AMERICAN CLASSICAL ACADEMY

RUTHERFORD

The Rutherford Weekly

NEWS FOR THE FAMILIES OF ACAR · WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23, 2026 · VOL. 1, NO. 6

THANK YOU · THE PTO THANKSGIVING LUNCH, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

Dear Families, **forty-three of you put your name down** to help with Thursday's Thanksgiving Lunch — carrying tables, serving four hundred children, sitting with a class, and staying to clear it all away. Some of you came for the whole four hours and some for half an hour between other obligations, and both were needed.

Thank you to our **PTO**, who organized it; to the **family who quietly paid for every meal**, and who has asked not to be named; and to the school's own **kitchen staff**, who cooked a holiday dinner on an ordinary Thursday and then served the usual lunch the next day.

The building is closed **Monday the 23rd through Friday the 27th**. I hope you have a long, slow, unhurried week of it, and that there is a table somewhere with all of your people round it. We will see your children on **Monday, November 30**.

With gratitude, and a happy Thanksgiving to you all,
Dr. Thomas Covington
Assistant Head of School

VIRTUE FOR THE WEEK WE RETURN

Prudence

"Prudence is the knowledge of things to be sought, and of things to be shunned."
CICERO, ON DUTIES

Our pledge: I will make wise, well thought-out decisions before acting.

CAR LINE REMINDERS

- **No car line Nov. 23–27** — school is closed all week.
- Car line resumes **Monday, November 30**.
- Drop-off: **7:30–7:50 AM**. Arrivals after **8:00** are marked tardy.
- Please display your car tag prominently, and remain in your vehicle at pick-up.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Nov 23–27	Thanksgiving break — school closed
Nov 30	Students return
Dec 1	Musicals & Plays fund closes
Dec 1	Coffee with the Head of School, 8:15–9:15 AM
Dec 15	**Christmas Concert** — 6:00–7:30 PM, LifePoint Church
Dec 17	Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 PM
Dec 18	End of semester — ½ day for students
Dec 21–Jan 1	Winter break — school closed
Jan 6	Students return

THE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday, December 15

6:00 – 7:30 PM

LifePoint Church — in the auditorium
506 Legacy Dr, Smyrna, TN 37167

Every grade sings. Put it in the calendar now, and bring whoever would like to come — grandparents, neighbors, the lot. Further details on arrival, seating and what each grade is singing will follow nearer the date.

WHEN WE RETURN

MONDAY · NOV 30
A normal school day, and the start of the last three weeks of the semester.

TUESDAY · DEC 1
Coffee with the Head of School, 8:15–9:15 AM. Come in after drop-off; no agenda and no appointment needed. It is also the **last day** to give to the Musicals and Plays fund.

THURSDAY · DEC 3
Grade 4 recites *Selections from Ogden Nash's Zoo* — sixteen children are down to speak.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Raise the Curtain — one week left. The School Musicals and Plays fund pays for set design, sound, production and rentals behind Bel Canto, the Christmas Concert and every show in between. **$260** raised from **12 families** toward **$5,000**, and it **closes Tuesday, December 1**.

Scan to give any amount, or visit
theacaraccount.com/give/775a356a23ba45ed

Mr. Bob's Positive Rewards. Third grade is raising **$250** for the week's prize drawer — stickers, pencils, bookmarks, small notepads. **$100** in so far. Items are as welcome as money: send them in with your child.

Winter spirit wear is open on the PTO tab of The ACAR Account.

LEADING THE WAY

Teachers have now logged **1,037** virtue wins since August, up from 963 a week ago, recognizing **368** different children — nine in every ten in the school. Leading:

Ryan Mastalski	Grade 5	**12 wins**
Jonas Edwards	Grade 5	**11 wins**
Payton Dunlap	Grade 5	**11 wins**

By grade, the **Virtue Cup** stands at **Grade 6** 194, **Grade 2** 187 and **Grade 5** 178.

FESTIVAL GIVING — THE FINAL BOARD

Giving closed on Friday at **$1,840**: **$1,465** from **42 families** giving on their accounts, and **$375** taken by card at the door. **Nineteen of our twenty homerooms** finished on the board.

K Morrison — wins K–2	**$225**
1st Youngblood	**$205**
4th Raybon — wins 3–5	**$175**
6th Gedeon — wins 6–7	**$175**
3rd Niedzielski	**$150**
6th Andrade	**$110**
K Hoffmann	**$80**
2nd Cross, 2nd Hazzard, 4th Shelton, 5th Young, 7th Johnson	**$75 ea.**
1st Potter, 2nd Booker	**$60 ea.**
1st Grimwood	**$55**
5th Grayson, K Day	**$50 ea.**
3rd Fox, 7th Clark	**$35 ea.**

Three pizza parties go to K Morrison, 4th Raybon and 6th Gedeon. Every dollar goes to the **co-curricular programs** — Music, Art and PE — as instruments, supplies and equipment.

What the giving earned. Sixteen cans of silly string in grades 3–5, and **five** pies in grades 6–7. Dr. Norton and I are told we are to stand still for them.

THE YEAR SO FAR

Counts from the school's own systems, 10 August to 20 November:

Lessons planned — and every one taught	**4,902**
Tennessee academic standards covered	**613**
Student wins logged by teachers	**1,037**
Children recognized for a virtue	**368**
Breakfasts and lunches served	**7,233**

The virtues recognized most often, in order: **courage** 387 times, **moderation** 226, **responsibility** 185, **prudence** 88, **wisdom** 77, **friendship** 71 and **justice** 3.

The kitchen has served on **68 days** and grown two and a half times over: **51 meals** on an average day in the first fortnight of August, and **129 a day** over the last three weeks.

OUR MISSION

To train the minds and improve the hearts of young people through a classical education in the liberal arts and sciences, with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue.