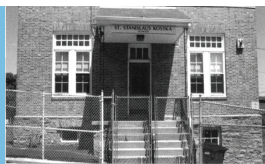


Fall 2011



# CONNECTIONS

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Fall Open House & Tour

October 23rd | 12-2 pm

### Silent Auction & Restaurant Fair

November 5th | 6pm

### Senior Friends Holiday Concert

Dec. 9th and May 18th | 1:30pm

### Winter Open House & Tour

Catholic Schools Week  
January 29th | 12-2pm

### New Student Registration

February 28th | 9-11am

### Athletic Association Beef 'n Beverage

February 25th | 7pm

### Kids' Outgrown Sale

March 10th | 9- Noon

### Annual Walk-a-Thon

April 22nd | 12pm

### 1st Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Outing

Honeybrook GC

May 8th | 9am

## Sacraments, Celebrations and Service Embrace PJP II

It was a busy and joyful Spring for our five parish community with 78 students receiving the sacraments of First Eucharist and First Penance and 54 students receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. There were 15 celebrations in all. In addition, students celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of St. John Neumann, the Beatification of Blessed John Paul II with a special mass and tribute and participated in a May Procession from the school to St. Peter Church to honor and crown the Blessed Mother.

A long tradition at our school, the students collected \$1,764 in Mission money



throughout the year. Funds were donated to Mission Haiti through the IHM Congregation, St. John's Hospice, Catholic Relief Services for the tsunami victims in Japan, and the IHM Literacy Center located in Coatesville, Pa. PJP II Community Summer Camp wrapped up the summer raising over \$1600 for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.

## New Year Brings New Families and Faculty

PJP II opened its doors in August with 76 new families and 124 new students enrolled for the 2011-12 school year. The PreK welcomed 34 new students to the Half-Day and Full-Day Programs while Kindergarten through Eighth Grade enrollment grew to 610.

New faculty members include: Mrs. Schaffer, Kindergarten Aide, Sister William Catherine, IHM, grade 2, Miss Marsh, grade 3, Mr. Rash, grade 5 and Miss Forrest, grade 8. The PreK-4 Program staff includes Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Kenney, Mrs. Gilbert (aide) and Mrs. Christine Roth(aide). In addition, the administration welcomed

Sister Beverly Pellegrino, IHM as Assistant Principal. Welcome to the new members of our PJP II Family!

Teachers and staff departing from PJP II include Mrs. Gehringer(Kinder Aide), Mrs. Staub(Music), Mrs. Lucerne(2nd grade), Mrs. Dougherty(5th grade) and Sr. Jeanne Patrick Brophy, IHM who transferred to St. Charles in Bensalem, Pa. Sr. Jeanne served as Assistant Principal for four years. We thank you for your dedication and service to our school and students. We will miss all of you!



## Scholarship Fund Set to Begin

Sister Anne announced the School will be establishing a Scholarship Fund for current and new families who are in need of tuition assistance. The Fund will be “teed” off with the First Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Outing on Tuesday, May 8th at Honeybrook Golf Club. Parents, friends, alumni, parishioners and local businesses will be invited to participate. More information regarding the event will be available on the school’s website.



## NASA Camp Lands at PJP II

PJP II was one of 36 sites located throughout Pennsylvania that held the NASA Summer of Innovation Camp during the first week of August. Over 100 students from grades 4-8 signed up for the camp. Each day of the camp had a theme providing students with hands-on grade level activities including Robotics, Aeronautics, Rocketry, Earth and Space Science. Faculty involved with coordinating the Camp included Mrs. Alexis, grade 4; Mrs. Reis, Technology; Mrs.

Hillman, grade 7; Mrs. Mersereau, grade 8 and Mrs. Hartshaw, grade 5. Instructors attended 3 days of training workshops along with several days of additional hands-on training at the Goddard Space Center located in Greenbelt, MD. Several follow-up lessons and activities will be integrated into the curriculum and presented in the classroom by participating teachers throughout the 2011-12 school year.

## A Few Exterior Enhancements

If you are driving by PJP II’s campus, you will notice a few additions to the property including a new Reader Board at the entrance of Rt. 82 which displays the school name, logo and address. School events and announcements will be displayed weekly.

In addition, an outside basketball net and 2 ball tosses were installed behind the Multi-Purpose Room which will be available to the students during Recess. This completes Phase II of the Playground Project.

## Class of 2011 Graduates Earn Scholarships

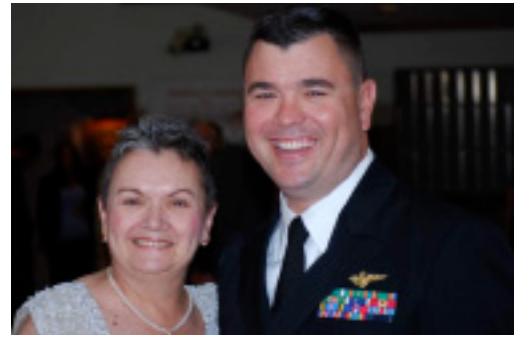
Fifty one students graduated from PJP II on June 7th during a mass at St. Peter Church. The theme for this year’s Eucharistic Celebration and Graduation was “Go Make a Difference in the World.” Father Fitzpatrick from St. Peter Parish was the primary Celebrant. Students

received nearly \$40,000 in scholarship money for secondary education. Scholarship winners included: Joseph A., Dekontee J., Brooke C., Paige D., Melanie T., Laura P., Emilie T., Kristine G., Henry S., Zachary R., Chelsea A., Sarah F., Hector H. and Bridget O.



# Alumni Profile:

## Brian Coxson, '87



Brian pictured with his Mom, Eileen

Brian Coxson graduated from CACES in 1987 and Bishop Shanahan H.S. in 1991. Brian reflects on his time at CACES and his rewarding career in the US Navy.

*What is your current position?*

I am a Commander in the United States Navy. By trade, I am a Naval Aviator who flies the SH-60B Seahawk helicopter. I am currently stationed at the Pentagon as a Department of Defense Executive Liaison Agent. Executive Liaison Agents are responsible for the strategic planning, coordination and execution of all aspects of hosted foreign counterpart programs for the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. We serve as strategist, protocol advisor, briefer, and manager of events for the Top Four.

After I graduated from Bishop Shanahan, I attended Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, Maine. I graduated from MMA with a BS in Nautical Science and a US Coast Guard Unlimited Tonnage Third Mates License. While at MMA, I joined the NROTC Unit there and was awarded a 3-year full scholarship. I was commissioned as an officer in the US NAVY the same day I graduated and immediately reported to Pensacola, Florida to begin Naval flight school in May 1995. Following flight training in Pensacola, Florida and Corpus Christi, Texas I was designated a Naval Aviator in June 1997. I then reported to HSL-40 in Mayport, FL to learn to fly the SH-60B Seahawk helicopter.

In March 2001, I reported to the Airwolves of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light FOUR ZERO (HSL-40) as a flight instructor. Being a flight instructor was one of the most rewarding tours of my career. In December 2003, I reported to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) as a Shooter. Shooters are the men and women responsible for launching the aircraft from the catapults and recovering them with the arresting gear onboard the aircraft carrier. While onboard the GEORGE WASHINGTON, I had the opportunity to attend mass regularly every Sunday and became very good friends with the Catholic Chaplain, Father Joe Coffey. He would listen, as I would vent about the issues my sailors were experiencing and counsel me on the best way to handle the situation. Mass was held in the foc'sle of the ship. The foc'sle is the area on the bow of the carrier where the anchor windlasses are located.

In November 2008, I reported to the Naval War College in Newport, RI where I earned a Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. After graduation in October 2009, I reported to my current duty station in the Office of International Engagement within

the Defense Intelligence Agency at the Pentagon. I am currently working as an Executive Agent handling counterpart visits for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense. I have had the opportunity to meet several world leaders from Korea, France, Singapore, Czech Republic, and Lebanon to name a few.

*Do you have a favorite memory(ies) or experience while at CACES?*

I have many wonderful memories of CACES. I remember early dismissal/half days when the entire school would somehow make our way to the Caln Roller Rink. Stations of the Cross during Lent were always a welcome substitution for the weekly Friday Spelling Test...or at least at the time I thought it was. Another great memory is from my 8th grade year and the baseball team. The team was GREAT! I was mostly there because I don't think they cut anyone but I didn't care because I was part of a very good baseball team. If I remember correctly, I rode that bench and the DL because I broke both my wrists towards the end of the season all the way to the Championship game where we lost. That was the last organized sport team that I played on because I didn't play any sports in high school. Now I'm involved with my kid's sports teams and I try to instill in them the same love for whatever game they're playing as I had. You'll be happy to know that I did get both casts removed about one week before I marched down the aisle at St. Joes for my 8th grade graduation.

*How did Catholic Education impact your personal life and/or professional career?*

I would say that the hard work ethic that was instilled in me by the teachers, priests and sisters at CACES and BSHS has helped me get to where I am today. Additionally, the moral compass they provided me has helped me to steer a course in my personal and professional life that I am eternally grateful for. I am thankful for the everyday sacrifices that were made by my parents that allowed my sisters and I to attend Catholic school. I have a Miraculous Medal that I kept in the pocket of my flight suit so that I flew every flight with it there. I cannot count the number of times prayer was present in the cockpit of my helicopter during missions. Whether it was a dark, stormy night at sea while trying to land on the ship in rough seas or during a Search and Rescue mission asking God to lead us in the right direction in order to find some lost souls at sea; the Medal and prayer were a big part of each and every flight mission.

## 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.  
Published twice a year by the  
PJP II Office of Development

Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic  
Elementary School  
2875 Manor Rd. West Brandywine, PA 19320  
610.384.5961 | www.popejohnpaul2sch.org

Sr. Anne B. McGuire, IHM	Principal
Maria Samson	Development Director
Christen Coxson Dunn '89	Development Committee
Alicia Kenny	
Mary Pezzopane	
Eileen Violini	

## JV Softball Team Wins Region



The Girls JV Softball team went undefeated for the second year in a row to win the Region 17 CYO Championship Title. Standing in the first row (l to r) are: Gabrielle T., Ashlynn A., Amanda W., Camille L., and Riley P. Second row (l to r): Marley W., Caitlen M., Kayla B., Kerri S., Madison T., and Shelby F., Michaela D., Samantha S., Briana W. Third row (l to r): Coach Bill Whitehead and Coach Patrice Arvay.

## Annual Fund Surpasses Goal

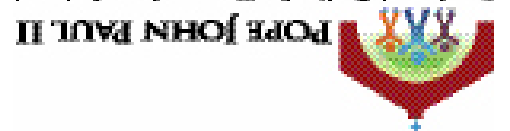
Thank you to everyone who made this possible through your generous support of our fundraising events and activities. Expenditures included materials for the new World Language Lab and PreK Program, special programs and treats for the students, faculty in-service training and playground equipment. Friends and Donors will be able to view the complete Annual Report on the school's website at [www.popejohnpaul2sch.org](http://www.popejohnpaul2sch.org) after October 31st.

Get Connected! Visit us on Facebook at Pope John Paul II/CACES Alumni Page

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