

The Signpost

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March 2024

Casey Clips

By J. Garcia & F. Hargis

Sports: The Red Bank Catholic Caseys experienced a busy though fun fall season. The athletes of the football, girls soccer, girls volleyball, and cross country teams worked hard to show off their athletic talent, achieving not only victory against their opponents, but dedication to themselves and their teammates.

Powderpuff: The junior and senior Caseys participated in a fun powderpuff game at homecoming. Four senior boys took on the position of announcers while the girls went head to head on the field. Several boys even served the role of cheerleaders for the girls.

Theatre: Red Bank Catholic participates in theatre, and this fall we saw Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* come to life! The Caseys always put on a fantastic show and dedicate themselves for months to make it the best it can be. We'll see them again when spring rolls around.

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2023-2024 Ushers in Michael Ientile as New VP

By: Dylan Ciorciari & Caitlyn Evans

What made you want to become a teacher?

Reluctant at first, I originally became an assistant football coach. To stay in that role, I had to sub at the school. One day, helping a student triggered an "aha" moment, inspiring me to become a teacher. I found it very rewarding seeing kids shift from memorization to creative excellence.

What made you want to become Vice Principal?

I became Vice Principal due to my strong desire to get more involved, take on additional

roles, and contribute to the school community. It was a natural progression resulting from my proactive approach, hard work, and commitment to enhancing the educational environment.

What do you plan on doing for RBC students and the community?

My future plans for RBC include fully restoring pre-COVID habits and addressing dress code concerns to instill a sense of respect. In the long

run, I envision expanding to a K-12 campus to provide a comprehensive and seamless educational experience.

What do you look for in a model RBC student?

A model Casey student is not shy to jump into things, sets a good example for others, and isn't easily influenced by peers. It's important that they're not afraid to speak up, showing confidence and individuality. Regardless, RBC is welcoming to all kinds of people and nurtures a sense of belonging and environment to everyone.

Tell us some fun facts about yourself?

Originally, teaching wasn't in my plans, but now I find great joy in it. Growing up, I worked with heavy equipment for my family's excavation business. I was a three-sport athlete in high school—baseball, football, and track—and continued with two sports in college. I married my high school sweetheart and together, we have three kids and a rescued dog, Callie.



Mr. Ientile in his new office.



Freshmen welcomed on their first week.

Red Bank Catholic Welcomes the Caseys' Class of 2027

By: Alexa & Amanda Foster

The 2023-2024 school year introduces the Class of 2027. Red Bank Catholic is delighted to welcome new students and make them feel at home.

These newest members successfully took part in the Freshman Social and Convocation. Traditionally, the Freshman Social is held in early September allowing the incoming stu-

dents to socialize with one another, meeting new friends that they will spend the rest of their high school years with. Another wonderful event created for the freshman class was the Freshman Convocation. The Freshman Convocation is the official event that introduces the newest members to our community, with the ceremony of a shamrock for each of the newest students. This tradition is a special

moment for every Casey, a moment to share with their families celebrating their choice to come to Red Bank Catholic.

The faculty and students look forward to welcoming our newest members to the Casey family and cannot wait to see the wonderful things the Class of 2027 has in store for their future years at Red Bank Catholic and beyond.

EDITORIALS

American Kids Are Failing Civics

By Georgia Bernhard

In recent years, the presence of civics education in American middle and high schools has starkly declined. In the second half of the twentieth century, it was often commonplace for civics classes to be taught alongside the rest of the primary and secondary curriculum. Students would be educated in the functions of the American government, the procedure of its political systems, and the social and political issues wrapped up in them. However, today, far fewer schools offer dedicated civics classes, nor history classes that meaningfully tie in relevant civics education.

There are several reasons for this shift, though one of the most frequently blamed is the massive upheaval of the educational system that common core curriculums and widespread standardized testing have proved to be. Secondary schools nationwide have fundamentally reshaped how they teach in the past several decades as a result of these new requirements. As for the former, districts have been forced to comply with the demands of the preordained common core structure, primarily focused on English language and math. With this emphasis, classes in social sciences can be threatened to fall by the wayside. The ubiquity of standardized testing makes it so that countless schools' classes have become further oriented towards improving student scores, in lieu of a more well-rounded approach to learning. In addition, staggering political polarization heightens the hurdle before proper civics education for America's youths. Outcry from those who oppose the content of civics classes, or even their existence in the first place, has

been continually successful in its aims—scrapping civics classes, removing basic topics from their coursework, dramatically reshaping what is taught to reflect historical, politicized perspectives.

