



## **ART SHOW – FRIDAY, 18 MAY 2012**

This Friday is the first JP II ART PALOOZA! We will have tons of great art made by our JP II students on display from 6 pm - 8 pm. You can also take part in the art by bringing a t-shirt, baby onesie, or canvas bag to be screen printed with a MUSTACHE! The opportunity to jump in on a photo-booth picture wearing a crazy mustache will definitely make memories last, so bring your smile!

- Finally, some AWESOME art pieces will be available for adoption with a donation to the JP II Art Department! •

## **SPRING SPORTS PHOTOS**

This Thursday after school, we will take track, tennis, baseball, and softball team photos. Mrs. Pitman will be our photographer. All uniforms will be re-issued for the photos as needed; if an athlete still has a uniform, it needs to be returned tomorrow.

## **FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE**

The following schedule will be followed: First exam - 8:25-9:55 (attendance at 8:20); second exam 10:15-11:45 (attendance in exam room at 10:10). If students are not taking an exam during one of the exam sessions, they are not required to be on campus.

**Wednesday, 23 May:** Exam #1: Social Studies; Exam #2: Foreign Language

**Thursday, 24 May:** Exam #1: Theology; Exam #2: Mathematics

**Friday, 25 May:** Exam #1: English; Exam #2: Science

The media center will be open for study sessions, as will teachers classrooms as they help students prepare for exams.

## **EXAM EXEMPTIONS**

*We presented this at the Parent Meeting on Monday, and discussed with students on Tuesday. Please call me with questions on this.*

Earlier this semester, a committee formed by the executive student council approached the school administration with a proposal to address a concern they had. They saw that final exam time had become an almost destructive time, especially for students at the top end of the grading spectrum. Given all the activities of the school, and the challenging nature of the kind of final exams given at JP II, students were not able to fully achieve success in reasonable ways. They were asking for help and direction, but specifically in the area of exam exemptions.

The group was asked to research what other schools do, and found some variety of difference in exemption policies. Most schools only had senior second semester exemptions, but a few had more extensive plans. (We are not addressing what public schools offer in terms of exemptions, as those are usually very wide and open, and based only on attendance.) After meeting with students and addressing what we see as the many options, we have decided to pilot a plan to allow all students to exempt one final exam this spring. Our goal is to compare exam results, both anecdotally and statistically, to see if this gives us better results. Final exams are an important part of a college preparatory environment, and especially the stress and strain that that forces on young persons. They need to be stretched in order to grow. However, we hope that this allows for greater productivity and even better results.

Students will receive a form on Friday, and have to return it to Dr. Kenney or Mr. Iliff by the end of the day on Monday. Teachers will have nearly final grade for the quarter by Monday, so that students will know their grades. For the class with the exempted exam, the semester grade will be the average of the two quarter grades.



## **NEW FACULTY INTRODUCTIONS**

We are pleased to announce three new faculty members for the 2012-13 school year on the academic side. Last week, we introduced Dr. Jacob Friesenhahn, Martha Sweeney, and Dr. Alyssa Robson. This week, we are pleased to introduce:

- **Mrs. Amy Thomson:** Mrs. Thomson will be teaching English for us, and is currently teaching at Lee High School. She is excited about teaching in a Catholic environment, and in a high performing school. She is a Trinity University graduate in English, and also earned a Master's in Teaching from Trinity. She is an expert in curriculum writing, and we will be excited to have her join Mrs. Patillo in growing young writers.

*There are more staffing needs to be filled, of course, and during the coming week, we plan to have more to share with families.*



## **MONTHLY PARENT NIGHT HANDOUTS**

For those sophomore parents who were unable to attend this week's parent meeting, Mrs. Strickland has a large packet for all of them that will be send home with students. Please look it over, and plan to attend the first parent meeting of the school year in 2012-13 at which we will review all of this material (in a shorter form, but enough). Know that all sophomore families have the task over the next fifteen months to research, tour, pray, and decide on a list of five colleges to which their young person will apply when they are seniors. Further, in the second semester of junior year, all juniors will begin taking college entrance exams (ACT, SAT). The packet has a lot of information to help in this process.



## **DEBATE CAMP**

We are introducing debate to JPICHS next year, and to that end, we are planning a debate camp as a part of our summer offerings. This will allow students who are interested in debate to get some great preparation, and allow us that extra time to grow the program. We are planning for 25-29 June, in the afternoon, from 1-4 p.m. Mrs. Hansen, one of our new parents, has experience in debate and will be our moderator. On Friday, 29 June, we will have a Lincoln-Douglas Debate at the close of the camp; parents and students are invited. We will begin that Friday with Mass at noon in our chapel down the main hallway.



## **CHAPEL!**

Have you stopped by the main wing of the school lately? We have completed much of the room, (hanging saint icons, installing the tabernacle) that we are using as a chapel/prayer space; it is room 408. We will be calling it St. Michael's Chapel; stop by for a quiet place to pray and reflect.



## **GUARDIAN PARENT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Thanks to Steve Van Sciver (President), Amy Glatt (Treasurer), Mary Jane Gagnon (Secretary) who have stepped forward to serve on the Guardian Parent Executive Board for 2012-2013. We are in need of two more individuals to serve: Vice President and Member-at-Large. Please let Mr. Iliff or Mrs. Berger if you are interested in serving.



## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Our thanks to John Torrez, Lee Bailey, and Audrey Curry for stepping forward to serve on this important group. Given that there are three open positions, and three members interested, we do not feel the need to send out ballots.