

John Paul II Center for Special Learning
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Email Request

We at John Paul II Center would like to keep you informed of the special happenings here at our school. To help us with this endeavor, we are requesting your email address. We respect your privacy and will only contact you with information that may interest you. To submit your e-mail address, please contact us at 610-777-0605 or visit us online at www.JohnPaulIICenter.org.

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**Official Publication of
 John Paul II Center for Special Learning**
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This newsletter is published for friends of John Paul II Center. If you have any questions regarding any of the information in this publication, please contact Becky Burton, Director of Advancement, at 610-777-0605 or bburton@johnpauliicenter.org via email.

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John Paul II Center
for special learning

Diocese of Allentown

Guiding Hands to the Future

Fall 2011

First Legacy Gala a Total Success!

On March 19th the first Legacy Gala was held to celebrate the many accomplishments of the students of the John Paul II Center. Over 400 people joined in the evening's festivities at Stokesay Castle. The evening began with the inaugural performance of the school's Tone Chime Choir followed by the invocation by Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Allentown.



The evening was highlighted by the presentation of the first annual Halo Award. This award, which recognizes members of the community who embody the spirit of the John Paul II Center and who work to ensure its legacy, was presented to Jack Horrigan, and his late wife, Peggy, for their support of the school and students. Both Jack and Peggy have served as tireless volunteers for our school for many years. To conclude the events of the night, a live auction was conducted by Dick Henry.

Not only was the evening enjoyed by many students, families and friends of John Paul II, but proceeds of \$45,000, were raised to support the school and its mission. We wish to thank our major sponsors for their financial support, the committee members for their time and dedication, and all of those who

attended. Because of you, students at John Paul II will be able to continue to develop their talents and reach their God-given potential.

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Congratulations Graduates!



The 2011 graduates, Katie White and Logan Rhoads graduated from JPII on June 6, 2011. It was a beautiful night mass. Mrs. Lloyd worked with all the students to create stars for each of the graduates as a blessed send off into life after graduation. The multipurpose room was transformed into an amazing setting. Katie and Logan each wrote a prayer to thank God for all their many blessings that they were able to read at the mass.

Our Mission

To provide a quality individualized academic, social and religious program for children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities or related special education needs in a safe, nurturing, Christian environment that acknowledges the dignity of all learners while challenging them on a daily basis to develop their talents and reach their God-given potential.

From our principal . . .

Dear Friends,

Over the years as a school community we have picked a theme or area of focus for the school year. This year our focus is an Attitude of Gratitude. We have so much to be thankful for and take many things for granted. We are often not appreciative or reflective of the many things we have, how/ where we live and who we have in our lives. The list is endless. We, the staff and students want to be more aware of the many gifts that have been bestowed upon us and make a more conscious effort to be thankful for our blessing.

Every day at dismissal the students assemble for prayers. This year we've added a gratitude component. Every class is to bring a handprint (made out of construction paper) with something written that they're grateful for that day. We read them aloud. We then place the handprints on our multi-purpose room wall. By the end of the year we will have over 1000 colorful handprints displayed. The one catch, we'll try not to repeat any of the things we're thankful for. We can't begin to count our many blessings. It can be from the simplest and smallest thing to something that can't be measured. When your attitude changes, everything changes, your outlook is so much more positive and life is better. Every week we shall see our wall grow. We invite you to come and read our hands of gratitude. You're welcome to add a handprint of your own.

We are also hosting an Attitude of Gratitude Reception here at John Paul II on Nov. 10th. During this season of Thanksgiving we want to extend an invitation to anyone who has supported us in any way. An evening to see our beautiful school, share some refreshments and meet our students and staff. We won't hold you too long, just enough to share our attitude of gratitude.

Yours in Christ,
Mary Adams



First Communion



Liz Miley recently received her First Communion at Immaculate Conception Church.

Busy May for Secondary Students

The students in Mrs. Berkhammer's Secondary Class were very busy at the beginning of May. On May 5th, they all boarded a bus and headed to Harrisburg. Once there, they were met by State Representative Dante Santoni and enjoyed lunch provided by Senator Judy Schwank. After a personalized tour of the Capitol, they visited the State Museum and toured the Governor's Mansion. From there they headed to Hershey to see Chocolate World and hear the Hershey Story. All of the students and faculty who went had an amazing day! This trip was made possible through the proceeds of the Secondary Class' Hoagie Sale. Special thanks go to Mike Boylan and Berks Packing Company for donating all of the lunch meats used in the hoagies.



