

THE CRUSADER

A PUBLICATION OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS REGIONAL SCHOOL

FALL 2017/WINTER 2018



**Celebrating 40 years of
quality Catholic education**



PLUS

**Middle School Musical: *Mary Poppins, Jr.*
Robotics Team Starts A Penny War**

LETTER FROM SISTER



“St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School has been blessed by each and every individual who has ever walked through its doors, who has ever contributed through financial support, who has ever offered a prayer.”

DEAR FRIENDS OF AQUINAS,

During an Old Testament class when I was Novice, we had a lengthy discussion on the word *remember* and its significance for the Hebrew people. This word comes up well over 100 times in the Old Testament alone and was often used in the form of a command given by God to His people. The Lord was constantly admonishing His people to remember the works of the Lord, that is, to call them to mind and make them present. This was one reason for many of the annual Hebrew festivals. As with the Hebrew people, our anniversary and jubilee celebrations are a call to stop, to look back on the years past, and to *remember* (make present) with gratitude all that the Lord has done. This year, St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School celebrates its 40th year of service to the people of the Diocese of Arlington and of Northern Virginia. In these 40 years, the Lord certainly *has* been good to us and has enriched us with many blessings, giving us confidence that we are accomplishing His will.

As we look back over our history, our hearts are filled with the deepest gratitude for all those who made Aquinas a reality. First, we are grateful to the countless parents who persevered in petitioning the bishop for a Catholic school for their children in the Woodbridge area, who contributed their time, finances, and resources to get the school up and running, and who volunteered in or staffed the school when it opened. Your sacrifices continue to carry this school. We are grateful to Bishop Thomas J. Welsh for allowing the school to open and for inviting the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation to be a part of the school from its foundation, as well as to Bishops John R. Keating, Paul S. Loverde, and Michael F. Burbidge for their continued support of

Aquinas throughout its 40 year history. Our gratitude extends further to all of the priests who have served in parishes connected to Aquinas and who, through their priesthood, have ministered to and celebrated the sacraments for the children, parents, faculty, and staff of Aquinas. We are grateful to the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, especially our founding principal Sr. Christine, for their commitment to excellence in Catholic education, for their 40 years of service to Aquinas, and for the witness of consecrated life that they offer to this Aquinas community. Finally, the initial and continued success of Aquinas would not be possible without the many generous benefactors who have made financial gifts and sacrifices to support the mission of Catholic education. Many of these benefactors are Aquinas alumni families, but many are just wonderful friends who believe in the value of Catholic education.

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School has been blessed by each and every individual who has ever walked through its doors, who has ever contributed through financial support, who has ever offered a prayer. This biannual *Crusader* magazine is just one small way in which we can say “Thank you!” by allowing you to remain a part of all that we do here at Aquinas. I hope that you enjoy this glimpse into our 40th year of Catholic education. Please know that we pray for each of you, as a school community.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Kateri Rose Masters, O.P.
Principal

CONTENTS



MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL: MARY POPPINS, JR.

13



Mark your calendars for March 16th and 17th and join us for a supercalifragilisticexpalidocious event as the Aquinas middle school presents *Mary Poppins, Jr.* Tickets will be on sale online starting in March.



**2011 Blue Ribbon
School of Excellence**

ARTICLES

- 04** Mrs. Leckey
- 05** New Teachers
- 07** Middle School Hall
- 10** Robotics
- 13** Mary Poppins, Jr.

DEPARTMENTS

- 15** Honor Society Inductees
- 16** Happenings At Aquinas
- 18** Aquinas News
- 20** Sports in Review

Principal Sr. Kateri Rose, O.P.
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St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School
AQUINAS

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MRS. LECKEY

As St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School celebrates its 40th anniversary, we would like to celebrate our longest serving teacher. Mrs. Eileen Leckey is a name many in the Aquinas community are familiar with. She first began teaching at the school in August of 1981 and for 29 years she taught first grade. Today, she is the beloved PreK teacher known for her fun class parties and fabulous themed attire. In her 36 years at the school, Mrs. Leckey has taught over 1,000 students and is now teaching students that are the children of her first students! During her time at Aquinas, Mrs. Leckey had her two beautiful daughters, Rebecca (31) and Rachael (29). Both attended Aquinas and have since graduated from college—Rebecca from Marymount University and Rachael from Old Dominion University. Most of Mrs. Leckey's students have probably heard stories of her Scottish Terrier, Harley and his penchant for barking and howling at the animals on TV.

