

# The Signpost

Volume 40 No. 1

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March 2022

## Casey clips

By The Signpost Staff

Riley Manfredi won the annual RBC Shakespeare Competition with a chance to compete for the National competition at Regionals.

RBC's Cheerleaders did us proud in State Competition, as the JV won second place, and the varsity finished in fourth among tough competition. It has been two years since the girls have competed.

The Wrestling Team made history by posting their first winning Sectional Title-Non Public B South- in program history. Congratulations to Coach Gallagher and Coach LaMura.

Come see *The Little Mermaid* March 24, 25, 26, and 27. The school musical is finally back in the BSA.

### Also in this Issue:

Editorials	Page 2
Wellness Room	Page 3
Featured Casey	Page 3
Arts	Page 4
Sports	Pages 5-6

## 2021-2022 Ushers in Mrs. Falco as New Principal

By: Monica Avital Baileys  
(I had the opportunity to interview the new principal of Red Bank Catholic High School, Mrs. Karen Falco. The last principal was Mr. Robert Abatemarco, affectionately known as Mr. A, who now holds the role of President.)

Mrs. Karen Falco has been working at Red Bank Catholic High School since 1980.

She started as a math teacher, then became a moderator, vice principal, associate principal, and now the principal.

Her son used to go to RBC, thus, she sees RBC not only from the principal's side, but also from a mother's side, which shows her unique wealth of knowledge.

From the very beginning, Mrs. Falco wanted to be a math teacher, because she found math to be a challenge.

She stated, "I've always felt that if you work hard at something, you will attain it."

In college she took plenty of math courses, and ended up on the Dean's List. She is a real

example of the fact that if one works long and hard, and does not pay attention to negative thoughts, one can achieve many goals.

As a teacher, she has never had any problems with discipline, as she really understands and listens to students.

"I had expectations, not really rules. I expected people to behave a certain way, and if they did not, I followed through, but sometimes I had to learn from my students," she noted.

She further elaborated on her interactions with students and what she learned from them. She remarked, "And you know what I learned? That everybody has a bad day once in a while, and it doesn't make them a bad person. That means that we need to regroup and start again."

We want to thank Mrs. Falco for everything that she has done for our school. Thanks to her, students feel that teachers and faculty care about them and feel safe.



Mrs. Falco, busy in her office, takes time out to speak to the Signpost.

## Red Bank Catholic Welcomes the Casey's Class of 2025

By: Rhiannon Hill (2025)

As the new school year of 2021-2022 begins, a new class of Caseys are welcomed into Red Bank Catholic. The class of 2025 has eager students that want to get involved and make memories with their fellow peers.

Red Bank Catholic provides the materials and opportunities for the freshman class. It is important to strengthen our com-

munity, because that is what makes Red Bank Catholic so special.

During the freshman orientation for these new Caseys, at homeroom there was a scavenger hunt planned for them. They were assigned a group and they were given a paper. In order to find the answers, the groups had to search all over the school for them.

It was a great way to meet

new people, and find one's way around the school.

The annual freshman social took place this year on September 17, 2021. Parents even got to participate in the courtyard, as this year, it was held outdoors. The Casey spirit was alive and well in these new students as they danced to the music, played games, made new friends and got to feel joy at a school function again.

## EDITORIALS

### The Death of Human Connection?

By: Georgia Bernhard

Recently, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg rolled out his plans to create what he dubs the Metaverse. This virtual world is expected to become a sort of nirvana in terms of convenience: no boxy phone in one's pocket, acting as even a minuscule barrier from one's self to the digital.

Instead, humanity will be able to be fully immersed in a virtual landscape. Sitting on our now purely practically-owned couches, we'll have the ability to strap on some Jetson-reminiscent goggles and shop, forge relationships, and live in this pseudo-world.

And as far as convenience, the Metaverse does sound like heaven to many. But while it's widely being presented as a glorious revelation to aid society's collective march towards the future, there's something subtly sinister about the Metaverse.

There are the obvious issues, with the problems we now experience with social media being immensely amplified; the polarization and divisiveness present currently will not just be based in social media, but will poison every space.

Plus in proposed versions of a digital world, we could alter any undesirability we find in the actual world. Past merely blocking opposing ideology, people could actually eliminate anything that they deem offensive from their virtual line of sight.

In addition, advertisers

could layer ads under the guise of another individual in the simulation, creating an array of separate ethical concerns. But most deeply, living digitally means something terrifying for our human race.