The following evening the students celebrated with the Annual Spring Dance! This is always a fun time for JPII Alumni, staff and students over the age of 14. This year's theme was Hollywood's Red Carpet. A special thank you to Alvernia's CEC for setting up, providing the food, decorations and DJ for the evening. Each student danced, ate and even received a memorable picture holding an award statue on the red carpet, which was taken by the paparazzi! The Spring Dance is an event that everyone looks forward to and no one was disappointed this year; a good time was had by one and all!

Donations honoring a loved one

Donations to John Paul II Center for Special Learning can be made "In Memory Of" a loved one, or "In Honor Of" someone special. If you wish to make such a donation, we will send acknowledgement to both the donor, and to the family of the deceased, or to the honoree (provided you send us the information) to let them know a special gift was made in their name to our school.

IN MEMORIAM

On September 19, 2011 we lost one of our most dedicated volunteers. Josephine Chelius was called to heaven to be with the Lord. Jo has been a member of our school family for almost the entire existence of the school. Jo was first recruited by Sr. Francis Bisland to assist in the school office. She then eventually became our librarian and assisted the students with picking out books, reading to them and maintaining the library. Jo was a faithful weekly volunteer. She supported and attended all of our activities. Jo's faith & dedication is something we can all aspire to. She gave so selflessly to others less fortunate. We will truly miss her smiling face and generous heart.

2010-11 Donor Report

Continued from page 8

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Guiding Hands Annual Fund

This campaign provides an opportunity for donors to give to John Paul II Center for Special Learning on an annual basis. The campaign takes place during our fiscal year; July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012. Solicitations for the Guiding Hands Fund are made by direct mail which will be sent out in late November. Donations received from our annual fund are unrestricted funds and will be used for current operations and to support the mission of the John Paul II Center. We will acknowledge all donations in the Summer 2012 newsletter.

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Walk-A-Thon for Catholic Education

On Sunday, October 16th, students and families from JPPII participated in the annual Walk-A-Thon for Catholic Education held at Alvernia University. Blue skies and sunshine were present as our walkers joined in with those from Immaculate Conception, St. Catharine's, St. Ignatius, St.



Rachel Sensenig with her parents, Rheta & Larry along with parent, Daniel Adam.

Peter's, St. Margaret's and LaSalle. The course wound around the streets surrounding Alvernia and through Angelica Park. To date over \$5000 has been raised to support our Boosters, with monies still coming in. If you missed the opportunity to donate to this year's Walk-A-Thon, you may still do so by contacting the school.

New Face at JPPII!

As of September, Becky Burton took over as the new Director of Advancement for JPPII. The Director of Advancement is responsible for coordinating all of the fund raising efforts for the school, in conjunction with the Advisory Board. Becky will work closely



with the many dedicated volunteers that serve on our Advisory Board, Marketing Committee, Legacy Gala Committee and the Boosters. Prior to coming to JPPII, she was employed at Opportunity House as their Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator.

Becky and her husband Jim are natives of Michigan but have lived in Berks County since 1983. They have three daughters; two work and live in Washington DC and the youngest is a senior at Gettysburg College. If you are at school, please stop in the office to the right of the main entrance and say hello. To get in touch with Becky for any reason, please contact her at bburton@johnpauliicenter.org

Save the Date

- November 10, 2011
Attitude of Gratitude Reception
5:30-7 p.m., John Paul II Center
RSVP by November 3
- December 10, 2011
Bills Khakis Warehouse Sale
- December 20, 2011
Christmas Program
- January 29, 2012 – February 4, 2012
Catholic Schools Week
- 2nd Annual Legacy Gala
Presented by VIST Financial
Saturday, March 31, 2012
Stokesay Castle
Presentation of Halo Award to
Rev. Msgr. James A. Treston
Visit our Website for more details

Congratulations to Lisa Stroud!

Lisa was a 2009 graduate of John Paul II and this past August, she graduated from the Hiram G Andrews Center, which offers quality, individualized post-secondary education in conjunction with the Commonwealth Technical Institute in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. She is the first student from JPPII to complete the program and graduate. Lisa got her degree in Culinary Arts and is currently looking for a job in her field and volunteering at JPPII NH program.

Congratulations Lisa! We are all so proud of you!!!!

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The 2010-11 annual giving campaign for our school, The Guiding Hands Campaign was a big success, as we received over \$45,000 in donations. Thank you to the Gallante Family for serving as our "ambassadors" and reaching out to our community of supporters through their heartfelt appeal letter.

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