As we celebrate our 40th year, we caught up with Mrs. Leckey to learn more about our school's history and her place in it.

Why did you choose teaching as your profession?

Mrs. Leckey: I love children and wanted to foster their love of learning.

What is your favorite thing about being a teacher?

Mrs. Leckey: Watching the growth and development of knowledge during the school year; helping a child increase their self-esteem.

What is the most difficult thing you have had to do as a teacher?

Mrs. Leckey: Having to hold a child back (repeat the grade) and helping a child deal with the loss of a parent or sibling.

What are some of the changes you have seen at Aquinas over your 36 years here?

Mrs. Leckey: The beautiful new playground for the elementary students and the addition to the building of the elementary wing are two ways the actual facility has changed. There has also been significant change in the actual curriculum both in the number of "Specials" (Spanish, Art, Music, etc.) available and in the new and varied ways technology is used to support learning.

What has stayed the same over your 36 years?

Mrs. Leckey: The emphasis on the formation of the students in the faith

and the role of the Dominican Sisters in furthering that effort. On a lighter note, my ability to win contests is unchanged!

Do you have a special Aquinas memory?

Mrs. Leckey: My daughter Rachael had to have open heart surgery at just eight weeks old. Her surgery was at Children's Hospital in October of 1988. That day, the entire student body prayed for Rachael every hour of the school day. Rachael is now 29 and using her criminal justice degree working for the State Police. What a great example of the power of prayer!

What wisdom would you share with other teachers?

Mrs. Leckey: Be enthusiastic. Have a love for children. Run a disciplined classroom and be organized. Follow the curriculum. Share stories about your life, your family, and your hobbies with your students. Develop good relationships with the parents. Be an involved member of the school community—attend events and show school spirit.

Thank you Mrs. Leckey for sharing with us and for being a part of the Aquinas community for 36 years. We are so blessed to have you.



NEW TEACHERS

As we opened the 2017–2018 school year, Aquinas not only welcomed new students but new teachers as well!



Sister Mary Seton

There was much rejoicing in the halls of Aquinas when it was learned that Sister Mary Seton would be returning

to us after just a one-year absence. Sister taught at Aquinas for four years (second and fifth grade) and then was assigned last year to teach second grade at St. Gertrude School in Cincinnati. After this very short absence, we are blessed to have her back again and, according to Sister, she is “very glad to be back at Aquinas.”

Here is a little about Sister Mary Seton’s background in her own words:

- I have a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from William & Mary, a master’s degree in educational leadership from Northwestern State University, and a master’s degree in Catholic Studies from the University of Saint Thomas.
- My family moved around much when I was growing up, so I don’t really have a hometown. When people ask me, “Where are you from?” I usually respond with “Wisconsin” because that is where we lived the longest. I have three sisters, all of whom are married and have children. Since we are all close in age, our growing up years involved doing most everything together.
- I have taught in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade as well as Kindergarten for a total of 18 years. Besides being a

teacher, I was also the principal of an elementary school for 4 years.

- I am so grateful to be a Dominican Sister of Saint Cecilia Congregation, and I thank God for my vocation every day.

Welcome back Sister!



Miss Peller

Another teacher we were thrilled to welcome back—Miss Peller. She taught Kindergarten at Aquinas for

two years and then taught second grade at St. Mary’s in Alexandria for three years. She is excited to return to Aquinas to teach first grade this year. “The first place one teaches often feels like home.” Miss Peller majored in English at the University of Notre Dame where she earned her bachelor’s degree; she continued her education at Marymount University earning a master’s in elementary education. While originally from the D.C. area, Miss Peller’s family likes to move and has lived all over the U.S. and the world. As a fan of Mother Teresa, Miss Peller loves the quote, “Let no one come to you without leaving better and happier.”

Welcome back Miss Peller, we are glad you are here!



