

ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CELTIC NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2016



INSIDE: RCS says goodbye to assistant principal and academic advisor Kathy Futrell, pictured here with 2016 Senior Class





PRINCIPAL & HEAD OF SCHOOL

Patrick Patterson

UPPER SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Kathleen Futrell

LOWER SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Julie Frost

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* * *

The Celtic Newsletter is produced by the
Roanoke Catholic School Development Office:

Michael Hemphill

Director of Marketing & the Annual Fund

Debbie Stump

Director of Major Gifts & Education Tax Credits

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL & HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Alumni, School Families and Friends of Roanoke Catholic,

I'm often asked by prospective families to discuss the faith life and spiritual development of our students. There are few things that have stood the test of time for 126 years, but at Roanoke Catholic School our Catholic identity has never wavered. I share with families that the commitment to our faith development happens throughout our day. We begin each morning in prayer and we celebrate the teachings of Jesus in all of our courses and interactions with one another. We are given the opportunity at RCS to celebrate our faith openly and we see God's presence and goodness in all we do. Nearly 80 percent of our families are registered in Catholic parishes around the valley, and while we recognize that faith development happens in the home first, the work we do at the school and in our parishes should always support the efforts made by our parents.



RCS 2nd graders lead May Crowning ceremony in St. Andrew's

The ability to celebrate our faith through daily theology classes and a weekly mass at St. Andrew's Catholic Church allows us the freedom to express our love for God and all He has done to support us throughout our faith journey. RCS has been blessed with wonderful priests and school chaplains over the years. These men, along with their parish leadership teams, have supported our students, faculty and staff with adoration chapel, reconciliation services, chapel mass services, Holy Week activities and graduation exercises. Their presence on our campus is felt and loved by everyone and they share their commitment to our Catholic faith and help guide our efforts in support of our students.

Perhaps the biggest compliment we have received over the past few years were the reports from our local priests to a school accreditation team about the strength and presence of our Catholic identity woven through the fabric of our school. We all agree that updated buildings, new windows, technology enhancements, debt reduction and recognition in the community as a leading academic institution are all wonderful accolades. However, at the end of the day it is our Catholic identity and what we are doing for our children relative to their faith development that will be the litmus test for all of us.

God's blessings upon all of you,

Patrick W. Patterson

Homecoming Weekend!

October 7-8, 2016

Friday, Oct. 7, 7 PM

**Homecoming Game @ Vinyard Park
RCS Celtics vs. Fuqua, rematch of
2014 state championship game
won by Roanoke Catholic.**



Saturday, Oct. 8, 10 AM

**Alumni bus tour of Roanoke
including Black Dog Salvage
(home of DIY's acclaimed
Salvage Dawgs) and lunch at
Montano's.**



Saturday, Oct. 8, 7 PM

**Homecoming Gala @ RCS
Gillespie Family Gymnasium
Dinner by Peter Radjou, RCS chef
and Taaza owner. Live "big band"
dance music by Sway Katz. Silent
auction and more.**



**Stay tuned to www.roanokecatholic.com
and RCS email/social media for updates.**

4 - IN THE CLASSROOM

Saying goodbye ... and thank you

IN JUNE, ROANOKE CATHOLIC BIDS farewell to assistant principal Kathy Futrell and former assistant principal-turned-bus-driver Jane Cooper, who together have devoted 61 years to the school.

Futrell, 66, was hired in 1997 as 8th grade teacher for World History and English. She later added the role of academic advisor, which included guiding seniors through the college admissions and scholarship process. Since 2011 she has served as upper school assistant principal.

"It's a family, it's a sense of community, it's a caring and nurturing environment," she says about RCS. "It's the fabric and fiber of who we are, each person's gifts and talents that they bring. They're all blessings."

Through her guidance, RCS seniors have earned a 100 percent college acceptance and, for each of the last three years, more than \$3 million in college scholarships.

"Mrs. Futrell has always been so supportive and encouraging both to me and to many others, as a Confirmation sponsor, teacher, mentor and guide," says Mark Kowalski, '03, who is in seminary to become a Roman Catholic priest. "I'm very thankful for the gift that she is!"

RCS chemistry teacher Sara Plante says, "Kathy has been a tremendous

source of support and advice throughout the 19 years we've worked together. We will miss her level-headed approach, her patience, and her obvious love for the students."

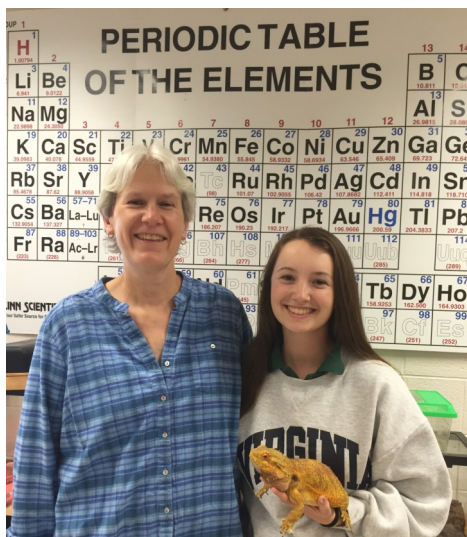
Cooper, 69, came to RCS in 1973 and, with the exception of one year in Franklin County Public Schools, spent 43 years as a teacher, assistant principal, alumni office liaison and bus driver. She still recites the school's vision and mission statements, in part because she served on the committee that created them, but mostly because they are words inscribed on her heart: "We really believed what we put on paper."

Shares James J. Spichek, '90: "After graduating from Roanoke Catholic I served in the U.S. Army for four years. After being discharged honorably I wanted to go to Marshall University, however my grades at Catholic were not the best. Without anyone asking, Ms. Cooper wrote a letter to the university ... and with the luck of the Irish, I was accepted. So I was a 22-year-old freshman who ended up



Kathy Futrell (left) and Jane Cooper retire in June after collectively serving RCS more than 60 years.

graduating from Marshall with a B.A. in Public Relations and a M.A. in Geography. Of all of the teachers I had at Roanoke Catholic, I learned the most from her and I greatly appreciate all that she has done for me."



Middle school science teacher Mary Lupsha (left) and daughter Annie, a senior, both leave RCS in June.

