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 *Blending learning with faith and faith with daily life*

Roanoke Catholic School

January 9, 2015

**From the Administration:**  Happy 2015!  For this new year, with all the high hopes and expectations it brings, *may you and yours enjoy good health, peace, success, growth, prosperity, happiness, and, most importantly, a closer walk with God.*

We are quickly approaching the half-way mark of the academic year with January 13th marking the end of the second quarter. Thank you to all of our families for your continued support and faith in our mission. Look for report cards on January 20rd.

Remember Friday January 16th is a 1:15 dismissal and RCS will not hold classes Monday, January 19th.

National Catholic Schools Week 2015 begins January 26th.  The events of the week will focus on this year’s theme, *Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service*, “three measures by which all Catholic schools can and should be judged.”

We look forward to celebrating our relationship with God, our standards, which help each child reach his or her potential, and our giving of one’s time and effort to help others as an expression of both faith and good citizenship.  Thank you for all you do to make this possible.



Peace and blessings in this New Year,

 *Kathleen Futrell*

 *Upper School Assistant Principal*

**Financial Aid Information**: Please begin gathering your paperwork for the first round FACTS deadline on Feb. 28. Further information will follow, but keep in mind that all information and documentation **must be filed and verified by** **Feb 28th**.

**Required Documentation for Feb. 28th, 2015 deadline:**

Depending on your application some or all of the following documents may be required.

* Copy of 2013 or 2014 IRS Federal Form [1040](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040.pdf), [1040A](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040a.pdf) or [1040-EZ](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040ez.pdf) U.S. Individual Income Tax Return. If applicant and co-applicant file separately, we require both tax returns for the same tax year.
* Copies of all 2014 [W-2 Wage and Tax Statements](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw2.pdf) for both the applicant and co-applicant.
Please Note: If you are applying before you have received all the 2014W-2 Wage and Tax Statements, please submit them as soon as they become available.
* Copies of all supporting tax schedules if you have income/loss from any of the following\*:
	+ Business - (Form 1040 Line 12) send [Schedule C](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040sc.pdf) or [C-EZ](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040sce.pdf) and [Form 4562](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f4562.pdf) Depreciation and Amortization
	+ Farm - (Form 1040 Line 18) send [Schedule F](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040sf.pdf) and [Form 4562](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f4562.pdf) Depreciation and Amortization
	+ Rental Property - (Form 1040 Line 17) send [Schedule E](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040se.pdf) (page 1)
	+ S-Corporation - (Form 1040 Line 17) send [Schedule E](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040se.pdf) (page 2), [Form 1120S](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1120s.pdf) (4 pages), [Schedule K-1](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1120ssk.pdf) and [Form 8825](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8825.pdf)
	+ Partnership - (Form 1040 Line 17) send [Schedule E](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040se.pdf) (page 2), [Form 1065](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1065.pdf) (5 pages), [Schedule K-1](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1065sk1.pdf) and [Form 8825](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8825.pdf)
	+ Estates and Trusts - (Form 1040 Line 17) send [Schedule E](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040se.pdf) (page 2), [Form 1041](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1041.pdf) and [Schedule K-1](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1041sk1.pdf)

\* IMPORTANT: If you file a tax return but do not have W-2 wages because you are self-employed, you will be required to submit a copy of your 2014 Federal Form 1040 Tax Return.

* Copies of all supporting documentation for household Non-Taxable Income such as: Social Security Income, Welfare, Child Support, Food Stamps, Workers’ Compensation, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

**Enrollment:**
Although RCS is available for tours daily, our official **Open House** is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 28th from 10:00-2:00**.  At this time, our school will be open for visitors to come and see us in action.  Parents of students in grades PK-10 are invited to have a tour of the school, meet with faculty and staff, and get a feel for the campus. Parents and students, tell your friends and neighbors about RCS!

