



**St. Rocco
School**

Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ!

**THURSDAY
PACKET**

Weekly Parent Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Advent is a time of light and preparation. The second purple candle that we light this Sunday stands for the virtue of love. This visual of two candles lit tells us we are getting closer to Christmas, but that we still have time to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. What are we doing to "prepare the way of the Lord"?



Last week at our First Friday Mass, Fr. Carusi spoke to the students about preparing during Advent to receive Jesus into their lives this Christmas. Within the St. Rocco School community, we are preparing with daily Advent prayers, collecting food, dressing down for Adopt-a Family and "Keep the Heat On", and making cards and Advent chains. The school, church and convent are aglow with lights. And all our students are practicing with Mrs. Rachdouni as she prepares them for this year's Christmas Concerts.

Tomorrow our school community will attend Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the day the Catholic Church recognizes the sinless conception of Mary, nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary, celebrated on September 8th. It is a Holy day of obligation in the liturgical year of the Church. The St. Rocco School Honor Society will lead the Mass and Grade 6 will present the virtue of "Courage" at the conclusion of the liturgy. All are welcome!

Our students in Grades 6-8 who made the Honor Roll the first trimester will receive their certificates after the Mass and virtue presentation. In addition, some of our Grade 4 and 5 students will receive Certificates of Achievement for their work in the first trimester. Congratulations to all of them!

Some School Happenings and Gratitude...

This week our students enjoyed shopping at the Christmas Shoppe. Special thanks to Ms. Hernandez and her many volunteers who organized this activity for our students. The volunteers made the experience such a positive one for the children who were so eager to shop for their friends and families.



A huge thank you to our Parent Association for running the Christmas Party last Friday evening. It was so wonderful to see our students and their families enjoying a festive night out together. Special thanks to the chairpersons of the event, Ms. Casissi and Mrs. Cazzarro, and all the volunteers for their time, effort and creative energy. And, of course, thank you to Santa Claus for his magical presence!

Sporting News...

Our Cheerleading Squad began practices last week. Thank you to Mrs. Heywood for initiating the team and the other coaches, Mrs. Cazzarro and Ms. Ciampanelli, for working with the cheerleaders. Any student in grades 4-8 is still welcome to join. Practices are Tuesday and Thursdays from 2:30-3:30pm.

Our basketball teams will be competing in their first games this weekend. This week's games are:
12/9 Boys' Grammar vs Bishop McVinney @ 2:00pm @ St. Mary's School

12/9 Boys' Junior Maroon vs St. Luke @ 11:00am @ St. Luke School

12/9 Boys' Junior White vs St. James @ 11:00am @ Fr. Doyle School

12/10 Girls' Grammar vs St. Mary Sacred Heart @ 2:00pm @ Cole Middle School

Go Raptors!

Next Week...

Our Christmas Concerts are on December 13th. The PreK3, PreK 4 and K students will share their Christmas spirit with their families at 9:00 am in Café Rocco. Doors open at 8:45am. Later that evening, Grades 1-8 will perform in the church for their families. Doors open at 5:30pm. The children have been working very hard with Mrs. Rachdouni and are looking forward to performing for their families. Please join us!



Next Friday, the Choir and Jazz Band from Bishop Hendricken will be treating us to a concert here at school. It is also a Dress Down Day for the diocese's "Keep the Heat On" campaign. This was begun by Bishop Tobin many years ago and is a program to assist those in our community who have difficulty heating their homes throughout the winter months. Students who dress down should bring in \$1.00 and wear red.

Finally, I want you to think about why you send your child to St. Rocco School. I believe it is for the solid Catholic and Academic foundation that we offer each student as well as the varied opportunities we provide to let our students shine. I also believe it is the welcoming, caring environment that your child is wrapped in day after day. So please, share the good news with your family and friends. Your children go to St. Rocco's and that is something to be proud of. Shout it from the rafters!

Blessings to you and your families this holy Advent Season.

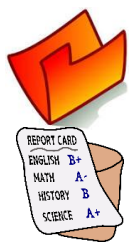
Respectfully,

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 ½ 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.



