

# THE STEWARD

SUMMER 2023 | ISSUE NO. 14



# From Our Leadership



Dear Friends,

I am filled with gratitude as I look back on the last year and the fruits it will carry into our future.

We were blessed to complete our small chapel which now includes a tabernacle, allowing us to receive the gift of the real presence of the Blessed Sacrament on campus throughout the school year. We also had the opportunity to build upon the strong partnership foundation between JP II and Saint Martin's University as we move forward with the Arete: College in the High

School program. This year was also the ten-year anniversary of our first JP II graduation-leading to our first major alumni event (planned by alumni!) which joyfully took place earlier this summer.

You will notice in this edition of the Steward that we had some staffing changes this past year. Though goodbyes are always bittersweet, they also open the door for new community members to bless our beloved school. Please be sure to welcome our new staff members when you have the opportunity to meet them. They look forward to meeting you!

As we lean into positive change and growth in the year to come, I am reminded of Pope St. John Paul II's famous quote, "the future starts today, not tomorrow."

Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue to serve our community.

Blessings,

Therese Allin, Principal

## Board of Directors

JP II board members are dedicated to the mission and vision of the school and the students and families it serves. They play a vital role in developing school policy and cultivating support for the school in the greater community. Board members are appointed by the Archbishop of Seattle.

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*Ex-Officio Member:*  
Therese Allin, *Principal*

## Our Mission

To provide a Catholic secondary education within a challenging academic, spiritual and co-curricular environment that develops young men and women who are intellectually strong, spiritually alive and committed to service.

Dear JP II Families,



Having served on the board of directors for the past five years, I have had the privilege of witnessing outstanding growth and development in all areas of our school. This year, the beginning of my tenure as board chair, has been full of even more exciting updates and opportunities for JP II High School.

Personally, I think I am most excited for the Arete: College in the High School program and the many ways our students will benefit from these college credits.

I have four young children, ages three, five, seven, and eight, which means 10 years into the future, three of them will be attending JP II. The seeds we plant today through our collective faith, partnerships, and dedication to the mission, and vision of JP II High School will bear fruit for students for years to come.

Please pray for our staff, faculty, board members, and students, in particular those who will be new to us this year, that the coming school year will bring even more opportunities to grow and show the light and truth of Jesus to everyone we encounter.

In Christ,

Andrew Prentice, Board Chair



# JPII's First Alumni Seminarian

It is a joy to tell the story of JPII's first alumni seminarian, Robert Currall '19. Robert's vocational discernment began in middle school with retreats such as Quo Vadis Days and participation in gatherings at Saint Michael Parish in Olympia. JPII played a special role in his discernment process. "When I came to JPII, I really started to think more seriously about my faith, prayer, and what God was calling me to do with my life for Him."

After graduating from JPII, Robert attended Saint Martin's University where he majored in Theology and Religious studies. His education was invaluable to his vocational journey. After careful consideration, with the support of Rev. Justin Ryan, director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Seattle, Robert decided to apply for seminary. Archbishop Paul D. Etienne approved his application and he entered the Seminarian Formation Program at Mount Angel Seminary this year.

When reflecting on his path to seminary, Robert shared, "Out of all the things that JPII contributed to my development as a steward of light and truth, I would say the most influential thing was the strong emphasis on community and the ability to build relationships and faith that would last a lifetime."



*Robert with Archbishop Etienne at St. James Cathedral in Seattle, WA.*



## Ministry of Presence

Rev. Justin Ryan has become a familiar face at JPII. Whether he is saying Mass, hearing confessions, or simply chatting with students, his ministry of presence on campus and even at retreats has made him feel like a member of the JPII family. Father Ryan knows the importance of building relationships and has made it a priority to visit as often as his busy schedule permits. JPII is deeply grateful to Father Ryan for his commitment to its students.

## Disconnecting to Reconnect

Each year, juniors spend time away from campus to grow in community while on the Junior Retreat led by the Senior Class. For the first time since the pandemic, juniors and seniors experienced the retreat as a true getaway from the everyday, spending two nights and three days at the beautiful Camp Arnold in Eatonville. This time apart gave students the opportunity to truly disconnect from distractions and lean into the camaraderie and support of their friends and classmates. It is often on retreat that students uniquely encounter God's love for them and deepen a sense of community with their classmates. Junior Josh Haelle had just such an experience, "Seeing my classmates in that vulnerable space gave me a better understanding of the people around me which made me want to actually get to know them and get past the barriers I set up for myself."



