

# Connect with JP2!

## **JPII Parent Partnership Council 11/7/23 Meeting Notes**

Thank you again for attending the Parent Partnership Council meeting or reaching out if you weren't able to attend. As we went around the room to introduce ourselves the common theme seemed to be that parents want to help grow the sense of community among JP2 families and I was so happy to see our energy and hear ideas and feedback as we start to build more opportunities for that!

The meeting started off with an update from Head of School Phil VanDenBrink on lots of exciting news at JP2!

- There was a generous donation that allowed for the purchase and demolition of 94 Pine St -a property neighboring our school. The demolition will remove an eyesore and beautify the area while options for future use are weighed.
- The lunch program is an important step closer to starting up thanks to another very generous donation by Robert B. Our of the grease tank and labor to install it.
- The after-school Lego and Tech/Engineering Clubs are up and running and the initial meetings were well attended thanks to volunteer facilitators including a former Business College dean who has experience using legos to teach business leaders strategic planning.
- The buses provided by last year's Gala Fund-a-Need have been getting a lot of use assisting with sports travel, the 5th grade field trip and bringing St. Pius students to Breakfast with the Lions to name a few.
- All great examples of what can be accomplished with our community and parent networks!

**Fall Fest update:** Despite rainy weather the Fall Fest was a great event at Naukabout. The 125 guests included over 25 alumni and provided an opportunity to introduce the leadership of the newly formed Alumni Network.

**JPII Spirit Events:** Many of the spirit events were well attended thanks to coaches encouraging their players to attend the spirit events for other teams. We would like to further promote these events among parents by encouraging parents to share via social media. Discussion will continue about the best way to offer parents more ways to purchase spirit wear whether at spirit events or through an online store.

- **Upcoming Spirit Event** - JP2 Performing Arts production of Clue - 11/17 & 11/18

### **Upcoming Events:**

- **Open House - 11/16** - prep division -5:00-6:30pm  
high school - 6:30-8:00pm

- Spread the word! I have attached a picture that can be shared on social media and please tell any friends/families that might be interested in JP2.
- Volunteers needed at both the prep division and high school - volunteers could be on student led tours and throughout the building to answer questions from a parent perspective.
- **Thanksgiving Mass - 11/19** - 5:30pm at Our Lady of Victory
  - We will be packing the food collected leading up to the mass on 11/17 - time tbd
  - Mass will be followed by pizza and fellowship in the parish hall.
  - [Click here to RSVP](#)
  - I have attached a screen shot of the email that can be shared.
- **Mother's Advent Mass - 12/21** - 6:00pm - JP2 Chapel
  - Pat Crofford volunteered to coordinate a group of dads to handle set up of light refreshments for after mass
- **Catholic Schools Week - January**
  - Watch for info on how we can plan a lunch or some other nice moments of appreciation for our faculty and staff

**Online Reviews:** One way for parents to help boost the JP2 online presence and exposure is to submit online reviews. Share why you love our school for new families exploring private school options! Below are links to the major review sites:

- Google: <https://g.page/r/CSOSDEN1V6l1EB0/review>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jpiihyannis/reviews>
- Private School Review: <https://www.privateschoolreview.com/st-john-paul-ii-high-school-profile/02601> review section is at the bottom of the page in the link above.
- Niche: <https://www.niche.com/k12/st-john-paul-ii-school-high-school-division-hyannis-ma/#reviews>

#### **Christian Service - Parent Leaders needed:**

- The Christian Service opportunities for Freshmen and Sophomores are usually led by members of the faculty and staff but there are more opportunities that could be offered if we had parent volunteers to supervise the students. These are mostly opportunities that are already organized, they just need supervision and are mostly around an hour time commitment. Examples include: parish cleanups, holiday cards, donor thank you letters
- Interested parents can contact Ms. Val to be notified of upcoming opportunities and I will share opportunities with this email list as they come up.

#### **Faculty & Staff Christmas Gifts:**

- Amy Kowal shared about a successful program at the Prep Division in which each class had a parent coordinator to email that class' parents about collecting for Christmas gifts. The money collected was then pooled to get gifts for all of the faculty and staff in the building. She would be willing to assist with this at the HS building. If you would be interested in being the point person for your child's grade please email her at [amykowal@comcast.net](mailto:amykowal@comcast.net).

### **Potential Winter/Spring Events:**

- Skating Party
- March Madness - 3/1 gym is reserved so we will be thinking of ideas for a fun community event to kick off a push for the Blue & Gold Annual Fund.
- Sip & Paint
- Lion ROAR Day
- If you are interested in spearheading or assisting with any of these events, let me know!

### **What should parents know more about at JP2?**

- I'd like to add a brief segment at future meetings for parents to learn more about all of the amazing things happening in the building at JP2. If there is anything you are curious about, let me know! I'll also be asking faculty and staff to let us know what they think parents should know more about.

As you can see we covered a lot at the meeting! To me, it speaks to how many wonderful things are happening at JP2 and the energy among parents to share in this great work! Thank you so much for joining in this partnership!

Sincerely,  
Kerry Lawson, P'23, '25  
kerryelawson@gmail.com