

Spring 2011

C O N N E C T I O N S

From then to now....uniting alumni and friends of Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School



FAITH & SERVICE



Fourth Graders Rachel B, Regan K. and Bridget O. made posters for the "Keep Christ in Christmas" contest sponsored by Knights of Columbus, Chester County Assembly. Bridget O. took first place.



Students collected over 3000 cans and non-perishable items to help families prepare for the Christmas holiday season. Donations were made to Salvation Army and St. Joseph's Literacy Center in Coatesville, Pa.

Campers Get Ready for Summer Programs

PJP II Community Summer Camp is gearing up for another great summer. The camp is opened to all students in the community including four year olds entering Pre-K and all students entering grades K-8th for the 2011-12 school years.

The camp offers a safe environment for parents' peace of mind. Instead of bussing campers offsite, a variety of programs are brought onsite. The school's state of the art campus offers large outdoor playing fields and a climate controlled indoor facility allowing camp instructors to deal with all kinds of weather.

Weekly themes keep each of the nine weeks fresh and interesting. Terry adds, "If your child comes for one week or all the weeks offered, there will always be something new to do and learn." Each weekly schedule includes sports activities to help develop team play as well as skills. The program also includes art, science, music, language and



weekly cooking classes for the campers. Other activities may involve film making, computer skills development; play writing, with performances by the campers and much more. Camp begins the week of June 13th and runs 9 weeks through the week of August 15th, excluding the week of July 11th. Full and half day options are available and hot lunch is available. For more info visit the After Hours Programming page on the school website at www.popejohnpaul2sch.org, contact Terry Altschuler at pjp2fac@aol.com, or call 610-384-5961 ext 5410.

New Academic Program Set to Start

Sister Anne announced the addition of a world language program beginning in the fall of 2011. Grades 6 to 8 Students will have class four full periods each week; Grade 5 Students will have class for three full periods each week; Grades K to 4 Students will have two short class periods each week.

All Students will have the ability to work at their own pace both in school and online at home using the Rosetta Stone Program. Students in

Grades 5-8 will be under the direction of a teacher in a language lab and they will receive a grade on their report cards. Graduating students will have the opportunity for testing to determine eligibility for second-year placement as high school freshmen.

Additionally, students have already begun using the online FirstInMath program to complement instruction they receive in school. Students can play online activities to strengthen math skills.



Students Take Top Place in District Spelling Bee

PJP II won first place in the 2011 Coatesville Area School District Middle School Spelling Bee. This represents the sixth consecutive year that PJP II students have taken first place in the Middle School Bee which is based on overall score. Individual winners and participants for both the Middle and Elementary School Spelling Bees include: (Kneeling:) Natalie W.-1st place seventh grade, Nicole P.-2nd place sixth grade, Emily S.-1st place fourth grade, Abby M. – 1st place third grade, Henry S.-1st place eighth grade and Andrew J.-2nd place seventh grade. (Second Row:) Kerri S., Chris S., Haley J., Conner R., Bridget O. and Madisyn M.. Third Row:Melanie T., Hannah C., Connor M.—3rd place sixth grade, Bryn C., Anna L.. (Third Row:) Tyler K., Christina S., Conor W., and Gabrielle G.



Students from all grades made over 2000 origami cranes for the "Cranes for Kids" program sponsored by Osh Kosh B'Gosh. For every crane received, the company will send an article of clothing to children in Japan affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami.



Students collected personal items for retired IHM sisters at Camilla Hall during Catholic Schools Week. Students are pictured with Sister Mary Cuthberta, IHM who is Prayer Partner for the School.



The Reading Olympics Team was undefeated in three rounds at this year's CCIU competition to bring home blue ribbons.



Henry S. and Eighth Grade teachers Mrs. Fedor and Mrs. Mersereau

Eighth Grader Earns Awards and Scholarship

Eighth grader Henry S. was named a Neumann Scholar, came in first place in the Coatesville Area School District Spelling Bee, and will compete as a finalist in the 2011 IHM Math contest in April. As a Neumann Scholar, Henry will receive a four year scholarship to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia high school of his choice. Each year, the Connelly Foundation awards 36 scholarships to eighth graders in the Philadelphia Archdiocese who excel on the Neumann Scholarship exam, including five scholarships in Chester County. To qualify for the exam, students must achieve a national percentile score of 90 or above on the seventh-grade Terra Nova exam and maintain a G.P.A of 92 or above on their first semester eighth grade report card. This year, eight students from PJP II were invited to take the exam.



CACES Graduate Attributes

Success to Catholic Education

“Strong Foundation” from PJP II Helped for Future Endeavors

Jessica Eby graduated from CACES in 2006 and BSHS in 2010. She is a Presidential Scholar and Freshman at Villanova University majoring in Biochemistry with a Minor in French. Jessica offers her thoughts and experiences from her time at CACES and her ambitions for the future.

Do you have a favorite memory while at CACES?

My favorite memory while at CACES is probably dissecting the pigs in Mrs. Hillman’s seventh grade biology class. I know it may be pretty gross to some, but the novelty of the project was so exciting at the time! But most importantly, I learned a lot; not only about biology, but about how to be respectful in a scientific setting and appreciate how much complexity there is to life, even in the simplest organisms. When I got to Shanahan and took biology my freshman year, I was one of the few students who had done anything even close to that kind of a project, and my teacher was impressed that I had had such an experience. I think this was when my passion for science was first beginning to be kindled, and now it is such a major part of my life.

