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 *Blending learning with faith and faith with daily life*

Roanoke Catholic School

May 2, 2014

**ALL SCHOOL**

**From the Administration:** As we near the end of another successful year at Roanoke Catholic School, I wanted to thank all of you for your love, support and prayers for our entire school community.  We have much to celebrate and share with our families, alumni and friends.  The faith of our students and entire school community has grown tremendously this year.  Our academic programs continue to gain great respect from colleges and universities as our children, in all grade levels, continue to excel at the highest levels.  Final scholarship totals will be out shortly for the class of 2014, and we anticipate these numbers to be very strong!

Campus renovations continue as we look forward to the 2014-15 academic year and our 125th Anniversary! With monies realized from the savings we have seen through our energy management efforts since July 1, 2013, new classroom lighting was installed in our Lower School over Easter Break, and we are scheduled to begin major exterior renovations on the Upper School in a few weeks. In addition, new adjustable basketball goals were installed in the Lower School Gym. Enrollment contracts for next year should arrive in your mailboxes today and initial indications, based on the Intent to Enroll forms, look very promising for a strong return of our current families. We also have great numbers in our prospective student categories and hope to have many new faces on our campus next year. Please know that we are so thankful for all you do and the love you show our school community.  Entrusting your children to us is a gift that we hold deep in our hearts.   Blessings to all of you...............

*Patrick Patterson*

 *Principal and Head of School*

**Development:**  Please visit our website and view our recent Annual Fund brochure <http://www.roanokecatholic.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/annual-fund-brochure.pdf>  The Annual Fund supports RCS in many ways, including: helping pay faculty salaries, providing instructional materials, off­ering tuition assistance, upgrading current technology, enabling capital improvements, and supporting operations and maintenance.  Our Annual Fund Campaign concludes June 30, 2014.  Reaching our goal of $275,000 is extremely important for the school’s vitality and continued success. Please consider a financial contribution.  No gift is too small.  The students are direct beneficiaries of your generosity. [Make a gift today.](http://www.roanokecatholic.com/support-rcs/make-a-gift-today/)

*Debbie Stump*

 *Development Coordinator*

**Enrollment**: Contracts and Green Sheets were mailed home via post yesterday. They are **due back by MAY 9** to avoid a late fee. Please note many changes this year on the Green Sheets and check the information carefully, as it has been pulled from our new database and may have errors. We are looking forward to a great year ahead!

*Sharon Harrilla*

*Director of Enrollment*

**Reminder to all Parents**  - Parents must **come into the school and sign out** their children for any early dismissals. Students who drive themselves to school will be allowed to sign themselves out only with prior written approval (physical note or email) from parent or legal guardian, regardless of age. Please try to remember to call the school **before 8:30 am** if your student is absent or will be tardy or excused early due to an appointment. These policies are in place to ensure the safety of our students. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Scholarship Opportunity**: We are pleased to announce that the Father Lynch Division 1, of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, will continue to support Roanoke Catholic School at the Lower School level, with the Joseph R. Donnelly Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $500.00.  We are also pleased to announce a new scholarship in the amount of $1,000.00, to be awarded at the Upper School level. These scholarship monies will be applied to 2014-2015 Roanoke Catholic tuition; the awards will be presented at the Honors ceremony on June 5, 2014

To qualify for the scholarship your child must be of Irish ancestry, in grades Pre-K through Grade 11 and registered to attend Roanoke Catholic School for the 2014-2015 academic year.  You are not required to fill out an application form; however, we will need written correspondence from you that your child is of Irish ancestry, relation by which family member, etc.  Please respond by email to jfrost@roanokecatholic.com prior to May 31, 2014.

**Food Drive Results:** Thanks to the generosity of our entire community, Roanoke Catholic donated 1020 lbs. of food to St. Francis House.  Feeding America SWVA and St. Francis house will put your donations to good use feeding the food insecure in our area.  Thank you all for this wonderful gift.

**The Baby Bottle Campaign** to benefit the Blue Ridge Women’s Center (BRWC) was a tremendous success. The RCS Pro-Life Club received the offer of a $3000 matching grant from the Center of Marriage, Family, and Life of the Catholic Diocese of Richmond.  We can proudly announce we have exceeded our goal by collecting a total of $4223.96 and will therefore receive the full matching gift.  What a beautiful witness of God's love and providence to those in need in our community*.*

**Mornings with Mom will be on May 8th and 9th, and Doughnuts for Dad will be on May 29th and 30th** from 7:30 – 8 am in the cafeteria. Forms to register for Moms days were sent home via email and BackPack Express. Form for Dads to register will go home in two weeks. Regarding PARKING for these events: As of the day of this publication, your parking options are: Come in Celtic Way and park in front of the Upper School Gym where senior parking usually is. You may also park in the St. Andrew’s parking area across from the church. Please do NOT park in the teacher parking areas.