Mrs. Anderson

Mrs. Anderson has been teaching for 36 years, 32 of which have been in the Diocese of Arlington. She previously taught at St. Timothy Catholic School in Chantilly and at St. Leo the Great

in Fairfax. A graduate of Barry College in Miami Shores, Florida, she has a B.S. in religious studies and a minor in education. Mrs. Anderson is married and has two grown sons. Born in Oak Park, Illinois, she now calls Manassas home. Per Mrs. Anderson, “I love the Aquinas community, everyone is so caring and friendly, and Christ is the center of this school.” Her favorite quote is from Benjamin Franklin and reflects her teaching theory: “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”

Welcome to Aquinas Mrs. Anderson!



Mrs. Brilliant

Mrs. Brilliant has literally taught 4th and 5th grade all over the world! She hails originally from Kingston, New

York and earned her BA from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and her M.Ed. from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Mrs. Brilliant has taught 4th and 5th grade in Texas and in Japan, both in Okinawa and Iwakuni. She is the busy mother of three children, Mia and Marcel who both attend St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School and Ella who is a 7th grade student at Aquinas. It was Ella who convinced her mom to come teach at Aquinas. She told her mom that she had to get a job at Aquinas because it “matched her teaching style.” According to Mrs. Brilliant, Ella was right! “I get to do what I love, which is teach, as well as be a part of a fantastic family at Aquinas.” Great job Ella! Thanks for encouraging your mom to become a part of Aquinas.



BLESSING THE SCHOOL

In preparation for the start of a new school year, we were privileged to have our new pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Father Brian Bashista, bless our school. The invocation over the building and for all who enter and the blessing with holy water bestows the grace of God and drives out evil. As we strive to teach and live the Gospel every day, this blessing is such an essential preparation for the new school year.



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



Goodbye vacation!
Hello to school!

Hello new class,
Goodbye old pool.

Vacation time is over,
School time is here,

Now we welcome
A new school year!



MIDDLE SCHOOL HALL

Over the summer break, the middle school hall was given a new look with a fresh coat of paint and beautiful new Aquinas blue lockers. This project was able to be completed thanks to the dedicated fundraising efforts of several student councils over several years. The money raised through their efforts was combined with a generous donation of \$10,000 from the Knights of Columbus Council, 5750 covering the entire cost of the renovation.

As you may know, storage space is a commodity much in demand at Aquinas. This summer, in addition to the middle school hall renovation, we also updated the area behind the stage adding storage lockers and shelving units to increase storage space.

Through the Race for Education held in March of 2017, the PTO raised over \$20,000. This money was used, as promised, to both purchase and install additional security cameras throughout the school to enhance student security.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

On Tuesday, December 12th, St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School along with Our Lady of Angels parish and the greater Woodbridge community celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The day included a beautiful bilingual school Mass celebrated by Padre Diaz followed by a reception featuring a variety of food from all over the Americas. A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus, Council 5750 for their continued financial support of this special event.



This year, for our celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we enjoyed a very special treat! One of our own 3rd graders, Tyler Brooks and his cousin, Catalina, performed Peruvian dances—marinera! Both are tremendously talented dancers, and the students were delighted with the performance! Aquinas is so proud of Tyler—He was recently invited to participate in the welcome reception for Pope Francis upon his arrival in Trusillo, Peru in January! Tyler is the only dancer coming from out of the country to participate in this performance. Check out Tyler's blog chronicling his experience as a Chalan and a Peruvian American: <https://twoworldsonechalan.com>



ADVENT



St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School held its annual Advent Program on December 20, 2017. This is a beautiful celebration of the true meaning of Christmas performed by our students under the direction of Mrs. Riley, our talented music teacher.



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS



Abey Paul



Katelyn Magpayo



Gabriella Ayala



Anitha Paul



Elizabeth Dichoso



Emma Jefferson



STARS students participated again this year in the Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest. In this contest, students in Kindergarten through 8th grade are offered the opportunity to create an original poster that focuses on the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of Christ. We were once again awed by both the artistic talent of our students and the varied and clever ideas used to convey the Christmas message. There are three age categories and both a winner and runner up are selected from each category. We were very pleased to have Mr. Philip Quigley, the Grand Knight of Council 5750, join us to present the certificates and cash prizes to the six winning students on December 12th. Congratulations to our six winners!

