

The Signpost

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June 2023

A Tribute to Sister Joan Marie McDonnell

We at the Signpost would like to take the time to pay tribute to a wonderful mentor, Sister Joan Marie, who recently passed. Sister Joan Marie arrived at Red Bank Catholic in 1982, full of energy and a passion for teaching students to write.

At the time, she revived the school newspaper, The Signpost. Thus, we here at the Signpost feel that we owe her a debt of gratitude. After fifteen years, Sister felt that she wanted to devote more time to the LIFE Club, so she passed the torch to me, Ms. King, the present moderator. I learned a lot from her. She was patient and kind, no matter what, and she had already trained a staff for me.

Sister Joan Marie established a love for writing in many of her students, and re-established the importance of school publications to give voice to the student body. We heartily thank her.

Sister Joan Marie McDonnell



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Students Participate in the Just Drive Campaign

By: Kampbell Torchia

The Just Drive Campaign has been a part of Red Bank Catholic for many years. Its mission is to promote safe driving in our school community and beyond. Students sign the Just Drive pledge as a promise to drive safely. The pledge encourages drivers to put down their phones while on the road.

The Just Drive Campaign also focuses on drunk driving and its prevention. Texting, talking, drinking, or doing anything other than driving is dangerous because these activities take our attention away from the road.

Twenty-five percent of all car accidents involve drivers who had been on their cell phones, and thirty percent of all accidents involve drunk drivers. These accidents can result in serious injuries and death. The campaign urges drivers to help reduce these numbers, "It is time to put the phone down and Just Drive" (Just Drive, 2020).

Mrs. Booth and her students have been working tirelessly to spread the Just Drive Campaign to Red Bank Catholic students.

Norah Bruther, a 2016 RBC graduate, was hit by a drunk driver last year. This school year, the Hot Topics Club is bringing power to Just Drive by handing out bracelets that read, "Awareness is Power - Power to the Pedestrians" and "Norah Forever." When Norah was a student here she was part of a very powerful Just Drive video.



Just Drive members hold up their banner to promote the idea that "Awareness is Power." This year is especially sobering as we commemorate the memory of one of our own RBC graduates, Norah Bruther, who was hit by a drunk driver.

The message focuses on "power to the passenger," which addresses the responsibility of the passenger to speak up. A new memorial scholarship has been established this year in Norah's name. The Norah Bruther Memorial Scholarship will support the education of a future Casey.

Students involved in the Just Drive Campaign are educating our RBC community about the dangers of distracted driving. Their work of raising awareness has truly made a difference in the way teens drive. The school's support for this valuable campaign will continue, in the hope of influencing its students and the entire community to "Just Drive."

Students involved this year made some poignant statements about the importance

of the Just Drive message.

"The Just Drive campaign was special this year because we were emotionally motivated to bring attention to the consequences of distracted driving, because of Norah," noted senior Gabrielle Merlo.

Senior Julia Krall observed, "The campaign this year was a big success. Thank you to our Caseys for supporting us."

Mrs. Booth deserves a special acknowledgment for her work with the Just Drive movement. Every year she makes sure that RBC students are made aware of the dangers of distracted driving and its potentially tragic consequences.

On May twelfth, the senior class attended a presentation by a powerful guest speaker to remind students what can happen to, not only one life, but the lives of a victim's loved ones as well, due to bad choices.

FEATURES

RBC Teachers: To Teach and To Parent at School

By Dylan Ciorciari & Caitlin Evans

Starting high school is already a huge change for many young people, but what about also having a parent present in school with you? In order to find out the pros and cons of children attending the same school that their parents work at, we decided to interview Mrs. Genthe and Mr. Gallagher, two teachers at Red Bank Catholic whose children will be attending next fall. Additionally, we'll be speaking with Mrs. Prior and Mrs. Flego, two teachers whose children have already attended RBC while their parents were teachers.

Mrs. Genthe has been a teacher at RBC for over 18 years, and this fall, her son will be starting as a freshman. She explained that she did not want her children to go through the education system in Neptune, where they live, as she did not feel that it was the right choice for them. When asked if having her son in the building would change her day, she stated that she did not expect anything to change. Her classroom would remain unaffected, where Mrs. Genthe wants to encourage a love of English in her students, while maintaining rigor in her teaching. She believes that having her son in her class will allow her to see how he operates around other students, and she is curious to see whether he will be well-behaved. Mrs. Gen-

the plans to become more engaged in school activities with her children here, and she has already begun attending football games with her children. Additionally, her son plans on joining the wrestling team and tech crew next year.

