

Roanoke Catholic School

SINCE 1889

*Blending learning with faith and faith with daily life*

December 5, 2014

**From the Administration:**I hope all of you have had a restful and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday.  We've experienced some great accomplishments this fall with our spiritual, academic, athletic, and co-curricular programs.   Mrs. Frost would like for me to remind all of you about our Lower School Christmas Concert that will take place at St. Andrew's Catholic Church on Friday, December 5th (this evening) at 7:00 pm.  We'd love to have everyone in attendance, so please invite aunts, uncles, grandparents, and all members of your extended family!

As we begin thinking about cooler weather, I want to remind all of you that in the event of school closure we will notify all local media outlets, and the info will be posted on our school website and e-mails will be sent to families.  Please also consider signing up for School Way to receive updates from this iPhone, Android, and web (for basic phones that can receive texts) application.   Please be patient with the communication stream as all of these sources take time to contact and advise of our status.  I do want to remind all of you that safety is our #1 priority when it comes to your children and you, too!  **If the roads in your area are not safe for travel, please do not attempt to bring your children to school**.  Your child will be given an excused absence for the day and allowed to make-up the work missed.

Blessings to all of you for the love you show your children and our school.  We are a faith-filled community, blessed to have each one of you as a member of our family.  Have a great December . . .

*Patrick Patterson*

*Principal and Head of School*

**DEVELOPMENT NEWS**

We have so much to be thankful for during this holiday season.  You are all a blessing to the school and offer support in many ways. Several of our school families and our faculty and staff have committed to our Annual Fund.  The goal this year is $250,000.00 and the campaign ends June 30, 2015.  For those wishing to make a contribution to our Annual Fund, please send your donation to the school attention Debbie Stump, or you may contribute online at <http://www.roanokecatholic.com/support-rcs/make-a-gift-today/>.  We are blessed to have dedicated supporters for our financial needs.  The success of our school is strengthened by your generosity.

*Debbie Stump*

*Development Coordinator*

**ALL SCHOOL**

**Christmas Crib:** Help bring baby Jesus to those in need this Advent season!  Bring in new or gently used baby items\* and put them in the Christmas Crib in the front lobby by Friday, December 12.  All items will help local women and children and be delivered to the Blue Ridge Women's Center BRWC) in time for Christmas.  Thanks for sharing the joy of the season!

\*BRWC has  a special need for crib sheets and baby clothing sizes 0-18 months. Due to safety regulations the BRWC cannot accept used cribs, car seats or stuffed animals.

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje:**

Campus Ministry is excited to announce a Marian Pilgrimage to the Medjugorje International Youth Festival 2015 from July 29 – August 6, 2015. The cost is $2,795.00 and includes the celebration of the annual International Youth Festival, daily Mass and Adoration, visits to important landmarks such as the Hill of Apparitions, Cross Mountain, Blue Cross, and Kravica Water Falls and much more! See the attached flyer for more details or contact Beth Derringer at ederringer@roanokecatholic.com for more information.

**Noon Dismissal:** Please also remember that RCS will have **NOON DISMISSAL** on Friday, December 19th and will not return to school until Monday, January 5th. Please be prompt in picking up your children so our faculty can depart for the holidays as well!

**Lost and Found:** items will be donated to a local charity during Christmas break. Please ask your children to stop and check that they don't have any items there before leaving for the holiday. Lost and Found is right beside the Band Room entrance.

**Christmas Ornaments:**The National Parks Experience program is once again selling collectible ornaments.  The ornament for 2014 is the Grandin Theater.  It is made of solid pewter and comes boxed and ready for gift giving. Ornaments from previous years are also available, including Texas Tavern, Tudor’s Biscuit World, the H & C Coffee Sign and St. Andrew’s.  Please visit the Roanoke Catholic web site for order forms and more details.

**Spelling Bee**: The Roanoke Catholic Lower School Spelling Bee will be held in the cafeteria on December 11th at 2pm.  Grades 4-8 will participate, having two classroom bee winners from each grade.  Parents are welcome!  If students would like to prepare, go to [www.spellingbee.com](http://www.spellingbee.com/) and under "Students and Parents", there are many resources.  Happy Spelling!

**UPPER SCHOOL**

Roanoke Catholic Upper School students embrace the spirit of giving and selfless service. At Thanksgiving, the SGA Upper School canned food drive for the Rescue Mission netted almost 400 cans; as a competition, the senior class won with 5.4 cans per student contributed. Through the combined efforts of the FCA members, in grades 5 through 12, over 700 sandwiches were assembled in twenty-five minutes one Thursday for Rescue Mission lunches. Next week, the Key Club will coordinate the assembly of two hundred fruit baskets as an outreach to Manna Ministries. Blue Ridge Women’s Center will receive the contributions of infant supplies from the crib set-up in the lobby. The residents of Our Lady of the Valley will receive the gift of song through the caroling of Upper School students, led by the SGA,) and will receive Christmas gifts of tissues, word-search books, and blankets contributed by US students. Indeed, these students have enriched the lives of many in our community, near and far. Your support of these endeavors is greatly appreciated. Thank you for the blessings you share.

