



Sunday Sidelines

February 4, 2018

Dear Families,

Spirit Week was a great success, and the activities of the week highlighted the academic, spiritual, extracurricular, and community aspects of Aquinas Academy. Our week ended with a Pep Rally on Thursday, prior to some big basketball game at the end of the week, and then our candlelight procession at Mass on Friday as we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation with the tradition of Candlemas Day. It was truly a special week. Thank you for your help and attendance at the various school, church, and sporting events!

At the end of the week, Mr. Flynn received a text message from an Aquinas Alum, currently attending a large, secular university. The message said, "I just got a college professor to say 'Okay. Fine. Maybe...' about God's existence during his lecture about why God can't exist. You did well." Those are the kinds of things we hope for in our graduates. We want them to be prepared with the wisdom to recognize truth and the knowledge and logic to defend it. That little message was a fitting and appropriate end to Spirit Week!

We move into February with many events and competitions for our students. We also anticipate Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten Season. Please be sure to print the flyers and read the notes for all that will be going in the near future.

Leslie Mitros

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¹ **Aquinas 8th Graders presented their scientific work at the Region 7 PA Junior Academy of Science on Saturday at Duquesne University.** All students conduct a scientific study in 7th grade, and then improve their inquiry in 8th grade. Students may choose to a Project Board to present to their classmates, or may do an oral presentation with Power Point for the PJAS Competition. Of the 24 participants from Aquinas, we had 12 first-place awards, 10 second-place awards, and 2 third-place awards. The students who placed first will advance to the state competition at Penn State in the spring. We are very pleased that so many of the students participated in PJAS. Our winners: **First Place:** *Nate Anthony, Than Archer, Charlie Dingle, Maria Figucia, Steven Giacobbe, John Griffith, Elizabeth Hardy, Emi Kartsonas, Anna Keverline, Sabrina Knox, Sejal Sharma, Patrick Veazey.* **Second Place:** *Patricia Blume, Andy D'Angelo, Sam Everson, Teresa Gates, Sam Henry, Rosemary Kenny, Emma Queen, Coco Reed, Hannah Repasky, Celina Whitmer.* **Third Place:** *Joanna Knight, Aiden Vangura*

² **Reminders for Middle School students attending the Shakespeare Competition on Tuesday, 2/6:**

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- Wear your performance clothes to school.
 - Shoes should be comfortable (no high heels permitted).
 - Girl's hair should be up or back.
 - Be ready to leave school at 10:45 a.m.
 - **Bring a bag lunch to eat on the bus after the performance.**

Students will be bussed to/from the competition, which will take place at the O'Reilly Theater on Penn Ave. (be sure to use the 15222 zip code if using your GPS!) beginning around 11:30 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thank you,
Laura Mullican

³ **Vivat Vita News:**

All are invited to participate in the “Cakes for Life” cake decorating contest to be held on February 12-13. Please bring your cake to school on Monday, February 12 for a chance to join the fun and support our Pro-Life club, Vivat Vita. **Students will vote during lunch on February 12 and 13 for their favorite cakes. Votes are \$1 each.**

Please remember to bring in any bottles from the Change for Life Baby Bottle Campaign that you may still have at home! You may drop them off in the office.

⁴ Reminder of 8th grade fundraiser:

Jan Steele, mother of Jessica in 8th grade, has had her writing published in a new **Chicken Soup for the Soul book -- Miracles and More.** As an author, Jan is passing on **\$7.50 per book (half the cost) to benefit the 8th grade class outing.** **The order form is attached, with orders due on MONDAY, FEB. 5th.** With a release date of Feb. 9th, you will get a copy hot off the press, and help out the 8th grade fundraising!

⁵ **The bag dinners for ski club/Friday night dinners have been a big hit. You may sign up for a bagged dinner of sandwich, chips, cookies, drink for \$5.00 each at this sign-up-genius site.** Thank you to the 8th grade parents for coordinating this effort!

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0D48A8A82EA64-skitrip2

⁶ Coming up in February are some special events for parents and children. **The Father-Daughter Dance for Grades K through 8 is the evening of Saturday, February 17th.** **Mother-Son Gameday will be on Saturday, February 24th in the afternoon.** Flyers for both events are attached tonight. Please download, RSVP, and mark your calendars to attend and enjoy some time with other parents and children!

⁷ **The Chili Fest is back! As in days gone by, Coleen and Mike Farrell are once again the Chairpersons of the Chili Fest – some spicy fun to be held on Saturday, March 3rd.** See attached flyer for info and to RSVP. Those who RSVPd and sent in their money for the Yinzer

night that was cancelled in the fall will have that fee transferred to the Chili Fest – but must still RSVP for a head count! We look forward to an evening of fun for the parents!

⁸ Since we surely have not seen the last of the winter cold, **Aquinas will be assisting with a project of the Catholic Men's Fellowship. They are doing a drive to assist the homeless – primarily homeless men.**

These are the items that they're looking for:

- 1. Large heavy coats**
- 2. Jeans of all sizes**
- 3. Boots**
- 4. Gloves**
- 5. Heavy socks**
- 6. Hoodies**
- 7. Thermal tops and bottoms**
- 8. Belts**
- 9. Wool Caps**
- 10. Scarfs**
- 11. Backpacks**

These items may be new or used (but in good shape!). **There will be a box in the lower school lobby to collect these items through the first week of February.** Thank you to Helen Ivaska for coordinating collection and pick up!

⁹ **Our Spring Open House for prospective families is Saturday, February 10th, from 11:00 to 1:00.** I am attaching the flyer for your convenience in passing it on to others. **Also, please help to promote the Open House by displaying a yard sign in your yard. Signs are available in the main lobby.**

¹⁰ **It's Box Tops Time again!** Please start collecting as many Box Tops as you can! Our “Spring” contest will run from **January 29 – February 23**. The TEAM that collects the most Box Tops at each building level will win a **TEAM Dress-Down Day!** That's right, the Lower School, Middle School, and High School will each have a winning team, provided the team with the most Box Tops has collected a minimum of 500 Box Tops. Please send in any Box Tops that have not expired with your child between **January 29 – February 23**. Team colored bins will be set out in each building to collect the Box Tops. Clipping Box Tops is easy to do - just look for pink Box Tops on participating products, cut them out, and send them to school with your child. *Make sure to check the expiration date!*