What activities were you involved in at CACES?

While at CACES, I was involved in both track and soccer. Sports were a great way to make friends and let out some of my abounding energy. When I was in the early grades I also participated in the after-school program, which was always a lot of fun and convenient for my parents. The faculty were an integral part of my experience at CACES. I remember of thinking of teachers in an almost parental light; it was like my grade was a big family. I still enjoy going back and visiting my teachers, and even my mom is still good friends with many of them.

In three words, how would you describe your time at CACES?

Friendship: I met my two best friends to this day at CACES. However, not only did I forge friendships on the recess yard, but I also created lasting bonds with many of my teachers.

Imagination: I feel it was at elementary school more than any other part of my life that I learned to think and act creatively. That was the time of Monday music class and Friday art class, but also fun projects in English, science, and even math. At CACES, I really made use of my crayon box and colored pencils, but also was forced to think innovatively without even realizing it. Moreover, elementary school was really the time to dream. I was also encouraged to think about the future and set high standards for myself, habits that I still keep to this day.

Foundation: CACES truly defined a large part of the foundation of my childhood. In the most obvious sense, CACES laid my academic

foundation that would support me throughout high school. However, perhaps even more importantly, CACES laid my foundation in faith and values. Looking back, I see it was during elementary school that I began to develop my work ethic, as well as the “kindergarten rules” of sharing, playing fair, showing compassion, and connecting with other people. Furthermore, between the First Friday Masses, daily prayers, Stations of the Cross, and overall integration of the Catholic tradition and learning, I know it was at CACES that the seed of the strong faith that I have today was planted.

How did CACES prepare you for your high school career?

After graduating from CACES, I definitely was prepared for BSHS. Having gone through the advanced math program at CACES, I passed into the highest level math track at BSHS, in which I felt that I had the background necessary to be successful. Moreover, I was placed in all honors classes in which I felt on par with students from other elementary schools, sometimes even ahead of them. Particularly, I noticed that I had an especially strong background in English (grammar) and science, which served me well in these more challenging high school classes. The AP credits I earned at BSHS granted me sophomore status at Villanova.

What was the criteria and process for winning the Presidential Scholarship at Villanova University?

After writing multiple specialized essays, I was invited as a finalist for a three-day interview weekend. Undoubtedly, the interview was one of the most challenging (and terrifying!) experiences that I have ever undergone. However, in the end, it seems I had what they were looking for. As a Presidential Scholar, I receive full tuition, books, room and board, and general fees for four years. I cannot express enough how wonderful of a blessing this is for myself and my family.

What would you tell a family considering enrolling at PJP II?

A child can go anywhere to learn the basics of math, reading, writing, and science. However, at least in my experience, at PJP II one can find more than simply an education based on facts and figures. My time at CACES was an awakening, a time when I began to discover my curiosity, creativity, faith, values, and potential. PJP II educates not only the mind, but the spirit.

What do you want to do after College?

After Villanova, I hope to attend medical school, perhaps with a concentration in global health. It would be wonderful if I could one day participate in Doctors Without Borders, however, I am open to different possibilities for my future, and I look forward to seeing where the road of my life will take me!

Remember and Reconnect

Do you have a favorite memory of your time at CACES/PJP II? Send in your story and let friends know what you are doing now. Here's how to reach us:

online at

msamson@popejohnpaul2sch.org
call us at

610.384.5961 x5408
(Office of Development)

We Need You! Help us plan the next reunion party!
Call today to take part.

CONNECTIONS

For alumni and friends of PJP II School.
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Help PJP II Win \$5,000 Sports Grant

Liberty Mutual is awarding six \$5,000 Community Grants to schools as part of its Responsible Sports program championing and celebrating responsibility in youth sports.

Every person who completes the online Responsible Coaching or Responsible Sport Parenting course and the 10-question review quiz earns one point to credit to their favorite school. The six (6) schools around the country that get the most points will earn a \$5,000 grant at the end of the program.

Here's how it works:

1. Log on to <http://www.ResponsibleSports.com/Grant>.

2. Go to the middle of the page, click on Parents or Coaches.
3. Take the 10 question quiz.
4. ****TO CREDIT OUR SCHOOL****

When prompted, enter the full name, Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School, West Brandywine, Pa. An email will be automatically sent to the address you provide. Please check your inbox and click the verification link. Once you verify, your point will be applied to PJP II and the point will be added to the leaderboard.

Anyone can participate...family, alumnae, friends, so log on before May 31st.

Annual Fund Reaches 65% of Goal

Help PJP II reach their Annual Fund goal of \$100,000 by contributing to the Annual Appeal. The Annual Appeal offers the opportunity to make a donation to PJP II's General Fund in memory of or in honor of a loved one or friend. Matching gifts by employers are also encouraged. All gifts

received by June 30, 2011 will be published in the Annual Report. Our sincere thanks to all those who donate their time and/or financial resources to our school programs and fundraisers. Visit the Development Page at www.popejohnpaul2sch.org for the Annual Appeal donation form.

In Memory: Sister Leo Mary, IHM

R.I.P. CACES Principal 1985-1995.
Donations for a Blessed Mother Statue in

memory of Sister Leo Mary can be mailed to the School office.

Any Questions? Contact the Development Office at msamson@popejohnpaul2sch.org.

