



St♥ Rocco School

Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ!

THURSDAY PACKET

Weekly Parent Notes



Dear Parents,

The Christmas season that begins on Christmas day concluded this past Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The longest season of the liturgical year, Ordinary Time, began this past Monday. The first half of Ordinary Time will take us up to the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. However, while the season of Christmas has now passed, we should hold tight to the rebirth of Jesus that the season brought out in each of us. And, as we continue to maneuver the challenges that the pandemic brings to all of us, let us move forward with Hope in the Lord who brings us comfort.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1:3



New COVID Protocols:

This past week, St. Rocco School put out the new COVID protocols that we will be following over the coming weeks and months. While most of this is in line with the CDC and RIDOH recommendations, we have taken it a step further and require testing after day 5 for close contacts either who are at home or who remain in school for the “Monitor to Stay” option. As always, if you are not comfortable with testing to return or stay, your child can remain out for the full ten days. We will continue to make decisions in the best interest of our entire school community. This past week we were close to 50% of our school community being tested. We are still looking to increase this number. We will continue with weekly testing this Tuesday due to the holiday beginning at 7:45.



Re-Registration:

This week in your child's Thursday Packet, we included the re-registration packets for next school year. Please make a note of your scheduled appointment time. As a reminder, St. Rocco School has a Referral Program that offers a great incentive to current St. Rocco School families. This program is outlined in detail today as an attachment.

Some Good News:

This past week we received a check for \$4,000 from the Feinstein Foundation for our active Kindness Tree Good Deed Program and our Food Pantry. The good deeds our students do throughout the year are highlighted on the Kindness Tree, over the afternoon announcements and shared in the Thursday Packet. Throughout the year our students are working to do good deeds and bring in food for those less fortunate. We are so grateful to Mr. Feinstein for his continued support of our school and our efforts to grow in kindness.

Some reminders:

-Although it is a new year, the rules are the same...no make-up, nail polish (except clear) or jewelry (except one pair of post earrings and a religious medal or crucifix) permitted at school. There have been quite a few students wearing sneakers with their regular uniform. Black sneakers that resemble shoes are allowed for boys with the regular uniform.

-Students are marked late at 8:15. It is best to have your child at school by 8:10, so they have time to get to their homeroom and be on time and ready for morning prayer and announcements. Being late disrupts the smooth start to the student's day. It also disrupts the teacher, other students and the office staff.

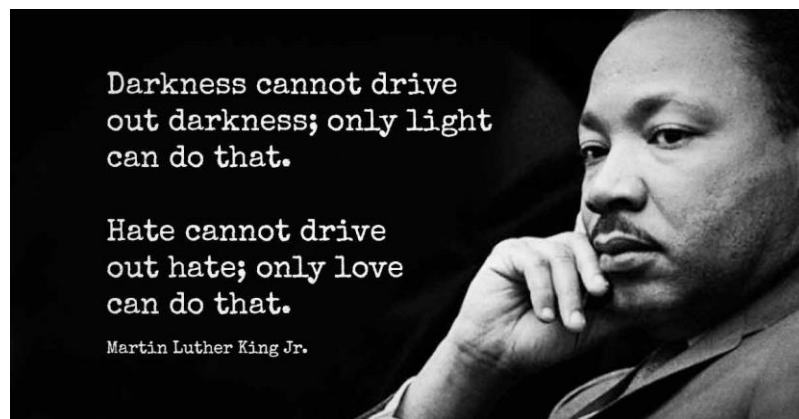
Finally, as we look to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. with a national holiday this Monday, let us pray together for unity in our families, communities, country and world. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.:

” **Peace** cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” ~ **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Have a peaceful week.

Respectfully,

Regina M. Hand



Important Information



Re-registration packets are being sent home today with your child. Please note the appointment time for your reregistration interview is in the packet. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to the office at 401-944-2993 or office@stroccoschool.org

Parent Volunteers- In accordance with the Diocese guidelines every parent, that volunteers at the school, needs to have an up to date BCI and safe environment. This is renewed every three years and the BCI check is \$5. You can watch the safe environment video on the website and then sign to confirm you saw it at the office. You can check your status at your reregistration appointment or you can call the office anytime as well.

Financial Aid -Applications for financial aid for the 2022-2023 school year have started. You can apply by going on to the FACTS management website. In addition, in order to receive parishioner rate for the 2022-2023 school year, you must have contributed \$250.00 to St. Rocco Church by **December 31, 2021** to receive parishioner rate.

Emergency Closings and Delayed Openings: St. Rocco School follows the same emergency closing and delayed opening as the Johnston Public School System. The school will alert parents of these changes. Also, parents are able to tune to radio, television or internet to view any delays or closing. Channels 12, 10, 6 and Fox Stations will carry the emergency or delay broadcast for their viewers.

SAVE THE DATE

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| • Monday, January 17 th | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
NO SCHOOL |
| • Thursday, January 20 th | \$1 Dress Down Day - Right to Life
Wear Pink or Blue
Proceeds to support the DOP Gabriel Project |
| • Monday, January 24 th | Independent Learning Day/
Professional Development Day |
| • Sunday, January 30 th | Family Mass at 10am
Catholic Schools Week Begins
Tours by Appointment Only 11am- 1pm |
| • Friday, February 4 th | First Friday Mass-Early Dismissal at
11:30am/ No Lunch or Aftercare |

Classroom News

What an exciting start to our year for all of our talented musicians and singers at St. Rocco's School! It is so nice to hear everyone singing and performing again, and I have truly enjoyed getting to know all of our wonderful students. I hope you all watched our rendition of the Christmas Story and were able to share with your families our readings, carols, and bucket drumming.

In our youngest grades (PreK3-First Grade), students have been learning about keeping a steady beat, basic rhythms, dynamics, traditional songs and dances, and have had the opportunity to play many of our class instruments. In the coming weeks we will be learning about our "Note Value Family" and beginning to read music using handbells and xylophones.



In second- fourth grade, students have earned their white and yellow belts in "Recorder Karate" and have learned about the instrument families. We have listened to and performed some famous pieces by Haydn, Bach, and Ravel, and are now learning how to use solfege to decode notes and read music independently. We are beginning long-term music projects that focus on composers and music in movies, and will be sharing them with the class when they are completed. We will return to recorders when it is warm enough to go back outside and play!

Our middle school students have thoroughly impressed me with their drumming skills after just a few short months of classes. They have mastered difficult rhythmic patterns and have been able to play in unison with no trouble at all! Look out for information regarding our move to ukuleles as part of our Spring curriculum! Also, a big shout out to our Middle School chorus who have done an excellent job at all of our school masses and were such a special part of our Christmas pageant!

I am very excited about all of the music we have been working on in class and look forward to a wonderful Spring with more great performances to share with all of you! Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year!

Musically,
Mrs. Bethany Rachdouni



***Please note that there will not be a Nurse's Corner attachment this week. Instead please visit our website <https://www.stroccoschool.org/parent-s-page/news-events/nurses-corner> and review the most recent Covid Guidelines that have recently come out. As always, Nurse Cheryl is always available to answer any questions or concerns**



Virtue of the Month - Honesty

But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. Luke 8:15

CHRIST is the Reason for this school.

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

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A Roman Catholic School