INTERSTATE 81 CAN ATTEST TO Mary Lupsha's commitment to Catholic education. For years she and her daughters made the commute from their Lexington home north to Staunton's Guardian Angel Regional Catholic School, where Mary also taught middle school science.

Until August 2007, that is, when Guardian Angel closed three weeks before the start of school. She frantically called Roanoke Catholic and was told by then principal Ray Correia: "I'll take your girls, but school's about to start and I don't have a teaching position open." Resigned to looking elsewhere, Mary got a call two days

later. It was Correia: "Well, you're not going to believe this, but my middle school science teacher just left."

Says Lupsha: "It must have been meant to be for it to work out so smoothly."

Instead of northbound, Lupsha and daughter Annie since 2007 have made the hour-long southbound drive to Roanoke. Now a senior, Annie graduates in June and will start the University of Virginia in the fall.

For mom, it's a good time to leave RCS: "I've been teaching 16 years and commuting all those years. It's time for me to participate in my own community.

Roanoke Catholic starts new summer camp program

SCHOOL MAY BE OUT, but summer is definitely in, beginning June 13 as Roanoke Catholic introduces its first year of Summer Camp.

Thanks to the support of RCS teachers, coaches and a few outside instructors, the school is offering 45 weeklong experiences for rising preschoolers through 12th graders.

Camp themes for younger children include Girl Power, Karate, Butterfly Princess, Treasure Island, Jungle Adventure and Secret Agent; art, basketball, soccer and football for older ages; and middle/high school offerings such as drama, creative writing, 3D printing, SAT preparation, and culinary camp with RCS chef Peter Radjou (see page 18).

Faith in Action camp during the week of July 4 gives students the opportunity to serve at, and experience first-hand, various Roanoke Valley nonprofit organizations while earning service hours for the upcoming school year.

“Like most schools, we don’t have academic classes in the summer, but our building is still open and our administrative staff is here giving tours to prospective families and preparing for the upcoming year,” says Patrick Patterson, principal and head of school. “With these camps, we can use our space to offer fun and creative summer programming for our families who already know us and trust us. And by opening registrations to all in the region, we’re able to introduce Roanoke Catholic to a new



audience.”

Summer camps will run from June 13 to July 29 and take place at Roanoke Catholic. (There are no camps the week of July 18-22 while Roanoke Catholic hosts Catholic Heart Work Camp). For more information, visit www.roanokecatholic.com.

Melissa Barnard tapped as new RCS enrollment director

ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS pleased to announce that resource specialist Melissa Barnard will become Director of Enrollment effective July 1.

In her new role, Barnard will work to promote Roanoke Catholic to prospective families; identify and recruit new students to the school; and develop initiatives to retain existing students.

“For the last couple of years, Roanoke Catholic enrollment has hovered around 475 students,” said Patrick Patterson, principal and head of school. “With a dedicated enrollment director – especially someone who is so passionate about our school as Melissa – we believe our student body will grow to more than 500, resulting in more tuition revenue and more offerings for our community.”

Barnard earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in

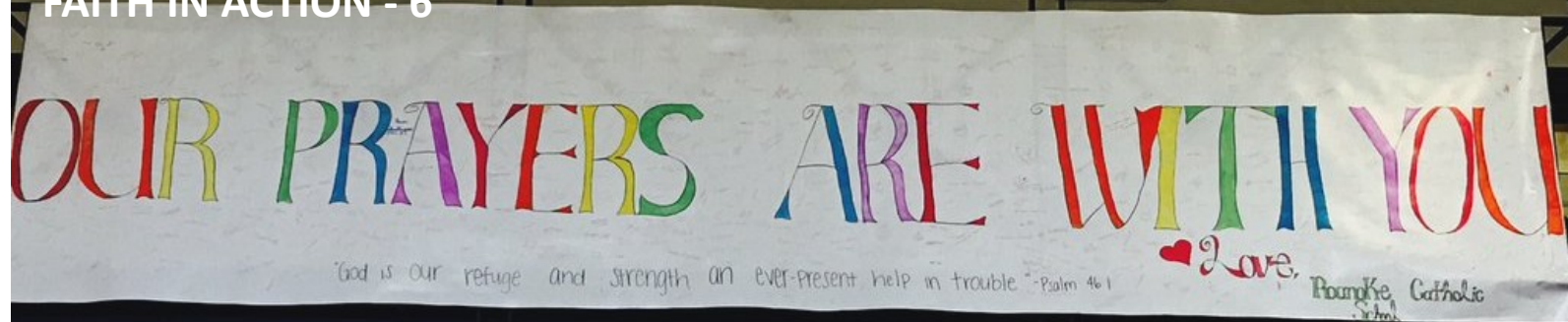


Communications and Psychology from Hollins College in 1991. She taught in Botetourt County and Roanoke County public schools from 1995 to 2013 when she joined Roanoke Catholic as a 1st Grade teacher. She later became the school’s Resource Specialist. She has one child enrolled at Roanoke Catholic.

Her work experience also includes event planning, advertising and membership sales for the Botetourt County Chamber of Commerce; and serving as a claims examiner at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Roanoke.

“My family has been so blessed to be part of Roanoke Catholic,” says Barnard, “and I’m both humbled and excited about this opportunity to make Roanoke Catholic even stronger.”

FAITH IN ACTION - 6



God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. - Psalm 46:1.

On March 19, North Cross School students and brothers Patrick McKinnon, 10, and Logan McKinnon, 5, died in a tragic Roanoke County house fire. As a gesture of support, RCS students created and signed this banner, which principal Patrick Patterson delivered to North Cross. Please continue your prayers for the family and North Cross community.



RCS Chaplain Fr. Matt Kiehl's "rock paper tweets"

EACH TUESDAY, ROANOKE CATHOLIC students get to enjoy even more of Fr. Matt Kiehl, RCS chaplain and parochial vicar at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, as he comes to preside over the weekly school Mass.

While Fr. Matt's main mission on these days is to consecrate the Eucharistic for the 550 people in his RCS community, it's his less public moments that truly inspire — from observing senior apologetics presentations to playing "rock paper scissors" during lunch with our kindergartners, to his touching social media tweets and posts.

Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram: @mattkiehl.



Fr. Matt Kiehl @MattKiehl · 4h
To our @RoanokeCatholic students taking AP exams: I'm praying for you, and I have it on good authority these exams won't exist in heaven ;-)



Fr. Matt Kiehl @MattKiehl · Mar 8
Today I saw @RoanokeCatholic lower school students literally run&skip to church to go to confession. Behold the joy of the Gospel!
#catholic



Fr. Matt Kiehl @MattKiehl · Apr 29
Any day spent at @RoanokeCatholic is a great day. In the seniors I see my siblings, in the Pre-K I see my kiddos, and in everyone I see God.

Fr. Matt Kiehl @MattKiehl · 16h
Congrats to @dan_brajdic & @RoanokeCatholic baseball for their 11-0 win against VCS. Way to bring on the mercy rule in the #YearOfMercy!

Seniors share faith

AT A RECENT FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES meeting, RCS senior Gabby McClelland shared this poem she wrote as her personal testimony.

A star athlete who netted 1,500 points and 1,000 rebounds on the girls varsity basketball team, Gabby is in the Celtic Cross representing the top four academic students in this year's senior class. She is in the school's Red Cross Club, serves as



Eucharistic minister, attends St. Andrew's Catholic Church, and works part-time as a soccer referee.

In the fall, Gabby begins the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., having earned nominations for the appointment from both U.S. Sen. Mark Warner and U.S. Rep. Bob Goodlatte. She intends to major in astronautical engineering.

*I have attended Roanoke Catholic since Pre-K
With Our Lord God guiding me day by day,
Though not at first, I had to find Him on my way.*

*I've always been a good student, with all As and maybe a B,
But hard studying in its entirety
Lacks goals, lacks purpose without influence from the Trinity*

*I learned that lesson quickly, and let God be my guide
So He can teach me by my side
In all my actions and choices that I decide.*

*So I bring Him with me to the court and my game
To play with all my gifts and talents, not for fame
But to give it all back in His name.*

*1,000 rebounds, 1,500 points, my feats are not for me
They're for my coaches, parents, and basketball family
To turn God's plan into my reality*

*I'm not perfect, I have days where I'm off
Every shot is too strong, an air-ball too soft
I dribble off my own foot, or my passes weak and loft*

*But I don't give up and turn my back
I will never quit and decide to slack
Because God is my fuel to help me attack*

*Those days where nothing seems to be going right
Blinded by my own pride, a slave to the night
Before I regain humility and find peace in the light*

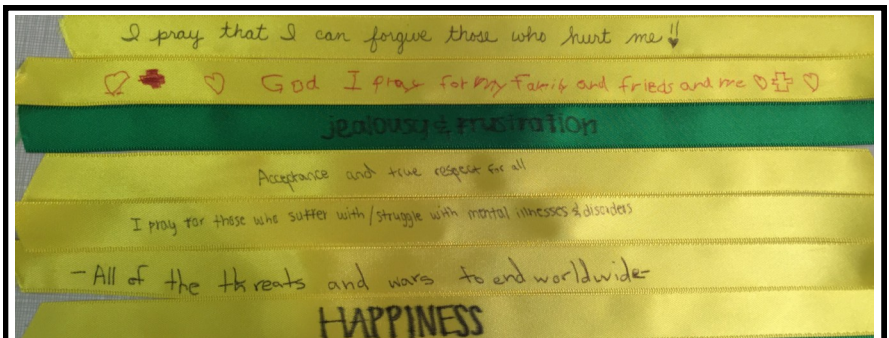
*Every lay-up I take and jump ball I win
I do for Him, because I'm bound to sin*

In my basketball game, or that of life, again and again

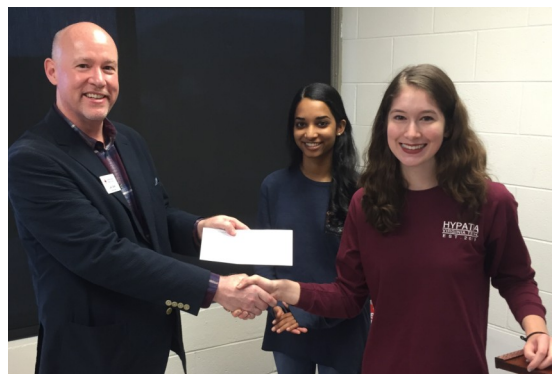
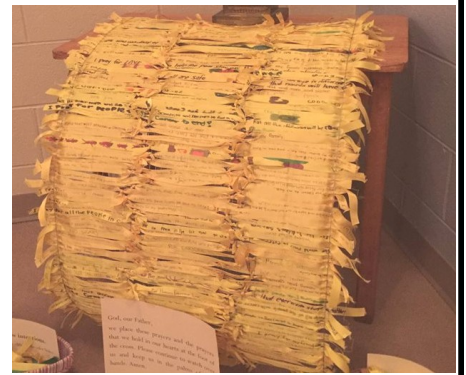
*So I take off my shoes, pack up my bag, like a bball bum
Going wherever people will appreciate where I'm from
To take with them the new person they were meant to become.*



Blessings: RCS junior Charlie Sass (3rd from right) organized fellow students and friends in February to create 84 "blessings bags" filled with toothbrushes, soaps, lotions, socks and other toiletries, which he donated to The Rescue Mission for distribution to area homeless.



Prayer Quilt: For Lent, RCS students wrote on ribbons the prayers in their hearts: from "that the devil dies" and "for courage" to "my parents, that they will forgive each other." Campus minister Beth Derringer wove the ribbons into a quilt and placed it at the foot of a cross in the chapel for all to see while praying.



Each Thursday during upper school break, RCS' Red Cross Club holds a bagel sale. On May 5, club president Jessica Via (right) and vice-president Alisha Freitas presented the American Red Cross' Lee Clark a \$400 check — proceeds from this year's sales. Clark says the money will be used to help a local family suffering from a house fire or other disaster.

8 - ON STAGE

RCS "Inspiration Night" is June 2

WHAT DOES *MONTY PYTHON*, AN A CAPPELLA choir, hiking the Grand Canyon and a 3D-printed Shrek head have in common?