ROBOTICS

The theme of this year's First Lego League competition was Hydrodynamics. The Aquinas Robotics team was tasked with developing better ways to find, transport, use, or dispose of water. The devastation created by Hurricane Maria on the island nation of Puerto Rico inspired the team to focus on the use of hurricane water. The team project for the competition was a 3-D model of a bucket with a filtration system. The second part of the project though was a bit trickier. Besides designing a project that might help future hurricane survivors obtain clean water, the team also wanted to help the survivors of Hurricane Maria. Their goal—purchase water filtration systems to donate to ISER Caribe, a Hurricane Maria relief organization. Through a very competitive penny war campaign at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School, the team raised more than \$4,300 and was able to purchase 36 five-gallon community water filtration systems. Great job team!

Congratulations to our robotics team who earned 1st place in robot design, as well as a judges award! We are proud of all of their hard work in preparing for this competition. Many thanks to Ms. Walsh, Mrs. Mendell, and Chris for teaching and mentoring these students!

The Robotics team prepared for their First Lego League competition by participating in an Escape Room. The students demonstrated great communication, collaboration, and creativity and escaped without receiving any clues in under 49 minutes, earning a spot on the leader board!



STUDENT CHARITY

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School students and families have answered the call, along with our community members, to help those in need, putting the virtue of Charity in to practice. Since the beginning of this school year in September, the greater Aquinas community has collected and donated over \$7,000 to those in need.



PENNIES FOR PUERTO RICO:

STEM students exemplified the virtue of Charity turning their Robotics project into a fundraiser to purchase community water filtration systems for the residents of Puerto Rico. Through a fantastic Penny War, they raised over \$4,300 and were able to purchase 36 five-gallon community water filtration systems.



COLBY'S RIDE:

The students collected \$361 to give to Colby's Ride, a local foundation that provides bikes for children in need. Colby was a student at Aquinas who passed away after a tragic bicycle accident. His love of biking and desire to see all children have a bike led his family to form Colby's Ride. Each year on the anniversary of his death, STARS students have the opportunity to remember him by donating a dollar to wear his favorite color—orange.



HURRICANE HARVEY/ THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON:

Our principal, Sister Kateri Rose challenged the students and families at the beginning of this school year to offer Prayers, Fasting and Almsgiving to those affected by Hurricane Harvey. The Aquinas community came together and in partnership with SMS, a Virginia based corporation with ties to Aquinas, raised over \$2,100 for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. Included with the financial donation were handwritten prayers and intentions from our students.

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School AQUINAS

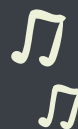
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR



- Administered and staffed by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia
- Daily faith formation and the instilling of virtues through our Virtues in Practice Program
- Cultivating a love for the Eucharist, Our Lady, and the Church
- A tradition of academic excellence meeting the needs of diverse learners through our regular, resource, and accelerated programs
- Largest middle school athletic program, an award-winning band and chorus, and extracurricular clubs

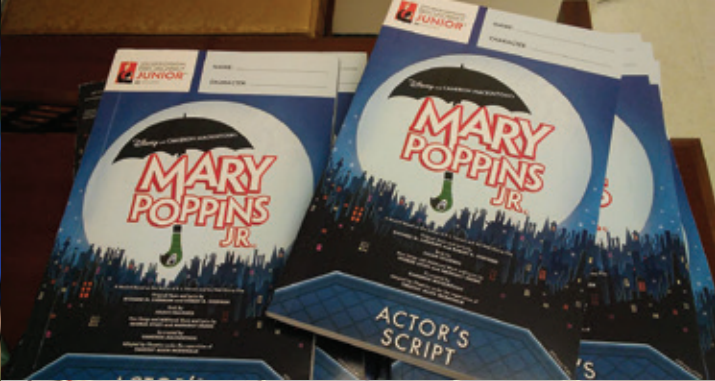
Announcing a full day PreK program!

For the 2018-19 school year, Aquinas will offer both a full day PreK program (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday) as well as a morning only program (8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) The Aquinas PreK program is a developmental program which provides opportunities for spiritual, cognitive, social, emotional and physical growth. Students must be 4 years old by September 30 to apply and will be screened for acceptance.



A Dominican Pre-K through Eighth Grade Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

*Fostering
a Love of God
and a Foundation
in Truth*



MARY POPPINS, JR.

We are excited to announce that this spring our middle school students will present *Mary Poppins, Jr.* as the Aquinas Middle School Musical. Audience members will be treated to a fantastic presentation of this popular musical by our gifted students. Based on the Disney movie and the Broadway musical with adaptations to make it ideal for performance by middle school students, *Mary Poppins Jr.* is a lively and fun show. Once again, Mrs. Riley, Aquinas' talented music teacher, and Sister Kateri Rose, our musical-loving principal, took on the difficult task of selecting students for each role. Over the course of several days of auditions, the cast was selected. By the end of November, students were already busy preparing with Sister Kateri Rose choreographing the scenes while Mrs. Riley works on lines and songs with Mrs. Weber's

assistance. Dedicated parent volunteers are also busy gathering or creating the numerous costumes needed and the scenery pieces. As a school, Aquinas is thrilled to once again be able to provide our middle school students an incredible life experience; there is much to be learned through participation in the musical that goes far beyond just the singing and acting. Students grow in self-confidence and in responsibility while also learning to work with others for a common goal. These are valuable skills for life's journey. Of course, the musical is a lot of fun, too!

Mark your calendars for March 16th and 17th and join us for a supercalifragilisticexpalidocious event as the Aquinas middle school presents *Mary Poppins, Jr.* Tickets will be on sale online starting in March.



ANNOUNCING THE 2018 STARS AUCTION

Presented by the Aquinas PTO

**Saturday, February 24, 2018 at
Brew Republic Bierwerks in Stonebridge**

**Tickets: \$50 per person
\$100 per couple**

INCLUDED ARE AN OPEN BAR SERVING BEER AND WINE, ONE
FLIGHT OF BEERS, HEAVY HORS D'OUVRES, AND DESSERT



<https://brewrepublic.beer/>



To purchase tickets, visit
<https://aquinastars.org/auction/>

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY



Aquinas students have been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society, St. Albert Chapter, since 1987. Students must submit an application, which is then reviewed by middle school faculty. Consideration for NJHS is not just limited to the student's academic performance. The five pillars of the NJHS are: scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character. NJHS candidates must excel in and continue to be dedicated to all five of these areas. They are recognized as leaders within our school. Congratulations to the following inductees for the 2017–18 school year:

8TH GRADE INDUCTEES:

Mahreen Ahmed	Katelyn Magpayo
Hannah Bassett	Madeleine McIntosh
Emory Butler	Heaven Nartey
Kathyleen Caverio	Marcus Ong
Gianni Coca	Betty Phan
Soneha Datta	Anastasia Rao
Ben Dichoso	Olivia Tarvin
Liam Hopkins	Emma Youngblood

7TH GRADE INDUCTEES:

Simone Bolton	Gianna Macedon
Evelyn D'Sa	Mary Lou Moore
Timnit Daniel	Alice Reid
Elizabeth Eckman	Moira Savidge
Sarah Lasseter	Lindsay Scarola





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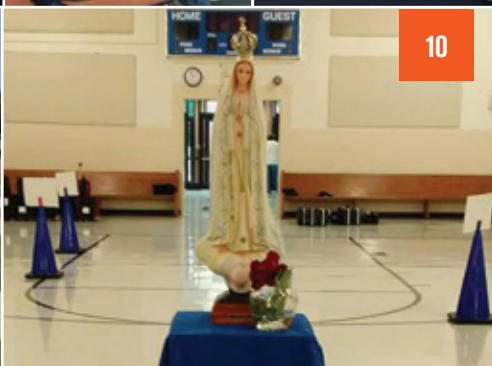
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1 Celebrating the 40th birthday of St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School on September 6, 2017 with cake for everyone!

