



St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School The Crusader Connection



April 25, 2017
Volume 5 issue 33

Principal's News

Sister Kateri Rose, O.P.
Principal

Calendar Items

- 4/27 **Spelling Bee**
Open House 9:30 am
- 4/28 **Race for Education**
Spirit Wear
Scripture Sharing 1:30
- 5/5 **Grandparents Day**
Noon Dismissal
PNATS game
- 5/9 **Spirit Night @ Cicis**
- 5/11 **8th Grade**
Doughnut sale
- 5/12 **Noon Dismissal**
- 5/15 **Band/Choir Concert**
- 8/28 **First Day of School**
2017-2018 school year

*“Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has been raised.”
~Luke 24:5-6*

Dear Aquinas Parents,

Alleluia! The Lord is risen! I hope that you enjoyed a blessed Easter and some relaxing, enjoyable time with your children during our Spring Break.

The Paschal Mystery, culminating in the Resurrection of the Lord, is the single most significant celebration in the whole liturgical year and is why we Christians are people of HOPE. We know and believe that Jesus Christ, who was crucified, died, and was buried, was truly raised from the dead, and because of this, we, too, will be raised up on the last day. Therefore, we *should* live differently because we know that this life is not all that there is. We do not store up treasures in this life and we do not fear death. We are living for life eternal. This Easter season, I pray that the Lord will transform your life (and mine!) to be a living witness of HOPE for the world.

As we return to our regular schedule and routines, we begin to look toward the end of the school year. This final quarter can present many challenges for students who are eager for summer and the many adventures that lie ahead. I encourage you to talk with your student(s) about setting goals for the final quarter and about the virtue of perseverance.

Finally, we have *many* exciting events coming up in the next several weeks. I hope that many of you will be able to join us for these events! Please see the rest of this Connection for details.

With prayers in Christ our Risen Lord,
Sr. Kateri Rose, O.P.

Report Cards will come home tonight with your child.

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STARS website Parent Login
User name: STARSparent
Password: sta1977-2017

Math Help for 5-8 grade:

WED's 3-4pm- email Mrs. Glascock permission at jglascock@aquinastars.org and indicate whether your child will be picked up or is registered at extended day

School Announcements

Please Notice This



Last Chance to
Buy tickets! 12pm
Thursday 4/28

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!!

Tickets Only
\$10

Join us at Pfitzner Stadium

on

Friday, May 5th
at 7:05 PM

to watch the Potomac Nationals play Lynchburg



STARS Kindergarten students will perform
the pre-game National Anthem

CLICK HERE to buy tickets online - sales close at Noon on April 28th
Tickets will be sent home on May 2nd

Note: Ticket Age Policy

Any child age 2 or under is not required to have a ticket as long as they sit on a lap. If you would like them to have their own seat, then you have to purchase a ticket. Any child 3 years of age or older must have a ticket. Children 5 and under will receive free admission in our Grandstand seating area only, but they must stop by the Ticket Office to receive free ticket.

HOT LUNCH

Hot Lunch orders for the month of May are due by April 28th. No late orders will be added to the list. Please be sure to match your receipt with your orders to avoid any lunch mix-ups.

There are several field trips during May. Please consult the school calendar on the website for dates for your specific grades. If a refund is required, follow the policy below.

Field Trips/Illness: With 48 hour business days notice prior to a Field Trip, call our office 703-550-1820 and we will issue credits should a field trip pop up or if an extended illness should occur the same 48 hour notice applies. All other Hot Lunch policies are located on the school website.

OPEN HOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Aquinas will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, April 27 at 9:30 a.m. in the school hall. Volunteers are needed to assist as tour guides for prospective parents. If you are available and would like to help or would like additional information, please email Ms. Cardinale at kcardinale@aquinastars.org.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

Please join us on Friday, May 5th as our school celebrates Grandparents' Day! Our celebration will begin with Mass at 10:00 AM followed by a special program performed by our pre-K through 5th Grade students and our Aquinas band. Please arrive NO EARLIER than 9:30 AM to allow for the dismissal of the regular parish Mass.

As a part of this celebration, please consider sending a "Love Line" to your child/grandchild. This message of one to three lines will be printed in the Grandparents' Day program which is given to all guests on the day of the celebration. [Donate online](#) and email your "Love Line" to lovelines@aquinastars.org. For questions, you may contact Pamela Howser at: 703.491.4447 ext. 220 orphowser@aquinastars.org Deadline for admission is Friday, April 28th.