#### Loss of Humanity?

A virtual world will destroy what it means to be human, and the nature of life as we know it. There will inevitably come a point where we'll be further present in the virtual world than actual reality. And henceforth, the simulation will become our world. In this "world", life will cease to be life.

The concept of "life"— its simple pleasures and pains, its beauty and its anguish—it will all be erased.

No longer will we hear the clack of our shoes against wooden floors, real wooden floors. No longer will we feel the wind bite our exposed skin in the wintertime, nor will we race towards the illumination of a familiar sign on a darkened neighborhood street. No longer will we look into one another's eyes— our real eyes.

Everything we have-learned about what it means to be human, everything we love and hate, will be ripped away from us. With this only digital existence, we cannot live in the true, raw, natural world we have taken for granted.

Eventually, and likely sooner than some of us care to imagine, we'll be fully immersed in simulation.

#### Reality, or Hallucination?

This Metaverse or whatever iteration of the same idea will force us into a hellish sort of hallucination we cannot escape. An uncanny valley that swallows all creation, and its uncanniness eventually not even characterized by its contrast to the real world. Because, it will be the world.

The one we currently know, the one that we inhabit together, will be a hazy, far-off inkling of an idea. The world we touch and feel and are inherently, wordlessly attached to as human beings will be lost. No, a technologically-advanced new era, what is hailed to us as the unquestionably wonderful future will be ushered in.

The true world's replacement will be a cold, unfeeling, all-consuming simulation. And this feigned, lifeless, beauty-deprived "world," we will be forced to accept as our new one: our only one. And despite the destruction a digital world will cause, it will likely still come.

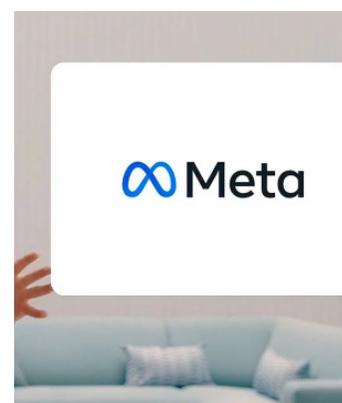
However frightening, this

Metaverse will simply be too alluring.

Think about it; throughout modern history, our collective love of ease has trumped most other concerns with any danger attached to what brings it.

And unless we experience some sort of miracle in man's caring of the soul, this new world will arrive.

It will arrive, this new world, and the real world, the world we sit in currently— it will die with it.



Facebook presenting their new Metaverse platform. Facebook intends to rebrand all of their social media platforms that they own to say owned by Meta.

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*"Opinions stated are not necessarily the voice of the Signpost."*

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# FEATURES

## Who's That Casey?

By: Valentina Bertini

Senior Quinn Burrough is a math whiz and an excellent volleyball player. But, this two-trick pony has a secret third trick: he can play the bagpipes. Quinn's interest in the bagpipes started through force.

He said, "I picked the bagpipes because my dad forced me to do it." It then became an enjoyable hobby for him. By following his father's footsteps, Quinn found a pastime that is both good for him and his Irish roots.

Considering that he takes multiple AP classes, one being BC Calculus, and works a job, one would wonder how he has time to play the pipes. Quinn told us his secret: "I make a fitted schedule and stick to it."



Senior Quinn Burrough playing the bagpipes at Fort Monmouth while maintaining his school-work and excellent grades. Quinn is a perfect example of how we can still accomplish our hobbies and goals while working hard on demanding academics.

## New Wellness Room Provides Soothing Sanctuary

By: Valentina Bertini

Mrs. Booth has seen too many Caseys go home from stress, depression, and anxiety. Especially from quarantine, mental health issues have increased significantly.

With the help of a donation from an RBC family, she was able to install The Wellness Room. The Room is fully stocked with fidgets, stress balls, coloring books, and kinetic sand. There is also a television that shows nature scenes and plays calming music.

Mrs. Booth's goal with The Wellness Room is to "keep them (the students) in school."

She described The Wellness Room as "non judgemental" and "self-advocating." Students felt positive experiences from it and think it is a great source of

help during difficult times.

During midterms, Mrs. Booth felt that like opening the room during lunch periods so that students could have a place to relax was a good idea.

All in all, having a Wellness

Room promotes a feeling that there is an oasis to turn to in times of stress during a chaotic school day, for both students and staff. If in need, just contact the nurse, guidance, or even email Mrs. Booth herself.



