



## Upcoming Events

**March 12** – School council meeting, 7 p.m.  
**March 19** – Open House/Registration Night, 7:00 p.m.  
**March 22** – No classes  
**March 25 – 29** Spring Break  
**April 1** – Easter Monday, no classes  
**April 9** - R.E.A.L. Foundation presents Cooper Ray, 1:15 p.m. (See attached poster page 5)  
**April 12** – PD Day (no classes)  
**April 17, 18** – Parent/teacher Interviews

- Personalized learning plans

**John Paul II is currently accepting registrations for next year. Parents of students who are not already registered at the school should call Mr. Tonita, Principal, 780-992-0889, to make an appointment.**

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we enter the month of March, planning has commenced for the 2013-14 school year. On March 19<sup>th</sup> the school will hold a Registration Evening for new and prospective students. All grade 8's from Our Lady of Angels are invited to attend as well as other students who wish to take a look at John Paul II. Parents of existing students are also welcome to join us as we outline the programs and activities offered. In addition to a formal presentation about the benefits of a JP II Education, students will have an opportunity to tour the school, view many of our clubs and activities and take a look at our programs.

Come join us next fall. It is going to be a great year.

#### Why do Students Choose JP II?

- Warm, caring, Catholic environment
- Christ centred learning
- Wireless environment to support digital learners
- Small class sizes
- Leadership skills and opportunities
- Student retreats building a stronger community
- Dynamic and energetic staff
- Personal Contact – where every student matters
- Choices in teaching and learning formats – distance learning to supplement regular program
- Spirit of community volunteerism
- Strong CTS programs
- New Fitness Centre to support Personal Fitness Program
- Registered Apprenticeship Program with community partnerships

### Our Vision:

*John Paul II will be a place where we:*

- *Nurture students to become empowered for citizenship and service;*
- *Celebrate the special gifts of our students, encouraging them to pursue their passions;*
- *Awaken the brilliance that lies within each student;*
- *Engage students to become active learners;*
- *Nurture students as caring individuals;*
- *Challenge students to develop a personal relationship with Christ;*
- *Encourage students to adopt and maintain a healthy mind, body and spirit.*



### Our Mission:

*We are a Catholic community committed to developing educational opportunities in the context of Gospel values, where students'*

*gifts and talents are celebrated and nurtured  
through lifelong spiritual and personal  
experiences*



## Our Values:

*Respect*  
*Trust*  
*Responsibility*  
*Faith*  
*Courage*  
*Compassion*  
*Pride*  
*Service*  
*Forgiveness*  
**Knowledge**



After a highly successful first year, the AP program will expand in the fall. Students in grade 10 who have a passion for learning, who have demonstrated consistent, above average achievement, who have high levels of self-discipline and motivation and who are prepared to make a serious commitment to academic learning will find this program an exciting challenge. An outline of the program is attached to this month's newsletter.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are accelerated, enriched courses which provide extensive background preparation for the Alberta Diploma examinations at the grade 12 level. AP courses follow the regular Alberta Curriculum in preparing students to write Provincial Diploma Examinations. It is expected that courses will be developed using an Inquiry based model which supports differentiated instruction and current assessment practices.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. To prepare as many students as possible for optimum success at university.
2. To provide students with an enriched and challenging academic.
3. To develop and extend students' skills of acquiring, organizing and evaluating ideas and information.
4. To stimulate students' critical and creative thinking skills as well as divergent and abstract thinking abilities.
5. To nurture students' independence and autonomy in learning and communicating ideas.
6. To broaden students' experiences through structured interactions with experts from the community.