8TH GRADE DOUGHNUT SALE

There will be an 8th grade doughnut sale on Thursday May 11th. Doughnuts will be \$1.00 each or \$8.00 for a dozen. Coffee and hot chocolate will be available. See the attached [doughnut flyer](#) to preorder your doughnuts today. Please support our fundraiser to get to New York.

YEARBOOKS

STARS 2016-2017 Yearbook on sale now! Go to: ybpay.lifetouch.com. Enter school code: 8740317. Follow prompts and pay with your credit card. We encourage everyone to pay online even though flyers had been sent home for students who wish to send cash or check to school. If you have questions, please contact: YB Customer Care: 800-453 9764 email: ybpay@lifetouch.com

FINAL SALES DEADLINE: April 12, 2017

Softcover yearbook: \$22 Pre K – Grade 7

Hardcover yearbook: \$25 -8th Grade only



AQUINAS MOMS SCRIPTURE SHARING

Aquinas moms meet once a month at 1:30 in the school library for fellowship and Scripture sharing. Simply bring a Bible and an open heart. Dates for all future meetings are as follows: April 28th; May 19th; June 9th.

NEW UNIFORM SHIRT FOR GRADES 5-8

Students in grades 5-8 will **not** wear a blue polo shirt next year (2017-2018) but instead will wear a blue oxford shirt or the current white polo (which is being phased out by the end of the 2017-2018 school year and may only be worn during the Fall/Spring season). Blue Oxfords worn for the Fall/Spring uniform can be short sleeved but will have Aquinas embroidered above the pocket. If you mistakenly purchased a blue polo shirt for your student in grades 5-8, please email Ms. Cardinale at kcardinale@aquinastars.org. We have made arrangements with Flynn O'Hara to swap them out for the blue oxfords.



5-8th grade will not wear blue polo shirts



5-8th grade will wear blue oxford shirts

Sports

SPRING MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS:

Spring Sports: Our communication for outdoor sports will usually be an email from the team parent, but you can also check the [athletics page](#) on the school website.

Prince William County field conditions are updated daily at 3:00. Please check the website or call 703-792-3285 to hear all field closures.

Please continue to check [the school website](#), middle school bulletin board and have your son/daughter listen to announcements about upcoming practices.



PTO Announcements

PTO SPRING FEVER SILENT AUCTION:

PTO will be holding an ONLINE ONLY silent auction this year. Preview will begin on May 5th and bidding will open on May 8th. Auction items will include old favorites as well as a few new additions. A catalog will be sent home with students on Tuesday, May 2nd. Watch our website for more information!

RACE FOR EDUCATION

[Here is the schedule](#) for race times on Friday!

We are looking for a few good volunteers to come out and support the Race for Education on Friday, April 28th. [Sign up](#) to help make this a fun and successful event.

More families are joining our new Crowdfunding option for Race for Education. These 18 crowdfunding families have raised over \$2300! If you are interested in trying crowdfunding, please contact Pamela Howser at <mailto:development@aquinastars.org> and she will get you set up. Just for signing up, your child will get to select either one out of uniform pass or one treasure chest gift card.



MONTHLY ROSARY COMMITMENT

See the [attached form](#) for the opportunity to support Aquinas with a monthly rosary.

PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE

See the [attached form](#) for the opportunity to have the statue visit your home.

PARENTS IN PRAYER

Let Us Pray:

For **Pope Francis**, that God will continue to bless him, as he leads the Church.

For **Bishop Burbidge**, that God will bless him as he leads his flock.

For the special intentions of **St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School**.

For the safety and well-being of our Armed Forces serving throughout the world

For the repose of the souls of **relatives of two Aquinas faculty** members.

For **the people of Peru** who have been affected by the natural disaster from which they are suffering during these weeks, that God will give them the strength to rise again as a beautiful country.

For **Mrs. Decowski-Brown**, extended day staff, that God will watch over her as she undergoes medical tests.

For **special intentions** for the Turner family.

For **Aidan McNulty**, brother to Faith, Maeve and Killian McNulty, son of Mrs. McNulty, in thanksgiving to God for giving him strength and allowing him to heal completely.