A part of a plan to prioritize mental health, Red Bank Catholic has set up the new Wellness Room for students and faculty alike to go to when they need a place to relax and retreat from the anxiety of school assignments and the stressful world around us. All seem to like the idea.

## Class of 2022 Celebrates Halloween With Great Style

By: Maggie Howard



The seniors' Halloween costumes blew us out of the water this year! The scariest costume was voted Brian Durnien, as Freddy Krueger. The best duo was Chloe VanBerkel and Ava Scarantino, as "Bob Ross and the Painting." The most original costume was Michael Liddy as Dwight Schrute from *The Office*. The best group was Abby Najdzinowicz, Ashley Simpson, Maggie Howard, Olivia Starace, and Morgan Cupo as "The Lorax." Lastly, the best overall costume was Cleo Grignard, Isabella Coppola, Abby Mansfield, Jaime Hicks, Selah Chenery, Grace Bertoldo, Ava Matern, and Alyssa Lonardo as "Fast Food Frenzy."



## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Christmas Cabaret Tells the Story of Christmas

By: Afrodite Koulouris

The Red Bank Catholic Christmas Cabaret, an annual show featuring the Dance Department, Dance Company, After School Dance, After School Theater, and the tech crew, took back the Broad Street Auditorium stage on December 9 and 10 to back to back packed houses.

The format followed the After School Theater troupe reading excerpts from various Christmas stories as a way of introducing the dance numbers and songs.

The stories ran the gamut from holiday traditions, Santa and his elves, Scrooge and Marley from "A Christmas Carol," "A Charlie Brown Christmas," Christmas in California, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," Ugly Sweaters, Santa's Reindeer, and more. Highlights of the show were the Nutcracker segment, performed by Maeve Gilroy, Jack Sisk, Carmen Gemellaro, Ella Duborg, Gabrielle Merlo,

Brianna Celestre, Isabel Zappala, and Michael Makar; and the Nativity scene, made up of most of the players.

The dancers performed dance after dance with phenomenal grace and energy. The theater students performed their readings and monologues with aplomb, settling in comfortably for the telling of that tale by the fire "on a long winter's night."

Finally, the singers lent passion and warmth to their Christmas songs, with beautiful voices on display. Daniella Del Tufo sang "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," Carmen Gemellaro sang "Never Fall in Love with an Elf," Jack Sisk sang "The Christmas Song," Afrodite Koulouris sang "All I Want for Christmas is You," with her backup singers Sophia Nazareno, Lilyanne White, and Emily Wilson, while Jorgia Cella sang "Hallelujah." Both audiences loved the show.

### RBC Dance At Annual Street Fair

By Daniella Del Tufo

Members of the RBC Dance Team, composed of freshman, sophomores, and juniors, combined with the RBC Dance Company, performed on Sunday September tenth at the Red Bank Street Fair. The Casey family was on full display as faculty, alumni, and friends all came out to support the dancers. The very fitting backdrop for their performance was near the entrance steps to the historic Broad Street Auditorium. The dancers remarked how much they enjoyed performing for the community in front of their school. Organizers of the street fair event invited teacher

Mrs. Gemellaro and her talented performers back for their next event.



Members of the RBC Dance Team pose near the BSA entrance. Members from left to right: Maddy Kroeper, Maya Khosla, Charlie Simeone, Sammie Russo, Ashley Correia, Abby Benning, Hunter Shaheen, Rayna Yu, Brooke Sullivan, and Maddy York.

See *The Little Mermaid* starting March 24-BSA!



Dancers from left to right: Bailey O'Connor, Momoka Jimbayashi, and Maya Khosla, as they fly through the air during a number.

### Theater's Night of Monologues

By MiaGrace Delfini

On November 22, 2021, Red Bank Catholic's After School Theater Program performed "A Night of Monologues." The performance was divided into two acts. The first act of the night was seventeen quirky monologues. Then, after a fifteen minute intermission, Act Two showed a short scene from *You Can't Take it With You*, which included all performers.

The program was directed by Ms. Mary King and produced by Mrs. Kelly Gemellaro. Since last year's performance, the number of actors has jumped from twelve to twenty-five. All performers, tech crew, and the moderators expressed great talent and enthusiasm.



Performers from the After School Theater Group take a bow after their hilarious rendition of a zany scene from the comedy *You Can't Take it With You*.

Everyone in After School Theater played a role in the scene, and got to perform a monologue expressing the flubs and foibles of life.

