

# Re-enrollment time!

## Meetings for the school year 2011/2012

Please reserve your spot for your re-enrollment meeting by contacting

Jo Foster at 678-7358 ext. 222 or by email at [fosterb@rbcs.org](mailto:fosterb@rbcs.org).

For admissions questions, please contact Mrs. Katherine Grete at 678-7358 ext. 330.

- Thurs. Feb. 17 6:00PM Grace Presbyterian Chapel
- Tues. Feb. 22 8:30AM Grace Presbyterian Chapel
- Mon. Mar. 7 6:00PM Wright Baptist Church, FWB
- Mon. Mar. 14 6:00PM Emmanuel Baptist Church, Crestview
- Thurs. Mar. 17 6:00PM Village Baptist Church, Destin
- Tues. Mar. 29 8:30AM Grace Presbyterian Chapel
- Tues. Apr. 5 8:30AM Grace Presbyterian Chapel
- Tues. April 12 6:00PM Grace Presbyterian Chapel



Issue 5  
Feb. 2011

A Newsletter for Rocky Bayou Christian School Families

### A Note from the Superintendent



It still feels like winter, but we are fully underway in our Spring Semester here at RBCS. This is a very busy time for our students as they get settled in some new classes and head into competition season at the same time. One of the key features in our program is encouraging our students to test the development of their gifts and abilities through a number of co-curricular activities. This allows our students to acquire a certain level of self-knowledge and subsequent self-confidence as they test themselves against other students from other schools. While I may wish that RBCS won every competition we enter, the occasional failure (or 5<sup>th</sup> place finish) allows our students to learn from the “dust myself off and do better next time” experience.

Our winter sports have all concluded. Both of our soccer teams won their districts (our ladies for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year!) and competed well in the regional tournament. The basketball teams likewise made valiant efforts in their district tournaments, only to fall a tad short. Our inaugural wrestling team made us proud with some individual wins in area meets. Spring sports have kicked off with baseball, softball, weightlifting, track and field, and our first ever tennis team. We are so proud of our student-athletes, as every one of these young people is required to maintain a “B” average to even participate in sports.

Our fine and performing arts students are also busy preparing for competitions, festivals, and performances. Mr. Hood will be presenting *Guys and Dolls* on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at the NHS auditorium. I personally requested the part of Nicely-Nicely Johnson, so I could sing *Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat*. He told me the part requires a tenor, and I'm a baritone, so I guess I'll just have to enjoy Adam Downing's performance.

Many thanks to the parent volunteers who are helping us with our myriad of activities, both on and off campus. We would never be able to accomplish the goals of educating our young people toward Christian maturity without these volunteers. Please make sure to contact Tim McIlhenny (his link is on the website) if you wish to help here at school. It is only with a team effort that we can achieve excellence.

We're also beginning our **Spring Enrollment Meetings** this month. I am presenting a State of the School message at these meetings in an effort to provide more transparency to our program. Please schedule a time with **Jo Foster at x 222**, so you will have a seat for next year. Our phones have been ringing off the hook with new families interested in next school year.

**Dr. Michael Mosley, RBCS Superintendent**

## Elementary Teacher of the Month Lesley Vance



### **My previous teaching experience:**

I taught 7th-8th grade in Aberdeen, MS at Aberdeen Middle School

while getting my Masters. I also taught 2nd grade in Valdosta, GA at CrossRoads Baptist School.

### **What I am currently teaching:**

I am currently teaching 3A.

### **What I like best about Rocky Bayou Christian School:**

I love children! I also cherish working with such wonderful Christian women and men knowing that they not only talk the talk but walk the walk.

### **My goal for the year:**

To be the best teacher and role model that I could possibly be for my students.

### **Which college I attended?**

I have a B.A. in Communicative Disorders from the University of MS (go Rebs!) and a M.Ed. in Gifted Studies from the Mississippi University for Women.