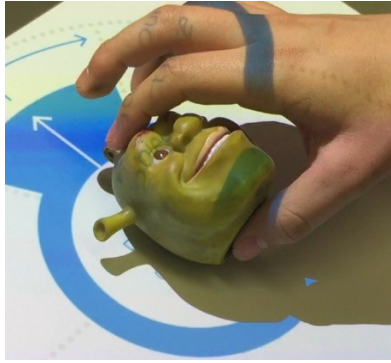
All spring from human inspiration and all are programs featured in Roanoke Catholic's upper school.

Join us June 2 at 6 p.m. for "Inspiration Night" when we showcase all the cool and creative activities taking place in our upper

school: *Monty Python* sketches by the RCS Drama Club; performance by the Celtic Singers; art teacher Kim Spencer's advanced visual arts students; earth science teacher Joe Sweeney's National Parks Experience course; and the gadgets designed and

created in math teacher Donna Nickel's 3D Printing and Engineering class.

Culinary inspiration will be provided by RCS chef Peter Radjou, who is serving dinner (optional for attendees) at \$12/adult, \$8/student. Menu: chicken tikka masala or lasagna, salad and desserts. Proceeds benefit RCS arts. Dinner reservations required. Contact April Corbett at 540.982.3532 or acorbett@roanokecatholic.com.



See this envelope?

Please show your support of RCS with a tax-deductible gift to our Annual Fund by June 30. Celebrate the legacies of Kathy Futrell, Jane Cooper, Mary Lupsha or another RCS friend with a donation in their honor. All honorary gifts will be listed in our Fall 2016 Annual Report. For a gift of \$500 or more, you will also be invited to our Donor Appreciation Reception on October 8.

GO CELTICS!



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SUMMER CAMP

45 fun and enriching experiences
for rising preschoolers through
12th graders!

ARTS: Drama, Creative Writing, Fashion, Print-making

LIFE SKILLS: 3-D Printing, Cooking with Chef Radjou

ACADEMIC: SAT Boot Camp, Algebra Basics, Science Discovery

SPORTS: Karate, Basketball, Soccer, Football

JUST FUN: Girl Power, Butterfly Princess, Jungle Adventure, More!



Summer camps are June 13-July 29 at Roanoke Catholic. Except where noted, each camp lasts one week and is a half-day: 9 AM-12 noon or 1-4 PM.

RATES

RCS Families:

\$125/week per half-day camp

\$225/week per full-day camp

Non-RCS Families:

\$140/week per half-day camp

\$240/week per full-day camp

Before- and After-Camp Care
(8-9 AM, 4-5 PM)

\$15/week for each, \$25/week for both.

Camps the week of July 5-8 are just four days and discounted \$20/half-day or \$40/full-day.



REGISTER TODAY!

www.roanokecatholic.com

540.982.3532

National Parks Spring Break

National Parks Experience takes
Roanoke Catholic students to our
country's grandest of sites



AFTER SETTING UP THE TENTS, filtering our water and exchanging hiking boots for comfortable sandals, we sat around the camp stoves with the aroma of chicken and rice filling our noses and looked up at the rim of the Grand Canyon. The first day's light had faded but still clung to the edge of the canyon illuminating the pine trees that now were so small they looked like clusters of grass.

"We started way up there," said one student. Our guide answered, "Yes, you have come a long way."

We had descended over 3,500 feet in elevation, passed through three different ecosystems, hiked through half of the sedimentary rock strata representing over 250 million years of earth history, all this change in the relatively short distance of five miles.



National Parks Experience is a spring semester course at Roanoke Catholic that focuses on our country's iconic national parks. In 2014 we journeyed to Yosemite to spend time in the land of giant trees and cathedrals of granite. After a day of exploring the giant Sequoia trees, we hiked up the north side of Yosemite Valley along the Snow Creek trail. The final two miles of this adventure tested the strength of everyone. We ascended over 2,500 feet in just over 1.5 miles. The effort was rewarded with one of the most spectacular views across the valley of Half Dome. Although a snow storm cut the backpacking trip short by one day, the experience was remarkable.

The Grand Canyon was the destination for both the spring of 2015 and 2016. This year's Canyon Crew was large enough to split into two groups. One group traveled our traditional route down the South Kaibab Trail to spend two nights in Bright Angel Campground near Phantom Ranch. The third day, they hiked to Indian Garden Campground along the Bright Angel Trail.

The final day was spent climbing out of the canyon along the Bright Angel Trail. The second group hiked into the canyon along the Grandview Trail to Cottonwood Creek. After two nights, they hiked along the Tonto Trail around Horseshoe Mesa and spent one night at Hance Creek. The final day was the challenging hike back up to the South Rim.

As the National Parks Experience continues to grow and develop, some aspects have remained constant. We continue to connect students with the wonders of nature. Every year we have students participate in our program that have never backpacked, spent the night in the woods or even traveled west of the Mississippi. By immersing them in the beauty and wonder of such places as Grand Canyon and Yosemite, their minds are expanded, their self-confidence strengthened and their beliefs of what they can accomplish are empowered. The memories made on the trips will stand out as some of the most remarkable of their lives. These experiences

foster the development of friendships with classmates. Life will take people along different paths, but they will always share the connection made during a National Parks Experience excursion.

Yellowstone National Park will be the focus of our spring 2017 course. The trip to Yellowstone will be June 12-17. This go-



around will not be structured as a backpacking trip. Instead, we will stay at a lodge in Gardner, Montana, and make day trips to several destinations within the park. These excursions will feature hikes to more remote locations. A sample of activities include visiting the geyser basins, studying herds of bison and packs of wolves, exploring the different ecosystems of the park, and gaining an appreciation for the wonders of Yellowstone.

To all of those who have supported the National Parks Experience program throughout the years, we thank you. Your support has impacted the lives of our students by providing them with the opportunity to step out of the classroom, out of their comfort zone and further the development of their individuality and character.

If you would like to see pictures from our trips and read more about our adventures, check our Facebook page or visit www.NationalParksExperience.org.

