

THE FULL CURL



Monroe Catholic Rams' Athletics

Announcements

- If your son or daughter is interested in running cross country next fall, you may want to reach out to Coach Mayer and let him know. He may have an occasional training run this summer and if he knows your child is running, he may be able to let you know when that will be. You can reach Coach Mayer at 378-3103, or surghound1@mac.com.
- If your child is interested in playing football, there will be several camps and opportunities to get on the field this summer, prior to the season. You can contact Coach Cogley at 978-6760, or mcogley@alaska.edu

Kudos

- A big thanks to Karen Footit for creating the senior program for baseball's senior recognition day. I also want to thank Mr. Chapman for flying all the way from Oregon to announce the seniors on their special day. That's Commitment!
- **A big thank you to all of you who read this column each week. This has been a fun year and while I am always amazed when I hear from someone who tells me they read this newsletter, I do very much appreciate it, more than you will ever know.**



Dear Parents:

Welcome to week thirty-two of The Full Curl.

As the basketball coach and athletic director, I am most often associated with the gymnasium. In fact, I am sure many would assume this is the place I find myself the happiest, when I am at work. To be sure, I use the gym more than any room, other than my office, and I have enjoyed some wonderful times in this space. However, this is not the room I enjoy the most.

So, I am sure the wheels are turning as you try to figure out the the place in this building I enjoy the most. My wife is probably thinking bathroom — wrong. Perhaps you may have chosen my office. While the office is enhanced by the three lovely, talented ladies outside my doors who often make my life easier and help me look better, it would not be the correct answer. Yes, I love the little kitchen area in HIPOW where I find coffee and often some sort of snack. Over nine years, the ladies have learned anything left unattended is fair game, be it a donut or cream for my coffee - much to the chagrin of Cass Ferree who has learned a sticky note saying "For Cass Only," will not stop me. Despite its penchant for bringing a smile to my face and inches to my waistline, this is not the room either.

Last Week's Recap

- The Rams Baseball Team improved to 5-1, winning their fifth straight game and dominating the competition along the way.
- The Rams Softball Team continued to show great growth over the course of the season.
- Our extraordinary soccer team, finished with a great season overall. Despite low numbers, lingering snow, and having to forfeit a couple of games, our Rams, including JV games were 6-3-1 for the season. This group of coed players swept Eielson and Hutchison and held their own against every other school.
- Our Track and Field Team continued to impress under the tutelage of Coach Nicholson. Each week our runners and throwers continue to outperform previous best times and throws and represent our school well.

Give up? The answer is the Chapel.

This past Friday, as I sat in Baccalaureate, it hit me. This is the room where I truly feel most connected to our school and its Community. Let me be clear: this is not a "Catholic thing" or necessarily even a "Faith thing." It is a "connection to those we are closest to" sort of thing. Have you ever sat in the midst of a group of elementary kids and listened to them sing together, with passion? If you have, you know what I mean. I can pray and feel the presence of God just as easily in the gym as I can in the Chapel. I don't need a Chapel to feel closer to God. However, it is the Chapel where I most feel the wholeness, the completeness of our Community. It is here, more than any other place, where I feel we are one.

This is the place where kindergartners will put their outstretched hands over their seniors - whom they have come to not simply care for, but love - and bless them. I have been on both ends as father of a kindergartner and of a graduate, and now as a coach and teacher, and the blessing is no less moving. It is in this place that I get to listen to the senior class sing together for the last time. To hear them sing is probably even more moving than the elementary students, simply because getting kids to do this at this age would be — well, you'd be more likely to get me to give up a glazed donut. But there they are, singing loudly, passionately and as one. Only in the Chapel.

This is where, once a Mass, every Mass, the entire group will come together, hold hands and pray. I remember attending Mass with our junior high boys and girls basketball players in Valdez a few years ago. When the time came for the Our Father, our entire group locked hands and prayed, while the rest of the congregation stood on their own. The vision of our students reaching out and connecting their hands has never left me. There was a feeling of togetherness that I cannot explain. There was no hesitation in any of the children; it was simply what we do and as I found out on that day, it doesn't happen every where. But it does happen in our Chapel.

The Chapel has provided me, and all those who inhabit it, with no shortage of examples of excellence. Whether it be a solo by Emily Anderson or Ciara Newman, the guitar play of James Johnson or a Homily by the Bishop or Father Vance, seldom do I walk out of the Chapel unmoved by the passion and commitment of someone in our Community.

It is in this Chapel that I have learned to pray the Rosary and recite the Hail Mary. Last year, while hunting, sitting quietly and hoping something might move within my field of view, I found myself saying this prayer to pass the time. Over and over. While

MCHS Sports Trivia

TRIVIA QUESTION:

If I owe anyone a T shirt for winning a trivia questions contest, please let me know before the end of the year!

RULES

To win the trivia contest, you must give me the answer IN PERSON. Emails, texts and phone calls will not suffice! Remember, only one guess per household. The first person to correctly answer the trivia question will win an MCHS T-shirt.

LAST WEEK'S WINNER

SMALL PRINT

The spouse of the Director of Athletics, parents and STAFF who work directly inside CSF are not eligible for participation in The Full Curl trivia competition for 24 hours after the emailing of The Full Curl.

coaching my girls this year, I learned to say the prayer with a quickened second verse and to change the "Sinners" to "Players" and "Death" to "Game." There is something remarkably beautiful about praying the Rosary as a Community. I can't imagine anyone participating and not walking away feeling closer to those with whom they shared the prayer and to God himself.

It is in this Chapel that I have most felt the power of our Community, as we have come together to mourn those whom we have loved and lost. It is in this Chapel that we have come to cry, to laugh, and to share a hug, together in support of those who are mourning the loss of a family member or loved one. It is during these moments I realize the power of this Community and it is at these moments that I am strengthened by the knowledge of knowing if something every happened to me, each one of you would be there for my family. There is a comfort in knowing that whatever is needed, it can be found in this Chapel.

I work in the gym, I play in the gym and I have shared in great joy within the walls of our gym. However, next time you see me in there and it appears I am the happiest I could be, understand it pales in comparison to the strength, love and togetherness I feel as a member of this Community, when I am within the walls of our Chapel.

Have a wonderful summer...and may all of you get to spend as much time as you wish, in your favorite space...

You can follow all Monroe sports events by following me on Twitter. My handle is @thefullcurl. We are currently up to 255 followers!

This Week in Monroe Catholic Sports

Baseball

Thu. May 18th	*3pm/6pm	Lathrop	Growden
Sat. May 20th	Noon	N. Pole	Newby
Tue. May 23rd	6pm	W. Valley	Growden

*Doubleheader

Softball

Thu. May 18th	5:30	N. Pole	S. Davis 3
Thu. May 18th	7:15	Lathrop	S. Davis 2
Fri. May 19th	4:30	N. Pole	S. Davis 2
Fri. May 19th	6:15	Wasilla JV	S. Davis 2
Sat. May 20th	10am	Palmer	S. Davis 2
Sat. May 20th	11:45	Colony JV	S. Davis 2

Track and Field

Fri. May 19th	Noon/3pm	Regionals	Lathrop
Sat. May 20th	10am	Regionals	Lathrop