Similarly, Mr. Gallagher, who has been working at RBC for 18 years, announced that his children also plan on attending RBC in the future. He believes that RBC provides the right environment for his children to grow up in. Mr. Gallagher contributes in various ways at RBC, from teaching to coaching sports, and he enjoys every moment of it.

He likes the idea of having his own children at the school, since it will allow him to see them throughout the day. Mr. Gallagher prides himself in teaching things that he knows students will use in their lives, not just academic knowledge.

He expressed excitement about being able to teach his own children, who he describes as "very business-minded." He believes that having them in his class will be interesting and similar to the conversations they already have at home.

Mr. Gallagher believes that his children will already be involved in school activities, since he hopes they will be on some of the teams that he coaches. He hopes that his children understand that although he will be harder on them, he will still be fair.

Mrs. Prior has been working at RBC since 1997. After retiring to focus on being a mother, she returned to teaching in 2019. She has had many roles at RBC, including teaching math, and coaching girls' basketball and softball teams. Mrs. Prior has a unique perspective on the experience of teaching and parenting at the same school. She shared that with her children attending RBC; she had made sure that they were treated like all of her other students.

Mrs. Flego, who has worked at RBC for a total of 22 years, has been coaching since 1984, and came back to teach in 2012. Her teaching style is very personal, with a lot of real life connections and stories, both communicative and humorous. RBC was always the first choice for Mrs. Flego's children. The deciding factor was based on the school's strong sense of faith, sports, and parish.

For these teachers, the ultimate decision to send

their children to Red Bank Catholic was based on the belief that it provides an environment for both academic and personal growth.



Mrs. Genthe and son.



Mr. Gallagher and family.

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

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The Signpost

THE LIST

These are the colleges seniors have chosen to attend as of publication.

University of Alabama Jorgia Cella Nicola DiRe Katelyn Lakefield	Fairleigh Dickinson University Jamie Gill	Monmouth University Daniella Borges Christian Condon Isabella Curley Julia Krall Zulmy Lozano Jeremiah Newman Lynsdora St. Vilus	University of Rhode Island Emma Bravo	Villanova University Kate Donohue Isabella Holovach Rosalia Machado Julia Melilli Briell Menezes Ava Sorrentino
University of Albany SUNY Angelina Sophia Ermita	Florida Atlantic University Grace Palmieri Gianna Romeo	Montclair State University Cade Cassidy	Rochester Institute of Technology Lilyanne White	University of Virginia Catherine DeSousa
American University Ella Jensen	Florida International University Kenya John	Morgan State University Abiggaele Blanc	Rollins College Kayla Deet	West Virginia University Nicholas Cosimano
Auburn University Colin Cottrell Jenna Dziedzic Kiley Langan	Florida State University Brooke Marinelli	Muhlenberg College Madelyn Kroeper	Rowan University Christian Ungemah	Wilkes University Lauren Gabriel
Baylor University Matthew Cinquegrana	University of Florida Paige Vrankovic	Nazareth College Jack Sisk	Sacred Heart University Vincent Coccimiglio Sophia Mae Montana	Devon Dujue-Henry
Boston College Veronika Baksht	Fordham University Eleanor Donohue	University of Nebraska Lincoln Michael Moran Juliet Peter	University of Scranton Christina Gabriel Alexa Gatta Gabriella Graham Chrismonde Napoleon	Scott Termotto
Brookdale Community College Reese Barnes Julia Brkaric Brian Burnett Isabella Dalatri Andrew D'Annunzio Carly Leahey Brandon Melchiorri Anthony Nannini Krysol Tlaltecatl-Paredes Jake Vowteras	George Washington University Alex Stanyek	University of New Haven Corina Wilton	Seton Hall University Margaret Fisher Kristina Gambino Frank Scrivanic	William Paterson University of New Jersey Phanasia Cherenfant Ryan Freer
Brown University Najih Rahman	Georgian Court University Grace Pannullo	The College of New Jersey Brandon Gallipoli Riley Manfredi	University of South Carolina Columbia Erin Henderson Kampbell Torchia	Worcester Polytechnic Institute Huy Viet Song Le
The Catholic University of America Emma DeBiase	University of Hartford Dean Bolstad	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Sabino Portella	Stevens Institute of Technology Savannah Isacson Christia Nerissa Napoleon	Gap Year: Employment Christopher Calixto
College of Charleston Lea Mediate	High Point University Angelica Bajenoff Torin Harmon Noel Pauwels	University of Notre Dame Alyssa DiMarco	St. Bonaventure University Amelia Santos	Emily Wheeler
Coastal Carolina University Nicholas Fastiggi David Nieves	Jacksonville University Cadence Brown	Nova Southeastern University Isabella Marie Hamilton	St. Joseph's University Victoria Kwasnicki Rachel Pfirrmann Isabella Politan Allison Tiefenthaler	Undecided Alec Araneo Robert Muscio Gianna Pontecorvo Rachel Viggiano
Colgate University Grace Anderson	James Madison University Emily Heller Ella Marlin	Ocean County Community College Claire Cooke	St. Lawrence University Grace Gibson	
Cornell University Samuel Fertal	King's College Brendan Kopec	University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus Reese Zimmermann	Stockton University Brody Scherzer	
University of Delaware Isabella Ilvento Gabrielle Merlo Gina Marie Terranova	Lafayette College Alexa Kiernan	University of Pittsburgh Robert Milke	Stony Brook University Sophia Racioppi	
Drew University Shane Andrus	Lehigh University Ryan Bielenda	Pennsylvania State University (University Park) Sofia DeGennaro Ella Duborg Alessandra Veltri	Susquehanna University Michael Palmieri Robert Stolf	
Drexel University Lyutfiya Yussupova	Louisiana State University Charlotte Trentalange	Pennsylvania State University (Brandywine) Isabella Hurta	Syracuse University Christina Dell'Anno	
University College Dublin Devyn Drusjack	Lynn University Anna Lucarelli Nick Napoliello	Providence College Peyton Auriemma Amelia Drechsler Lily Huntington	University of Tampa Gianna Fitzsimmons	
Elizabethtown College Christian Schrader	Manhattan College Christopher Bracco	Purdue University Devin Mancuso	University of Tennessee-Knoxville Chiara Castronovo	
Elon University Nicholas Genovese Michael Leibrock	Marist College Claudia Cassidy Eva Molloy Ethan Marzo Adriana Pena	Quinnipiac University Emma Carman Brianna Celestre Mackenzie O'Hare	Tulane University of Louisiana Nicholas Lindung Kseniia Karpova	
Fairfield University Molly Devine Annabella Frankovic Molly Kelly Casey Prior Hunter Wackrow	Marymount University Dominic Mallamaci	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Evan Bielenda		
	Marymount Manhattan College Carmen Gemellaro			
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Armando Melendez			
	University of Mississippi Aidan Donohue Lauren Joyce Ava Van Dright			

