

**St. Rocco
School**

Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ!

**THURSDAY
PACKET**

Weekly Parent Newsletter



A Note from the Principal...

Dear Parents,



Our time in the season of Advent is moving quickly. This Sunday (called Rejoice Sunday) we light the third candle, the only candle that is rose, and embrace “Joy”. I was once told that the three letters that make up the word **JOY** can teach us all we need to know about how to live a Christian life. By putting Jesus first, Others second and Yourself third, we are truly “preparing the way of the Lord”.

“Advent is a time of waiting for our Lord, who will visit us in all our hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!” Pope Francis

The following is Advent advice from Pope Francis. He said that it is important to welcome God with humility and not bravado. “Each of us needs to confess our own sins, our own failings, our own hypocrisy. It requires getting off the pedestal and being immersed in the water of repentance. Advent is a moment of grace to take off our masks — every one of us has them — and line up with those who are humble, to be liberated from the presumption of the belief of being self-sufficient, to go to confess our sins, the hidden ones, and to welcome God’s pardon, to ask forgiveness from those whom we have offended. This is how to begin a new life.”

“Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.” – Matthew 11:4-5

Congratulations...



To all our students for the amazing Christmas Concerts they put on in Café Rocco yesterday morning and St. Rocco Church yesterday evening. The hard work they put in to preparing for these programs was evident in all they did. Special thanks to Mrs. Rachdouni, our music (and grades 1-3 Spanish) teacher, and Mrs. Muccio, our Art (and grades 4-8) Spanish teacher, for their exceptional vision, creativity, and patience. They prepared the students so well. The children certainly took us around the world for Christmas with their performances.

Today...

Our Middle School students will enjoy an afterschool gingerbread house activity from 2:30-4:00. Special thanks to all the middle school teachers for giving their time to make this event possible.

Tomorrow...

The band from Bishop Hendricken High School will be here to give a Christmas concert for all our students.

This Weekend...

All our basketball teams are back in action this Saturday with home games at Rainone Gym. The gym is located right around the corner from St. Rocco’s at 45 Mill Street. The schedule is:

Junior Boys Maroon 9:00 am
Junior Boys White 10:00 am
Grammar Girls 11:00 am
Grammar Boys 12:00 pm
Come out and cheer our teams on!



May Advent continue to be a blessed and joyful time for all our St. Rocco School families.

Respectfully,

Regina M. Hand/Principal

The David M. DeCosta Memorial Scholarship

During the 2021-2022 school year, St. Rocco School was blessed to have Mr. David DeCosta join our school family as our Art Teacher as well as a willing substitute for any grade. Tragically, Mr. DeCosta died in September of 2022 from Glioblastoma. While he was only in our school for a short time, he made a huge and lasting impact. He was known for his kindness, positive attitude, creative energy, and always-present smile.

This year after the Opening Mass for Catholic Schools' Week, four $\frac{1}{2}$ tuition scholarships will be given to students who will be in Grades 5-8 for the 2024-2025 school year and who had Mr. DeCosta as a teacher. The application and criteria for eligible students is being sent home in today's Thursday Packet. **All applications are due January 3rd.**

MONTHLY PASSES ~ Each month throughout the school year, St. Rocco School will be offering special dress down passes for the month. You may purchase the monthly passes for January ~ Mondays only for the cost of \$5.00. Please place the money in a clearly labeled envelope with your child's name, grade, along with your **payment and required form (online) for January is due by December 15th.** (**Checks ONLY**) Passes will be sent home in the Thursday Packet.

**DRESS
DOWN
DAY**

*Spiritwear: **Looking for a great Christmas gift?** How about a St. Rocco's sweatshirt for your child, grandparent, aunt or uncle? We have plenty of sizes in stock, but they won't last! Please contact the office and we'll get them ready for you for the holidays!*



SRS Jewelry ~ Pre-Holiday Sale!!! **St. Rocco's Angela Moore bracelets. Regular price \$50.00 on sale for \$30.00. Great gift for moms, grams, aunts, SRS students! Also, we have two other style bracelets, for boys and girls ~ Cord Style and Wire with Charm (Reg. price \$15.00 ~ on sale for \$10.00 each. Send a note to the School Office if you need to make special arrangements for pickup.**



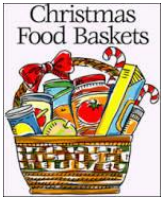
Feinstein Golden Ticket

Don't forget to follow The Feinstein Foundation on Facebook. There you will find winning Golden Ticket numbers, Jr. Scholar news, and much more!

<https://www.facebook.com/feinsteinfoundation.org>



Community Outreach Programs



St. Rocco School Annual Food Drive

St. Rocco School began its Food Drive, that will continue throughout the school year. Donations will be accepted throughout the year. We make food baskets for families at Christmas, so your donations are greatly appreciated! All food items collected will be donated to families in need within our community.

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one -Mother Teresa

Through your generosity, we were able to make 30 food baskets for families this Thanksgiving!

ST. ROCCO SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Where our Children always come first!

Save the date in 2024 for:

- **Snowball Event** – January 29 – in school
- **Book Fair** – January 29 – February 4 – in school
- **Father/Daughter Dance** – February 2 – Valley Country Club



More details will be given in the upcoming weeks. In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer for any of these events, please reach out to the office, office@stroccoschool.org or Maria Cassisi, maria_cassisi@hotmail.com



First Trimester Honor Roll



congratulations to the following students in Grades 6-8:

High Honors with Distinction ~ Students must have achieved a cumulative average of 95 or above in their academic subjects with a grade of at least 90 and a grade of at least 80 in each of the special subjects.