## PREREQUISITES FOR REGISTRATION

Because of the rigorous nature of the courses, students considering this program should:

- have demonstrated consistent above average achievement in their academic subjects.
- have demonstrated high levels of self-discipline and motivation.
- be prepared to make a commitment to serious academic learning.
- parental approval and admin authorization.
- a passion for learning

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAM  
EXPANDS**

## PROGRAM OUTLINE

1. Content in AP classes is delivered at an accelerated pace to parallel and expand upon regular courses.
2. Evaluation of Alberta curriculum in these courses parallels that of regular classes. This enables students in AP courses to equally qualify for Rutherford scholarships and to have comparative in-school marks to those they would receive in a regular class.
3. Upon completion of senior level courses, students receive a separate evaluation and report regarding their achievement on AP curricula by writing Advanced Placement exams prepared and graded by the College Board, in Princeton, New Jersey.
4. AP provides enrichment in English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, Biology, Chemistry and, Physics. The program will be offered in those subjects where registrations warrant scheduling a class.
5. A distinct advantage of the AP program is flexibility. A student may enroll in one, some, or all AP courses at the grade 11 and 12 level though at the grade 10 level students are encouraged to register in the four core subjects as part of a cohort group.
6. Students are not required to schedule additional time to complete AP courses which leaves room for complementary courses of their choice.
7. Additional courses will be offered at the grade 11 level in World History and in grade 12 in Math 31AP Calculus to prepare students for pertinent AP exams.
8. Students registering in AP courses may obtain credit and/or Advanced Placement in major Canadian and American universities. Recognition is given for marks of 3 or higher out of a possible 5 on AP exams. Students may use the higher grade of either their AP or 30 level class mark when applying to post-secondary institutions such as the University of Alberta.
9. Full AP students have access to university scholarships unavailable to students in regular courses.

#### **BENEFITS OF THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM**

1. An academic classroom environment
2. Greater opportunity for challenge and enrichment
3. Equivalent university credit
4. Advanced standing, credit and placement
5. More in depth Diploma Exam preparation

6. International recognition and acceptance
7. Explore the world from a variety of perspectives
8. Study subjects in greater depth and detail
9. Increased opportunity for scholarships and awards
10. Experience learning opportunities outside the traditional classroom setting

#### **GRAD 2013**

Graduation Banquet will be Saturday, May 11 at 5 pm.

Tickets will be sold on-line this year from April 17 to April 26. More information to follow.



The Grad mass will be on June 28 at 5 p.m. followed by commencement exercises at the Shell Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Please check our website for more newsletters and the graduation information under the Academics & Programs tab.

#### **Salt and Light - Lenten Reflection –**

Here we are, nearly in the middle of Lent. We know that Lenten observance is about fasting, prayer, and almsgiving and that these things are good for us spiritually and often physically. However, it can be very easy to make your Lenten sacrifice something you “just do” rather than a spiritual practice that actually changes your heart and brings you closer to God. In one sense, Nike got it right with their “just do it” slogan. There is an element of our Lenten observance that just has to be done. Giving up (fasting from) something for Lent is not fun. We resist it. So we sometimes just have to bear down and do it. This often leads us into a place where we can be open to grow spiritually from doing a Lenten observance. The same goes with charity - sometimes it is difficult to give, as we can often be selfish people. Yet we know if we just give – even when it hurts – we receive and grow. Finally, it can often be difficult to pray in our busy and noisy world. It can be a challenge to find the time and space to pray – and then once we find it, our mind wants to race back to other things we have to do. Herein is the beauty of “just doing” prayer. Sometimes it might take a well-known prayer or something like the rosary that we can “do”. This can get us in the habit of prayer – and give God “room to work”, allowing our prayer time to blossom and become more a prayer of the heart than a task. What I love about Lent is that it gives us a target – something to do – that if we heed the call, we open ourselves up to the God who is always ready to pour out his love and grace on us. It isn’t too late to heed the call of Lent. So, this Lent, use



March 8, 2013

a bit of Nike wisdom. "Just do it". You might be surprised what God has in store for you!

Lenten blessings,

Mr. Scott Walker, School Chaplain

*This Lent, pray fervently, fast wisely, love strongly!*

### SKI TRIP

A group of our students were fortunate at the beginning of term 2 to go on a ski trip to Banff and Lake Louise. Everyone enjoyed the experience.



