



SPRING SPORTS – PARENT MEETING

On Wednesday evening, 18 January 2012, starting at 6:30 p.m., we will be have our spring sports meetings for parents to learn more about the upcoming seasons, expectations, schedules (as known today), and areas where help is needed. The sports represented will be: tennis, golf, track, baseball, and softball. We will begin in the media center, and then split out to other rooms by sport. For those participating in two sports, please attend the team sport meeting, and then follow up with the individual sport coach afterwards.

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

As presented at the parent meeting, we are pleased to relay to parents the successful completion of our initial accreditation efforts. In early January, we received our official accreditation certificate, making us a fully accredited high school. Note that it is a full high school accreditation, all credits earned are official, and we have the full rights to issue diplomas and call ourselves an “accredited” school. In five years, we will have our next accreditation visit, and can request it earlier if desired. This is the only difference in the accreditation that TCCED gives to new schools; the normal time between visits is seven years.

CATHOLIC LIFE RAFFLE SALE

Thanks to all who helped – we are very near the \$16K mark. Thanks to the committee for their hard work!

SPRING DRAMA NEWS

We are pleased to announce the return of Mrs. Sandy Schwartz for another drama production. She would like to meet with all interested students on Thursday, 19 January 2012 after school for 30 minutes to present the spring production. We will have scripts available, and Mrs. Schwartz will explain the audition process.

The auditions for the parts of the play will take place next week Wednesday and Thursday, 25-26 January from 4 – 5:30 p.m. Students can begin signing up for times and days this Thursday and after that, the audition schedule will be in Mr. Iliff’s office for sign-ups. Students should read the script and will be asked, for the audition, to be prepared to read a main section for that character’s role. (Students can audition for more than one role, and the director may ultimately place a student in a different role, once she sees all who have auditioned.) For more about the audition process, students will need to ask Mrs. Schwartz, either on Thursday or by phone later.

There are approximately 16 parts, along with stage manager(s) and understudy roles. The script was chosen to allow for scheduling cast-specific rehearsals at the start. However, the need for stage manager and understudies who attend most every rehearsal is pivotal to the success of the play. Students who take on the role as understudy will help where asked at rehearsals, read others’ parts at rehearsals as needed, and step into a role if circumstances require this. Understudies, stage managers, and all those who successfully complete a role in the play will earn a theatre arts half credit (0.5).

Mrs. Schwartz benefitted last year from parent help at rehearsals. Once the cast is named, parents who can make rehearsals will be asked to talk with Mrs. Schwartz about which days and times.

The rehearsal schedule will be based on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 4-6 p.m. Last year, we worked to help students balance participation in winter athletics and the play. There will be some weekend rehearsals scheduled. The performances are being scheduled for Thursday through Saturday, 22-24 March 2012 in the evenings.

COLLEGE VISIT – TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

During lunch for all students - Monday, 23 January 2012.

COLLEGE VISIT – TRINITY UNIVERSITY

10:30 a.m. for juniors in the media center - Thursday, 26 January 2012.

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 are available with Mrs. Sullivan.

JUNIOR CLASS COMMISSIONING MASS

At the parent meeting, we announced that the Junior Class Commissioning Mass/Ring Ceremony would be Thursday, 29 March 2012. Unfortunately, the rings will not be available in time for that date, so we will be looking now for the proper date in early May. We have now set the date as Thursday, 3 May 2012, in the evening, at St. Joseph's Chapel.

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.

ANNUAL FUND DINNER

Saturday, April 14, 2012 @ JPII Campus (evening) to kick off Annual Fund Drive

The goal of the event is to host all GUARDIAN PARENTS! *The goal will be to create a fun event! and of course create awareness of the annual fund drive.*