TLU facilities until 1 June for the next academic year. Given that we want this locked in by January 2012, this is an issue.

It is not seen as ideal to split the venues, meaning Mass at Blessed Annunciation and then graduation at TLU.

We also have decided explicitly to avoid hosting these important events at a local parish/school.

We are asking for parent feedback of all different kinds. First, are we not thinking of any other church-auditorium-large theatre that would be ideal? We desire to have the graduation in our general community (NB-Seguin-Comal County). Second, does any parent have connections within TLU to help with the reservation process? Please give any feedback to Mrs. Kathy Mechtel who has been working on this committee.

[jmechtel@satx.rr.com](mailto:jmechtel@satx.rr.com)



### **SPIRIT STORE**

There are a few JP II track jackets available in the spirit store for purchase. Please stop by Tuesday mornings from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. or contact Pam Gutierrez at 210.490.6575. Please leave a message, and she will return your call and schedule a time for you to come by the school to make your purchases.



### **CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT APPEAL**

Each year, the school has a Christmas trees in the lobby, and each of the past two years, new JP II families have donated an ornament for the tree; the ornaments can share something unique about the family (or can just be a pretty one). For those families new to the school, we ask you to submit an ornament to the school office over the next two weeks to the school office, with a box or compartment to allow for safe storage. A family label on that box and a brief description of the ornament are appreciated (for posterity's sake).



### **CATHOLIC LIFE RAFFLE TICKETS**

We have raised \$5760.00 through our Catholic Life Sweepstakes efforts with roughly 50% of students turning in some amount of sales. If every family sells their 40 tickets, we have the ability of achieving our \$20,000 goal. Working your neighborhood, family, and friends proves fruitful; however, identifying other selling venues has posed a challenge for the committee. Should you have access to parishes without schools, retail locations, or other selling opportunities, please contact our committee liaison, Tanya Moczygemba at [tjmoc@satx.rr.com](mailto:tjmoc@satx.rr.com).



### **COLLEGE VISIT - UIW**

University of the Incarnate Word will be on campus on Thursday, 1 December 2011, for juniors during Solidarity time, and at lunch for all students.



### **COLLEGE VISIT - BAYLOR UNIVERSITY**

10:30 AM on Friday, Jan. 13, 2012. A group session with the juniors will be offered, along with material for underclassmen at lunch.

## **KNIGHT WITH THE SEMINARIANS**

Parents, JPII is proud to team with the New Braunfels Knights of Columbus, Council 4183, hosting their annual Texas State Award Winning "Knight With the Seminarians." This special evening serves two purposes. First, it is an opportunity for Seminarians from throughout the Archdiocese to get away from their studies, let their hair down, and have a good time with those whom one day they may serve. Second, it is a fundraiser, and all proceeds support the Seminarians of the Archdiocese...the Knights keep none of the money made on the event. Last year they raised over \$12,000.

Each year, our students volunteer as servers, and last year provided entertainment for the 450 guests who came to celebrate these men in formation for the Priesthood. We are proud to announce that once again the students of JPII will have this opportunity to showcase the core virtues of our school.

The next "Knight With the Seminarians" will be held on **Saturday, February 25th, 2012**. This year's theme, "A Knight in Old San Antonio," is sure to be as much fun as it is a labor of love for our students. The New Braunfels Knights and Dr. Kenney are working together to create a very special event...and we want you to have the opportunity to be a part of it. Ticket sales will begin in early January 2012. Tickets cost \$250 per table of 10 or \$30 per individual ticket. However, the Knights initially have set aside four tables for the parents of JPII students at \$25/ticket. Those tickets will be available with Mrs. Sullivan on December 1st.

## **KHAKI & PLAID BASKET FROM JPII: ENTERTAINMENT THEME!**

Many thanks to Susie Torrez who has agreed to help organize our school's basket for the Khaki & Plaid Gala. The theme will be entertainment. If you can help donate items to fit into this theme, please contact her. They are looking for passes, gift certificates, etc. for local entertainment of all kinds: get-a-way weekends, concerts, movie passes, Schlitterbahn, Seaworld, the zoo, the symphony, etc. Also other items to fill out the basket that would fit with this would be appreciated. Contact her at [susievtorrez@yahoo.com](mailto:susievtorrez@yahoo.com) or cell @ 210-643-5037

*The Hope for the Future/Department of Catholic Schools run a large gala to start Catholic Schools Week, this year on Saturday, 28 January 2012, 7:00 p.m., at the Vistas at Valero (on the Valero Energy Campus, 1604 and IH-10). The Department of Catholic Schools is asking each school to contribute a basket for their silent auction. We need help in forming the basket - contact the Guardian Parents Executive Board to help. Theresa Berger, [thberger@satx.rr.com](mailto:thberger@satx.rr.com); Tanya Moczygemba, [tjmoc@satx.rr.com](mailto:tjmoc@satx.rr.com)*

## **ADVENT BRUNCH**

**Advent Brunch is an annual event for parents and students to celebrate the end of the semester and the Advent season.** Thursday, December 8, 2011 • Mass: 8:15 AM at JPII • Brunch immediately following Mass in the school cafeteria.

• **Contact chairperson Audrey Curry (Hannah '13) @ (210) 241-7658 for more information.**

## **STUDENT EVENTS UPCOMING**

**Saturday, 3 December 2011**

Rampage Game - Hockey Night in the Archdiocese - our choir will be performing on the concourse, and the Archbishop will be dropping the ceremonial first puck. The bus will leave campus at 5 p.m. Ticket order forms emailed out 22 November 2011.

**Friday, 9 December 2011**

Monster Mini-golf bus trip (\$3) - The Gonzalez family has been kind to offer the chance for all of our students to play a free round of mini-golf at the new Monster Mini-golf in San Antonio (on NW Military). Following the round, Chick-fil-A will be catered in for students. (The \$3 covers the bus trip.) We will leave right after school, and come back to campus by 7:30 p.m. (The basketball game scheduled for that day is being rescheduled for Saturday, 10 December 2011.)

## **SOME SAVE-THE-DATE REMINDERS!!!**

## **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**

Monday, 30 January 2012 will begin Catholic Schools Week, and JPII traditionally begins with Pastries with Parents, a coffee and donuts fellowship time. Friday is always Faculty Appreciation Day.