## Elementary Department



Project Creation came in with a Big Bang as Sean Meek presented the truths of God's Creation and set the imaginations of the students afire. His methodical, yet humorous, presentation of the Biblical account of creation held their attention and sparked some pretty lively discussions, both with him and later in the classrooms. Sixth graders are a pretty tough audience, but they were saying things like "that was VERY interesting", "I liked getting to touch the artifacts", "I liked knowing it was all true", "His jokes made it easy to remember", "He explained the hard things so well", "The sequential order of his presentation made it all so easy to understand", and "That was awesome. He did it all without the help of special effects!"

Project CREATION exists as an educational and resource ministry to help Christians educate and empower themselves to oppose the humanist/evolutionist establishment and philosophy. Sean Meek, Executive Director of Project CREATION, travels nationally speaking on such topics as: *Creation is the Foundation*, *The Curse of Compromise*, *Including Creation in the Curriculum* and *God's Revelation in Science and the Bible*. Mr. Meek is available to speak at church services, Sunday school classes and other groups on the Biblical and scientific aspects of creation.

If you want to find additional resources from Project CREATION you can go to the website at [projectcreation.org](http://projectcreation.org).

**Denise Bowers/Elementary Principal**



## From the Ground Up

If you have never taken a walk on this campus during a sunny day, then I recommend you do this as soon as possible. It is picturesque and reminds me of strolling safely through one of the older college campuses throughout the U.S. Begin your walk at the front of the campus near the chapel and proceed through the woods. We have fashioned a marvelous walking trail complete with benches, where you can pause, meditate, and take in the splendor of God's creation. Excess trees, bushes, and branches have been removed and rye grass planted, giving this area a real park-like quality. On some days, after a night's rain, a modest stream that emerges gently within the woods.

Once you leave this little Eden, you will be at the brick Saxon building. Proceed up the hill, and will come to the Academy lunch area. This is a forested island filled with benches and picnic tables. We purposefully crafted benches that would blend into the environment. All benches, and a number of picnic tables, on campus come from the hard work of boy scouts who partnered with our maintenance team to help make this campus even more beautiful. From here, proceed towards the athletic field. It is a joy to walk the perimeter of the field. If you look closely, you will discover two hawks who have taken residence. You will also notice that we have constructed a fenced-in place for tools and maintenance items so that small children will not become injured while playing near the fields as parents watch their student participate in various sports. From the athletic field, your walk will bring you back towards the academy and onward to the elementary area. This is a place for joyful play. Children will be found running, laughing, enjoying tether ball, swinging, playing kick ball, and climbing. Few of us can walk through this area without multiple hugs and smiles from the children.

Finally, your walk ends at the kindergarten building. Stop, and enjoy watching the little ones play under majestic oak trees. This wonderful walk of less than a mile is filled with such pleasure. It makes me personally thank God daily for allowing me to be a part of RBCS.

**John Hoskins/Operations Director**



## Academy News

Rocky Bayou Christian Academy is pleased to announce that the Varsity Academic A Team placed 1st in the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools Annual State Brain Bowl Academic Competition in Orlando on February 3rd & 4th. Senior **Joseph Sung**, captain, led the team made up of senior **Jacob Emerick** and juniors **Josh Turner** and **Bill Hudson**. **Josh** won 3rd place in the state for individual toss ups answered in the two day competition while also earning 1st place for toss ups answered only in the finalist round on day two. Senior **Jon Allen**, B Team captain, led his team, made up of senior **John Stevenson**, junior **Matt Steele** and sophomore **Tim Sung**, which placed 5th in the state for the finalist round. Senior **Emily Kent** led Rocky Bayou's first ever all girl team, made up of junior **Neely Fawaz**, sophomore **Audrey Stevens**, and freshman **Cailin Kellum**, to a second place in the state for the consolation round competition. Finally, for the first time ever FACCs Brain Bowl state middle school competition, seventh grader, **Duncan Foster** led his team, made up of eighth grader **Josh Birdsong** and seventh graders **Wesley Bowers**, **Marcus Fort** and **Dylan Paskell**, to a second place win. **Josh** also won 2nd in the state for middle school individual toss ups answered.