**Cafeteria News:** It’s time to begin monitoring your students’ café accounts. You may check online through Renweb or email or call Mrs. Lucchini. All accounts must be paid in full by MAY 30. All of the cafeteria staff has enjoyed serving our students and we appreciate your patronage to the RCS Cafeteria!

**Roanoke Catholic School Choir**: Lend your voice to the new choir! This fall, RCS will begin a choir for students in 7th-12th Grades under the direction of RCS parent Michael Hemphill. The choir’s mission is to give students who love music and singing the chance to do so in service of RCS. Tentative plans call for the choir to perform at school Masses, the Christmas program, and a spring pops concert. Outside of school, we hope to sing during Mass at each Roanoke Valley Catholic church. Interested students (and parents) are invited to meet Wednesday, May 7, at 3:05 p.m. in the cafeteria to learn more about the choir program. Questions? Contact Michael Hemphill 540.556.2879 | mwhemphill5@gmail.com

**Attention Coffee Drinkers** – The FCA and RCS Library have teamed up to offer Roanoke Catholic Tervis Tumblers and Tervis Mugs.  They are available for the same low price of $20.  See the order form on today’s daily email, and turn in any orders/checks to the office or Mr. Axt  marked **FCA/Library Tervis order**.  Also, if you need any coffee to put in your Tumbler or mug, you can purchase a bag of the RCS Regular Blend for the clearance price of $8 per 12 oz. bag.

**LOWER SCHOOL**

**Final Skate Party of the Year! 7th graders are free!!** Come out on Thursday, May 8, from 3:15-5:30 for our final skate party of the year. We are honoring our 7th graders as they get ready to move up to Upper School by having them skate for free. There will be more info to follow, but mark your calendars now. This day will also be an out-of- uniform day for a $1 donation. The monies donated go to the RCS Student Government to be used for scholarships for worthy students.

**LS drop-off and pick-up**: Thank you so much for your patience as we all get used to the new traffic pattern necessitated by the construction at St. Andrews. Here are just a few reminders:

1. Please avoid parking to let your children out in the morning unless you have business in the school. Not only does this practice take up spots needed for our teachers, but it also slows down the drop-off line considerably.

2. Please do not get out to remove your child from the car. The majority of our students should be old enough to unfasten seat belts, car seats, and open the car door. If you have not already taught your child how to do this, now is the time.

3. For both drop-off and pick-up, you should be entering the parking lot from Jefferson Street going TOWARD the church and school by making a right turn. No one should be driving on Jefferson Street between the grotto and Celtic Way. We have many Upper School students walking through that area.

**Summer Solutions**: **Order deadline for LS summer enrichment books is MAY 4**. This is a great way to keep your students up to speed during the summer months and reduce the amount of reviewing necessary in the fall. Details are in an email attachment sent home on April 29, and attached to today’s email.

**UPPER SCHOOL**

**Course selection forms and curriculum information** have been distributed to all students currently in grades 8 through 11.  Signedcourse selection forms must be submitted to Mrs. Futrell or on-line course selections must be completed by May 8th.  Scheduling begins with re-registration, which is due May 9; only registered students will be scheduled.

All parents and students are invited to **“A Gatsby Gala”** Prom Walk-ins **Saturday, May17th**. Walk-ins will be held in **St. Andrew’s Church at 7:30 PM.**Thi**s**Roanoke Catholic tradition gives a glimpse of a special night for our Juniors and Seniors. Please join us for the excitement.

**Upper School Midterm Progress Reports** will again be distributed via e-mail correspondence**.** While students may receive a classroom copy of the midterm, teachers will not be collecting signed progress reports.

**ATHLETICS**

The RCS Athletics Department is currently seeking coaches for the Fall Season:

Middle School Football – Head coach
Middle School Volleyball – Head Coach
Junior Varsity  Volleyball – Head Coach
Varsity Volleyball – Assistant Coach

Interested candidates should contact Matt Peck at **mpeck@roanokecatholic.com** or 982-3532 X 2122.

**SPRING PHYSICALS DAY:**

Each year, all of our student athletes are required to have an annual signed physical between May of the current year through June 30 of the succeeding year. As a courtesy to our students, we have been able to offer a Virginia High School League (VHSL) physical one afternoon in May after school. This allows many of our students to get their physical out of the way and have it on file for the following school year.

This year, we will hold annual physicals on **Thursday, May 29** immediately after school (3pm). The cost is $20. Please make a note of this on your schedules.

*We are also seeking Nurse Practioners, Physicians Assistants, or Doctors who can volunteer their time to administer these physicals. We’ve had a few generous parents who have stepped up, but could use a few more hands. Please contact Matt Peck at the above address or phone if you can assist or know a friend or community member who would like to help out. Thank you.*

**New Basketball Goals**: Thanks to the RCS Athletic Department and the Celtics Athletics Booster Club, along with generous parent donations, the very old basketball goals in the Lower School Gym were removed and replaced last week with brand-new adjustable goals that can be raised and lowered to accommodate our younger athletes. A recognition plaque will be placed shortly. We offer our thanks for the support of our fantastic school families and the Booster Club.