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Casey Players Present: *Anything Goes*

By: Abigail Kistler

After three months of rehearsal, the RBC Performing Arts Department opened with the spring musical, *Anything Goes*, on March 16, 2023. They were led by Mrs. Kelly Gemellaro, the head of the department, and Jeanne Montano Giannetta, who directed the production.

The show tells the story of Reno Sweeney (played by Carmen Gemellaro), an evangelist turned entertainer, who is soon to travel to England from New York. She boards a lavish cruise ship with friend and fellow stowaway, Billy Crocker (played by Jack Sisk).

On board, Billy encounters a girl he once was in love with and continues to harbor feelings for, Hope Harcourt (played by Lilyanne White). To his dismay, Hope already happens to be engaged to another passenger, Sir Evelyn Oakleigh (played by Michael Makar). She herself is bound to England to marry him, by her mother's will.



The cast beams in a final stage pose.

With the help of Moon-face Martin and Erma Latour (played by Garrett Nolan and Riley Manfredi), two gangsters posing as missionaries on the ship, the gang tries to find a way to get Hope to fall for Billy, stop her and Evelyn's engagement, and keep Billy's identity a secret in the meantime.

The Performing Arts Department has worked extremely hard to make this show a reality, with the cast tasked with perfecting all of the intricate,

intensive choreography and complex vocal harmonies throughout its extravagant numbers. Not to mention the superb work of the stage crew, who aided with constructing an actual recreation of a cruise ship on stage.

However, all the hard work paid off in the end. On opening night, the production was lively at every moment, every cast member giving their all throughout. Because of the success of the show, the department received the following critiques and nominations: Outstanding Set Design- Carla Valentino, Outstanding Lighting Design- Robert Rutt, Outstanding Mixed Student/Adult Orchestra-Andrew Macirowski, Outstanding Choreography-Kelly Gemellaro, Outstanding lead Performance in a Musical-Male Identified Role-Michael Makar, Jack Sisk, and Outstanding Production of a Musical.

In addition, RBC's fall play *Clue* also received several



Carmen Gemellaro as Reno Sweeney leads a number in "Blow Gabriel." Carmen will be attending Marymount Manhattan in the fall.

Even through the stress of the rehearsals and the success of the show, the cast and crew showed everyone the bond they had formed with each other through hard work and team work.

Congratulations, Performing Arts Caseys.