- by Joe Sweeney, RCS science teacher



ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2016



Joseph Baker Nathan Behan Macarena Bima Daniel Brajdic Savannah Butcher Jessica Carpenter Olivia Clark Emma Collins Naomi Collins



Alec Connor Ashley Deer Jordan Doubles Tony Eapen Danielle Farmer Jonah Frost Mairin Glenney Alex Gomez



Gregory Guilfoyle Suji Hong Nicole Hypes Sotirios Karageorge Jeremiah Krajnik Natalie Lucchini Stanley Martinez Joseline Rufino



Maria Rufino Brian Sakalas Abigail Secamiglio Andrea Secamiglio Siena Sorrentino Ethan Tait Jessica Via Christopher Zoller

CELTIC CROSS MEMBERS

The Celtic Cross represents the top four academic students in the senior class.



Alisha Freitas



Annie Lupsha



Gabrielle McClelland



Nathanael Pilar



Virginia Tech



CU NY
The City University of New York



W&M
WILLIAM & MARY



RU
RADFORD UNIVERSITY



Bullets
Gettysburg College



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY



uOttawa



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY of AMERICA



MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

HOLLINS UNIVERSITY

14 - ON THE FIELD

Celtic All-American: RCS senior Brian Sakalas took third place in the United States on Feb. 27 at the National Preps Wrestling tournament at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa. Only 32 private school wrestlers nationwide qualified for National Preps in each weight class. For his performance, Brian was named All American. Brian also won the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association state wrestling championship.



In the fast lane: RCS boys swim team won the Blue Ridge Conference championship where senior Nathanael Pilar was named male athlete of the meet. At the VISAA state swim championship, the boys placed 4th in their division out of 35 schools.



Diamond no longer rough: RCS baseball under Coach Scott Liptrap rose to No. 4 in VISAA and finished with a winning 11-9 record — an impressive feat considering the school couldn't field a team four years ago. The Celtics' season included a 15-0 victory over Roanoke Valley Christian School at Salem Memorial Baseball Stadium (pictured above).



On Track: RCS girls track team won the Blue Ridge Conference championship May 7. Overall, with a total of 14 girls and 2 boys, RCS — under Coach Cathy Connelly — walked away with 33 medals.



1000 point club
From left: junior Lucas Myers and seniors Gabby McClelland and Ethan Tait all reached the 1,000-point milestone in the 2015-16 season.



Coach of the Year: RCS' Josh Cunningham was voted Virginia Independent Conference Basketball Coach of the Year. Under his leadership, the Celtics claimed a 16-10 record in 2015-16 that included a season win over North Cross.



Cosmo Girl: In her first year on the RCS track team, senior Olivia Clark won the 2016 Cosmo Track Meet's \$3,000 scholarship on April 30 for her work experience and service to her school and community. She will attend Xavier University's nursing program in the fall. RCS' Ryan Gerstemeier won the scholarship in 2015.



Hoop Dreams: RCS middle school girls basketball team, coached by Al Connelly, earned a best-ever 2nd place finish in the 30-team Shamrock Tournament in Charlotte, N.C.



LAX is back! Under new head coach Frank Guilfoyle, RCS varsity lacrosse achieved a 9-6 regular season record and at one point ranked as high as third in the state, beating along the way lacrosse powerhouse Blue Ridge School for the first time in seven years. "We have a good group of young men and a good program," Guilfoyle says. "They ought to get a banner or two." Guilfoyle played lacrosse at the University of Notre Dame and has coached his sons — Gregory, '16, and Bryant, '19 — in the sport. His daughters — Aidan, '11, and Mairin, '13 — were star volleyball players at RCS and currently play at the collegiate level.



"Not only is Frank a wonderful lacrosse coach and leader of our young men, he has a deep and lasting commitment to Roanoke Catholic School," says RCS athletic director Matt Peck.



Celtic Soccer: RCS middle school girls soccer team, coached by Allison Morgan, finished the season with a winning record of 4 wins, 3 losses and 5 ties.



SAVE THE DATE! RCS' football team — the 2014 VISAA state champion and 2015 state runner-up — kicks off the 2016 season by renewing the rivalry with North Cross School on August 26 at Vinyard Park.

Roanoke Catholic nears \$100,000 goal for new bus



Thank you for “getting on the bus” and supporting RCS during the first-ever *Roanoke Valley Gives Day* on March 16.

RCS ranked second in both “most dollars raised” (\$38,200) and “most individual donors” (315), a remarkable achievement considering more than 125 of the region’s leading nonprofit organizations participated in the event.

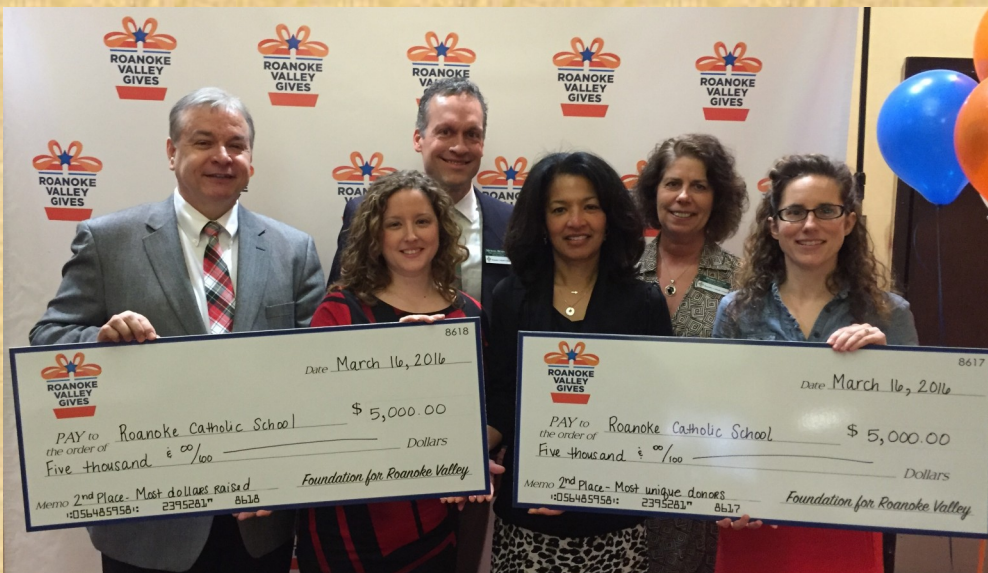
RCS’ success earned an additional \$11,000 in incentive prizes from the Foundation for Roanoke Valley, which coordinated the giving day, bringing the total raised for Roanoke Catholic in one day to nearly \$50,000!