## Discipleship News

I am excited to tell you that we will be returning to the Valley of Peace, Belize again this year. Last year we had an amazing time working with the on-site missionaries Dan and Vicki Weaver. They have invited us to return to continue to support their ministry to former refugees from El Salvador. We will be located in the mountains near the capital, Belmopan. This year Dan and Vicki have asked that we work to help them complete a new fence around their property. Along with our main work project, we will have the opportunity to minister drama, singing, teaching, and personal evangelism. We may also be able to serve at a local retreat and conference center, helping them maintain their property. The chaperones this year will include Mr. Thomas Hamilton, Mrs. Julie Hamilton, and Ms. Lisa Eaves.

If you are interested in your student participating in this missions trip, please email [hamiltont@rbc.org](mailto:hamiltont@rbc.org). As we finalize plans for the trip, we can update you via email. Please prayerfully consider this amazing opportunity for our students. Please also remember that our God is faithful and that, if He is calling your student to be a part of this trip, He will provide financially.

Through Christ,

**Thomas Hamilton/Discipleship Director**



## Featured RBCS Staff Brandon Malawong

**My previous work experience:** I have always been somewhat in the automotive industry. I was a warehouse manager for Keystone Paint and Automotive, where we sold aftermarket car parts. When I moved to Florida I became the Hitch Pro at U-Haul in FWB Beach, until God opened the door for me to come to Rocky.

**What job I am currently working:** I am currently the chief mechanic, insuring that all school vehicles are maintained and running properly. For the past three years I have also been an assistant Football coach, focusing mainly on offensive and defensive line.

**What I like best about working at RBCS:** I love the environment that Rocky Bayou provides. Being surrounded by people who genuinely care about the jobs they do and the people they do it for and with has helped me improve myself as a person and a worker. I love that I have the opportunity to coach and to help mold these players into strong Godly young men.

**My goal for this year:** My goal this year is to work more with a servant heart and remain open to whatever God has planned for me here at Rocky Bayou. I am excited to see what this year holds for the school as we continue to grow and serve.

## New Faculty Tell Us About RBCS

"I can freely talk about my love for Christ with our students."

**Daniel Smith, Bible teacher, Track 3 PE, TD-Elementary PE, football and tennis coach**

"I am so blessed to be able to teach here at RBCS. The administration is very supportive of the fine arts program by providing the tools we need as well as being present for the various activities and programs. The parent community has been very welcoming and supportive. Parental support is worth its weight in gold! The students have been a joy to teach. It is my utmost pleasure to be here. Of course, this IS the most beautiful place to be in all the earth."

**Dee Reynolds, Academy Band Director**

"What I like about teaching at RBCS is the safe environment in which our students have to learn and the different services offered to each student based on their individual needs. I enjoy being encouraged regularly by those with whom I work and I love how friendly the RBCS community is. This has truly been a wonderful first year."

**Jennifer A. Ponsart, Asst. Band Director**

"I love the family feeling we have here at RBCS. All of the staff and faculty truly are brothers and sisters in Christ."

**Candice Montague, Track 3 Biology, Chemistry, English, and Literature**

"This is my first year teaching in Florida. I feel very blessed to be here at RBCS. I love teaching at Rocky Bayou because of all the wonderful people! I have enjoyed getting to know each of my students and watching them grow. The staff at RBCS has been very welcoming and supportive, which has made my first year amazing. I am already looking forward to next year."

**Amanda Briscoe, Track 3/plus II**

"I love this school for so many reasons. It's hard to believe that I stepped on this campus a year ago, and I have felt at home since. The love of Christ just dwells in all the faculty and staff here, and it shows. When the love of Jesus is here, we can then bring it not just towards our students but to the parents as well. RBCS is a wonderful blessing! With so much to share, the number one thing is the love for Christ and the love towards each other!."