2023 Count Basie Awards

The Red Bank Catholic Performing Arts Department was nominated for thirteen Basie Awards. At the awards ceremony on May 24, Mrs. Carla Valentino won best set design and Mr. Andrew Macirowski won best adult/student orchestra respectively for *Anything Goes*.

According to Mrs. Kelly Gemellaro, head of the performing arts department, "The kids were amazing in their performances- both for *Clue* and for *Anything Goes*." Msgr. Rosie, Mrs. Falco, and Mr. Abatemarco also attended and remarked on how outstanding the RBC performances were.



Junior Callie Barrett got to perform in the opening number, alongside selected students from other competing schools at the 2023 Count Basie Awards Show on May 24.

SPORTS

Baseball Triumphs

By: Mackenzie DiValli & Stephanie Mahns



Senior Alex Stanyek hurls a pitch in a close game. Stanyek goes to the George Washington University this fall.

The Red Bank Catholic Baseball Team are State Sectional Champions. The team beat St. Joseph (Metuchen), 4-1, June 3, to win their first Non-Public South A State Title since winning a sectional in 1997. They also won the Shore Conference title over Ranney, 2-0, on May 21. The boys fell just short of winning the overall Non-Public NJSIAA A Title on June 9, as the hits just would not fall in the right places, and they lost to Don Bosco, 1-4, ending with a stellar record of 24-6.

Coach Hausmann remarked, "This year's team was a very enjoyable group to coach. They are willing to do whatever it takes to be a successful team. The seniors have led the way with leadership skills that will be remembered."

Contributing seniors this year include Shane Andrus, Alex Stanyek, Frank Scrivanic, Christian Condon, Brendan Kopec, Dominic Mallamaci, and Ethan Marzo.

Coach Hausmann continued, "They are a group that we will talk about in years to come from their impact they left on this program."

Contributing underclassmen include Sean Griggs, Dylan Passo, Matt Brunner, Max Dantoni, Ryan Prior, Declan Leary, and Steve Svenson. Coach Hausmann also gained 300 wins.

Boys Tennis

By: Rhiannon Hill

After an outstanding season last year, the Casey boys tennis team defended their standards well. A few years prior to this season, Class of 2020 Anthony Prokurat was awarded to APP All Decade Boys Tennis team. The new 2023 Casey Tennis team wanted to keep the tradition of competitive Tennis at Red Bank Catholic alive. Led by team Captain Hunter Wackrow, the Caseys energetically defeated Henry Hudson Regional High School. On May 10, 2023 the team won the match 4-0. The boys tennis team members include Cade Cassidy, Huy Viet Song Le, Carter Wackrow, William DeJulius, Vincent Mingalone, and Hunter Wackrow. They each worked together this season to accomplish their goals and played important roles as a group effort.



Senior Hunter Wackrow smacks a crisp return to his opponent. Hunter will be attending Fairfield University in the fall.

Softball Crushes

By: Avery Hargis



Senior Cori Wilton fields the ball with ease and concentration at game time.

RBC Softball is in the midst of yet another successful season, led by senior captains Bella Hurta, Corina Wilton, Christina Gabriel, and Amelia Santos, and finishing 22-7.

A highlight of the season includes their comeback against Raritan after losing game one to them 2-3. They then came back and beat Raritan at their own field, with a fantastic score of 5-3. The team also managed to become Division Champions following their defeat of Monmouth Regional.

The team made it to the Shore Conference Semi-Finals, but lost to Donovan Catholic, 10-3. They then beat Trinity Hall 21-0 in NJSIAA Non-Public A South play, but lost a tough one to St. Thomas Aquinas, 3-0.

Junior Ellie Kopec focuses on a fly ball.



Boys & Girls Golf

By: Samantha Weber & Cassidy Torchia

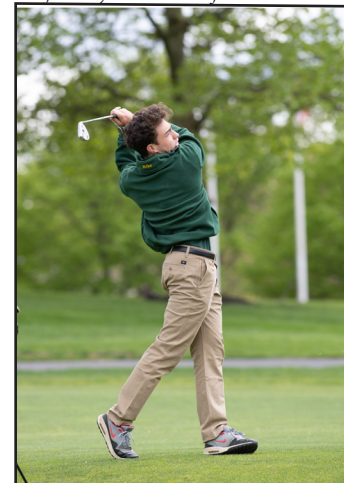
The Red Bank Catholic Golf Team, led by Coach Gaul and Coach Kusch, has had a productive season. The senior team captains, Robert Milke and Bella Hamilton, have led the team to some wins throughout the season. The golf teams have shown major improvements throughout, with coaches who nurture their athletes to create positive environments.