In spite of the damage these factors have caused, there are middle and high schools that continue to have civics class anyway. Nonetheless, when it is taught, classes usually do not offer the opportunities to reinforce what they learn past mere lectures or readings. This could include guided debates and discussions of current events, or any other engaged activity that elevates the content past being passively listened to (and likely just memorized for test day) by students. This unfortunate reality overall can be displayed numerically as well. Across the country, only nine states require a year of civics to be taught in high school (The Atlantic, 2023), and a whole 80 percent of American eighth-graders do not meet the standard of proficiency on the NAEP civics assignment (National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2022).

Another reason why it seems America's collectively shrugging at civics education is the cutthroat nature of our job market. Kids are pushed emphatically towards STEM and business-oriented studies, while the humanities and social sciences are scoffed at as impractical. This doctrine would possibly have some legitimacy if the point of education was to merely groom students to most effectively spin as cogs in

the giant machine that is our capitalistic economy. But it is not.

Students should get to experience school as a place where they will be taught about the country and globe they call home—not pre-emptively trained in the most potentially lucrative careers or trades and not subject to history-hating political ideology. Not marked present and merely given exam practice questions. It should be a place where they can be enriched in what it is to be a conscious person in today's world. With the social and political turmoil brewing in the nation currently, nothing is more pertinent; its future inevitably hinges upon the state of the youngest generation. Therefore, we need them to know how to look at our world with open eyes.



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

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FEATURES

Who's That Casey?

By: Brooke Sullivan

Ryder Ciorciari is currently a freshman at RBC. He is especially good at math, being in Mrs. Guarillio's Honors Geometry class. It's his favorite subject, as he loves to problem solve and it's something that comes naturally to him. Outside of school, Ryder likes to stay healthy by working out, playing his sport, basketball, and additionally staying on top of his homework and grades.

Regardless of how active his schedule is, Ryder is adjusting well to high school. He hopes to continue excelling academically after achieving high honor roll quarter one, aiming for consistent success throughout the school year; to do so, he reports that he's committed to maintaining his proven effective study strategies to keep improving.

Ryder is filled with anticipation for the remainder of his freshman year, especially looking forward to hitting the basketball court in the winter season. His enthusiasm for the sport and dedication to his academics are sure to make the next four years at RBC both fulfilling, and successful. The entire Casey community wishes him the best of luck in all his endeavors.



Ryder Ciorciari as he steps onto the court, this basketball season.

Caseys Gain Career Experience Through Internships

By: Dado Aw

Red Bank Catholic juniors and seniors are granted a unique chance to intern with either an RBC alum or a professional in their chosen field, thanks to the RBC Thomas G. Labrecque Leadership Institute. The program, spanning six to eight weeks with one day per week commitment, allows students to easily catch up on missed assignments with teacher support. Beyond academic benefits, the internships foster invaluable connections with mentors, often translating into summer job opportunities and the potential for recommendations in future career pursuits.

In the recent session, seven Casey students, including Grace Inman, Maggie Connelly, Ryan Prior, Sean Saxton, Mamoun

Chater, Christian Radic, and Greg Gassoso, have started their internships at KEP Engineering in Eatontown. Engaging in hands-on experiences over the course of six weeks, they will gain insight into the daily life of an engineer.

The lasting impact of these acquired skills showcases the significance of RBC's internship program in preparing students for their future careers. It's great to hear that RBC students are stepping into the real world.



Class of 2024 Celebrates Halloween With Great Style

By: Dado Aw



The seniors continued the yearly tradition showcasing their boundless Halloween spirit with creative costumes this year. The winners in each category were exceptional: Purple Minion and Dr. Nefario claimed the scariest title; Costco workers impressed as a team; the dynamic duo of Ellen Girls (Sophia Grace + Rosie) took home the Best Duo award; Men In Black stood out as the Best Group; and Figures of America emerged as the ultimate Best Overall winners. The seniors' enthusiasm made this Halloween celebration truly memorable. It was great to see them come together.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Casey Players Present *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

By: Victoria Forte

On Thursday, November 16, Friday, November 17, and Saturday, November 18, the Red Bank Catholic Performing Arts Program presented *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is the first time in years the Casey Players have put on a Shakespearean play, and it played like a dream.

