

Roanoke Catholic School

SINCE 1889

*Blending learning with faith and faith with daily life*

September 5, 2014

**From the Administration:**   As we begin our 125th year, we welcome all students and parents for another wonderful year at Roanoke Catholic School!  It has been a busy summer developing curriculum, finishing capital initiatives, and updating technology on our campus.  The investments we've made as parents, alumni, students and friends of RCS are truly paying off.  This year we began with 472 students Pre-K through 12.  Our goal, as you may remember, was 430.  The renovations to the Upper School are nearly complete and our students have settled in nicely with their teachers and classes.

A special welcome to all of our new students and parents; we are thrilled to have you join us. We have 95 new students and records indicate this may be our largest group in the past decade. We’d like to encourage everyone to consider investing time in any number of our wonderful school organizations and programs.  We have an opportunity to show our children the importance of service to others by joining these organizations and by volunteering in our community.  Please join me offering your time, treasures, and talents to some of these initiatives.

*Patrick Patterson*

*Principal/Head of School*

**Development**: We are all looking forward to another successful year in our fundraising efforts for our wonderful school.

We are pleased to announce that we have received outstanding support from our faculty and staff for the 2014-2015 Annual Fund Campaign.  Our hope is to receive 100% participation from our RCS families as well.  The Annual Fund supports current operations and remains the school’s priority for charitable gifts. These gifts are vital, as they immediately support work at the school and directly affect the experience of each student.  We have been blessed with many faithful supporters who believe in our school’s mission.  Roanoke Catholic depends on the support, loyalty and generosity of our parents, alumni, faculty, and grandparents and parents of alumni, together with corporations and friends in order to continue our tradition of excellence.

Our Upper School looks fantastic!  We are again grateful for the outstanding support of our school community for the Upper School Renovations Campaign.  If you are interested, we still have windows available for sponsorship.  This is a great opportunity to honor someone special. The name of the sponsor and person honored will appear permanently on a plaque attached to each individual window.

For additional information please contact Debbie Stump, RCS Development Coordinator 540-982-3532 x 2110, dstump@roanokecatholic.com or donate online at <http://www.roanokecatholic.com/support-rcs/make-a-gift-today/>

**Homecoming** is Friday, October 3rd.  Please stop by the alumni tent and say hello.

*Debbie Stump*

*Development Coordinator*

**Parking Policies for Home Athletics Events**:

With our fall sports season getting under way, we wanted to take a moment to fill our parents in on some parking policies that need to be adhered to when attending home games/matches in our RCS gymnasium. No one should ever park in the bus lane or beside the curb that runs alongside the gymnasium or mall area when attending games. This area is very narrow and needs to be left open so our buses, visiting team buses, and fire/police vehicles can easily get through in the event of an emergency. This policy also goes for parking behind the gymnasium or beside/in the area where are buses are usually parked at night. Again, this area needs to be clear of cars so buses and emergency personnel will always have a clear passage to the gymnasium. It is always best to simply park in designated parking spaces only. We love having such great attendance at our home games and encourage everyone to attend as many games at our wonderful gymnasium as possible. We simply need to make sure that we all follow the parking procedures to ensure the safety of all our students, parents, and fans. Thank you!

Please let me know if you have any questions. Matt Peck, Athletic Director, Roanoke Catholic School : mpeck@roanokecatholic.com

​**National Hispanic Heritage Month:** Did you know that September 15-October 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month?  This year we will be sponsoring a taste of "La Cultura Latina" With over 55 students of Hispanic Heritage and more than 10 Hispanic countries represented at our school, a core group of parents are planning a celebration for Friday, September 26 from 5:30-9:00.  Come and enjoy some food from each of these countries, listen to music, and maybe even learn a new dance!  More information is forthcoming.  If you are interested in participating, please send an email to Sharon Harrilla.  For now, mark your calendar!​

**Lower School**

Congratulations on another wonderful start to the school year! We have so many new faces. I am still diligently working on learning the names of all our students. New and returning parents, you hear me often say that “it is a safety issue.” I do not arbitrarily make procedures for all to follow; I have a good reason based on situations that I have witnessed. So, please make every effort to follow the procedures as they are outlined in the student handbook. I wanted to remind everyone of a few procedural issues that are still occurring.

Car drop-off:

1. Drop off begins promptly at 7:30 am, but not before. We are still considering what to do for parents who are inconvenienced by this rule. Look for a survey in the coming weeks where you will be able to share your thoughts and solutions. If an adult is not standing at the sidewalk, then it is not time to drop off yet. No one is here to watch your child before that time. It’s a safety issue!

2. The **only acceptable place** to drop students is in front of the sidewalk. There is enough room there for two or three cars to drop at one time- which is perfectly fine. Please **do not** drop students at the grotto or on the side of the road.

3. You should no longer be parking and walking your children to the gym or the school. We allowed this for a few days so that students could get comfortable. We are past that point now. Even our youngest students do a great job of getting out of the car on their own (or with my help) so there is no need for parking. When you do so, you slow down the entire process by backing out into the middle of traffic. Not to mention…..It’s a safely issue!

