

Summer 2014



# CONNECTIONS

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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Kids' Fall Outgrown Sale**  
September 20th | 9am-12pm

**Ice Cream Social**  
September 26th | 6- 8pm

**Fall Open House & Tours**  
November 2nd | 12-2pm

**Silent Auction & Restaurant Fair**  
November 8th | 6pm

**Senior Citizens Christmas Concert**  
December 12th | 1:15pm

**Winter Open House, Tours and  
Scholastic Book Fair**  
Catholic Schools Week Begins  
January 25th | 12-2pm

**Kids' Spring Outgrown Sale**  
TBD

**Dash For Cash**  
April 28th (Tent.)

**Scholarship Fund Golf Outing**  
May 7th | 9am  
Coatesville Country Club

**Family Fun Festival**  
May 15th (Tent.)

### Faith Events:

**Living Rosary** - October 7th

**Thanksgiving Service** - November 25th

**May Procession** - May 21st, 2015

## PJP II Commemorates Canonizations

The Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School community celebrated a special mass at St. Peter Church in West Brandywine to honor the recent canonizations of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II, the school's patron saint. Rev. Michael J. Fitzpatrick served as primary celebrant assisted by concelebrants: Rev. Thomas J. Brennan, Rev. Francis J. Mulranen and Rev. John V. Oulds. Thirty three students took part in the music ministry for the mass which was led by Music teacher Patricia Lutz.

At the close of mass, the Pre K and Kindergarten students processed into the Church followed by the President and Vice President of Student Council who enthroned the picture of St. John Paul II to mark this historic event. As the enthroning took place, the student body sang the school hymn "Crossing the Threshold of Hope" written by, retired music teacher, Pat Lamb. The refrain "*John Paul II, we love you*" was repeated throughout the song.



*Surrounding the student choir are faculty and school administrators (l to r): Patricia Lutz (Music Teacher), Sr. Beverly Pellegrino, IHM (Vice Principal), Sr. Anne B. McGuire, IHM (Principal) and Sr. Marianne Evans, IHM (World Language Monitor).*



**POPE JOHN PAUL II**  
Regional Catholic Elementary School  
GROWING IN FAITH. LEARNING FOR TOMORROW

2875 MANOR ROAD, WEST BRANDYWINE, PA 19320 | [WWW.POPEJOHNPAL2SCH.ORG](http://WWW.POPEJOHNPAL2SCH.ORG)

## Finishing the Dream Campaign Begins

Steady enrollment growth has presented the school with an exciting opportunity to welcome new families desiring a Catholic education. The school was recently granted approval to launch a marketing campaign to finish the top floor (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) of the school. The school's advisory council has been assisting Sr. Anne with the project which is anticipated to be finished by the opening of the 2015-16 school year.

When completed, the top floor will contain six classrooms for the seventh and eighth grade students in addition to an art/music room available to the entire student body. The top floor classrooms will be outfitted with lockers instead of cubbies to give the feel of a "junior high." This project will also open up opportunities on the ground and second floor including: expansion of the Pre-K program, a resource room to aid children with learning differences, the re-establishment of the world language room and an art/science room equipped for the younger children.

The campaign goal has been set at \$1.0 million. All fundraisers including the new "*Finishing the Dream*" Raffle (further details below) will be earmarked for the top floor project. Various sponsorship levels and gift designations are also available. If interested, please contact the Development office for more information.

## Annual Auction & Restaurant Fair

Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic Elementary School is pleased to announce the 16th Annual Silent Auction and Restaurant Fair, "*Raising the Roof, Finishing the Dream*", to be held on Saturday, November 8th, 2014 at 6 pm. The excitement and energy associated with Pope John Paul II will once again be demonstrated at a Western Hoedown- themed Silent Auction and Restaurant Fair. The event consists of raffles, hundreds of silent auction items, wine pull, live auction and food and beverage offerings from local restaurants. Proceeds from the Silent Auction will go directly to the completion of the school's second floor. In addition to being one of the school's largest and most important fundraising opportunities, the Silent Auction is the school's largest volunteer effort and biggest social occasion of the year. Parental and community support of the event is critical to its success. Tickets are \$20 per person/\$25 at the door and will go on sale this September.

During this year's Silent Auction and Restaurant Fair, over \$25,000 in cash and tuition credit prizes (17 prizes in all) will be paid out to winners of the "*Finishing the Dream*" raffle drawing. Tickets are \$100 each and only 1000 tickets will be sold making the odds of winning very high. The raffle is open to anyone over the age of 18 years. Please stop by the school office or visit the school website to download a ticket order form. All tickets must be purchased by October 17<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for the drawing on November 8th.

### Alumni Profile



Ed Fitzpatrick, Class of 1999, with his family

Ed Fitzpatrick graduated from Coatesville Catholic in 1999. After graduating from Bishop Shanahan in 2003, Ed attended La Salle University in Philadelphia where he earned his BA in Communications and his MA in Theology and Ministry. Ed is currently the Assistant Director of University Ministry and Service at La Salle University, helping coordinate on a weekly basis all of the community service programs, retreats and prayer services for more than twenty groups of 600 students. Prior to joining the staff at La Salle, Ed was a Theology teacher in Virginia for 3 years.