Thanks so much to Woodson Honda and the Celtic Booster Club for providing matching gifts that inspired so many to give.

Proceeds from Roanoke Valley Gives are going toward a \$100,000 campaign that RCS launched in December for a new athletics and activity bus.

Due to the age and unreliability of its existing buses, the school has spent tens of thousands of dollars since 2014 on the rental of charter buses to transport teams to sporting events and students on field trips and other school-related activities.

Combining proceeds from this year’s Shamrock Hill Run and other donations, RCS has now raised \$62,000 to date toward the new bus. The school’s development office is working to complete the campaign by the end of June so that the bus can arrive toward the start of the new school year.



Foundation for Roanoke Valley’s Alan Ronk and Michelle Eberly (far left) present RCS’ Director of Marketing Michael Hemphill (back), parent Kim Yeaton (center), Director of Major Gifts Debbie Stump and parent Julie Whalen (right) with two \$5,000 checks for 2nd place finishes in Roanoke Valley Gives Day.

We thank our sponsors for supporting the 26th annual Shamrock Hill Run on March 12

\$5,000 Presenting Sponsor



\$2,500 Course Sponsor



\$1,000 Awards Ceremony Sponsor

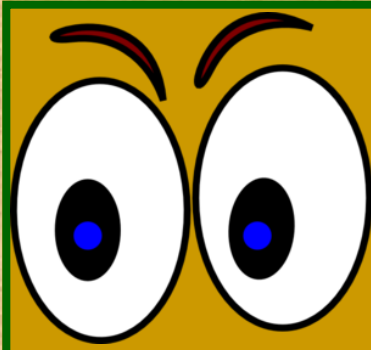


\$500 Supporting Sponsor



\$250 Friend





Envelope still here?

54% of our students come from families with a real financial need based on their household income. Our Annual Fund provides them with vital tuition assistance. We've raised \$210,853 through May 1. Help us reach \$225,000 by the end of our fiscal year June 30. Thank you!

RCS raises nearly \$600,000 in education tax credits gifts

SO FAR THIS FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, Roanoke Catholic School's development office has raised \$593,000 in donations under the state Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits (EISTC) program.

For their giving, donors have earned state tax credits of \$385,450 (equal to 65 percent of their gift) in addition to their federal and state tax deductions. Meanwhile, RCS has been able to provide critical tuition assistance for families who desire a private school education for their children.

"This program is truly 'win-win-win' for our families, donors and school," says Patrick Patterson, principal and head of school. "EISTC represents a new source of financial aid that can literally cut in half the tuition rates for qualifying families. Thanks to those who have so generously supported this program, we are transforming lives."

The nearly \$600,000 raised by RCS exceeds all other Catholic schools in the Diocese of Richmond, representing more than one-fourth of the Diocese's EISTC contributions. For more information about the program, contact Debbie Stump, director of major gifts and state tax credits: dstump@roanokecatholic.com, 540.982.3532.



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Cooking with heart

Peter Radjou says his job as
Roanoke Catholic School chef
“was given to me by God”

The chime of the lunch bell still echoes in the hall when the first frantic student hits the cafeteria door. Boys and girls alike are hot on his heels, all angling and jostling to get to the lunch line. Teachers and staff — typically respectful of “first-come, first-serve” — exert executive privilege and elbow their way to the front. All want to be sure they get their serving of today’s menu.

Like a scene from *Oliver*, the first child hands his tray to server Rita Madera and says eagerly, “Tikka, please.”

“With na’an or no?” Rita asks.

“Oh with, please. With!”

And so the monthly chicken tikka masala rush begins.

How did an Indian dish become the favorite food at a school founded by Scots-Irish Catholics?

Meet Peter Radjou.

Since 2012, Peter has been raising the bar and children’s palettes as Roanoke Catholic School chef. Beef lomein, baked rotini, stir fried pork — and of course the *tikka* — are examples of Peter’s daily menus. Even the challenging season of Lent, when many Catholic schools default to fish sticks and fries, finds Celtic students enjoying dill-crusted salmon, braised tilapia with lobster sauce, shrimp etouffee and shrimp creole over rice.

Though he has cooked in hotels and cruise ships all over the world, has opened restaurants in Maryland and Washington, D.C., and today owns with wife Sara the popular Taaza Restaurant in Grandin Village, Peter insists, “This is my best job ever. It was given to me by God. I have had more satisfaction here than anywhere else.”

* * *

Until 2012, serving lunch to Catholic school kids was never in Peter's career plans.

A culinary school graduate, Peter began his career working in hotels in his native India and the Republic of Maldives. From 1989 to 1992 he worked in the kitchens of Carnival cruise ships sailing through Caribbean islands and off the Mexican coast. In 1992 he married Sara, who dreamed of moving to the United States. Settling first in Manassas and then Maryland, Peter and a partner opened restaurants in College Park and Washington, D.C.

In 2002 Peter moved to Roanoke to start a contract operating Elephant Walk in the Tanglewood Holiday Inn. A year later, Sara and their two daughters, Cathy and Alice, joined him. In 2006 Peter decided to open his own Indian restaurant, Taaza, on Franklin Road. He asked Sara to manage it, much to her surprise.

"I'd been a kindergarten teacher in India, but when we moved to Roanoke I was working for NBC Bank and Suntrust," she recalls with a laugh. "Then Peter one day says we're going to open Taaza and I'm going to manage it. He says, 'What you do at home you're going to do there.'"

For a few years, the restaurant business was good for the Radjous. So much so they felt comfortable enrolling Cathy, then an 11th grader, and Alice, in 6th grade, in Roanoke Catholic. Friends at Our Lady of Nazareth had encouraged them for some time to do so.

"We didn't like the way the public schools were going," says Sara. "Only doing SOLs ... and the friends' circles ... the dress code. But the main reason was we both had Catholic school for our education. We knew how Catholic education worked and we wanted our kids to have it."