*Junior Josh Haelle during a time of reflection on retreat.*

## Curating a Sacred Experience

Sophomore theology students stepped into the role of spiritual leaders for the school when they requested to coordinate and lead Stations of the Cross during Lent. This was a beautifully prayerful time with a special sense of reverence from each student in attendance. It was as if the sacred prayer was made more sacred by the curation of the experience by students for students.



*Sophomore Addie Hecht leads a section of the prayer.*

# Seeing the Person Through Extraordinary Service



Sophomore Luc Kondrat deeply understands the importance of service to others. This year alone, Luc has clocked over 100 service hours, exceeding JP II's 80 hour, four-year service requirement by more than 20 hours! The majority of these service hours were obtained at the men's shelters hosted at Sacred Heart Church and Saint Michael Parish. "There is such a stigma around homelessness. Many people are unable to see the humanity of these individuals. For my family and me, there isn't a stigma, we see the person. Being able to make meals and serve as an overnight host with my mom has given me the time and ability to form connections and relationships with shelter guests."

***"Many people are unable to see the humanity of these individuals. For my family and me, there isn't a stigma, we see the person."***

*- Luc Kondrat*

As impressive as Luc's sophomore service hours are, for Luc, they are just a beginning. "My realistic goal is 500 hours after four years. My stretch goal is 1000." When asked about these lofty goals, Luc said, "There is a shock value with that many hours that gets people's attention. They start to think about service and wonder if there is more that they can do." Service to the marginalized is a hallmark of the JP II culture Luc has beautifully exemplified. No doubt this outstanding example will stir many hearts to action.

## Community Service Snapshots



Last year's Annual Day of Service began in prayer together with Mass celebrated by Rev. Kyle Poje of Saint Michael Parish. After Mass, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parent volunteers were sent out in service to the community.



Annual traditions, the Chili and Tuna Challenges invite fun and friendly competition between grades, while providing food for those in need. This year, JP II donated 981 cans of chili and 756 cans of Tuna to All Kids Win.



During Lent, JP II students participated in Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Rice Bowl drive. This practice of giving Lenten alms through the CRS Rice Bowl is an opportunity for students to contribute financially to support those in need worldwide.



Each year, JP II seniors present their Theological Reflections to underclassmen and share the impact their 80+ hours of community service have had on their lives. They address Catholic Social Teaching and relate their experiences to scripture.

## Town Halls Build Community

Building a strong sense of community is a core focus for JP II because it is vital to the overall well-being and success of students. JP II faculty and staff recognized early in the year that there was a need to address and support the growing desire for connection, community inspiration, and positive affiliation in our school. The JP II Town Hall emerged as a way to accomplish this goal.

On a monthly basis, the entire school gathers in a community assembly to acknowledge accomplishments, share informational announcements, recognize birthdays and awards, hear a helpful and encouraging talk from a teacher or staff member, be inspired with a student reflection, have a little fun, and pray together. This opportunity for informal connection and celebration has been a wonderful addition to the Community Period curriculum and has increased a sense of belonging and engagement for all students.



*Town Hall begins with student led activities and laughter.*



# JPII Spring Sports Impress with State Championships and Sportsmanship

Sports are more than physical competitions and games played for fun and fitness. They are opportunities for young athletes to learn teamwork, sportsmanship, perseverance, and self-sacrifice. This spring, these qualities were displayed by JPII teams in some extraordinary ways. Each team entered postseason play with baseball and fastpitch sending teams to Districts and track & field sending 19 athletes to State.

Fastpitch athletes proved that they were just as competent in the classroom as on the field earning the Academic State Championship for the 1B classification. For the second consecutive year, fastpitch was honored by the Sea-Tac League with the Team Sportsmanship award. Wrapping up the fastpitch honors, head coach Anthony Herness was named Coach of the Year.

At the State track & field competition in Yakima, the Eagles once again drew the spotlight. Senior Catelin King entered the growing ranks of JPII State Champions with her win in the 1600 meters. Beyond this incredible accomplishment, 11 Eagles found themselves on the podium in 10 different events, culminating with the girls track & field team placing second among 1B schools statewide.