**Evet Dewitt, 5B Teacher**

"Each and every day of my first year teaching at RBCS was held together by the experts managing our front office. These beautiful professionals have incredible knowledge in every operation that makes this school function. I have asked them a thousand questions at least, and the answers I get gently anticipate what I *really need to know* to solve my problems. I am so thankful for these two caring, compassionate and patient agents of God's grace in my life...it has made all the difference."

**Jon Baum, Track 3/plus 1, track, wrestling and cross country coach**



## TEAM ROCKY

As the gym filled up with RBCS students, there was excitement in the air and joy in my heart. January 14, 2011 was the type of day that, as a coach and athletic director, I look forward to. I am thankful to have shared it with my athletes and the RBCS family.

As the students and faculty poured into the gym for a routine pep rally, I gathered my thoughts and anticipated talking to the students about goals. I told the student body that as students and as athletes we should set goals - goals that give us direction and help us to stay focused on the course God has led us to follow.

Our goals should be God directed. We need to recognize that there will be Obstacles that try to convince us to give up and that we will encounter Adversity along the way. Satan and the world will seek to Lure us away from God's best, and reaching our goals will involve personal Sacrifice?

Many of our students have set goals and have already met them. Some have given up on their goals and in so doing have given up the blessings that would have followed. The purpose of our pep rally was to honor three seniors who reached the goals they set and are now enjoying the blessings of hard work and faithfulness.

**Ryan Burns**, on Dec. 18, 2010, reached his goal in a game against Poplar Springs of **one thousand** high school career points. Ryan has gone on to add to that many more points, and will finish his high school career near the thirteen hundred point range. Not only has Ryan led his team in scoring, but because Ryan desires to honor God in all things he has been an incredible spiritual leader as well. Ryan hopes to play college basketball at **Covenant College** in Tennessee.

**Kathryn Rogers** sat down with me at the end of last year and told me that she wanted to work really hard, have a great senior year, be named the Northwest Florida Daily News Volleyball Player of the Year, and to be offered a college scholarship. On Jan. 11, 2011 we were informed that Kathryn had been named as the small school player of the year! Since that call, Kathryn has made a verbal commitment to **Montreat College**, an NAIA school in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

Finally, we watched **Hannah Peters** sign her volleyball scholarship to celebrate with **Faulkner State** Community College in Bay Minette, AL. In spite of being injured during her sophomore year, Hannah stayed focused on her goal of competing on a college level. She was faithful in her rehabilitation and continued to be faithful in her time of training and preparation for the game she loves. Along this journey, Hannah began to grow in her walk with the Lord and began to purposefully commit her steps to Him. As she did this, the Lord opened the door for her to play volleyball at the college of her choice.

It has been with much joy that I share the stories of these three young people with you. I ask that you rejoice with them, pray for them, and tell their stories to inspire your children to set goals and to be intentional about seeking God's desires for their lives.

Serving Christ,

Lisa Eaves/Athletic Director

## Important February Dates:

- Feb 14-16 Sixth grade Manatee trip, Homasassa Spring
- Feb 16 Leadership Trek: 12:20pm-2:15pm Forest Lake Bible Church
- Feb 17 District Track Meet @ Baker HS 12-6:30 pm
- Feb 18 CASUAL/HALF DAY, Lady Knights Middle School softball @ RBCS
- Feb 19 Middle School Band Solo and Ensemble at Gulf Breeze HS
- Feb 21 President's Day (no school)
- Feb 22 Lady Knight's softball v South Walton @ SoWal @ 3:30 pm,  
Cox Cable match
- Feb 25 3rd annual faculty/staff chili throw down, Concert Choir Barbershop  
concert, Lady Middle School Knight's softball v Seaside @ RBCS @  
3 pm, Jr. High 80's dance 7-10 pm Trinity Presbyterian
- Feb 26 Emerald Coast Academic Tournament @ Choctaw HS
- Mar 1 ACSI Math League begins
- Mar 4 Math Bowl: 6pm-7pm at NWFSC

Parents,

What information would you like to see in our  
parent newsletter?

Please email thoughts, suggestions, or comments to [shawa@rbc.org](mailto:shawa@rbc.org).