But the Great Recession, coupled with a troubling catering contract Peter had entered into with a local country club, conspired to make 2011-12, in Peter's words, "the worst year of our lives." His restaurants suffered heavy losses. He gave up control of the College Park and D.C. restaurants to his now former business partner.

"We wouldn't wish our worst enemies to go through that," says Sara.

Distraught over his failing businesses, Peter one day found himself at Our Lady of Nazareth, kneeling before the statue of Mary and praying the Rosary through tears streaming down his face. "Why is this happening?" he asked himself again and again.

He finished his Rosary, got into his car and picked up his cell phone to discover he'd missed a call from Roanoke Catholic. The voicemail was from Patrick Patterson, principal and head of school: "Mr. Radjou," the message began, "I understand you're in the food and beverage business. I'd like to talk to you about an opening we have here."

Recounting the story, Sara is now the one to weep. "It was God's plan that we do this."

Not all in the family initially appreciated the news. "My first reaction was, 'Oh no!'" says Alice, then a 7th grader. "'Now there's going to be someone there who is going to be looking over me, who will be talking to all my teachers about me.' But once he started cooking, everyone loved him. It's nice to have him here."

The school feels the same. "We'd never enjoyed a consistently profitable cafeteria until Peter Radjou," says Patterson. "His knowledge of service to customers, minimizing waste, and the dining industry in general has led to Roanoke Catholic having a fabulous cafeteria."

More importantly, Patterson notes, the Radjous are a witness to faith. Devoted Our Lady of Nazareth parishioners, the Radjous each Christmas season prepare a holiday feast for homeless men, women and children served by The Rescue Mission. Every Tuesday, both Peter and Sara pray the Rosary in the St. Andrew's Church chapel before filing into the sanctuary with all RCS students to attend school Mass. "We want our children to see our employees and support staff at Mass demonstrating their faith," says Patterson.

Peter is also the first call for Roanoke Catholic catering or fundraising events: Book Fair dinners supporting the library; the school's

Donor Appreciation Reception last fall at Center in the Square; Lenten fish fries and St. Patrick's Day Dinner for the Ancient Order of Hibernians; bitty basketball awards breakfast; Thanksgiving pie sale for the swim team; and on and on.

"As a parent and volunteer, there couldn't be two more genuine, hard-working and kind people," says Barbara Andes, who chairs the school's Book Fair. "They are an asset to Roanoke and our school."

The Radjous also host fundraising dinners at Taaza (which in January relocated to Grandin Village), devoting a portion of proceeds back to the school. And Peter is leading two weeks of culinary camps this summer for middle and high school students as part of RCS' first-ever summer camp program.

Says Peter, "When I was at my lowest point, the school helped me, so I want to always give back to the school."

- Michael Hemphill, director of marketing



From left: Cathy, Peter, Sara and Alice Radjou

Upcoming events featuring Radjou food

June 2, 6 PM

Roanoke Catholic Arts & Inspiration Night | RCS Cafeteria
Featuring Drama Club, Celtic Singers, Visual Arts, 3D Printing, and National Parks Experience. Dinner tickets: \$12/adult, \$8/student.

October 8, 7 PM

Roanoke Catholic Homecoming Gala | RCS Gillespie Family Gym
Featuring SwayKatz Big Band, dancing, auction, and more. Tickets TBA.
Stay tuned to roanokecatholic.com and social media for details.

20 - ALUMNI UPDATES

Mark Kowalski, '03, was ordained a transitional Deacon for the Diocese of Richmond on April 16 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond. He is looking forward to parish work this summer in the diocese, to his last year in seminary coming up at Theological College and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., "and to being ordained a Priest, God-willing, in June 2017!"



Joseph "Reggie" Tyler, '60 (middle), Matthew Tyler, '05 (left) and Mitchell Tyler, '01, have

expanded their Vinton-based firearms sales, manufacturing, and training business, Safeside Tactical, into the city of Roanoke. They purchased the old Noland Plumbing warehouse on Shenandoah Avenue and have begun a major renovation that will result in one of the largest indoor firearm training centers on the East Coast. The project is scheduled for completion at the end of summer 2016.



Sandy Wierzbic, '03, graduated Roanoke College and the University of South Carolina School of Law. She began a career in fundraising at Roanoke College followed by United Way of Roanoke Valley. In April 2016 she became Annual Fund Manager for Goodwill Industries of the Valleys.

Jim Wilson, '71, moved in April from Atlanta to Santa Rosa Beach, Fla., "a nice beach town without the Atlanta traffic." He works for RentPath, an internet apartment listing company with sites such as Apartmentguide.com and Rent.com.



Ronald Steven Assaid, '68, of Roanoke, passed away April 30 after an extended illness.



Gerald Eubank, Retired Colonel, '57, lives in Murrells Inlet, S.C., where he plays golf, does volunteer work and relaxes. He spends summers in the Adirondack Mountains near Lake George where he plays golf and fishes. "If any of my old students are in the area please stop and visit."



Kenneth Joseph Griggs, '41, of Roanoke, died January 5 at Lewis-Gale Hospital.

Catherine Campbell, '70, 3rd grade teacher at RCS, won Gold in *The Roanoker* magazine's Best of Roanoke 2016 for "Most Inspiring Teacher."

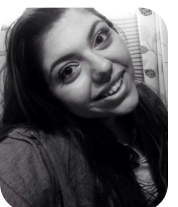


FRIENDS

Andre Washington is transferring from Wake Forest to East Carolina University for his final season of eligibility to play for head coach Jeff Lebo. Andre played in 67 games for the Demon Deacons over three seasons. He receives his degree in May and will be eligible to play next season for the Pirates as a graduate transfer.



Emilie Bradley, has just been approved to establish "Crafts for a Cure" as an official club at Seton Hill University. RCS' Mirinda Gwin, '11, founded Crafts for a Cure while president of the RCS Fellowship of Christian Athletes to raise awareness of children's cancer. Since then many RCS students and parents have volunteered hundreds of hours to raise money for St. Jude's. The Seton Hill club will be the first college setting for Crafts for a Cure.