## SPORTS

### Football Reigns

By Sabino Portella & Maggie Howard



Sabino Portella breaks through the opposing defense as he did all season, grounding out tough yardage.

Red Bank Catholic's Football Team was astonishing this year. The sportsmanship, dedication, team work, and most importantly, chemistry was apparent in their season on and off the field as they won 11 games and lost only 1. Not only did the team win their division, but they placed number 1 in the Shore Conference, and won the NJSIAA Non-Public B State Championship. The energy the players brought to every game was electric, and kept all of our Red Bank Catholic community exhilarated. We will never forget watching the state championship game played at Metlife against DePaul Catholic High School.

The game was thrilling as the students packed the stadium, cheered on their classmates, and were zoned in as the game went down to the wire. The final score was 13-8; the crowd exploded.

Alex Brown, Rajan Cooper, Jake Jacobson, and Ashton Mejias all transferred from Mater Dei Prep this year and brought a great deal of talent. Bucknell University commit Alex Brown stood out, as he was RBC's starting quarterback and scored a number of touchdowns. His hard work and compassion for the sport this season was immeasurable.

### Tennis

By: Elena Dimitri

The Red Bank Catholic Girls' Tennis team had a solid season this fall. Head Coach Christine Rieger led the team to a record of 9 wins and 6 losses.

Several members of the team shone in their season opener against St. Rose, including sophomores Peiyi Liu and Kaitlin Noonan, junior Isabella Holovach, and seniors Ashley Mian and Lizzy Povalski, who all won their matches.

Sophomore Peiyi Liu had a great season individually, as she only lost one game. The team won a close one against Ocean Township in their last match of the season, 3-2. Kaitlin Noonan, Lizzy Povalski, and Veronica Bakshat all secured wins.

The team looks forward to more success next year.



Isabella Holovach readies herself for a big return during a tennis match.

### Field Hockey

By: Connor DeFlippis



Senior Molly Malone dribbles down the field towards the goal

Dedication is defined as the full and unfaltering commitment to a certain task. If one could describe the RBC Field Hockey Team using one word, it would be dedicated.

State titles do not always describe a team, and the field hockey team has certainly proved that this season.

Despite a record of 4-13, with one tie, they worked harder than any other team out there to achieve it and built a solid foundation for a good, strong team for the next few years to come. When asked how she felt about her new teammates, Senior Captain Molly Malone said "Regarding our team as a whole, I could not say enough good things. I have never been on a team that was so close. Finding a team that can stay as close as we were in pre-season is rare."

The team may not be champs or have any massive titles, but they did have heart, enough heart to bring them the victories and success they will have for years to come.

### Gymnastics

By: Grace Anderson

The varsity gymnastics team, led by Coach Gina Roselle and Coach Kaitlyn Dalziel, tallied a strong 5-6 season.

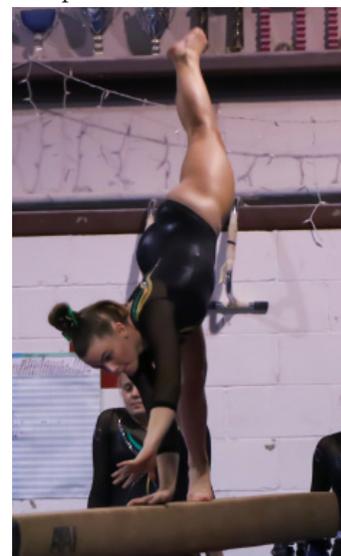
Talia Critelli, Jaime Fontanella, Maggie Franznick, Emily Heller, Erin Henderson, Maeve Martino, Mackenzie O'Hare, and Avery Shaughnessy all participated on the varsity gymnastics team.

Captains were senior, Jaime Fontanella, and junior, Mackenzie O'Hare. To start the season, the team won their second meet against Wall Township. They also won against Neptune, Hightstown, and Howell, as well as Trinity Hall.

The varsity gymnastics team qualified for The Shore Conference Tournament and competed at sectionals. The team did very well at both of these meets. Captain Mackenzie O'Hare placed at both The Shore Conference Tournament and the Sectional Meet.

Another success of the varsity gymnastics team was breaking 100 at multiple meets during the season.

This was a great accomplishment for the team and required each member to compete at their best.



Freshman Maggie Franznick competes on the balance beam with great concentration during a meet.