The girls team has a record of 1-12; the boys team has a record of 3-13.

There were two state qualifiers on the boys' side. Andrew Torregrossa finished ninth in Non-Public South A, and Braden Dente also qualified.



Junior Alexa Foster drives one down the fairway with classic form.



Senior Bobby Milke drives a solid shot.

SPORTS

Girls Track Strong

By: Cate DeSousa



Freshman Savannah Salsman competes against local runners at the A Central Divisional Championships.

The Red Bank Catholic Girls Track Team is carrying their momentum from the winter season into spring. The team ended the winter season competing at New Balance Indoor Nationals in the Distance Medley Relay made up of Avery Hargis (junior), Ava Bataglio (sophomore), Grace Anderson (senior), and Cate DeSousa (senior). Most recently, the team competed at the Monmouth County Championships. The team went up against some of the best athletes in the state. The highlights from this meet include a personal record from Avery Hargis (2:22) and Ava Bataglio (2:32) in the 800m, and a first place finish from Cate DeSousa in the 800m (2:12). Kassidy Torchia competes in the field events and the track events. She can run a 65 second 400m, throw over 80ft in the javelin, and jump over 15ft in the long jump, earning her a top 10 finish in the county. In discus, the sophomore duo of Kennedy Miller and Kat Bauman posted a 3rd place and 5th place finish, throwing 113-05' and 95-10' respectively. In the 1600, Senior Grace Anderson showed grit as she ran to a personal best of 5:31. This was also shown through Savannah Salsman's performance, as she broke 6 minutes for the first time, running 5:56.

Boys Track Relays

By: Grace Anderson and Patrick Coyle

The Red Bank Catholic Boys Spring Track Team is in the middle of a fantastic season. In both relay and individual events, the team has exhibited hard work and dedication which is showing off in their races. The sprint medley, consisting of Patrick Coyle (Junior) running the 800, Tyler Passamore (sophomore) running the 400, Emanuel Ross (junior) running the 200, and Jeremiah Newman (senior) running the 200, has been very successful, and the relay team continues to decrease their time. They won first place with a time of 3:33.62 in the Monmouth County Relay Championships. With the impressive time of the sprint medley, the team qualified for the New Balance Outdoor Nationals. Each meet they showcase their talents through hard work, dedication, and camaraderie for their racing endeavors. The boys aspire to eventually run at the national stage.



Senior Devon Dujue-Henry (left) sprints in the 100 meter dash to push past local competitors. Devon will be attending Wilkes University next year to play football. He runs track to keep fit throughout the year.

Boys Volleyball

By: Fletcher Hargis

The Red Bank Catholic Boys Volleyball Team has put up a fight this season. Their third game of the season strongly proved their skills as they claimed a 2-1 win against Middletown North High School. Their new coach as of last year, Andrew Hanniffy and assistant coach Alicia Bischoff encourage the boys every day.



Senior Colin Cottrell spikes the ball over the net to score a point for the Caseys.

The team only consists of seven players this year-Fletcher Hargis, Dan Lezeau, Jesse Plumaker, Gilbert Mendoza, Jack Hopkins, Franklin Berrios, and Colin Cottrell. Junior Fletcher Hargis leads them with the most assists, and senior Colin Cottrell leads with the most kills. RBC boys volleyball continues to persevere.

Girls Lacrosse

By: Taylor Carlson

Red Bank Catholic's Girls Lacrosse Team has fought through this season. With a 9-11 record, these Caseys do not give up in the face of adversity. Not only are these girls under new captains (Makenna Graham, Alyssa DiMarco, and Reese Zimmerman), but they are also under the tutelage of new coaches. Graham, averaging 9 goals per game in her midfield position, has helped the team in wins. Sophomore Malia D'Alterio has had over 50 ground balls and draw controls. They lost a tough one in state play to Camden Catholic.



Senior Anna Wingerter (left) looks to pass the ball over a looming competitor to a teammate. Anna will be attending Rutgers University New Brunswick in the fall.

Boys Lacrosse

By: Dado Aw



Senior Nick Cosimano fights for the ball against a Middletown South player.

The Red Bank Catholic Caseys Varsity Boys Lacrosse Team returned for yet another eventful season this year.

With a current 11-8 record, the Caseys continued to persevere in NJSIAA Tournament play, making it to the quarter-finals. The team is led by coach Don Femminella and captains Christian Schrader, Nick Cosimano, and Torin Harmon.

The team is also led by a strong offense, with impressive records by players Sam Fertal and Torin Harmon.

They beat Union Catholic, 17-2, in state competition, but lost a tough one to Immaculata, 8-7, in NJSIAA State Quarterfinals competition.