***Every new student who you refer and who enrolls for the 2015-2016 school year will make you eligible for a $100.00 tuition discount up to $500.00.***

**Dates to Remember:**
January 25-31 Catholic Schools Week
January 28 Open House 10:00-2:00
**Feb 28 FACTS financial aid application deadline**

**Development:**

**SAVE THE DATES:**

* March 14: The 25th annual Shamrock Hill Run! Registration details to come by the end of this month.
* April 23: The celebration of Roanoke Catholic's 125th year. Bishop Francis DiLorenzo will preside over a day of festivities commemorating our anniversary.
* January 28 and April 22: Open House from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  Invite your friends and family to learn more about Roanoke Catholic School.

On a personal note ... this is my first week on the job as Director of Marketing and the Annual Fund for Roanoke Catholic School. For two years I held a similar post at the Science Museum of Western Virginia, but the opportunity to work at a place that already had my heart -- and my three daughters! -- was simply a dream come true.

Many thanks for the wonderful welcome here, and many thanks to you for your contributions to the Annual Fund ... we're already near 70 percent of our $250,000 goal for the year!

Please let me know what we can do to spread the good news of Roanoke Catholic to our community. I look forward to working with you all.

 *Michael Hemphill*

*Director of Marketing and the Annual Fund*

**ALL SCHOOL**

**Afternoon car pick-up on the mall:** There have been some questions concerning after school pick-up for US students and LS students with US siblings. Parents, you should be coming in Celtic Way, lining up, and picking up your students as soon as they come out. Students are NOT allowed to “hang out” on the mall after school. Parents should also **not** be coming in Celtic Way and parking by the LS buildings. You are going the wrong way in a one-way direction, which is dangerous. All students should be picked up by their parents in a car unless you have business in the school.

**Communications:** If you aren’t receiving texts about emergency closures or delays, please take the time now to download **OR UPDATE** the FREE School Way App and register your phone numbers and emails. Another helpful FREE tool is access to Renweb through the Parent Portal for the directory, cafeteria balances, attendance records and emergency contacts. Please visit the school website under the Resources tab for information on obtaining these important communication tools.

**Nurse Notes:** Flu season is upon us! Please help us contain illness by following the guidelines established in the handbooks:

* Do not send your children to school with a temperature of 100 or greater
* **Do not send them back** until they do not have a fever/vomiting/diarrhea WITHOUT medication for **24 hours**
* Children receiving antibiotics are still contagious until they have taken them for **24 hours**
* Please, whenever possible, send in a doctor’s note when returning to school

Remind your students to **wash their hands often** and not just take advantage of the hand sanitizing stations around the school. It’s very easy to get dehydrated during the winter months, so encourage your children to drink lots of water throughout the day. Also make sure they get plenty of rest, and together we can keep your kids healthy and ready to learn!

*Susan Algeier and Liz Bradburn*

*School Nurses*

**Thank you!** A giant THANK YOU to everyone who helped fill the Christmas crib to overflowing.  What a beautiful way to celebrate the birth of Perfect Love! We made two deliveries  of baby furniture, clothes and supplies to the Blue Ridge Women's Center, and their Baby Boutique was bursting at the seams just in time for Christmas.

"*Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."  Mathew 25:40*

**What’s Been Going on in the Library:** Other than the usual – yes, we still have coffee available for sale and, yes, we will be having a Movie Night soon (Friday, Feb. 6) – there has been a lot going on in the library this year. Dr. and Mrs. Bradburn paid for the materials that Mr. Ray Sweeney used to build two book carts that students in the primary grades can use to flip through picture books to check out. The carts make a much better presentation than the plastic bins we had up until now. The Bradburns were also one of the families that have given so generously to help the library purchase new and replacement sets of books in a series, which are the bread and butter of all our avid readers. Of course, there are still other sets in need of sponsors, so if you are willing and able to help out please see Mr. Axt. If you haven’t had a chance, stop by and check out the bulletin board in the library to see what books have been donated so far. And thanks to all!

