

Dear Parents,

After six weeks of Lent, we find ourselves in Holy Week. It is a week like no other in the liturgical year of the Catholic Church. Today, Holy Thursday, we celebrate the Last Supper with Jesus and the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders. On Good Friday, we commemorate Jesus' last day and His crucifixion. At the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, we welcome new members into the Catholic Church. People are baptized and adult catechumens are received into full communion with the Church. We wait and pray collectively for the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning. And, we share in the joy of Easter together on Sunday as the season of Easter begins. Over the next few days, I hope you have the opportunity to take some time with your families to slow down and peacefully and prayerfully embrace Holy Week.

### In School News...

Huge congratulations to the Fourth Grade and their teacher, Mrs. Ciunci, for their beautiful and touching enactment of the Living Stations yesterday. We are so proud of you!

Special thanks to Mrs. Rachdouni, Mrs. Rodi and the choir who shared their musical talents during the Living Stations. You added so much to the holiness of the afternoon.

Rice Bowls were due on Tuesday. Thank you to all of the families who donated to this important annual outreach to those less fortunate. I would like to commend Aiden Marsland in Kindergarten and his family for the creative way that they approached putting money aside for their Rice Bowl. They created a "Lenten Donation Activity" where Aiden did some age appropriate household tasks to earn \$1.00 for his Rice Bowl. Aiden then put a star on a chart to see how many \$1.00 he had earned "to help other children have food". Aiden proudly came in with \$75 in his Rice Bowl this week! If you forgot to send in your Rice Bowl, they can be returned after vacation.

Our Seventh and Eighth Grade classes, under the direction of Miss Tripp, met via Zoom with a graduate poet and teacher, Mr. Ryan Kingsley, from Washington University. The classes spent two class periods with Mr. Kingsley exploring poetry as they begin to create their own poems in class over the next few weeks during National Poetry Month. Last year several of our students received national recognition for their submissions. We are hoping for the same this year.

Congratulations to our newest altar servers: Leilani Delgado, Alessandro Cassisi-Wood, Abigail Berube and Malakai Moan. Thank you to Mr. Monaco for his time in training the students.

Every student is being sent home with two packages of COVID-19 test kits. These were supplied by RIDOH for all schools in Rhode Island who wanted them. The purpose of the test kits is for students to be able to test at home before they return to school. Thank you to Nurse Cheryl for arranging this for our school and picking up the test kits.

The Middle School had a hugely successful first "Paint and Pepsi Night" last Friday. With 90% participation, Café Rocco was alive with food, laughter and creative energy. It was so wonderful for the Middle School to



have the opportunity to enjoy an activity together after school hours. Special thanks to Miss Tripp for organizing this event and the entire Middle School Team (Miss Troiano, Mrs. Reitz, Mrs. Montecalvo, Mr. DeCosta and Mrs. Okolowicz) for being present on a Friday night to chaperone and share this night with the students. I definitely think this will be an annual event.

### **Coming up...**

The Parent Association is trying to schedule some afterschool class activities on Fridays this spring. In order to be successful, they will need parent volunteers. First up is several "Parent, Pops and Playground" get-togethers for our PreK3-Second Grade students.

### **Important reminder...**

There are no dogs permitted on the school grounds. This includes during arrival, dismissal and at any afterschool sport or activity.

Finally, I would like to share the following letter from Mrs. Reitz's daughter who met with Miss Tripp's ELA classes via Zoom last month. In collaboration with Miss Tripp, they learned about the plight of refugees. The Sixth Grade class earned money with their self-created art work for Project Elea. Project Elea is a group of volunteers from around the world who work collaboratively with the residents of Eleonas Refugee Camp in Athens.

*Hello St. Rocco school community,*

*I just wanted to write and say a huge thank you for your support of Project Elea! It means the world to me that I was able to share my experiences with Ms. Tripp's class, and that the students were so moved to dedicate their time and energy to help such a meaningful organization. I've seen the many fruits of donations like yours, and I know the impact Project Elea programming has on families and communities facing unimaginable situations. From preschool supplies to books in the kids' native languages, to medical needs, foodstuffs, winter clothes, and more - your support goes a long way in bringing our world closer together.*

*And to Ms. Tripp, and all St. Rocco's educators, thank you for taking the time to include these conversations in your curriculum - for giving space to students to be aware and understand modern issues facing our society. These are lessons that will shape their world perspectives for the rest of their lives, guiding them to be compassionate, informed servants of the Lord.*

*Thank you!*

*Mimi Reitz*

What a beautiful way for our students to help others during this season of Lent. I wish all of our families an Easter full of joy.