This play centers around a love triangle that faces difficulties when met with angry parents and magical love spells. The Casey Players enchanted the audience with their excellent performances throughout the five acts. Congratulations to Director Ms. Jeanne Montano Giannetta, Assistant Directors Ms. Mary King and Mr. Joseph Maher, Performing Arts Director Mrs. Kelly Gemmellaro, and student director Breanna Anglum on an incredible production and performance. The show is centered around the lovers; Gabriella LoBosco as Hermia, Matthew Block as Lysander, Sarah Moser as Helena, and Garrett Nolan as Demetrius. The lovers are enchanted by Puck, played by Syd Lithgow, at the behest of King Oberon, played by Emma Tava. Puck also places a love spell on Queen Titania, played by Anna Accardi, and she falls for Bottom, played by Michael Makar. Bottom is whisked away from his acting friends, the Mechanicals; Peter Quince, played by Francesca Ranucci, Francis Flute, played by Niko Sakelaris, Tom Snout, played by Victoria Forte, Snug, played by Abirah Napoleon, and Robin Starveling, played by Scarlett Dawson. The play ultimately wraps up with the wedding of Theseus, played by Ben Aiuto, and Hippolyta, played by Vanessa Corso. Other characters included Hermia's mother, Egeus, played by Callaghan Barrett, and Philostrate, played by



King Theseus and his Bride Hippolyta are overjoyed that their wedding day has finally come. Ben Aiuto as King Theseus expounds upon his good luck at winning Hippolyta, Queen of the Amazons, to be by his side as his partner in life.



The village workers, while goofy are well meaning enough to desire to put on a play for their King and his Bride. From left- Niko Sakelaris as Flute, Frankie Ranucci as Peter Quince, Victoria Forte as Snout, and Abirah Napoleon, as Snug.

Stecey Cadet. The fairy ensemble included Breanna Anglum, Mia Makar, Siena Marino, Maeve Thurman, Gabriella Aiello, Evangeline Foukas, Johanna Icasiano, and Olivia Jaeger.

The fantastic set design and lighting by Mr. Robert Rutt with the help of Mrs. Carla Valentino truly brought to life the whimsical feel of this play. The student tech crew, led by Stage Manager Giana Razzoli, worked very hard to ensure a truly magical experience. The audience felt whisked away to another world.



Syd Lithgow as the mischievous fairy Puck opens the show with a little magic fairy dust, while the fairies from the magical fairy land of the forest, provide the backdrop.

SPORTS

Football Rules

By: Ali Campillay



Junior Johnny Williams makes a break for it down the field to score.

Red Bank Catholic's Varsity Football Team ended a successful season with a 10-1 record. Although the Caseys started off the season with a loss against Bergen Catholic, they showed their strength by going undefeated the next ten games.

The Caseys were able to perform well after losing valuable players from the 2022 season. Fortunately many returning starters, including Davin Brewton, Frankie Williams, and Emmanuel Ross all showcased their skills and have surpassed expectations. With a new starting running back, senior Luke Wasfesh showed an all-encompassing offensive effort throughout his impressive season. He also received praise as an outstanding linebacker.

The team played an outstanding game against RFH, earning their 16th win of the 17 rivalry games between the two. Continuing their winning streak, RBC went against DePaul in the NJSIAA Non-Public, Group B State Championship game and took home the trophy with a 14-7 win at Met Life Stadium.

Next year, Red Bank Catholic will carry on with incoming players and adapt to a new team, and the bright future that will surely come with it.

Girls' Tennis

By: Avery Hargis

RBC girls' tennis has just wrapped up another successful season with a record of 7-8, led by senior captain, Kaitlin Noonan.

The team's lineup for the season was as follows: 1st singles - Peiyi Lui (senior), 2nd singles - Maddie McConnell (freshman), 3rd singles - Victoria McGuire (senior), 1st doubles - Ella While (senior) & Elise Hartigan (freshman), 2nd doubles - Adele MacGregor (sophomore) & Olivia Rich (freshman), with Nora Feely also playing 2nd doubles.

A highlight of the season included the team's win in the first round of states, competing against Moorestown. It was a very close match, though freshman Maddie McConnell stepped up and won the third set of her singles match, bringing the team to victory.



Tennis team's Peiyi Liu gets ready to return a serve in her singles match.

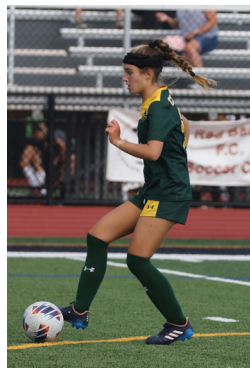
Girls' Soccer

By: Rhiannon Hill



Senior Molly Sheehan battles with the opponent near the goal.

This year the Casey Girls' Soccer program did not disappoint. The girls' soccer program has a history of being victorious. This year after losing many impacting seniors, they used the knowledge and commitment passed down to the underclassman. Starting off strong, the RBC Caseys defeated Brick Memorial with a final score of 2-1. They continued to amazingly go undefeated for a total of 8 games in a row. Talk about consistency. After a loss, but tough fight against Trinity Hall, the Caseys wrapped up their solid season. Junior Izzy Mellili who plays center back for the star team says, "I am so proud of the girls and how they came together to be competitive and strong this season."