*The boys baseball team have fun rain or shine.*



*(Left) JPII fastpitch share a moment of camaraderie after a home game.*



*(Right) Eagle girls track & field celebrate their 2nd place title with the "Eagle" pose.*



## Drama Club Returns to the Stage

This spring, the Drama Club had their audience laughing out loud with the antics of *Oddballs*, a series of skits about, as the name implies, oddballs. Prior to the performance, Drama Club members Eliana Allin, Isabelle Friesz, Lauren Pardee, and Megan Roberts showed off their acting prowess with an improv game that involved inspiration from the audience. Assistant Principal Ann Ashe aptly described the first Drama Club production since 2019 when she said, "It was great fun to experience our students engaging their talent for drama and hearing the laughter of the audience."

## JPII by the Numbers 2022-2023

63%	GRADUATED WITH HONORS
89%	PARTICIPATED IN CO-CURRICULARS
38%	FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS
71%	ARE CATHOLIC
59%	RECEIVED TUITION ASSISTANCE

## Celebrating 10 Years

On Sunday, July 16th, JPII hosted its first graduate reunion. The reunion was open to all JPII alumni, their families, and special guests. Celebrating 10 years of graduating classes, this was a very special gathering. The day began with Mass celebrated by Rev. Justin Ryan. After Mass, guests enjoyed a fantastic picnic meal courtesy of the Marapao family, music, and games. Thank you to all those who attended. JPII looks forward to more reunions in the future!



## Arete: College in the High School Program

Beginning in 2023-24, JPIL High School will join in partnership with long-time supporters and colleagues at Saint Martin's University (SMU) to offer college credit at JPIL through the new Arete: College in the High School program. Arete is a philosophical concept in ancient Greek that means "excellence" linked with an individual's fulfillment of purpose; it is the act of living to one's full potential. In the 2023-24 school year JPIL will offer incoming seniors the opportunity to study Literary Foundations and earn four SMU semester credits.

***“We are so pleased to be able to offer the Arete program to our students who have proven time and again that they are ever willing to enter into new academic curriculums that challenge and engage them.” -Therese Allin, Principal***

As a college preparatory high school, offering college credit for students was a natural progression in JPIL's rigorous academic curriculum. Dr. Heather Wallace, a former professor at Duke University and JPIL's English teacher will instruct the course. When asked what she was most looking forward to regarding the program, Dr. Wallace said, "The Arete program is an exciting opportunity for me to teach the subjects I'm most passionate about in the specific area of my expertise. Our exploration of philosophy and literature will introduce students to Plato and allow them to make connections to modern literature. I anticipate great seminar conversations with our capable and thoughtful students."



*Dr. Wallace enjoys a conversation with students in her American Literature class.*

JPIL Principal Therese Allin looks forward with great anticipation to where the program will take students in the future. "We are so pleased to be able to offer the Arete program to our students who have proven time and again that they are ever willing to enter into new academic curriculums that challenge and engage them."

## Alumni Check-In: One Year Later



Hey Eagles! I've been enjoying life not too far away up in Seattle at the University of Washington, pursuing a civil engineering degree—and what a first year it's been. It hasn't been all rainbows (quite a bit of puddles actually) but, the community of the Newman center has given me a great foundation to build my freshman year on similar to the one I found at JPIL. I am constantly pushed toward both excellence and joy for life. One of my favorite memories is hiking and snowshoeing up a mountain with one of our Dominican priests, then making a snow altar and saying Mass at the top! Other than that I've been doing research and learning about embodied carbon with the Carbon Leadership Forum, along with mastering the kendama in my free time. Praying for you all always!

-Vivi Kondrat '22



My first year attending Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego has been incredible. I am most proud of my accomplishments and experiences as a member of the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC), such as earning several leadership positions in the unit, including being promoted to 4/C Commanding Officer. This summer I will complete training for my pilot's license. I know that JPIL gave me the skills needed to know how to hold my own in academic environments, whether that is knowing the language to use in academic discussions, or completing in-depth research assignments. The confidence I developed at JPIL set me up to have great experiences in and out of the classroom.

-Noah Ashe '22



# Celebrating the Class of 2023



*Class of 2023 dressed for College and Career Reveal Day. (Left to right) Daniel Bohlig, Samuel Rucker, Jasmine Stratford, Anthony Dizon, Connor Marapao, Ryan Christensen, Hannah Dagum, Nora Antles, Elena Valpiani, Lillian Hamilton Ulrich, Erica Logan, Luke Christensen, Yohan Skariah, David Evans, Genevieve Goldade, Munie Tran, Catherine Burnett, Natalie Fassnacht, Elizabeth Alba, Isabella Kondrat, Moriah Steinbrecher, Catelin King, Nathan Miller, Connor Camp*

On June 3, the JP II community gathered at Saint Michael Parish's downtown church for the commencement ceremony of 24 exceptional members of the Eagle family.

