



Fall 2017

# Catholic School Connections

UPDATES FROM ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

*The Office of Catholic  
Schools Staff*

*Thanks you for  
choosing and supporting  
the Catholic Schools in the  
Diocese of Richmond*



## HOLY CROSS UNVEILS NEW DISTANCE LEARNING LAB

Holy Cross School in Lynchburg is the latest Diocesan school to unveil a new Distance Learning Lab to help students interact with people around the world. They used their new lab for the first time with an extended activity for Veteran's Day. Ms. Megan Saunders, middle school English teacher, connected with and coordinated a conference with Dr. Robert Snyder, current Professor in the Early Childhood Department at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and former US Army Officer. Holy Cross opened the event to Roanoke Catholic School and classes interested in participating, as they have the same Distance Learning Lab in their school. The collaboration went extremely well and all students from both schools were able to see, hear, and interact with Dr. Snyder.

They look forward to working with other schools within the Diocese on more interactive and academic opportunities through the implementation of this new technology. Several of our schools have Distance Learning Labs and are taking advantage of all the advanced learning opportunities this technology makes possible.



*"Above all, Bishop was a man of inclusion. His passion for education made him a great advocate for the Office of Catholic Schools! He championed the disenfranchised and pushed hard to make Catholic education available to all. His work for Latino students was recognized nationally and became a model for other dioceses to follow. With Bishop's support and leadership, diocesan schools received unparalleled financial and spiritual support. Under his guidance, the Diocese of Richmond Catholic schools achieved national accreditation. His love for his children was unmistakable and will define his legacy.*

*Bishop was never too busy or too occupied to connect with those crossing his path. He would always stop and ask how the day was going. Most likely, he would circle around to wherever the last conversation left off... No matter how much was on his agenda, he had time to stop and connect. He will be missed."*

*- Ray Honeycutt, Superintendent*



The Most Reverend Francis X. DiLorenzo  
Bishop of Richmond



All Saints is proud of their Flaming Marshmallows Lego Robotic Team who won the robotic competition and the district championship at the First Lego League Competition at MWGS. They will move on to state competition in December! Also proud of our Amazing Knights team for winning 1st place for their project and 3rd in their division!



During Benedictine's Annual Commissioning Ceremony, senior leaders formally received their rank and take their oaths of office. These Cadets make up the leadership of the Corps of Cadets and will go on to plan and execute major school functions.



Bishop Sullivan students raised \$18,000 for The Basilica School in Key West, FL, after their school was destroyed by Hurricane Irma. They also collected hundreds of pounds of supplies for Puerto Rico to help them recover after Hurricane Maria.



Blessed Sacrament Huguenot launched a new STEAM lab for students in PK through 5th grades. The A in Steam represents Agriculture rather than art with the goal of connecting children to the environment through science, technology, engineering and math.



On November 2<sup>nd</sup> Charlottesville Catholic 2nd graders presented a wonderful Saints Wax Museum. Faculty, staff, students, and parents had the opportunity to learn more about the saints by watching these statues come to life and tell their stories.



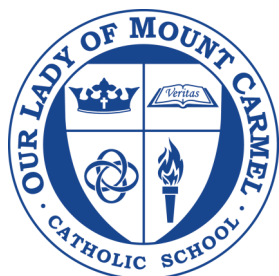
Christ the King honored CTK family Veterans by inviting them to the school Mass with Ft. Matthias, followed by a ceremony with refreshments at the school. The school choir sang patriotic songs. Students wrote letters and poems and each grade level chose at least one student to share their message.



Holy Cross was well represented at the 2017 Lynchburg Regional First Lego League Tournament. This year's team was coached by Karl Rony and David Dumasau, The Gaelgos is one of the longest running Lego League teams in the region, and have put together strong teams for 11 consecutive years!



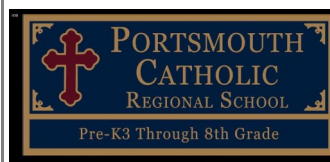
Our Lady of Lourdes implemented Guided Math in grades K through 5. Students are in small ability leveled groups and work on specific standards being taught in centers around the room. Differentiation is achieved as students are in flexible groups and instruction and activities are changed to meet the needs of the student.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and Parish worked together to begin Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The program takes place in a space called the Atrium. This room is filled with handcrafted presentations of Jesus' life. They are enjoying this beautiful space.

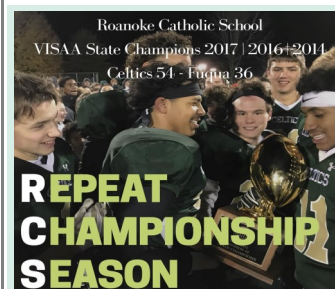


**STATE CHAMPS!**  
Girls Volleyball and Boys Cross Country



Portsmouth students lived Servant Leadership by being in service to others as Jesus models. Middle School students raised funds for Hurricane Relief with a dinner prior to the Read-A-Bration, Math and Technology Night.

The \$1067.94 was split and sent to TX, FL, and PR.



Roanoke Catholic School Football Team won its 2nd straight VISAA state championship — and its 3rd in four consecutive appearances in the title game ... not to mention the Celtics' 21st consecutive victory. Congratulations to the team, head coach Bob Price and his coaching staff, and our RCS community!



Sacred Heart celebrated National Young Reader's Day with several activities to recognize the joys and benefits of reading. The day began with parents and community leaders sharing their favorite stories with students. Other highlights were Ginger Clark, a guest author, and a pizza dinner fundraiser for Heifer International.



