

St. Rocco
School

Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ!

THURSDAY
PACKET

Weekly Parent Newsletter



Dear Parents,

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14TH, Valentine's Day. This is only the third time this has happened since 1945. This is such an important day in the liturgical year that here at St. Rocco's our focus will be on Ash



Wednesday and not Valentine's Day. Valentine celebrations will take place prior to the 14th. On Ash Wednesday, we will go to Mass at 9:00am and receive ashes as a school community. We will focus on the importance of Ash Wednesday and how it is the beginning of Lent, a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These three practices are highlighted on Ash Wednesday and encouraged throughout the days of Lent. For this to happen with our children, they need to go to Mass. They also need us as adults to talk about and model these three Lenten practices. Discussing with your children the significance of praying, fasting and almsgiving and helping them to find meaningful ways to embrace these practices will help

to make this season a time for change in their spiritual lives. I hope that your family finds time in the next week to prepare for the season of Lent. It can be a time of reflection and growth for all ages.

"God, may Your light guide my day, and your spirit bring me peace this Lent. Amen."

NEASC Reaccreditation ...

St. Rocco School has begun the process of self-study that will lead to our reaccreditation next spring. Reaccreditation is on a ten-year cycle. During our professional development day in October, a member from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges presented an overview to the faculty and staff on the reaccreditation process. The 2025 Self-Study will follow a very different format than the last time we were reaccredited back in 2015. The new process has two parts. The first part is the "Foundation Visit" which will take place in the fall of 2024. The second part is the "Program Visit" that will take place in the spring of 2025. We will be giving regular updates as we progress through the self-study. In the next few weeks, you will receive a survey that will help us in this process. Your input is so very important. Please keep us in your prayers as we strive to do our best for St. Rocco School.

Some Happenings...

Last Friday's Snowball Event was incredible! The students were amazed at the transformation that the gym underwent for this activity. It was turned into a winter landscape that the students were able to enjoy as they threw fluffy snowballs and ducked behind snowmen. So much thanks to Mrs. Marcella, the chair of this event, and all her volunteers for running this event for the students. They had a blast!

Also last Friday was the Father/Daughter Dance. It was a magical night for the girls and their dads. Thank you to Mrs. Anderson for chairing this event and the volunteers who assisted her in making this a memorable night for all.

Tomorrow is our Early Childhood Valentine Celebration. We look forward to our PreK 3-K parents joining us at 9:00am for a special morning shared with their children. Doors open at 8:45.



Today's Packet...

STAR results for the second assessment were sent home in today's Thursday Packet. Please take time to go over your child's results and reach out to the teacher if you have any questions.

Registration packets were sent home today with students in grades 5-8 who expressed interest in playing soccer (5-8) or volleyball (6-8) this spring. Please return these packets by 2/15. If we have enough students sign up, we will be able to enter teams into the Catholic Athletic League. We will also need coaches for these teams. If you are interested in coaching, call the office or email me.

Sports...

The following are this weekend's basketball games:

Saturday:

Junior White Team vs Immaculate Conception @ Immaculate Conception @ 12:00pm

Junior Maroon Team vs. St. James @ Mt. St. Charles @ 11:00am

Grammar Girls Team vs St. Margarets @ Mt. St. Charles @ 9:00am

Grammar Boys Team vs St. Philomena @ St. Philomena @ 10:15am

Sunday: Grammar Boys vs St. Peter @ Cole Middle School @ 3:00pm

Our amazing cheerleaders will be cheering at 2 games this weekend.

Reminders...

Students should be in the building by 8:10 to get to their classrooms on time by 8:15. There are still students arriving after the 8:15 bell. This disturbs morning prayers and announcements and the homeroom teacher's morning routine.

Students at every grade level have homework each evening. Whether it is reading a book out loud to a parent, practicing Math facts, studying for a test or writing a paper. All students should be doing something every evening. With less than a month left in the trimester, students need to stay on top of their work. Being a good student is an everyday job. It cannot be a last minute effort to make up for missed work. Helping your children to establish good study habits at a young age will set the foundation for them to be successful and independent throughout their school years.

