



Sunday Sidelines

February 10, 2019

Dear Families,

What a crazy couple of weeks since the last footnotes! Our Spirit Week turned into a Spirit Two-Weeks of sorts... but certainly a good time was had by all! The highlights included a great time bowling and skating, 4th Grade Ark of the Covenants, a Make-up PepParade (which was *awesome!*), and the lower school talent show which highlighted the wide-variety of interests of Aquinas students. Some might say that the *real* highlight was an extended winter vacation. But, in fact, students had lots of fun throughout these events. Thank you to the parents as well who helped pull all of the pieces together! (See footnote #1 from Eileen and Rob Mercer). This week ended with the enchantment of the Father/Daughter dance. Thank you to Maria Hayden for chairing that very special evening. Watch the Aquinas Facebook page for some fun photos during that special evening!

This week, we will all settle back into a routine of normalcy. Let's hope for no more weather cancellations, and business as usual at Aquinas Academy!

Yours,
Leslie

123456789101112

¹ This note of gratitude that from Eileen and Rob Mercer, who coordinated refreshments for the high school ice-skating on St. Thomas Aquinas Day:

“The parents were very generous in their donations, and we really appreciated it. We met all of the costs associated with supplying the food and drinks for everyone.

Also, all the students and HS teachers were so polite and gracious. Rob and I lost count of how many times we heard “thank you” — it was said every time someone made a plate of food, or refilled their cup of hot chocolate. They were so tidy, we had minimal clean up to do before we left.

Some of the HS students helped me move some heavier items during set up, and that was greatly appreciated too.

It was truly our pleasure to do this for the HS students and faculty. It was a fun time for all!

Thanks to everyone for their help,
Eileen

² A reminder that **enrollment contracts for 2019-2020 are in the backpack under “Re-enrollment”**. We have a **REAL DEADLINE for reenrollment of February 15**. After this date, we will be able to offer any available spots to families who are waiting for admission to Aquinas. Grades K through 8 are at capacity for next year, and there are waiting lists for some grades. It is important that you observe this re-enrollment deadline, as it will make the process much easier for us. Of course, we will call you before we give your spot to another student who is waiting... but we would like to minimize the number of those calls ☺.

³ The 8th Grade Students who represented Aquinas Academy at the **PA Junior Academy of Science on Saturday, February 2nd**, met with great success! The following students earned **first place recognition, and are now invited to compete at Penn State in May: Benjamin Tarquinio, Gracie Burchill, Liam Ellis, Hunter Harrison, David Winkler, Annie Wang, Elijah Vangura, and AJ Yellin**. **Second place awards were earned by: Mason Bilenski, Maryam BouSamra, Anthony Canzian, Isabella Hite, Mia Russel, and Jude Truschel**. Aquinas students also received several special awards. Awarded the Duquesne University Award for Excellence in Scientific Pursuit were: Elijah, Benjamin, AJ, David and Hunter. Awarded the Directors Award for Middle School Biochemistry was AJ Yellin. Awarded the Directors Award for Behavioral Science was Elijah Vangura. And receiving an award from the American Society of Civil Engineers was Hunter Harrison. Congratulations to these students, and thank you to their teachers and parents for their guidance and preparation!

⁴ **On Thursday, February 14th, which is Valentine’s Day, students may add valentine color to their uniform!**

Lower School: **May dress in valentine’s colors – pants, shirts, socks, etc.**

Middle and High School: **May wear red/white/pink shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, etc. WITH THEIR UNIFORM PANTS/SKIRTS. Students may accessorize their socks, etc. in valentine colors as well.**

The student prefect board is collecting a requested donation of \$2 to benefit the American Heart Association for the privilege of dressing down.

⁵ **Please note that Monday, February 18th, is an in-service day for teachers.**

Students do not have school that day. While we have used up all three of the snow-days that were built into the calendar, we do not yet need to make up days.

HOWEVER, please note that the Clerical Day on March 23 would become the first make-up day if needed at that point.