Grade 8: Alessandro Fava, Adrianna Insana, William Quattrucci & Nicholas Scotti

Grade 7: Samaira Dhamija and Aidan Cox

Grade 6: Mia Gorgievski

High Honors ~ Students must have achieved a cumulative average of 90-94 in their academic subjects with a grade of at least 85 and a grade of at least 80 in each of the special subjects.

Grade 8: Nathan Henao, Michael Ramos & Aurora Trainor

Grade 7: Joseph Broccoli Jr, Nakayla Chao, & Jializ Pagan

Grade 6: Savannah Horton, Mikaela Mercier & Emily Ramos

Honors ~ Students must have achieved a cumulative average of 85-89 in their academic subjects with a grade of at least an 80 and a grade of at least 80 in each of the special subjects.

Grade 8: Arielle Ainabe, Scott Creighton, Leilani Delgado & Austin Martins

Grade 7: Landyn Chester, Alexia Lombardi & Rossella Ritacco

Congratulations to the following students in **Grades 4 & 5:**

Certificates of Achievement ~ Students must have achieved a cumulative average of 85-100 in their academic subjects with a grade of at least 85 in the major subjects and a grade of at least 80 in each of the special subjects.

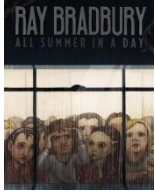
Grade 4: Ava Bernardeau, William Hendrickson, Natalie Heywood, Selena Hines, Nico Iacobo, Julia Moretti, Isabella Rodriguez, Jaxson Scipione & Aubrey Sgambato

Grade 5: Owen Chester, Gabriella Ciampanelli, Nicholas DiMascio, Lowell Grady, Oliver Heywood, Amaya Hudick, Alyssa Insana, Aria Maddern, Dayana Ribera Bustos, Sophia Ribera Bustos & Raelan Set Guzman

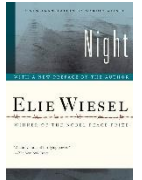
Classroom News

ELA/Literature – Gr. 6-8 Ms. Samantha Tripp

We have been having a fantastic year so far in ELA and Literature!



All classes have been working very hard on their grammar units. So far, we have covered nouns, pronouns, and some adjectives! This semester we will be focusing on our writing skills. Sixth Grade is currently working on an argument piece about who they believe is responsible for turning the Frank family into the Germans. Seventh Grade has just started writing an alternate ending to the short story “All Summer in a Day” by Ray Bradbury. The Eighth Grade is going to begin working on their writing through our work with the memoir *Night* by Elie Wiesel.



Students in Sixth Grade have been reading *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. We will be exploring the three different time periods within the novel as well as the hardships and struggles that refugees are faced with when having to flee from their home country.







Seventh Grade is currently reading *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli where we are exploring all different types of figurative language, author’s craft, extended metaphor poems, and the idea of what the meaning of the word “different” really means.



Eighth Grade has just begun reading the memoir *Night* by Elie Wiesel. So far, we are learning about why the Nazis committed these horrible crimes against humanity. We will spend some time analyzing how the Nazis dehumanized the Jewish population. We will also look at how Elie loses faith in both his religion and God, as well as how Elie’s journey is simply one long Night.

Eighth Grade has also been busy getting ready for high school! Students have applied and some acceptances have started to roll in! I am looking forward to seeing all the great things our eighth graders are going to do within their final year at St Rocco’s!

After School Clubs-

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>Friends of Jesus</p> <p style="background-color: yellow;">Postponed until Further Notice</p> <p>Thank you for your Prayers for Sr. Daisy</p> 	<p>Strings/Violin Lessons</p> <p>Grades K-4 2:35pm-3:15pm 5-8 3:15pm-4:00pm</p> <p>Instructor: Mrs. Rachdouni</p>  <p>Session Concluded – Info to follow on New Sessions</p>	<p>Dance Program</p> <p>Grades K-4 2:35pm-3:30pm</p> <p>Instructor: Miss Denise</p>  <p>Session Concluded – Info to follow on New Sessions</p>	<p>Newspaper Club</p> <p>Grades 6-8 2:35pm-4:00pm</p> <p>Advisor: Mrs. Scotti</p> 

ATHLETIC Practice Schedule

Junior Boys
M. S. Boys Grammar
M. S. Girls Grammar
Cheerleading

Monday 4:00-5:30
Wednesday 2:30-4:30
Monday 2:30-4:00
Tuesday 2:30-4:00

Wednesday 4:00-5:30
Friday 4:00-5:45
Friday 2:30-4:00
Thursday 2:30-4:00

The Spirit of Christmas Joy, Hope and Peace at St. Rocco's School



St. Rocco School Honor Society – Making crafts for local Nursing Homes



December Activity Calendar

Friday, December 15th

Dress Down \$1.00 – Keep the Heat on - Wear Red

Thursday, December 21st

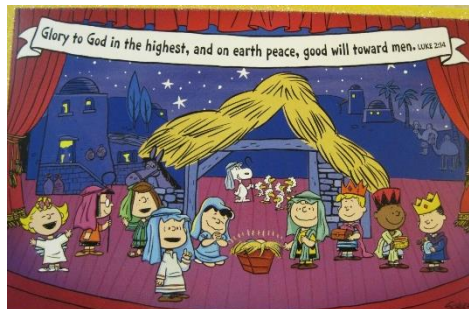
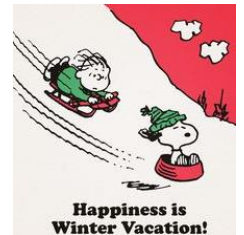
11:30 am Dismissal – **NO AFTERCARE**

Friday, December 22nd

Winter Vacation Begins

Tuesday, January 2nd

Return to School - Va



Virtue of the Month ~ Faith

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1



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~