Senior Emily Beyer handles the soccer ball with ease.

Gymnastics

By: Dado Aw

Led by head coach Gina Roselle-Broschart and assistant coach Kaitlyn Dalziel, the gymnastics team had a record of 6-5 for the 2023-2024 season.

Avery Shaughnessy, Dulce Aterhortua, Gisela Sciametta, Isabella Galbornetti, Jenna Scalzo, Madison Egan, and Maeve Martino all participated on the varsity gymnastics team.

To start the season, the team won their meet against Holmdel. They also won against Trinity Hall, Howell, Ocean, Neptune, Middletown North, and Colts Neck.

They had a lot of close meets, their closest one being against Trinity Hall. These Casey's persevered and won the meet with a score of 101-100.

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.

Based upon this year, the future looks bright for next season's varsity team.



Junior Maeve Martino leaps toward the beam to compete in her event.

SPORTS

Boys' & Girls' Cross Country Teams Dominate

By: Savannah Salsman

The Boys' and Girls' Cross Country teams have a long tradition of athletic success for RBC.

Each year, the precedent of hard work and resilience is continued each and every day. Over the course of the season, both teams strove to reach their full potential and live up to the expectations of what it means to compete for RBC. This year, the team was led by head coach Robert DeFilippis, in addition to the two new assistant coaches, which are RBC alumni, Robert Napolitano and Gi Ferrigine.

This year, the Girls Cross Country team members included Avery Hargis, Rhianon Hill, Charlotte Heaton, Grace Heaton, Ava Bataglio, Kassidy Torchia, Grace Vecchio, and Savannah Salsman.

The Boys' Cross Country Team members included Patrick Coyle, Connor DeFilippis, Andrew Sweeney, David Torres, Nathan Hogg, and Nathaniel Kreiger.

The Girls' Cross Country team had a season with many achievements including: Qualifying for the Shore Conference Championships, qualifying and placing fifth at the Group Championships, placing second at the Osprey Invite, and placing third at Shore A Central Divisional.

The season highlights of the boys team included: Placing fourth at the Osprey Invite, and placing third at Shore A Central.

The team as a whole worked incredibly hard and continuously improved throughout the season.

In that race, Patrick Coyle placed first, Connor DeFilippis placed second, and Andrew Sweeney placed fourth.



Award-winning senior Patrick Coyle races toward the finish line.



Senior Avery Hargis charges commandingly toward the finish line.



Senior Makenna Graham celebrates with her team after scoring in a field hockey game.

Girls' Volleyball

By: Kassidy Torchia

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The girls' volleyball team, guided by Head Coach Redmond and Assistant Coaches Dobrowski and Bischoff, had an impressive 13-9 season. Seniors Maddie Carpenter, Ava Kelly, Riley McNamee, Serena Orlando, Ava Pannone, Kailie Zebick, and Skylar Zolek, led the team to great success and to the 1st round of States.



Senior Maddie Carpenter goes to hit the ball to the other team.



Sophomore Scott Baldwin handles the ball during a challenging match.

Field Hockey

By Taylor Carlson

Red Bank Catholic Field hockey is the team that perseveres.

Led by Seniors Makenna Graham, Marykate Brew, Ellie Kopec, and Taylor Carlson, the team finished with an 8-8 record.

Though they had a rocky start to the season, that didn't stop these Caseys from making a huge comeback.

Off of a 6 game-losing streak, the Caseys retaliated and began their 6-game winning streak by defeating Saint John Vianney.

That win then propelled the team to make 5 game shutouts, with goalie Haley Moran (Junior) making 65 saves over the course of this season.

Captains Ellie Kopec and Makenna Graham heavily aided in wins for this team.

Combined, both players had shared 23 goals this season, as well as 57 combined assists.

Overall, this team strove to come back and did not let any loss bring them down.

Boys' Soccer

By Charlotte Heaton

This year the Red Bank Catholic Boys Soccer Team had a lot of change and challenges.

Regarding the former, they welcomed a new coach this year, John Killick, who helped the team improve throughout the season.

Their captains, Andrew Torregrossa, JJ Titone, Jack Keefe, and Luke Meyers additionally provided leadership on and off the soccer field.

The boys' dedication, support, and guidance on the team helped keep the team's bond and maintain their motivation.

Even though they faced many obstacles in terms of losses, they didn't let it stop them from pursuing victory.

Their record was 1-13. However, they finished on a strong note against Asbury Park by winning 3-0.

As the team looks ahead, they know they've now laid a good foundation for future achievement.