⁶Please consider **donating blood at Aquinas this Wednesday, February 13th**. The Students of Service have organized this blood drive to help meet the need for blood through these winter months. There are still time-slots available between 5 PM and 7 PM here in the cafeteria on Wednesday evening.

To sign up online:

1. Go to: www.vitalant.org
2. Enter Aquinas' Zip Code (15044) and click submit.
3. Hover over the Donate tab on the menu toolbar and click the purple Donate button in the bottom right corner.
4. Select either Donor Login or New Donor.
5. Scroll down the page and enter the Group code HS010204 .
6. Click on the Aquinas Academy Blood Drive (in the purple box; it will turn orange) and then click Select.
7. Choose which time slot you would like to give blood.
8. Then Click either New Donor or Existing Donor.
9. For New Donor, type in your information and then submit.

Walk-ins welcome, but for staffing purposes, online scheduling is recommended.

⁷ Helen Ivaska is once again coordinating **dinner for our skiers or anyone else who wants a hassle-free Friday dinner! Dave's Pulled-Pork Dinner is on the menu for this Friday. Orders can be picked up Friday afternoon at school. Order form is DUE TUESDAY and is attached!**

⁸**Lower School Moms and Sons: Mark your calendar for Mother-Son Game Day on Saturday, February 23rd, from 1:00 to 3:00 in the gym.** More information coming soon!

⁹ **Aquinas Academy Chess Tournament**

Aquinas Academy will be hosting our fifth annual Catholic Schools Chess Tournament Invitational on **Saturday, March 9, starting at 1:30 p.m. All Aquinas students in grades K - 8 are invited to compete.** Students do not have to be members of the chess club to participate. See the attached flyer for more information and registration form. Parent volunteers will be needed and should contact Mike Burchill.

¹⁰ **"DONUT forget to send in your Box Tops!" The Spring Box Tops Competition is in full swing. Please send in any non-expired Box Tops. (Dated 3/1/19 or later)**

Collection envelopes are located in Lower School homerooms. Middle and High School envelopes are found on the hallway bulletin boards. The grade with the most Box Tops in each building will receive a DONUT party on Fat Tuesday. (Minimum 200 Box Tops per grade.) DEADLINE for submitting Box Tops for this year is FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22. We raised \$721 in the fall. We're sure to beat that amount if everyone turns in the Box Tops they have in their homes! Thank you for your participation!

¹¹ **Opportunity for High School Students:**

SAINT VINCENT TO HOST SUMMER PROGRAM FOR CATHOLIC YOUTH

Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, will host the ninth annual Faith and Reason summer program from Sunday, June 9, through Friday, June 14. Students age 15 and older are invited to apply for admission to the program, which introduces young minds to the rich intellectual tradition of the Roman Catholic faith and is designed to prepare students for college-level education. Housing in a college residence hall and three daily meals in the college dining hall are included in the cost (\$495). Limited scholarship funding is available. For further information, contact Dr. Michael Krom at 724-805-2844, or michael.krom@stvincent.edu. Students may register online at www.stvincent.edu/faithandreason.

For Information:

Jim Berger, Associate Director of Marketing and Communications for Public Relations

Saint Vincent College, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650-2690
Phone 724-805-2212, FAX 724-805-2019, pr@stvincent.edu, www.stvincent.edu

¹² Looking ahead:

Monday, February 18 – **No School – President’s Day** (Teacher In-Service)

Wednesday, February 20 – **8th Grade Confirmation Retreat**

Saturday, February 23 – **Mother Son Game Day**

Monday, February 25 – **AAPA Meeting**, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 2 – **Key to Success GALA**

Courtesy Note: Speaker at Ss. John and Paul on Monday, Feb. 25:

Are you striving to be a saint? Are you looking for ways to grow in holiness right where you are in life? Don't miss **An Evening with Father Jacques Philippe on February 25 at 7 pm at Ss. John and Paul Church.** Father Philippe, an international speaker and writer, will address the Universal Call to Holiness. He has written 10 books on prayer, interior freedom, and peace of heart, which have become modern Catholic spiritual classics. Father Philippe's books have sold more than one million copies and have been translated into 24 languages.