From “The Hill” to the skies

Paul Shen, ‘06

Flying one of the most sophisticated fighter jets in the world, for one of the U.S. Navy’s elite squadrons, was not on Paul Shen’s horizon when he graduated Roanoke Catholic School in 2006.

Indeed, Paul’s life to that point had been bound by sea and land.

The son of a Navy doctor, Paul moved with his physician parents from Norfolk to Roanoke when he was 10 years old. At 12, he started Roanoke Catholic in 7th grade where he was classmates with Zach Burns and Seth Price, whose fathers were (and remain), respectively, the school’s wrestling and football coaches. He joined his friends on the mat and field, and also played soccer through his junior year and lacrosse his senior year.

“Athletics were the big thing I did in school,” he says.

A self-described “joker and class clown,” Paul worked hard for his academics too. He credits former math teacher Laura Rourke and teachers Joe Sweeney and Sara Plante for providing him a solid science foundation. And he praises upper school assistant principal Kathy Futrell as “one of those teachers who you feel always had your best interests in mind.”

But his life went a bit off course upon graduation. Accepted to Virginia Military Institute, he dropped out after a few weeks and enlisted in the Navy. His first assignment: learning to operate a nuclear power plant at the Naval Nuclear Power School in Charleston, S.C. — training for the nuclear propulsion systems on Navy submarines and carriers.

In Charleston, he met his wife Steffie, who was also in the nuclear propulsion program. They married in 2008, the year he successfully applied to the Navy’s “Seaman to Admiral” program, where he received a coveted aviation slot.

The program gave him the opportunity to receive a free college education. “My wife

is from Illinois, and being a Navy family I didn’t see us ever going back to Illinois, so she picked Purdue.”

Graduating in 2012, he received his commission as an ensign. Later that month he began the Naval Flight Officer Training Program in Pensacola, Fla. He spent 22 months learning basic airmanship and navigation while flying the T-39 Sabreliner, T-6 Texan II and T45 Goshawk. His tendency to talk — a lot — earned him the call sign “Gabby” when he got his wings in 2014.

From Pensacola he and Steffie moved to Lemoore, Calif., for a 22-month training as a rear-seat Weapons System Officer in the two-seater F/A-18F Super Hornet. He completed the program in December 2015 and was appointed to the elite “Fighting Redcocks” of VFA-22 stationed at Lemoore.

“I never imagined I’d get the chance to fly in one of the coolest fighter planes the Navy has ever built,” he says.

Currently a Lieutenant Junior-Grade, Paul is slated to become a Full Lieutenant in May. In September 2017, the father of now three children — Lily, 7, Lucille, 6, and Leonardo, who turns 1 in July — will deploy on his first 7-month cruise aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt. His career goal for the Navy is to command an air wing on a carrier.

“You never get bored flying,” Paul says. “The only flying I don’t like is commercial, because I can’t see. You lose so much of the view. If we see something cool [in the F18] my pilot and I can fly back and see it again, or roll the plane over.”

His daily flights find him soaring over the snow-packed Sierra Nevada to the scorched sands of Death Valley to the pitch blackness of the Pacific Ocean at night.

“It’s always magical. I live on a base with 18 squadrons and every time I hear a jet engine I always turn to look. When you stop looking when you hear the sound of a jet engine, it’s time to stop flying.”



22 - ALUMNI UPDATES

Celtics Career Connect is designed to help connect Roanoke Catholic alumni who are in college or recently graduated with potential employers — especially employers who are already friends or alumni of RCS!

If you're an RCS graduate trying to find a job or internship, email us your resume, photo, and your objective. We'll post your info on our website and promote you to our constituents via our weekly e-newsletters, social media channels, and print publications.

Email Michael Hemphill, director of marketing and the Annual Fund, at mhemphill@roanokecatholic.com.



SUPER CLASSIC CLASS REUNION VII

The classes of 1952 through 1971 will celebrate at a “super reunion” June 23-25, 2017. Plans are underway, but suggestions are welcome! Organizers extend an open invitation to all who would like to join us at any or all of our events. It is not limited to alumni.

Currently we are without representatives from the classes of 1957, 1966 and 1968. For more information contact Becky Stinnett, '62, at 540.353.4457 | craftytyras@yahoo.com
Or Kitty Martin Thomas, '59, at 540.353.4457 | kittythomas@cox.net.

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1. We're a Catholic school, but you don't have to be Catholic!

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2. No SOLs! We focus on individual achievement, critical thinking, intellectual exploration and creative expression — in other words, *learning* — not unnecessarily stressful standardized testing.

3. We are affordable. We are not a private school but a catholic school — catholic meaning "universal." Our goal is to be open to all families regardless of income. More than 50% of our students receive some form of tuition assistance. And a new source of financial aid can cut your tuition in half!

4. We prepare for what's next. Our graduates earn a 100% college acceptance rate and each year more than \$3 million in scholarships. And with our dual enrollment and Advanced Placement courses, our students can graduate with as many as 24 college credits, giving our families even more value for their hard-earned tuition dollars by lowering their future college costs.

5. Individualized classes, fully endorsed teachers. From PreK (3 and 4 year olds) to Grade 12, our student-teacher ratio is about 15:1. All of our teachers hold valid Virginia state teacher certification, ensuring our students receive the finest instruction available.

6. We compete outside the classroom too. RCS Celtics' athletics features 26 middle school, junior varsity and varsity teams that annually compete for the state's highest honors. We nurture artistic expression through Theater, Dance, Choir, Band and Visual Arts. Student-run activities include Yearbook, Student Newspaper, Key Club, National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Government Association, Red Cross Club and ProLife Club.

7. One word: uniforms! Oh, the joy of no wardrobe drama! You'll save money, time — and aggravation! — with a year's worth of school clothing that can fit in one drawer. Trust us ... you'll love it.

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OUR VISION

Roanoke Catholic School is dedicated to excellence in education and to the spiritual development of youth within the framework of the Gospel and the tradition of the Catholic Church. Welcoming all faiths, we strive to instill in our students a lifelong commitment to learning, to Christian values, and to community service.

We are dedicated to achieving these goals in a supportive Christian community.

OUR MISSION

The fundamental task of Roanoke Catholic School is the education of the whole person, blending learning with faith and faith with daily life.

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