2 Several of our 4th grade "Saints"

3 Aquinas attends a D.C. United game; students got to go on the field and greet the players.

4 In art class, sixth and seventh graders painted fields of poppies inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields" by Major John McCrae to thank our nation's veterans. The paintings were mailed to the veterans living at the Hunter H. McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center in Richmond, VA.

5, 6 Halloween at the White House! Aquinas was thrilled to receive tickets to this "spooktacular" event. A number of our families attended and some even got to meet the President!

7 The 8th grade had a fantastic trip to Hemlock Park to work on team building activities. Their strategic thinking skills and team work were definitely challenged!

8 Congratulations to our 6th grader Payton who qualified to compete in the AAU Junior Olympics in the 800 and 1500 track and field events! Payton was inspired to join a track team last year after participating in the RunFit Kids program at Aquinas and has had a successful year of

running. We wish Payton the best of luck in all of her track and field experiences!

9 Viewing the solar eclipse!

10 Aquinas celebrated the 100th anniversary of the final apparition of Our Lady at Fatima by coming together to pray an International Rosary. Of the 19 languages represented at our school, five were used to lead the Rosary: Spanish, Vietnamese, French, Tigrigna (Eritrean), and Polish.

11 A faith-filled family evening of music and praise featuring the band "The Restless" was held in October at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish hall.



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



Aquinas students brought in Thanksgiving food items for St. Vincent de Paul. We collected almost 600 lbs. of food to share with those in need. A special thank you to our middle school students for the time and effort they put into decorating the bags and making the cards. Several recipients commented on how beautiful the artwork was.

PTO NEWS

FALL FESTIVAL

Fall Festival was held again on the Aquinas campus. Rain threatened but thanks to many prayers it held off and all enjoyed a fun afternoon. A big thank you to the many parent volunteers who came out to help!

SANTA SHOP

An annual favorite with students, Santa Shop was held in the Computer Lab the first week of December. Students, assisted by "personal shoppers" (parent volunteers) purchased special Christmas gifts for family and friends.

WELCOME

Welcome to our new PTO Members:

- **Bill and Quinn Wicks**—Spiritual Life
- **Joe and Caroline Quinlan**—Athletics
- **John and Molly Herwick**—Academic Enrichment and Extra-Curricular Activities

Thank you to these wonderful couples for all their hard work in support of the school!

STARS AUCTION

Please join St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School on Saturday, February 24th for the 2018 STARS Auction hosted by the Aquinas PTO. The event will take place from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at Brew Republic Bierwerks in Stonebridge. Tickets are now on sale at aquinastars.org/auction with special early bird pricing through February 11th. Single tickets are \$45 and couple tickets are \$80; after February 11th, the ticket prices will be \$55 for a single ticket and \$100 for a couple ticket. Each ticket includes unlimited drinks and one of Brew Republic's famous flights of beer. Heavy hors d'oeuvres featuring a number of Brew Republic favorites and a delicious homemade dessert will be served buffet style. Along with fantastic beer and delicious food, there will also be a special Mulled Beer just for this event. Attendance is capped at 120 so get your tickets early!

CAR RAFFLE

Father O'Keefe has graciously allowed the Aquinas PTO to administer the OLA spot in the All Saints Car Raffle. Please support the car raffle through your parish; if your parish is not participating please purchase your tickets from Aquinas.

RACE FOR EDUCATION (RACE FOR THE GREEN)

This year Aquinas students will "Race for the Green" with the Race for Education taking place on March 15th right before St. Patrick's day. St. Patrick walked many miles; students will follow his example as they walk to raise money.