4. Please avoid getting out of your car to assist your children. Spend a few minutes on the weekend training them how to open doors, etc, so they can do it on their own. They should also only be exiting from the passenger side of the car, NEVER the driver’s side. It’s a safety issue!

5. Never pass the car in front of you. There is not enough room and way too many people (and children) crossing the parking lot for this to be safe.

Car pick-up:

Car pick-up has been going very well! There are only two issues that I still see.

1. Turn off your car once the “parade” of students starts so they can breathe.

2. Unless you have previously arranged with me, you should only pick up your child **in your car**. Exceptions are made if you have a meeting at the school.

3. Remember to line up on Patton St. and watch for the signal to come into the parking lot. Please do not enter the line anywhere else.

I appreciate you following the procedures. If everyone follows directions, I can quit saying that sentence we are all tired of hearing! ;)

 *Julie Frost*

 *Lower School Assistant Principal*

**Picture day is Tuesday, September 23!** For fall pictures Lower School will be IN uniform. Smile pretty!

**Roanoke Catholic School Dance Program Notes**: Please sign your students up for dance class by returning the dance registration forms. Dance class will begin September 8th. Extra registration forms are in the blue dance mail box in main office. Thank you. Mitzi Keeley, Dance Coordinator

**Odyssey of the Mind** is a problem-solving program for students of all ages.  The kids come together in teams of seven to work out a solution and create all aspects of the solution themselves including costumes, props, script, backdrop, etc. After working together for 5-6 months creating a solution the teams will compete against other schools. This is a serious time commitment for students and their coach. Teams will need to meet at least once a week, preferably more, starting in October.  The coach’s role is to guide and supervise the students as they work out the solution to their problem.  Coaches are not allowed to help in any way, we simply act as guides. If you are interested in having your child participate please contact Jennifer Richards at mrsjennyg1@gmail.com.  If the interest is high and some parents are willing to coach, then other teams may be formed. If you would like more information about the program please check out their website at [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/).

**Upper School**

The eighth graders and our new students are wonderfully adjusting to the Upper School routine, classes are in full swing, fall sports have begun, and our seniors are completing and submitting college applications. Indeed, everything is in place to ensure a successful 125th year at Roanoke Catholic.

September brings the excitement of Homecoming the week of the 16th. Look for detailed information next week**.** Tuesday, September 10 is Picture Day for students through 11th grade. In addition to being available for purchase, these pictures will be used for the yearbook and for student ID cards. Upper School students may be out-of-uniform, regular or dressy, according to the guidelines in the *Upper School Students and Parents Handbook*, for this day. Remember, the school uniform is always an option. Also on Tuesday, we will celebrate Mass at 2:10 p.m. in St. Andrew’s.

Thank you all for a wonderful beginning of the academic year; I look forward to continued success.Blessings,

*Kathleen Futrell*

*Upper School Assistant Principal*

**Athletics:**

The 2014-2015 Sports year is off to a great start! We currently have four varsity sports under way during the fall season: Volleyball, Cross Country, Football, and Cheerleading. Our varsity volleyball team is currently 2-2, with wins over public schools Rockbridge County and Eastern Montgomery. Their two losses have come against Salem High School, ranked #2 in the Timesland area, and Westover Christian, one of the top Division III teams in the state. Coach Aaron King has the team working hard and poised to make a run at an unprecedented fourth Division III State Championship in a row.

The cross country team had a fine showing at their first meet of the season this past Wednesday night at the Giles County Invitational. Our girls’ team took fifth place out of ten teams – and RCS had three individual medalists. This year’s cross country team is one of the largest teams we’ve had in recent memory, with over 30 RCS student-athletes participating (middle school – varsity). Coach April Snow has had the team working hard all summer and she expects our team to compete at a high level all season.

The varsity football program kicked off their 2014 campaign with a convincing win over Rappahannock County High School this past Friday night, winning 34-0. Several players had stand-out performances for RCS on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball. The team’s roster has been bolstered by a handful of new students to RCS and the football program. Coach Bob Price is excited to see how the season will play out and looks to return the Celtics to the state playoffs this year.

The Cheer team has been practicing all summer and is prepared to have a new look and style than in previous years. From the hiring of a new coach (RCS teacher Tina Gibson), to tumbling practice sessions throughout the summer, and a larger roster than in previous years, we look forward to hearing them cheer on our sports teams as the year progresses.

RCS also features several other fall sports teams at the junior varsity and middle school level. The junior varsity volleyball team, under new coach Kim Degidio, has been playing well this season against very tough competition. Our middle school volleyball team is making great strides under new coach Karen Clark, who has the team playing well and learning the fundamentals of the game. The RCS middle school football program is under new leadership with coach Josh Nowocin taking the reins this year. The majority of the team returns this year from a squad that won most of their games last season. Coach Nowocin is expecting similar results from the team this fall. Roanoke Catholic also fields a junior varsity cross country team, as well as a middle school cross country team, both coached by April Snow and RCS teacher Cathy Connelly.

Come on out to the games and meets and cheer on our Celtic athletes! Game schedules can be found on the RCS Athletics website at <http://www.rcsceltics.com/schedules/> .

*Matthew Peck*

*Athletic Director*