Respectfully,

Regina M. Hand



# Important Information

*St. Rocco School is accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Please encourage family and friends to visit our school. "Word of mouth" is the best way to spread the good news about us. Don't forget about our REFERRAL PROGRAM! Please check the website for details. For more than 58 years, St. Rocco has had the distinction and reputation of educating the whole child; spiritually, educationally and socially. We are proud of our accomplishments and we continue to strive to greatness for our students!*



**FACTS Tuition Assistance Applications** – FACTS tuition aid applications for the 2022-2023 school year are ongoing. You can apply by going on to the FACTS management website. Diocesan tuition assistance funds cannot be placed for a student if the family's

FACTS application has **not** been completed. Families must complete a FACTS tuition application every year. The deadline for completing the application to be considered for tuition assistance for the 2022-23 school year is **April 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**YEARBOOK ORDERS ~ LIMITED AMOUNT LEFT!!!** Please be sure to order a yearbook that captures the amazing memories of your child's school year! (REMINDER to GRADE 8 Parents: DO NOT ORDER ~ the payment for a personalized yearbook was included in your child's graduation dues.)



**Easter Raffle** ~ The Student Council sponsored an Easter Raffle. All proceeds will benefit St. Rocco School. The winners were called today.

Raffle Winners: Pre-K 3: Harleigh Holland (PreK3-3)

Grades 3-5: Amaya Hudick (3)      Grades 6-8: Liz Ricci (7)



## Statewide Transportation

The Statewide Transportation System is opened to receive student transportation requests for the upcoming **2022-23** school year. To ensure a bus stop for the first day of school next year, both current and new riders must register by July 31, 2022. This is the [link](#) for parents/guardians. Please note: We checked with the Transportation System Office and even though they have not yet updated their website they assured us that parents completing the form currently on their website will be for the 2022-23 school year. If you have any questions call 401-304-9136 or email [transportationinfo@ride.ri.gov](mailto:transportationinfo@ride.ri.gov)

## ST. ROCCO PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

*"Where our Children always come first!"*



### Parents, Pops and Playground Event



The Parent Association would like to plan an event for the younger students, however, for it to be possible; we are looking for parent volunteers. The Parents, Pops and Playground activity will take place on Friday afternoons.

The dates, times and grade level are as followed:

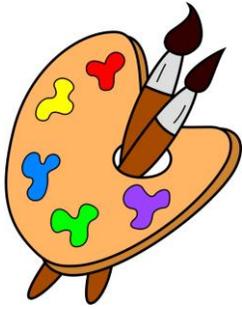
Grades PK3 & PK4	Friday, April 29 <sup>th</sup>	2:30-3:30pm
Grades K	Friday, May 6 <sup>th</sup>	2:30-3:30pm
Grades 1 & 2	Friday, May 13 <sup>th</sup>	2:30-3:30pm
Grades PK3 & PK4	Friday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>	2:30-3:30pm
Grades K	Friday, May 27 <sup>th</sup>	2:30-3:30pm
Grades 1 & 2	Friday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2:30-3:30pm

If you are able to volunteer, please call the School Office by Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Each child **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

Thank you in advance.

# Classroom News – Art

Hello my name is David De Costa. I am the long term substitute Art Teacher here at Saint Rocco School. I



am very excited for this opportunity to work with your children for the rest of the year. I have worked for 36 years for a ring manufacturing company for high schools and colleges, as well as designing championship rings for both high school and professional sport teams. I truly hope that the St. Rocco Art program will enrich the lives of your children. Art should always be a time of fun and wonderment.



- Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 11:30 Dismissal
- Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> First Holy Communion
- Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> Year End Celebration Dance  
Grades 6-8
- Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> May Crowning 8:45 am
- Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation
- Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> Last Day of School

Virtue of the Month – Forgiveness



*"Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times". Matthew 18:21*

Don't forget to follow us and stay up to date with all the good things happening @saintroccoschool!



**CHRIST** is the Reason for this school.

*-in our minds, on our lips, and always in our hearts-*

931 Atwood Ave. • Johnston, RI 02919 • Tel. 401.944.2993 • [www.stroccaschool.org](http://www.stroccaschool.org)

A Roman Catholic School