FALL FESTIVAL

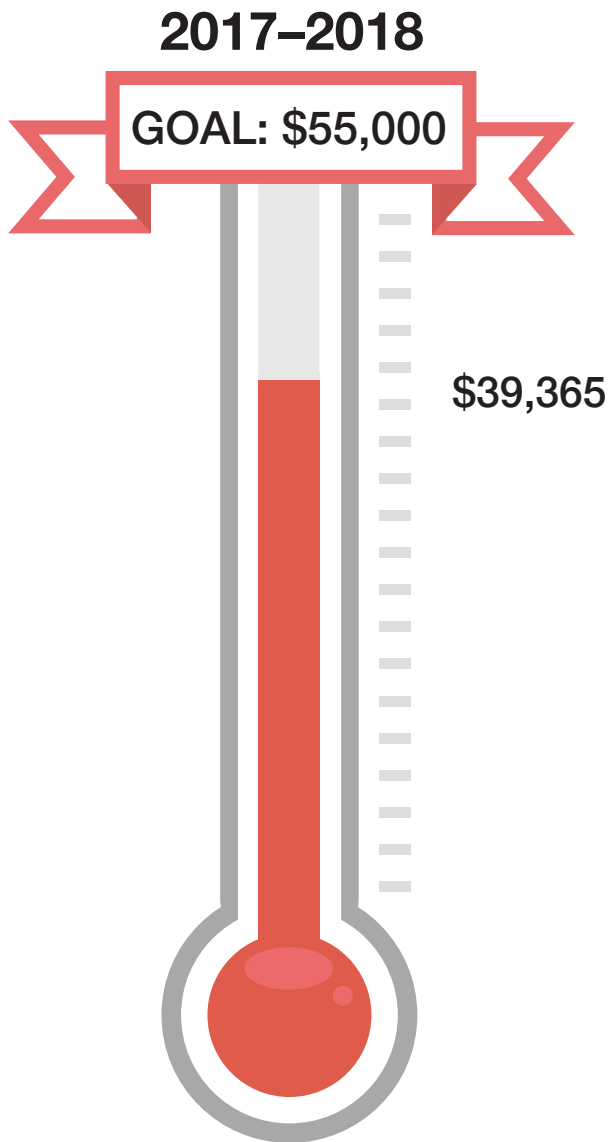


SANTA SHOP



“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you . . . a future full of hope.”

—*Jeremiah 29:11*



Forty years ago a group of dedicated individuals saw their vision of a regional Dominican school come to fruition. On a September morning in 1977, the doors of St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School opened for the first time. As we opened those doors once again this year to the beautiful faces of our shining STARS students, we felt tremendous gratitude to our generous benefactors; it is through your support that we are celebrating 40 years of serving the Woodbridge community in the Diocese of Arlington.



St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School tries to assist as many families as possible who wish to provide a Catholic education for their children. In an attempt to maximize opportunities to provide financial assistance to our families, Aquinas submits applications to special assistance programs including the Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation and St. Beatrice Special Tuition Assistance fund.

We have applied for and received scholarships from these special funding sources for the past several years. The

awarded scholarships from both funds in 2016–2017 school year totaled \$85,726 for 22 students and increased to \$137,145 to 41 students in 2017–2018. These scholarships almost doubled the amount of financial aid Aquinas was able to award to our families.

The Diocese of Arlington Scholarship Foundation is funded by generous donors throughout the Diocese. The Foundation then awards scholarships to students who would otherwise not be able to attend Catholic school. It may seem counter-

productive for a school to encourage donors to give to a separate foundation, but by doing so the donor may receive significant tax benefits, both federal and Virginia.

Please keep the Aquinas community in your prayers, that we may increase the amount of aid available for our families in the coming years. If you are interested in more information on donating to the Diocesan Scholarship Foundation, please contact the Diocesan Development Office at <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Scholarship-Foundation/>

AQUINAS SPORTS IN REVIEW



BOYS' SOCCER

Coaches: Walter Rivas (Parent) and Tom Demas (Parent)

The Boys' Soccer team took 2nd place at the VCAC Boys' Soccer Tournament.

Highlights of the season: The win against Linton Hall with a final score of 5 to 0. In this hard-played game, Uriel Aguirre scored a hat trick, Dominic Demas and Andrew Bolz each had a goal, and Michael Clark had two assists. Coach said the midfielders, specifically Nathan Resson, Anthony Parada, and Aaron Resson, were incredible spoiling almost every attack by Linton Hall and Jorge Diaz was relentless with shots on the Linton Hall goalkeeper.

Biggest improvement: Holy Cross Academy has been the toughest opponent for the Crusaders. Although the game ended in a loss, the Crusaders held Holy Cross to only 4 goals and Uriel Aguirre scored for Aquinas. Coach Rivas noted the especially strong defense and the hard work of goalkeeper Wilson Aleman. The Crusaders did not

allow a single goal in the second half of the game.