**Cold Weather Closing Information:** In the event that there are weather-related changes to our normal school schedule, each family will **first receive a SchoolWay text or app alert** with the closing/delay information, then an email, then the information will be posted on the school website and Renweb Parent Portal. All three major news stations: WSLS 10, and WDBJ 7, and WSET13 and local radio stations will then be notified so you can check their websites and listen to the airwaves. Decisions will be made and posted by 7 a.m.

RCS does not always follow City or County decisions, so please take into account your safety and road conditions when deciding whether or not to come to school on inclement weather days. Weather related absences will be excused and your child will be allowed to make up missed work.

**UPPER SCHOOL**

**Attention parents of Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors:** Mrs. Futrell has distributed the scores from the October PSAT, the test booklet, and a “Parent Tutorial for Understanding the PSAT/NMSQT Results” to students. Please review the results with your child. If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs. Futrell at kfutrell@roanokecatholic.com.

**LOWER SCHOOL**

**Performance Series Testing:** Our secondround of testing will begin next week and run through the first week in February (except for Catholic Schools Week) for students in grades 2-7. The teachers will be alerting you to when your child’s class is scheduled. As always, please make sure that your student is on time, has had a good night’s sleep, and has eaten a healthy breakfast. You will receive a letter soon from the Diocese explaining this testing and its uses. Results will be discussed with you after our final round of testing in April, when we will have a full picture of your student’s yearly progress.

**Mall pick-up:** Please be reminded that ONLY LS students with US siblings may be picked up on the mall unless the office has been notified. NEW POLICY: Any student not picked up from the mall by 3:15 will be brought to the office where a parent may pick them up.

**Winter Uniforms:** Please remember that LS girls are required to wear tights or leggings (socks must cover the bottom) when the high temperature will be 45 degrees or lower if they wish to participate in recess. The same goes for all children where hats and gloves are concerned. Please be aware that here in Roanoke it can be 65 degrees one day and 40 degrees the next, so always check the weather. Also, as can be the case, many of our students have grown this year! Please double-check the length of pants and skirts. Boy’s shoes should be SOLID black and girl’s shoes should be SOLID white.

**Water bottles:** Parents, the nurses have recommended that the students drink plenty of water throughout the day. The teachers are taking the students to the water fountain as a class several times a day. For some students this is not sufficient to keep them hydrated. For those students, we allow REUSABLE, NON-SPILL water bottles with WATER ONLY. Please do not send students with the plastic bottles or any other kind of bottle that will pop open when dropped and spill. If a student abuses this privilege or is distracting to others, they will not be allowed to have the bottles.

**ATHLETICS**

**Spring Sports:** Practices will begin for most spring sports teams the last week of February. Offerings include: Boys’ MS and Varsity Baseball, Boys’ MS and Varsity LaCrosse, Co-Ed Track, Co-Ed Golf and Girls’ MS and Varsity Soccer.\* Parents, please fill out and send in a spring sports registration form and/or email Matt Peck at mpeck@roanokecatholic.com asap if your student is interested in participating in spring sports so that he can begin assembling rosters. We will hold signups for spring sports in the next few weeks.

**Swimming**: Come out to support our swim team at their next home meet on January 28th. We have a number of swimmers and teams qualified for the state championship meet!

**MS Basketball:** The Boys have had a great season so far. They recently won the Jingle Ball Tournament over Christmas break, and the Girls recently beat North Cross in their biggest win of the season so far.  Congratulations!

**Varsity Girls’ Basketball** is currently 6-1 and off to a great start!
 **Varsity Boys’ Basketball** is also starting to get on a roll and just finished with a big conference win over Holy Cross on Tuesday night! Let’s cheer them on!

**Wrestling**: has been off to a super start this season. They are ranked in the top 10 in the state for private schools. Middle School has many wrestlers earning first place in multiple tournaments, and the Bitty program is competing almost every weekend in competitive tournaments.

Go Celtics!!!

*Matt Peck*

*Athletic Director*