Have a beautiful and peaceful week.

Respectfully,

Regina M. Hand/Principal



Registration

- **New Applications for 2024-25:** Tell family and friends to come and visit and tour our school. Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis, so spread the word!. If you know families who are interested in applying, have them call us at 401.944.2993 or direct them to our website at www.stroccoschool.org.
- **Re-Registration for 2024-25:** If you haven't re-registered, please call the office ASAP to schedule an appointment. Tuition must be current to re-register.
- Please be reminded that all families re-applying for next year must complete the online *FACTS Grant and Aid* form each year.
- The Diocese of Providence will use this information to determine your family's need. As soon as you have received your 2023 W-2 wage statement from your employer, please fill out the *FACTS* form. If you have not completed your 2023 income tax return, you may use your 2022 income tax return and your 2022 & 2023 W-2 statements together to file the *FACTS Grant and Aid* form.
- We will only be accepting the **online version** of the *FACTS* form, which you can find at <https://onlinefactsmgt.com/signin/3FR8T>

Parishioner Status ~ When re-registering your child for next year, your parishioner status needs to be determined for the tuition rate given. Just a reminder ~ to be able to receive parishioner rate, a family needs to contribute a minimum of \$250.00 in the prior calendar year. If you have any questions, please call the rectory office @ 942-5203.

ST. ROCCO SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Where our Children always come first!

THANK YOU! Thank you to Melissa Marcello and all the volunteers who made the Snowball event so much fun for our children this past Friday! Also on Friday was the Father/Daughter Dance. I wanted to thank Alison Anderson and all the volunteers who helped with the ideas, favors, centerpiece making, set up and all the other work that went into making this a special night for our families. Thank you to Ms. Hand and Mrs. Montecalvo for taking shifts and being there to support the Parent Association in this event.

Upcoming Events:

- **Early Childhood Family Hoe Down (Pre-K3 to Pre-K4) – Sat., March 9 from 4 to 7pm – Café Rocco**
Family fun for grades Pre-K3 through Pre-K 4!
Please reach out to Maria Cassisi, maria_cassisi@hotmail.com or Alison Anderson, alisonalta@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer.

Save the Date for our Upcoming Events:

- **Mother/Son Dance (K-8)– Friday, April 5 from 6pm to 9pm – Valley Country Club:** If you would like to volunteer, please contact Maria Cassisi, maria_cassisi@hotmail.com or Stephanie Fava, scd1024@aol.com
- **Mother/Daughter Brunch – Sunday, May 5 from 10am – 1pm – Cranston Country Club:** If you would like to volunteer, please contact Danielle Cazzarro, dcazzarro@gmail.com or Shay Jenkins-Hernandez, shayanna38@gmail.com
- **CORRECTED DATE: Family Field Day – Saturday, June 15 from 10am – 2pm – Field behind St. Rocco.** If you would like to volunteer, please contact Maria Cassisi, maria_cassisi@hotmail.com or the office at office@stroccoschool.org

Looking for donations!

- **Mother/Daughter Brunch Raffle Items:** We are looking for any items that we can use to raffle off at the Mother/Daughter Brunch. You can drop them off at school, contact the office or reach out to Danielle or Shay.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these events or help in any way, please reach out to the office, office@stroccoschool.org, the person listed above or Maria Cassisi, maria_cassisi@hotmail.com

CLASSROOM NEWS ... PreK A

Mrs. Brenda Tavares – PK4A

It is amazing to me how fast a school year goes by; we have already completed over one hundred days of the 2023-2024 school year. The students in Pre-K 4 are growing and learning every day.

We are continuing our journey through the alphabet. We are already working on the letter R; we will make a rhino and a racoon to help us learn the letter sound! We are working on our number skills recognizing the numerals up to twenty and putting them in order. We will begin to use whiteboards to draw shapes, write numerals and number words as well as color words and upper and lowercase letters. We are learning about the various parts of a book.



