



RVGS Newsletter

Issue 2 Winter 2023

Counselor's Corner

As our students and teachers were working hard to close out the first semester, I was busy as well, meeting with students and visiting schools to talk about our wonderful program. I have now met individually with each first-year student to check in on how they are doing and feeling. I will meet individually with all returning 10th and 11th graders this winter and spring as well.

Our seniors have been busy working on their college applications while continuing to stay on top of their academics and many extracurriculars. This year, Mr. Levy and I are giving our seniors additional support in tracking their many college applications. Mr. Levy created a spreadsheet this summer that gives students a way to list their top 10 colleges of interest along with the application type and deadline. Mr. Levy is then sending letters to the colleges to let them know ahead of time which of our students are applying. This gives the colleges the ability to know whom the RVGS students are before even opening up their applications. This allows students to track their application progress and allows us to support them in their endeavors. I am also happy to share that of the 29 RVGS students who participated in the early on-site admission process with VT, all 29 were accepted!!!!

I hope that everyone had a happy and healthy holiday and winter break. We look forward to an exciting new year!

-Kathy Sebolt

AP Environmental Science Paddles the James River

Mr. Villers recently led a group of AP Environmental Science students on a canoe trip on the upper James River. The trip was part of the educational programs offered by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The foundation promotes explorations of local waterways. The program is supported and created in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and the National Geographic Society. Their main mission is to reduce pollution in the Bay watershed including the James River. Students paddled a section of the upper James from Buchanan to Arcadia.

The students were then able to perform various activities related to water quality from observations of land use around the river to macroinvertebrate assessments and perform testing of other measures of water quality. Prior to the trip, Mr. Villers and students have evaluated water quality indicators at Murray Run and Fishburn Park. for an assessment of Roanoke's local waterways.



UPCOMING DATES:

- Jan 16: Holiday/ no classes
- Jan 20: Last day for Annual Appeal donations to be included in Project Forum program
- Feb 4: Project Forum
- Feb 6: Non-student day/ no classes
- Feb 20: Parent-teacher conference (day classes)

Message from the Director

January is always a uniquely exciting and busy time of the year at RVGS. Of course, the center of that activity is Intercession. Our students are innovating and thinking critically to solve the various challenges and complications that arise as they work on their research projects. Our teachers are as busy as their students, bouncing around their classrooms to support their students' experiments. All this effort will culminate at the RVGS Project Forum on Feb 4, when the students share their research with the judges, followed by Open House for family and friends. I am so pleased for Project Forum to return to the traditional format this year, and I'm excited for many of our students and families to experience this for the first time.

In addition to Intercession, there is a lot more going on at RVGS during January. The RVGS Annual Appeal fundraiser is underway, and we appreciate the generous support our families are offering. We are also in the midst of recruitment for next year's cohort of new students, which this year will include students from our new partner division Floyd County!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me for assistance.

The Govie Gala– Masquerade Style

On December 16th, RVGS students came together for one of the most anticipated events of the year—the Govie Gala! This year’s theme of “Masquerade” certainly added an additional level of glamour to the dance. Senior students spent the



afternoon prior to the dance transforming the lecture hall into a “ballroom”. DJ Roy Prusak (RVGS Class of 2000) helped to add to

the fun ambience with special light effects and music from across many decades. Songs by

Taylor Swift, Abba and the Village People brought the students out onto the dance floor. Students especially enjoyed the traditional line dances and conga line! At the end of the evening, it was announced that the newest Govie Gala King and Queen were Robert Berry and Ayla Lampos. As is tradition, the Govie Gala was a fundraiser supporting our local community. This year, we were able to donate



over \$450 and 5 large boxes of canned food items to Feeding America. *See page 4 for more photos of the Gala.*



Our Annual Appeal fundraiser runs until Project Forum. We deeply appreciate our community's support of RVGS. We ask you to consider donating and would appreciate any support your friends and family would make on your child's behalf. Your gift and those of other families will support RVGS so we can help each student reach their potential.

RVGS Teacher of the Year

Mr. Brandon Taylor was selected as this year's "Teacher of the Year" for RVGS. Mr. Taylor is part of the RVGS mathematics department and instructs students in AP Calculus AB and AP Calculus BC.

On November 29th, Superintendent Verletta White commended the 28 Roanoke City Schools' Teachers of the Year for all they do to support their students. "You are a shining example that when We Are One, our students are able to do inspiring and amazing things because we help them to understand the possibilities," she said. A committee made up of Roanoke City Public Schools employees, retirees, and last year's Teacher of the Year reviewed the Teacher of the Year nominations and selected the finalists and RCPS Teacher of the Year.



Ultimate Frisbee

One of the highlights of Fall for the RVGS campus is mornings filled with Ultimate Frisbee! The fall tournament had 8 teams competing and contained students from all grades and school districts. All participants paid a \$5 entry fee which was donated to the United Way.

After several mornings of tough competition, "Fris-A" took on the "Goons of Govieland" in the Championship game. Ultimately, "Fris-A" were victorious and crowned the winners of Fall Ultimate Frisbee. The victors were rewarded with a Pancake Breakfast provided by Mrs. Sebolt.



Behind the Scenes at RVGS