The Class of 2023 spent their high school years proving they were more than capable of excellence. As a class, they earned over \$4 million dollars in merit-based scholarships, including a 4-year Navy ROTC Marine option scholarship earned by Luke Christensen, as well as 4-year Air Force ROTC scholarships earned by Catelin King and Nathan Miller.

Beyond academic success, the Class of 2023 were servant leaders. Cumulatively, they logged over 2,000 hours of service to the marginalized in the community. Individually, eighty-three percent of the class earned more than 80 service hours over four years.

Anthony Dizon and Catelin King were recognized by the Sea-Tac League for their exemplary embodiment of placing others before self, each receiving the Bob Dowding Excellence Award. This award is conferred upon upperclassmen who compete in at least two sports, are honor roll students, and leaders who show their care of others on and off the field.

## What's Next?

Bates Technical College  
Biola University  
Eastern Washington University  
Florida Institute of Technology  
Franciscan University  
Georgetown University  
Green River College  
Houston Community College

Louisiana State University  
Rice University  
Saint Martin's University  
Seattle Pacific University  
Seattle University  
University of Notre Dame  
University of San Diego  
University of Washington  
Utah State University

It is easy to see why Principal Therese Allin simply and confidently recognized the giftedness of the Class of 2023 when she said, "I know that they will do wonderful things." Take a look at the "What's Next" box above to see where the 2023 Eagle graduates will land next fall.



## We Say Goodbye...

Goodbyes are never easy, especially when they are addressed to individuals who have become integral members of a family. With love and best wishes, JPIL says goodbye to the following staff and faculty members.



Theology teacher and campus minister, Mary Frances Brennan has been an instrumental member of the community since 2020. She willingly shared her knowledge of the Catholic faith with students and faculty. Mary Frances met students wherever they were on their journey of faith and helped lead many deeper into a relationship with Jesus.



After nine years of service, JPIL Business Manager, Monica Davis is stepping into her next season of life, retirement. Aside from her regular job duties that kept the school running smoothly, Monica found ways to actively engage with students- from co-establishing the beloved annual Groundhog Day celebration, to spending tireless hours supporting students in JPIL's very successful Future Business Leaders of America chapter.



Margarita Fox, science and math teacher at JPIL for two years, was a wonderful addition to the JPIL faculty. Brilliant but humble, Margarita had a way of easily connecting with those around her. Her vibrant and joyful outlook on life and compassionate teaching endeared her to staff and students alike and added a positive energy to the school culture.



John Grossman helped JPIL grow in leaps and bounds in his nearly two year tenure as Director of Advancement. His magnetic personality and drive for excellence made him a well-known and beloved member of the community.



In the year she was with JPIL in the Development Associate role, Heather Salvador streamlined events and donation record management. Her work lifted JPIL events and donor experiences to new levels of excellence.

***“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”***

*-Jeremiah 29:11*

## ...And We Say Hello

Please give a warm welcome to JPIL's newest staff members!



Admissions Director and Development Associate, Emily Cote joined the JPIL team in May of 2023. Prior to JPIL, Emily served the South Sound Catholic School community in admissions at Holy Family School in Lacey. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious. JPIL is pleased to have her as part of the Administrative Team and the JPIL family.



It was a unique joy to welcome back theology teacher and campus minister, Jacob Hayden. Jacob taught at JPIL from 2019-2021, after which he began to serve the Catholic community in Grays Harbor by facilitating faith formation and coordinating liturgy for seven parishes. Jacob will continue his work with the Grays Harbor Catholic community while teaching at JPIL in the 2023-24 school year.

***“Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.”***

*-Romans 15:7*



JPIL welcomed new Development Director, Jerry Romasco this summer. Jerry brings a deep desire for authentic connection and relationship building with community members and supporters. He comes to JPIL with experience in faith-based development. Jerry is sure to be a blessing to the JPIL community.



## Steward of the Future, Two Worthy Recipients in 2023

Each year at the Gala the Steward of the Future Award recognizes members of the JPIL community who have made remarkable gifts of leadership and service to the mission of the school. In 2023, JPIL honored two worthy recipients, Sue Muller and Dr. David Spangler.



Sue Muller was one of the original board members for JPIL, serving in an officer role as secretary. She has been an advocate and benefactor for the school since the beginning. Sue has

provided strong regional support through her membership with St. Joseph Parish in Chehalis. Her continued support of JPIL through volunteer work with the development office has been invaluable.