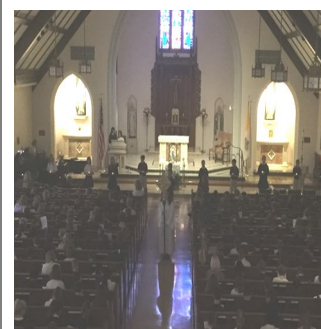
St. Anne students have been visiting their local fire department on Sept. 11th since 2003. Their students help prepare a hearty lunch, make "thank you" cards, and sing "God Bless America". They have received a national award from the 911 Day Foundation for this service project!



Saint Benedict has implemented a school-wide writing program through the Institute for Excellence in Writing. They will learn nine structural models for writing and each year will incorporate additional stylistic techniques that will ensure critical thinking, proper grammar, and engaging style for our young writers.



SAINT BRIDGET SCHOOL



The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class recently led the Saint Bridget family in prayer while reciting the Living Rosary. It was a beautiful way for the children to come together in a calm and peaceful place to reflect on their faith.



St. Edward-Epiphany hosted its 1st Annual Legacy night last spring, with funds from that, classrooms across the school are undergoing an amazing transformation. Mrs. Long's classroom is their first alternative seating environment, which offer students many different types of workspaces.



Dr. Darden is a mathematician and aeronautical engineer who was profiled in the book "Hidden Figures". She spoke at Saint Gertrude as part of their Discover Leadership program. Dr. Darden spoke about the challenges she faced as a black, female engineer at NASA, as well as her field of sonic boom minimization.



At SGGS, they have launched a leadership program called "Lead Like A Saint." The program's mission is to empower the students with the confidence to be leaders among their peers as a result of witnessing Jesus Christ par excellence. It means to lead and act with a strong Catholic identity and understanding, like the Saints of our Catholic tradition.



On All Saints Day, St. John Neumann Academy's upper school students celebrated the lives of their favorite saints with a "living museum." They dressed up as the saints they researched and presented information to fellow schoolmates, parents, teachers, and visitors. Everyone learned more about the lives of these ordinary people who did extraordinary things for the love of Jesus.



STREAM Night at SJA was a memorable night for all who attended! Families gathered in classrooms to participate in hands-on STREAM activities put together by teachers and Mad Science. The STREAM Night at SJA was a success and they are excited to begin planning their next STREAM Night!



In celebration of the National Day on Writing, Saint Joseph students took to the sidewalks to share inspirational messages! As one of the middle schoolers scribed "People work better together". It was heart-warming to witness students embrace the power of words and images.



St. Mary's Veteran's Day Assembly started with their 2<sup>nd</sup> graders singing patriotic songs ending with the United States Armed Forces Medley. All veterans in attendance were recognized and then they heard from LTC Sabre Carroll and LTC Dana Carroll.



Saint Mary Star of the Sea School has introduced a Montessori and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd curriculum for the 3 and 4 year old Pre-Kindergarten program. The Montessori approach recognizes that each child is a unique child of God, worthy of respect and dignity, bearing unique gifts and talents.



Students at St. Matthew's School in Virginia Beach embrace their commitment to be servant leaders. The students work with community agencies to reach out to support those in need. Pictured here helping the South-eastern VA Food Bank and Salvation Army Stocking Stuffer Program. They will also collect for Toys-For-Tots and Kidz Kruz.



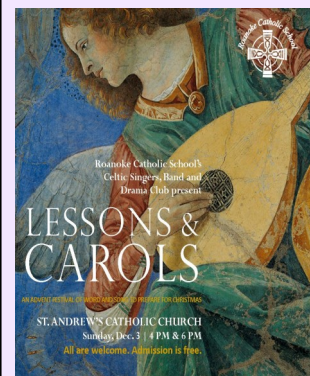
The Virginia Board of Education recognized Saint Patrick as a Virginia Naturally School and the city of Norfolk honored Saint Patrick with the 2017 Norfolk Environmental Action Award for making measurable, positive impacts on the environment and promoting environmental stewardship in its students.



During this Thanksgiving season, the students of St. Pius X Catholic School collect warm coats for the foster children in Virginia Beach served by the organization, Connect With A Wish. Earlier in the fall, the students and staff raised nearly \$2,000 for areas devastated by hurricanes including The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Mexico and Puerto Rico.



## ADVENT PRESENTATION



Seventy-five Roanoke Catholic students will present the school's first-ever "Festival of Lessons & Carols" on Sunday, Dec. 3, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, with performances at 4 PM and 6 PM.

Featuring the RCS Celtic Singers, Band and Drama Club, the service celebrates the start of Advent by telling the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus through nine Scripture readings interspersed with Christmas hymns and anthems.

The 6 PM service will include prelude music starting at 5:30 PM by RCS lower school grades. Admission is free and all are welcome.



Traditions help create and sustain a sense of family and community, and at Star of the Sea many of our traditions center around their location at the beach. At their annual mile run on the boardwalk Mayor Sessoms ran with 1st grade!



Walsingham Academy's Girls Cross Country team earned the Trojans' first State Catholic Championship 3-peat in program history! Four of the girls also earned All-State Catholic honors with their performances.



To learn more about our office, schools, or for ways to help support our schools, go to

[richmonddiocese.org](http://richmonddiocese.org)

or contact a school directly.