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.
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.
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.

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