Ed's fondest memories of grade school include playing soccer, basketball and baseball and going to school in three different buildings, making it "truly a unique and great experience." "Catholic education has been everything to me. My faith has guided my life, and the education I received allowed me to ask questions, learn about the basics of faith and come to my own conclusions about what I believe in. My deepened faith turned into a professional career. Coatesville Catholic gave me a foundation in a tight knit community that allowed me to not be timid or shy about getting involved and speaking about my faith."

Ed resides locally with his wonderful wife Suzy and their three beautiful children, Declan (4), Maggie (2) and Eleanor (2 weeks). Ed spends most of his free time playing with his kids in the backyard. "Pretending to be Ninja turtles is an exciting activity these days for my son and I."

### Campus Minister Joins Staff

Over the past two years, the school's Catholic Identity committee has been working to find an individual to serve as Campus Minister. This September, the school will welcome Sister Mary Jane Bransfield, IHM as the school's Campus Minister. Sister Mary Jane's primary responsibility will be to pass on the traditions and dogmas of the Catholic faith to teachers, students and parents in the school community. She will also serve as liaison to the DRE's of the school's affiliated parishes. In addition to working as a pediatric nurse, Sister Mary Jane brings to PJP II a variety of skills and experiences. She was a teacher early in her career, studied theology at St. Charles seminary and also served as a Spiritual Director for adults. Welcome Sister Mary Jane!





## PJP II Graduates Class of 2014



Fifty-four students graduated on June 3<sup>rd</sup> during a mass at St. Peter Church in West Brandywine. The theme for this year's Eucharistic Celebration and Commencement Ceremony was *"You are the Light of the World"*. Reverend Michael Fitzpatrick, pastor of St. Peter Church, was the primary Celebrant. Students were awarded over \$20,000 in scholarship money for secondary education. Scholarship recipients included: Kasey Pitcher, John Bach, Joseph Fullam, Bryn Casagrande, Shimon Hilton, Anna O'Brien,

Mark Gomba, John Byler, Kevin Jones, Leo Kopec, Doulas Vasko, Simon Blanchard and Samuel Johnson.

As a tribute to the school, the Class of 2014 presented Sr. Anne with an "alumni" gift, a prayer banner for the school gym. Both students and athletes will have an opportunity to recite the prayer at the beginning of their athletic competitions and activities. In addition, this year's graduating class dedicated an engraved paver at the school's front entrance and made a donation to the school Library.

## Long Time Friends Retire

Long time friends, volunteers and co-workers for over thirty years, Mary Lou Callahan and Ellen Doyle recently announced their retirement. Mary Lou answered the call in 1982 when Sr. Leo Mary, then Principal at Coatesville Catholic, was looking for someone to help teach keyboarding to the younger students. "It wasn't an actual keyboard...it was a piece of paper with a picture of a keyboard. At the time, there were only enough computers for the older students," she said. Mary Lou also volunteered in Mrs. Fuller's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class, helped with Pizza Fridays and assisted in the office building a student database, an innovative concept at the time. When the school Secretary retired in 1989, Mary Lou was hired as her replacement on a full-time basis. Mary Lou and her husband John have three children, Julie, Amy and John, all graduates of Coatesville Catholic and six grandchildren. After retirement, Mary Lou hopes to spend more time with her grandchildren, travel and take some art classes.

Ellen volunteered at Coatesville Catholic from 1973 to 1985, serving as President and Vice President of the Home & School Board and Cheerleading coach. In 1991 she became the school's Athletic Director and also

served as the Regional Athletic Director for Chester County. After a brief time away from the school, Ellen returned in 1999 to work as a Kindergarten Aide in Mrs. Donovan's class and held that position ever since. Many parents know Ellen as the "force" supervising the car line at drop off and pick up. One innocent parent once asked her, "Have you ever worked as a cop?" For the past five years, Ellen and her car line team of creative co-workers have been entertaining families throughout the school year, dressing up for holidays and historic events. Some of Ellen's favorite car line costumes include the Pope and Philly Phanatic. Ellen and her husband James have three daughters, Bernadette, Maureen and Tricia, all graduates of Coatesville Catholic and eight grandchildren. A golf enthusiast, Ellen hopes to spend more time on the golf course. The PJP II school community thanks Mary Lou and Ellen for their tireless and dedicated years of service and wishes both women the very best in their retirement.

Mrs. Helen Last will join the staff as the school's new office administrator while Mrs. Tomi Pezone will join the faculty in September as a Kindergarten Aide. Welcome Mrs. Last and Mrs. Pezone!





**CONNECTIONS**

For alumni, parents and friends of PJP II School.  
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PJP II Office of Development

Pope John Paul II Regional Catholic  
Elementary School  
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610.384.5961 | www.popejohnpaul2sch.org

Sr. Anne B. McGuire, IHM Principal  
Maria Samson, Development Director

Text PJP2 to 22828 to subscribe to the  
Connections e-Newsletter

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION AND RESTAURANT FAIR**

**Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 6pm**

GRAB YOUR WESTERN GEAR AND HEAD ON DOWN TO THE PJP II RANCH FOR A HOEDOWN OF A GOOD TIME!

TICKETS ARE \$20PP AND INCLUDE ENTRANCE TO THE AUCTION, BID NUMBER, AND UNLIMITED FOOD AND DRINK.

\*Please enclose form below with payment\*

Mail to: PJP II at 2875 Manor Ave, West Brandywine, PA 19320  
Attn: Auction Ticket Sales



YES, PLEASE SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ TICKETS @ \$20 PP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PJP II