## Special Services Featured Teacher Lauren Seegars

### My previous work experience:

I was a supervisor at Roxbury Multi-Service Center working with inner city youth, in addition to serving as a resident assistant at Wheelock College and interning at Lee Academy Pilot School in Pre-K and Kindergarten.

### What I am currently teaching:

For the past three years, I have been teaching Early Intervention Development, and I also serve as the VPK Director and TD1-TD2 Supervising teacher.,

### What I like best about working at RBCS:

I love that I have the freedom and opportunity to plant the seed of salvation into my student’s hearts, while impacting the lives of children and their families.

### What college I attend:

I received my bachelor’s degree from Wheelock College in Human Development with a professional major as an Early Childhood Child Development Specialist with a minor in sociology, music and received my director’s credentials.

### My goal for this year:

My goal is to teach my students to trust God with every detail of their lives and aid in motivating/encouraging parents to become visionary advocates to help children with learning differences achieve their God given potential.

## Academic Spotlight

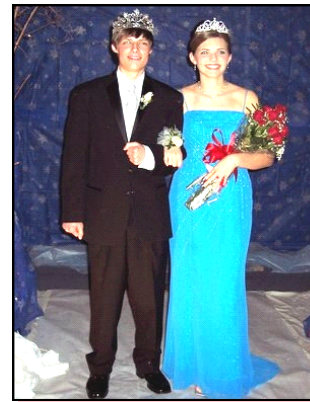
Congratulations to our Academy English Teachers, **Mrs. Thomas**

and **Mr. Ward**, who teach Greek and Latin roots for vocabulary and spelling! Due to their endless efforts, our Academy Latin students and Junior Classical League members placed extremely well on



the first National Classical Etymology Exam, taken on line on Nov 10, 2010. The participants were divided into two categories of competition, Level I (juniors and seniors) and Level II (through sophomores). Individual winners for the academic testing were:

- Gold Medal Winner:** Level I Joseph Sung
- Silver Medal Winners:** Level II Neely Fawaz
- Level I I** Shiloh Johns, Amanda Hart, Timothy Sung
- Bronze Medal Winners:** Level II Darla Lyon, Rachel Mosley, and Cassandra Young.



## Alumni Spotlight

February is that month of the year we turn our focus to romance. Within the fellowship of God’s people, a “storybook” romance can turn into something beautiful.

Let me introduce you to Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Henninger, the 2005 homecoming king and queen.

Brooke and Nick Henninger are Alumni from the RBCS class of 2005. Both attended Auburn University as students and were married in 2006. Nick graduated with a degree in architecture and interior architecture. He is currently employed by Seay Litchfield in Montgomery, AL.

Nick and Brooke have two children, Noah and Olive. Brooke has her own at home business online called “Baby Darling” at [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com).

The Henningers are very involved in a new church called Two Cities Presbyterian. Nick leads a weekly men’s lunch group to promote the church and various city projects. Brooke leads a women’s Bible study and volunteers for the church nursery, vacation Bible school, and participates in church sponsored community projects.

God’s Word is thoroughly saturated with **LOVE**. First, and most important, is the Divine **LOVE** God has showered upon us by the giving of His Son for our salvation and sanctification. “We have come to know and have believed the **LOVE** which God has for us. God is **LOVE**, and the one who abides in **LOVE** abides in God, and God abides in him.” I John 4:16.

God teaches us in His Word to **LOVE** our brothers and sisters in Christ and live sacrificially for them. Eph. 4:2-3 “...Show forbearance to one another in **LOVE** being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit of the bond of peace.” Romans 12:10 “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love: give preference to one another in honor.”

This romance began at RBCS and has become a living example of the beauty of God’s love as we know if from the Scriptures.

### Mrs. Katherine Grete/Alumni Relations



PTF

February is Book Fair Month! The PTF ran the 2nd annual book fair in the Elementary AR library. The theme of the fair is Boot Camp: Sound off – Read More! Many thanks go to **Peggy Kampert** and her able assistants **Annie McIlhenny** and **Angela Sparks** for putting this massive effort together. The profits will go towards buying books for the three libraries at RBCS.