**Blizzard Folders for PK3-Grade 5 are going home today.
They are Orange Folders. Please be sure you keep this at home!**

**Report Cards are in your child's E-Locker on the Portal.
Please be sure to take some time and go over your child's report card with them!**

Community Outreach Programs



St. Rocco School Annual Food Drive

St. Rocco School's Food Drive is continuous throughout the school year. Donations may be sent in at any time. All food items collected are 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!

Reminders and announcements:

- **Dress Down Collection** ~ Yesterday's Dress Down for Adopt a Family totaled \$222.00 ! Thank you for your generosity!
- **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.
- **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!*
Christmas Special - SRS Hoodies - Youth and Adult - 15% off for Christmas!
- **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>

ST. ROCCO SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Where our Children always come first!



The **Family Christmas Party** was so much fun for families this past Friday! Thank you to all our volunteers, Santa, our readers, the staff, and everyone who donated items, without you this would not have been such a great event!

Thank you to all the volunteers for our **Santa Shop**. We are so blessed to have had you shop, wrap and check out our Christmas Shoppers!

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

Classroom News

Grade 5 – ELA – Mrs. Lisa Scotti

In Fifth Grade English, we are very busy reading in Literature, writing with proper grammar in ELA and learning impressive vocabulary in Spelling.



We have progressed through Nouns in ELA/Grammar and have begun to touch on Pronouns. Grammar provides a solid basis for the children to express themselves, and they can't be good writers or speakers without it!



In Reading, our new reading series has challenged us to dig deeper to find thoughts, feelings, and solid text evidence within each story. We have begun working on story elements; the children are learning that sometimes the message behind the story can be different for each reader but still correct if they can support it with story evidence.

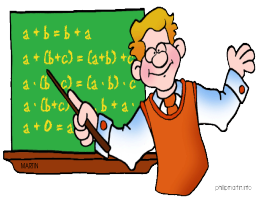


All in all, Fifth Grade is learning and growing every day. Their curiosity is amazing, and I look forward to watching them mature as they head toward the second half of the year!

Mrs. Scotti

Classroom News

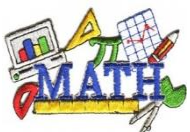
Middle School Math – Gr. 6-8 – Mr. James Tully



My name is Jim Tully, and I began at St Rocco School teaching Middle School Math on October 30th. The primary part of my work life involved working in Higher Education including twelve years as Vice President of Student Services at New England Tech where my primary role was to work with the faculty to improve the student success rate. In the latter part of my career, I worked for Ellucian, a company based in Reston, Virginia that provided software systems to colleges and universities across the country.

I live in Warwick with my wife Barbara. We have three adult sons who also live in Warwick, and we have been further blessed with four granddaughters who are now in Grades 5-10.

I enjoyed having an opportunity to meet many of our students' families at the Saint Rocco School Christmas Dinner Dance.







Here is a quick update on each of the middle school Math classes. Grade Six will complete work on expressions and equations before the Christmas break. When they return from break, they will begin working with integers as they are used in algebraic operations.

Grade Seven will be finishing rational numbers concentrating on decimal operations in an algebraic context. Upon their return they will delve into rational numbers and factoring.

Finally, our Grade Eight class will finish the calendar year by completing algebraic inequalities. They will kick off the new year with polynomials and factoring.

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>Dance Program</p> <p>Grades K-4 2:35pm-3:30pm</p> <p>Instructor: Miss Denise</p> 	<p>Newspaper Club</p> <p>Grades 6-8 2:35pm-4:00pm</p> <p>Advisor: Mrs. Scotti</p> 

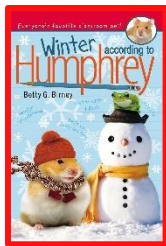
ATHLETIC Practice Schedule

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 2:30-4:30

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

3rd Grade Reading Buddies





Christmas Concert Schedule

Wednesday, December 13th - Pk3-K - 9:00 am Café Rocco

Wednesday, December 13th - Gr 1-8 - 6:00 pm in St. Rocco's Church

December Activity Calendar

Friday, December 8th

Immaculate Conception Mass – 9:00 am

Wednesday, December 13th

Early Childhood Christmas Program – 9:00 am Café Rocco

Wednesday, December 13th

Christmas Program Gr 1-8 - 6:00 pm in Church

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



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~