Dr. David Spangler is no stranger to the importance of Catholic education, having served as president of Saint Martin's University for over 20 years. That passion for Catholic education is clearly evident in Dr. Spangler's support of JPIL. One of JPIL's early board members, Dr. Spangler has been instrumental in connecting JPIL with the educational community in the South Sound.



*Hugh Blane engages Gala guests with his keynote address.*

## Students Dazzle at the Light & Truth Gala



*Natalie Fassnacht '23 shares her vulnerable and moving reflection at the Gala.*

More than 200 people gathered to celebrate JPIL's Annual Light & Truth Gala Dinner Benefit at South Puget Sound Community College on April 28. The Light & Truth Gala provides the opportunity to celebrate the amazing JPIL community and shine a light on its amazing students, while raising support for student financial assistance and operations. The JPIL community of supporters continues to show incredible generosity giving more than \$300,000 in donations, sponsorships, raffle, and ticket sales.

There were many highlights including remarks from this year's Steward of the Future Award recipients Sue Muller and Dr. David Spangler and a stirring keynote address by Hugh Blane, president of Claris Consulting. But, as always, it was the JPIL students who dazzled guests.



*Samuel Rucker '23 stepped into his role of serving guests with poise. Here he serves Rev. P.A. Kaech, a member of JPIL's board and pastor of St. Edward's in Shelton, WA.*

Under the adept instruction of jazz band and choir director, Leland Brungardt, the JPIL jazz band provided entertainment during the meal and the choir serenaded attendees with touching performances of "The Water is Wide" and "Turn! Turn! Turn!" Seniors boldly took on their roles, acting as emcees, servers, prayer leaders, and registration attendants among other important duties. They were all-in, arriving early for check in and staying late for clean up. Student speaker Natalie Fassnacht vulnerably shared her story; the ups and downs and in-betweens. She thanked the donors who made her education possible with the support of financial aid and spoke of the ways the JPIL experience enabled her to become the resilient person she is today. "Without JPIL, I wouldn't be who I am today. Someone who has learned to persevere through the hard times with God by my side."

# A Spirit of Giving

JPII High School gratefully acknowledges the generosity of those who donated in calendar year 2022.

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*JPPI would like to acknowledge community members and businesses who have supported the school through various sponsorships during the 2022-23 school year. Their generosity was integral to a successful year:*

Aurora Lasik	Quigg Bros., Inc.
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OBEE Credit Union	TwinStar Credit Union
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Prentice Financial Planning	

### Save the Date!

# Take Flight

Thursday, February 15, 2024  
Saint Martin's University

## LIGHT & TRUTH

GALA DINNER BENEFIT

Friday, April 26, 2024  
Indian Summer Golf & Country Club

## JPPI Legacy Society

*JPPI's Legacy Society was founded to honor individuals who value the power of education. The following supporters have informed JPPI that they have named the school in their will or other planned giving vehicle.*

Therese Allin	Colleen & Patrick Gillespie
J.T. Batstone	Inge Marcus & the Estate of Hal Marcus
Archbishop Brunett Trust	Colleen & Andrew Oczkewicz
Dr. Bruce & Carol Cooper	Dr. Jay & Carla Rudd
Mike Duffy	

## Lifetime Giving Over \$100,000

JPPI is grateful to the individuals and organizations who contribute so generously in support of its mission and vision, with special appreciation to those who have contributed more than \$100,000 since the school was established.

### \$500,000 and above

Dr. Bruce & Carol Cooper  
Frost & Margaret Snyder Foundation  
Inge Marcus and the Estate of Hal Marcus  
Dr. Jay & Carla Rudd

### \$250,000-\$499,999

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Tom & Katia Healy  
Dr. Andy & Liz Kapust  
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### \$100,000-\$249,999

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HIGH SCHOOL

Pope John Paul II High School  
5608 Pacific Ave SE  
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Save the date to learn more about the JP II community, a place that helps you grow into who God intends you to be.

The JP II Experience give prospective students and families the opportunity to engage with current students, meet the faculty, and experience firsthand JP II's hospitality and college prep curriculum.

## The JP II Experience Open House

**Sunday, October 22, 2023**  
**@ 1:30pm**

You can also schedule a personalized campus tour. Call today: 360-438-7600  
Scan the QR code to experience a student-led virtual tour of JP II!



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