### DRAMA CLUB



The drama club will be held **after school March 5th until June 13<sup>th</sup>, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 - 4:15.**

Drama Club is for students who are dedicated and driven to improve and hone their acting skills. Being a part of the theatre is a great way to meet new people, take risks and grow. I promise you this process is highly worth it and a lot of fun. As you will learn throughout the year, there are a number of roles in a production: actors, publicity, lighting designers, set designers, sound crew, light crew, etc. Please talk to Ms. Jenkins if you would like to be a part of this exciting drama opportunity.

### JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SEMESTER 2

#### PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Sessions will be conducted in the John Paul II  
Gymnasium

April 17, 18, 2013

6:00 – 8:30 each evening

Student report cards will **not** be distributed in advance. Report cards must be picked up in the gym on April 17 or April 18. All parents and students are encouraged to attend interviews.

*We look forward for the opportunity to work together  
for success.*

For further information, please call 780-992-0889.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

There will be a school council meeting on March 12 at 7:00 in the staff room. Mr. Gerald Mykytiuk will be attending to explain how changes in our school district will affect the Fort Saskatchewan schools. All parents/guardians are very welcome to attend.

### JAPANESE STUDENTS

Dear parents,

On April 12-26, 155 students from Japan are coming to Edmonton. The students are billeted with local families in the schools that are part of the Edmonton-Yamate Exchange. I am the co-chair for this committee and we are in need of host families. The students would live in your home as a member of your family.

In their two weeks in Edmonton, the Japanese students will get a range of experiences. They will get to WEM, Fort Edmonton, and YoWoChAs. They will spend 6 days in school at JP II with their billets. We have a variety of activities for them to participate in. In addition, they will present an Evening of Culture to your whole family, get to a Much Music Dance party with their billets, and much more.

The experience of sharing your Canadian life with a 16 year old Japanese student would be an event you won't forget.

I am therefore asking, would you be able to offer room for a pair of girls or boys? The boys would need separate beds, the girls are okay sharing. They do not need

March 8, 2013

palatial surroundings, but rather a family who is willing to embrace them. We need host families for 2 pairs of girls, 1 single girl, & 3 pairs of boys.

I am free to talk to you about is, so please call Elaan Zaleschuk at [\(780\)992-0889](tel:7809920889). I am free to chat between 12:04-3:00 every day.

Arigato!

5

## Senior Boys Basketball

The senior boys basketball team's season is wrapping up in a couple weeks. The boys won their first playoff game against Sal 85-81, then lost to JH Picard 91-64. The guys will be competing in zones this week. They host Christ the King at home on Monday, with the winner heading to SCA on Wednesday. Good luck boys the rest of the way!

## Cooper Ray



Cooper Ray is a dynamic and light-hearted speaker and musician who shares his faith with honesty and passion. Through story, humor, and audience participation, Cooper leads groups of all ages to a greater awareness of who they are as Catholic Christians and how to recognize God's presence in their lives.

He has entertained, motivated, and inspired youth and adults at Proud 2B Catholic Music Festivals, Catholic Heart Workcamps, Abbey Youth Festival as well as at numerous diocesan, parish, and school events across the country.

Cooper has presented workshops at the National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministry and led music and emceed at catechetical sites at World Youth Day. His relevant message and crowd interaction can reach a teen all the way in the back row.

Cooper received his call to ministry while serving as a camp counselor at a Catholic summer camp during his college years. It was at camp where God ignited Cooper's love for music and knowledge of ministry and started him on a journey of drawing youth and adults to know and live the Gospel.

After six summers, he transitioned into diocesan ministry in Baton Rouge where he spent 10 years, including seven as the director of youth ministry. Soon after arriving in Baton Rouge, Cooper's speaking ministry took off and schools, parishes, and other dioceses began to invite him to share his stories, music, and life experiences.

After 16 years in formal ministry, he started the next phase in his journey, answering the call to go on the road full-time. Cooper has been a contemporary music liturgy director at his parish for the past seven years and recently released his first solo album, *Wake the Dawn*. He was a contributing writer for Josh Blakesley's "Our God is Good" and was featured on Steve Angrisano's album *Live: Songs from the Road*. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in pastoral studies.

Cooper lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with his wife Laura.

---