# SPORTS

## Boys' & Girls' Cross Country Take Victory

By *Kampbell Torchia*

On November 16, 2021, the boys and girls cross country teams stood on the starting line at the NJSIAA Group Non Public A Championships at Holmdel Park. The teams had been practicing since July, training up to five days a week together. When asked about her strategies going into the state meet, freshman Rhiannon Hill answered, "I just want to run the best I can. I really want to be able to stick with my teammates through the race so we can push each other. My goal is to finish this race leaving nothing else on the course- to leave knowing that I did my best."

Most members of the cross country team have been running together since the start of freshman year. The boys and girls on this team are not only committed to the sport, but also to their teammates. Some, like senior Dillon Larkin, have been a part of this tight-knit group for their four years at Red Bank Catholic. When asked about his feelings going into his last cross country race, Dillon responded, "It's really bittersweet. It was so much fun growing up going through this program."

Competing in one of the most competitive states for cross country, the runners set off up the hills of the 3.1-mile course. At the finish, junior Cate DeSousa sprinted in, winning the race with the incredible time of 18:33. Shortly after, Kate DeFilippis crossed the line in 13th place. Then, Avery Hargis in 16th, Rhiannon Hill in 19th, Charlotte Heaton in 43rd, Elena Dimitri in 47th, and Sarah Hailu in 79th. The girls placed third in the state as a team and earned a spot to race that weekend at the Meet of Champions. In the

boys' race, Patrick Coyle flew across the line in 26th place with a time of 17:37. Following him, Connor DeFilippis came through the finish in 77th place. Then, Fletcher Hargis in 105th, Sam Garcia in 106th, Dylan Ciorciari in 109th, Andrew Sweeney in 111th, and Dillon Larkin in 119th. After displaying remarkable strength and persistence, Rhiannon Hill was prompted as to where her motivation came from. She proudly explained, "My motivation is my team. They took me in like family as soon as I joined in the summer, so I wanted to do this for them, I wanted to work hard for them."



*Cate DeSousa leads the cross country race in the first mile at Holmdel Park.*

## Wrestling

By *Sabino Portella*



*Davin Brewton celebrates Red Bank Catholic's first place wrestling Sectional Team Title in Non-Public B South Competition- the first in school history.*

## Girls' Volleyball

By *Valentina Bertini*

This year, the girls' volleyball team had big shoes to fill after losing a lot of experienced players from last year.

Team captains and seniors Alexis Pavlinec and Seton Smith shored up the team, and Seton did say, "I was very impressed with the growth of our underclassmen..." The team won seven games, but lost

thirteen.

Nonetheless, the team achieved notable accomplishments: Alexis Pavlinec, Seton Smith, and Elizabeth DeJulius were featured in the Top 150 Seniors in the State, Alexis represented RBC at the All-Star Game, and sophomore Kailie Zebick was featured in the Top 75 Sophomores in the State.



*Alexis Pavlinec reaches for the ball successfully during a grueling and tough match.*

## Girls' Soccer

By *Cate DeSousa*

Red Bank Catholic's

Girls' Varsity Soccer Team showcased their talent on the field this year. They ended the season with a record of 14-5-1. The girls were able to defeat some tough opponents, such as Rumson-Fair Haven, Middletown South, and St. John Vianney. Throughout the season, the girls had a total of 57 impressive goals. Ten of the team members contributed to the scoring for this season.

The first time the Caseys faced Holmdel High School, they encountered a heart-breaking 0-1 loss. The two teams met again later in the Shore Conference Tournament, where the Caseys came out victorious, 2-1. Although the Caseys do have a lot of talent on the team, their success comes from the work they put in at practice and over the summer. The team was led during this impressive season by captains Abby Nadjinowicz, Morgan Cupo, and Cleo Grignard. The underclassmen are anxious for next season.

## Boys' Soccer

By *Cate DeSousa*

The boys' varsity soccer team showed perseverance and hard work on the field this year. One of their most impressive games of this season was against Mater Dei Prep. The Caseys shut them out with a 4-0 win. This group of motivated players was led by senior captains Dylan Van Berkel and Tommy Drechsler.

These two leaders really helped unite the team. The underclassmen on the team played a huge role as they fearlessly stepped up to face some difficult challenges during a 5-13 season. Their strides and improvement was a result of the new coaching staff that arrived at Red Bank Catholic this season.

It is going to be exciting to see what this group of boys will be able to do next year as well.

Junior Christian Condon says, "I am really excited for my senior season next year. The boys' soccer team is really motivated, and we are definitely a team you will have to look out for in the future years."