We are learning to identify the front cover, the back cover, the spine or binding, the title and that the author writes the words, and the illustrator draws the pictures. The pre-k students are working hard on their cutting skills. The children are often at the writing center cutting paper and gluing it together to make pictures and books.



The students are continuing to get ready for kindergarten. We have been working on rhyming words, sequencing events in a story and measuring. We will begin to learn about space and the planets after February vacation, the students enjoy bringing our classroom to life with the planets. After April vacation we will learn about butterflies, the weather, the different seasons, and plants. We will watch caterpillars grow into butterflies and release them into the trees. We will also plant our own flowers and enjoy watching them grow.



Before you know it, we will be planning our end of the year activities, and it will be time for the children to move on to kindergarten. The year always goes by so quickly.

Kindergarten...
Here We Come!

CLASSROOM NEWS .. PreK B

Mrs. Alycia Abjornson – PK4B

Happy February from Pre-K4B!

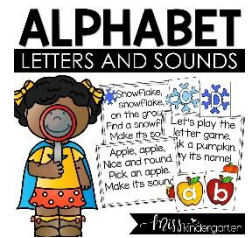
We are looking forward to our upcoming Valentine's celebration both in class and with our families in Cafe Rocco.

These past few weeks have been very fun. Our thematic unit lessons have included: States of Matter, Polar Animals, Winter Weather, Holidays Around the World, and Helping Hands. We have enjoyed theme related show & tell as well as some fun seasonal art projects.

Each day begins with a Morning Meeting that promotes collaboration and community through shared stories and activities. We have almost made it through the entire alphabet during meeting time. We are working hard on letter sound and formation along with writing both capital & lowercase. We have also started working with sight words. The class can consistently recognize 4 sight words!



Our Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum also takes place during morning meetings. The Heggerty program shows the connection between letters and the sounds they make. The children are currently on week 18 of the lessons. We have been working on rhyming words, blending, segmenting, middle sounds, and initial sounds. The kids are fantastic with the repetition and related hand motions. If you see a friend from Pre-K4B, ask them to show you what a “roller coaster word” is. It helps with those tricky vowel sounds!



In our Math lessons, we have been patterning, solving simple equations, & working on writing and recognizing our numbers. The kids have been creating their own patterns throughout the day independently.



During Religion, the children are growing in awareness and understanding of Jesus' mission & love for us. They have also become active members in celebrating the Mass with our St. Rocco School family.

Encouraging kindness, self-confidence, respect, and empathy continues to be our daily goals in class.

I am excited to watch these students continue to grow and develop for the rest of our time together in Pre-Kindergarten.



Snowball Event

Last day of Catholic Schools week



WE CELEBRATED 101 DAYS OF SCHOOL ON MONDAY!



UPCOMING ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Friday, February 9, 2024

Friday, February 9, 2024

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Feb. 19 - Feb. 23

Friday, March 1, 2024

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Thursday, March 28, 2024

Friday, March 29, 2024

Monday, April 1, 2024

Friday, April 5, 2024

April 15 – April 19

Middle School Bowling Event

PK3-K Valentine Celebration

Ash Wednesday – 9:00

Winter Vacation

First Friday Mass – 8:45

IL/PD Day

11:30 Early Dismissal – Holy Thursday

No School - Good Friday

No School – Easter Monday

Mother/Son Dance

Spring Vacation



February Virtue of the Month ~ **Charity**

*Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart,
and of a good conscience and of faith unfeigned. 1 Timothy 1:5*



Please follow us on Instagram @ [saintroccoschool](https://www.instagram.com/saintroccoschool) for updates and photos!

Also, don't forget to regularly visit our website www.stroccoschool.org for important information and updates.

CHRIST is the reason for this school.

~in our minds, on our lips, and always in our hearts~

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