A dedicated group of parents continue to conduct teacher evaluations which augment evaluations the principals are required to accomplish. If you are interested in helping in this manner, contact me @ [RBCSptf@rbc.org](mailto:RBCSptf@rbc.org).

Take a look at the front sign! **Missy Foster** has done an awesome job in working the many details to repair one of RBCS’s most visible landmarks.

This month a small group of parents will begin to work with the RBCS staff to develop the traffic flow plan for next year. The goal is to have a plan in place to present at the May PTF meeting.

**Tim McIlhenny/PTF President**



## Special Services/Talent Development

The Webster dictionary defines the word *servant* as “a person ardently devoted to another or to a cause.” Here in the Special Services department, we long to see our students being servants, passionately devoted to putting others’ needs and desires before their own. We seek to instill in our student servants’ hearts as they look to Christ as their ultimate model of service. Whether it is service in their homes, neighborhoods, churches, local communities or right here on campus, we are encouraging students to be the salt of the earth.

One student who has followed this call of service is senior **Zac Gadzinski**. **Zac** is a straight A student at Rocky and has devoted himself to serving his school and community. He is an assistant scout master for the Boy Scouts and also serves as a member of Leadership Trek. He was honored for his service and hard work by being selected as the January ACE (Accepting the Challenge of Excellence) student of the month by the Niceville Exchange Club. **Zac** was honored for his hard work at their monthly luncheon on January 11.

One way that the middle school and high school student body is serving here on campus is through the buddy mentoring program, which is starting back up this month. This program pairs up 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders with EID to remediation level students. The buddies meet twice a month, and the older buddy serves as a model of Christian leadership. The first Wednesday meeting of the month, the older students go into the younger students’ classrooms and help them with assignments while setting an example of proper student behavior. The second Wednesday of the month, the older student and younger student eat lunch together, and they have an opportunity to learn more about one another. The goal of this program is to form mentor relationships between our older students and our younger students. It is a great example for our students to serve right here on our own campus as Christian leaders. This program is kicking off for the spring semester on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Please lift up our students in your prayers as we begin this exciting program.

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* Matthew 5:13.

**Toby Williams/Special Services Principal**

## Early Intervention Development News

Ahoy mates! In EID, our theme this year is Sailing with the best at RBCS! We are “sailing around the world” to different countries learning about God’s creation and various cultures. This month our crew is in Australia after previously visiting Hawaii, Mexico, Peru, England, and the Netherlands. After discovering the coral reefs off of the coast of Australia, we are learning about living things by earning a classroom fish! Happy sailing!

**Lauren Seegars. VPK Director and Early Intervention Development Director**



Josh is a junior. He is on the varsity football team. He serves under the Development Prefect and is a mentor in Mrs. Maxwell’s K-3 class. He loves his pastor and church family at Praise Power and Compassion Ministries.



**Favorite Disney Character?** Timon and Pumbaa from The Lion King

**Crest or Colgate?** Crest

**What is your favorite sport and why?** Football is my favorite sport because it has become a major highlight of my life. My favorite coach is Coach Jason Holcomb.

**If you were a shoe, what brand name would you be?** Nike Air Force

**If you could be the King of a country, what country would that be?** Spain

**What is your middle name?** Alexander, like Alexander the Great.

**What is your opinion of the restructured Student Government?** I think it is a great program at RBCS. I can’t wait to be a part of the school leadership team again for my senior year.

**What is your favorite color?** Blue

**What is your favorite Bible verse?** “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Phil 4:13

**What is your favorite ice cream flavor?** Cookie dough

**What is one random fact that we should know about you?** I love to cook.

**What is your favorite class?** Spanish

**Who is your favorite teacher and why?** Mrs. Alvarez is my favorite because she encourages me to learn. She makes learning a different language fun.

**What college do you want to attend?** Troy University or University of Texas.

Interviewed by Wendy Kent