Graduating 8th grade team members:

Uriel Aguirre, Wilson Aleman, Matthew Clark, Michael Clark, Dominic Demas, Alex Hansohn, Anthony Petrak, Nathan Resson, and RJ Wenzel.

CHEER

Coaches: Jenn Collins (Parent, Staff)

Highlights of the season: Learning and then performing the new dance routine for the halftime show at the boys' basketball tournament.

Biggest improvement: The team had 5 girls that were brand new to cheer. These determined young ladies learned 15 new cheers and chants along with all the choreography. Way to go squad!

Favorite moments: Performing at the Fall Festival Pep Rally. It is such an exciting event full of energy and the cheerleaders make the Pep Rally fabulous!

Graduating 8th grade team members:

Emma Burke (student coach)



FOOTBALL

Coaches: John Paul DeGance (Parent) and David LeBlanc (Parent)

The Crusader's football team continues to work on developing their scoring ability and have shown marked improvement in their pass rushing. The defense is tenacious and the offense shows heart. They had a tough season but the team kept fighting.

Graduating 8th grade team members: Jason Brunsman and Dominic Yeo

Graduating 8th grade team members:

Victoria Adams, Soneha Datta, Jaida Enriquez, Katelyn Magpayo, and Olivia Tarvin

JV VOLLEYBALL

Coach: Anne Eckman (Parent)

Highlight of the season: The girls had a great first game against Holy Cross with all the girls making great serves. Terrific job, team!

Biggest improvement: The team's biggest improvement was their serving.



VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Coach: Hannah McNulty (Alumna, Staff)

Highlight of the season:

Congratulations Aquinas Crusaders Varsity Volleyball team! The team went into the VCAC tournament in the 4th seed, played a total of 3 games, and beat both the 2nd and 1st seeded teams to bring home the championship trophy. Thank you Coach McNulty for leading our girls through an awesome season! We are so proud of how hard these girls have worked this year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RUNFIT KIDZ!

Our 3rd through 5th grade runners wrapped up another successful season with their 5K Celebration Run. Our runners, along with their families and friends, came out and enjoyed the (somewhat) beautiful weather and a SPECTACULAR race! Special congratulations to the top three finishers, Lucas Jefferson, Allison Hogan and Nabayit Daniel. We are so proud of all of our runners . . . Way to Go!!



AQUINAS CELEBRATES 40 YEARS



When: Saturday, April 28, 2018

Where: St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School and Veteran's Park

Time: All day event (specific times to come)

Please join us in the culminating celebration of our 40th anniversary on Saturday, April 28, 2018. The day will begin with the celebration of Mass at Our Lady of Angels parish followed immediately by a reception on the St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School campus. Along with coffee and pastries, current students and families will offer tours of the school. Throughout the building, displays will highlight the changes that have occurred over the past 40 years. As afternoon approaches, we will transition to a picnic in the park moving from the Aquinas Campus over to Veteran's Park. This will be a lively afternoon of family fun with food and games and the sharing of many memories.

Check our website regularly for updated details on the event at aquinastars.org/40th-anniversary.

AQUINAS & John Paul

BUILDING TRADITIONS TOGETHER



ATHLETIC SUMMER CAMPS

Boys Basketball: June 18–22

Girls Basketball: July 22–28

Boys Lacrosse: June 25–29

More to come!

For more information, and to register, please visit jpthegreat.org today!

Bioethics Seminar: a 5-session overview
beginning Tuesday, January 30

Little Women—The Musical: April 27–29

JP Music and Drama Celebrating Ten Years! May 17



jpthegreat.org

Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School
17700 Dominican Drive, Dumfries 22026

703.445.0300 | Admissions@jpthegreat.org | 106.3FM WJPN (local)

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School admits students of any race, color, and national origin.



SAVE THE DATES

FEBRUARY 24

STARS Auction at Brew Republic

MARCH 1

Read Across Aquinas

MARCH 15

Race for Education

MARCH 15 AND 16

Middle School Spring Musical

APRIL 28

40th Anniversary Celebration

MAY 4

Grandparent's Day

AQUINASTARS.ORG