



## Volume 4 – Special September Issue

Although it is rare for me to have two newsletters in one month, I thought a newsletter would be more effective than one long letter covering a series of topics.

### **DRESS CODE AND DISCIPLINE CODE**

Although all families received the new John Paul II Academy Handbook on the first day of school, we continue to have students who are not following either the dress or discipline code.

#### **Uniforms:**

Girls are the greater offenders here – socks may be white, burgundy, dark green, and going forward, I have added gray. No other colors are acceptable including plaids, designs, or any other color.

Girls are NOT allowed to wear the chemise that “peeks out” from under uniform shirts UNLESS that garment is **the exact color of the shirt being worn that day**. Bright green is not hunter and none of our shirts are patterned in rosebuds or lace. When in doubt, please call me!

Boys need belts – and truthfully, if anyone has spare belts to donate, I will LEND them to the boys who forget their belts with their promise to return the belt at the end of the day. I purchased about a dozen belts last year that found “homes” somewhere else – Except for two small sizes, we have none. Boys must wear socks even on gym days. Golf socks are NOT acceptable.

#### **Gym Uniforms:**

Although no one is compelled to purchase gym uniforms from Aaron’s Ts, gym uniforms are not open to variations. Shorts are burgundy –not red, not black, not striped down the leg or anything else. The excuse that “nothing fits my child” or “he or she does not like it” will not be accepted – I just

purchased a pair of 2X gym shorts for a friend and know that the range of sizes fits nearly all – small and large alike.

#### **Discipline**

John Paul II Academy has a no tolerance policy for harassment, bullying, racial slurs, physical contact, and threats of any kind –spoken, written, or through gestures. Nor do we tolerate any look alike weapons or items that can pass for weapons. I take these issues very seriously.

Now that Boy Scout meetings (and Cub Scouts meetings) are taking place – and because members of both associations may wear their uniforms to school, please check that your son does not “by accident, intent or oversight” bring in a knife or tool that can be used as a weapon.

Please do not pack a knife for your child to use at lunch in cutting something you have packed him or her to eat.

IF AT ANY TIME your child should find an item in his or her possession that can be used as a weapon, instruct your child to bring that item to me immediately. I do believe in amnesty –

Thanks you in advance for your cooperation in the above matters.

#### **Speaking before Ones Brain Engages**

Daily, students appear in my office because they have been disrespectful – in truth, their mouths have opened before their brains have engaged. I am very sure that you receive the same treatment at times – It is my hope that by working together, we can make our students more aware of their responsibility to be

respectful to both you and us, and to their fellow students as well.

**Thanks in advance for your efforts in this area!**

### **TUITION**

Before the start of the 2010 – 2011 school year, each family received a contract asking them to select one of four methods to pay tuition. These were:

1. Full lump sum payment
2. Loan from the Credit Union for full payment
3. 2 payments – 15 July and 15 December
4. FACTS – an on-line electronic debit system that debits your saving or checking account to pay your tuition over 12, 11, 10, or 8 months.

**THERE WAS NO DIRECT PAYMENT PLAN TO JPII ACADEMY. You needed to choose one of the four options.**

A number of families selected the last option but have not yet signed on – I do not sign on for you. All that I do once you have set up your account is to fill in the tuition total and list any credits or financial help that you have received. **IF YOU HAVE NOT SET UP YOUR ACCOUNT, please call me before I have to call you. Accounts must be set up before October 1 which is FRIDAY.**

**For all families who have indicated that they are parishioners (and if you did not do that formally on your contract, please call me ASAP),** be advised that both pastors will be reviewing the list of parishioners and contacting you should they have no record of your enrollment in their parishes or contributions through the use of envelopes.

### **THESE SHOES ARE MADE FOR WALKING**

On Thursday or Friday, your child received an orange pedometer after the Cleveland Clinic's presentation about exercise and nutrition. Your child may wear his or her pedometer to school (I wear mine daily) because Mr. Wuhr is working with students in their PE classes to chart their improvement in being active.

Yes, there will be incentives, but we are going to be sure that students do not cheat. I have already caught students just shaking their pedometers to rack up steps rather than walking. The "management" has the right to remove a child from the incentive program for walking and tracking their steps for cheating.

IF YOU WISH TO JOIN US IN THIS AREA and NEED A PEDOMETER, please let me know. I will purchase cost effective pedometers and sell them to you at cost.

### **GOOD NEWS**

JPII Academy students have the opportunity to partner with Jennings in an Intergenerational Distance Learning Experience. Jennings and JPII Academy will be working together at the Jennings facility to use technology to video-conference with art experts and museum docents about the great paintings and styles of artwork in the United States as well as in other countries.

Through the use of an IP line, we will connect to a museum via phone and computer. It is instant teaching and learning where both groups -- the individual at the museum and the students and older adults in the presentation room can not only see and hear but can be seen and heard. Students can ask questions and be seen and heard by the presenter instantaneously!!!

For example -- we can visit the Metropolitan Museum in New York City and learn about -- see -- focus on -- and visit any room or area that the docent / instructor is presenting. Imagine seeing Monet's Water Lilies up close (well, we would have to go to the Art Museum in Worcester, MA for that one) -- seeing the detail in a Renoir -- or visiting the Egyptian exhibit and seeing a 5,000 year old alabaster vase.

The initiative is in the far-planning stage -- I hope to have the PTU do their October meeting at Jennings just to see the equipment and experience what I did and what our students will experience in late fall.

Imagine the cost savings in doing a field trip via an actual hook-up. Who could afford New York City? Or Chicago? Or the *Guggenheim Museum*?

Anyway, I will keep you in the loop as this initiative, and any others I can negotiate, go forward. For students, families, and schools who have limited funds to do anything cultural, this initiative will take our kids to places they only read about in art and music.