**Scheduling and Exams:** Tuesday through Friday, December 16-December 19th will be **exam days** for Upper School students. On Tuesday, Mass will be held at 9:15 AM at St. Andrew’s, followed by break and the administration of the first period exam. The remaining exam schedule is as follows: Wednesday- periods 2 and 3, Thursday- periods 4 and 5, and Friday- periods 6 & 7. Students ***will*** remain in the exam room until the end of each exam period and must bring study materials for the next exam. *No student* may leave the grounds during break. Noon dismissal for all Upper School students will be in effect all exam days. If a student misses a scheduled exam due to illness, he/she will make-up that exam after noon on the day he/she returns. On December 16, 17, and 18, Upper School students with transportation difficulties may remain at school until the Lower School is dismissed. These students MUST NOTIFY the Upper School Assistant Principal of their intention to remain at school; they may purchase lunch. After lunch, these students will report to a supervised study hall. By 12:30PM all Upper School students remaining on campus must report to this study hall**. Students may not return to school after they leave campus.**

“As 2014 comes to a close, **Pope Francis will dedicate the month's prayers to two specific intentions.** First, that **Christmas will bring peace and hope,** not only to Christians, but to all people of good will. His **second intention is for parents,** so that they may be authentic evangelizers who can transmit the gift faith to their children.” Let us join him as we prepare the way, directing our hearts and minds, for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

May each day of Advent be filled with hope and wonder as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. Scatter JOY, inspire HOPE, share LOVE, and seek PEACE this holiday season.

 *Kathleen Futrell*

*Upper School Assistant Principal*

**Upper School Yearbooks:** Upper School Yearbooks are now for sale! Purchase your hard-back US (8th - 12th grade) yearbook for $35.  You can buy your yearbook online at [http://yourschoolphotos.com](http://yourschoolphotos.com/), then click on “yearbooks,” or you can send cash or a check (made out to RCS) ATTN: yearbook. For a personalized yearbook, please use the online ordering form. Thank you!

**LOWER SCHOOL**

Our **annual Christmas Program** is Friday, December 5, at 7:00. Parents, we are doing things a bit differently this year. Instead of dropping your student off at school, they will meet **in the church no earlier than 6:30.** Teachers will get them seated in the correct order and spot around 6:45, with the prelude from the US band beginning at 6:50. It will be another fabulous display of our children’s talents under the direction of Mr. Parham. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

**Out of uniform passes**: I am happy to offer your child an out of uniform pass! All they have to do is this: wear their uniform AND an “Ask me about RCS” button to worship on the weekends. You can snap a picture and send it to me via email and I will issue their pass. I will give a **second pass** if your child actually tells someone about RCS! Buttons are available in the front office.

**Tardies**: Parents, it is extremely important to your child’s academic welfare that they be here on time. Please refer to the Student Handbook for the consequences that your child will incur for continuing to be tardy to school. Being “punctuality challenged” myself, I understand how hard it can be to get here. I understand the occasional tardy for traffic and weather, but chronic tardiness affects how your children start their day. Please make every effort to bring your children on time every day.

**Safety Notice**: During car pick-up, when the students are walking in between the line of cars, please do not move your car for any reason. You should only be moving when instructed by a faculty member to do so. Please make sure that anyone who picks up your child is aware of this policy.

**ATHLETICS**

The fall sports season has come and gone with some very exciting news.  Our middle school sports teams (cross country, football, and volleyball) had excellent seasons.  Participation numbers were higher than in previous years, and all three teams had very productive years.

Our junior varsity and varsity sports teams (volleyball, football and cross country) also had wonderful seasons.  The JV volleyball team finished with three wins within the BRC conference and made it to the conference semifinal round with a very young team. This bodes very well for the future of the volleyball program.  The varsity volleyball team made it to the state semifinals, losing to Timberlake Christian.  This was the fourth year in a row under Coach Aaron King that the varsity volleyball team had made it to at least the state semifinal round, with the Celtics winning the previous three state titles.

The junior varsity cross country teams had a successful year, too. The  Boys JV Cross Country Team finished in FIRST PLACE and the Girls JV Team finished in SECOND PLACE at the Catholic State Championship meet. The boys and girls varsity cross country team also finished in first place at the Christian Heritage Invitational.  In addition, the boys varsity team also finished in 8th place at the state championship meet out of 31 overall teams.

And finally, the boys varsity football team, under Coach Bob Price, finished an amazing season culminating in Roanoke Catholic's first football state championship in 20 years!  The team pulled off an improbable last minute win in the state championship game against Fuqua School, scoring the go-ahead touchdown with 27 seconds.  The team looks to make another run at a state title next year.

This was a very exciting fall sports season for Roanoke Catholic, with all three varsity sports teams competing and winning at the state level.  Congratulations to all our RCS coaches and student athletes!

*Matt Peck*

*Athletic Director*