The Crusader Connection (Continued)

For **Theresa Minnick** (Grandma of Eric M) for strength during treatment & a return to health.

For **Joe Pecore** (friend of the McCann family) to be restored to health & strength for him & his family during his road to recovery.

For **Josephine Paul**, grandmother of Abey and Anitha Paul, that God will grant her healing.

For **John A. Steptoe, Jr.**, grandfather of Langston Rhodes, that God will grant him strength and watch over him.

For the repose of the soul of **Sylvia Keller** grandmother of Mrs. Howser.

For **Alvaro Parada**, father of Anthony and Mariah Parada, that God will restore his health and cure him of cancer.

For an Aquinas Community member, that God may grant healing and strength.

For the repose of the soul of **Melanie Nocera**, mother of Elon and Anthony.

For **Cisco Brink, Major**, US Army, father of Liliana (2nd grade) and Sophia (Pre-K) Brink, who is deployed to Afghanistan this school year, that God will watch over him and bring him home safely to his family.

For **Daniel Powell USMC**, friend of Audrey Davis, who is being deployed to the Middle East, that God will watch over him and return him safely to his family.

Our Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

Young People:

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

We are blessed to have such wonderful families in our Aquinas community and one of the many spiritual gifts we give each other is praying for the intentions listed. Email your prayer intentions to mdsa72@gmail.com



Other

ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT EVENTS

Events and Invitations from John Paul the Great Catholic High School! Please join us!

1. **Beauty and the Beast** produced by JP Drama and Band - May 5, 6, and 7. Tickets may be purchased here: <https://events.ticketprinting.com/event/20684>
2. **5th Annual Gala & Auction** at The Clubs at Quantico – Saturday, May 20. 'Diamonds and Denim' promises to be a fun-filled night! Tickets and sponsorship info may be found here: <http://www.jpthegreat.org/about-us/the-family-association/annual-gala/>

The Crusader Connection (Continued)

3. **Emerald Raffle:** Win the grand prize of up to \$15,000, or many smaller cash prizes along the way! For ticket information, visit <http://www.jpthegreat.org/support-jp/emerald-raffle/>
4. **Applications for Admission and Financial Aid** are still being accepted! Join our growing community! Rising 9th, 10th and 11th graders are encouraged to apply today! Please visit: <http://www.jpthegreat.org/admissions/>

If you have other questions about JP, please visit www.jpthegreat.org or call 703.445.0300.

BISHOP O'CONNELL EVENTS

Pre-HSPT- May 13 or May 20, 9AM to noon, at Bishop O'Connell High School. This is a chance to take a practice HSPT exam. The cost is \$40 and students will receive a copy of the score report in June. These two dates are the only opportunities to take the practice test. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Summer Camps- We are now accepting registrations for our sports camps. We will have multiple camps throughout the summer. [Click here for more information about our various summer camps.](#)

JR. HIGH BASH

Sat. April 29th, 6-8th graders come join the largest gathering of middle school students every year for faith, fellowship and fun; including music, games, speakers, confessions and Vigil Mass for Sunday from 3:30 -9:30pm. [Click here for more information and the registration form](#) for this wildly popular gathering of students from across the Diocese of Arlington at St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School. [Spanish registration forms](#) are also available. Interested students need to go through their home parish religious Education/Youth Ministry Office. OLA parishioners should contact the Office of Youth Ministry listed on the flyer above.

SUMMER MATH CAMP

Location: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
12805 Valleywood Drive Lake Ridge, VA 22192
Dates: July 17 – 28, 2017

Please see the following flyers to help you determine which level to enroll your child.

[Bean Counting 101:](#) 9 AM – 12:30 PM (\$420)

[Bean Counting 201:](#) 9 AM – 12:30 PM (\$420)

[Multiplication Matters:](#) 9 AM – 12:30 PM (\$465)

[MathTree Roots:](#) 1 – 4:30 PM (\$465)

[Roots-to-Leaves:](#) 1 – 4:30 PM (\$465)

A full-day experience is available by adding MathTree Hands-On Math to any of the above camps. Before and After Care are also available. More information at Mathtree.com website.

The Crusader Connection (Continued)

THEATRE & ART DAY CAMPS

Camp in a **Catholic Environment** at Nativity!

Enroll your child in a fun and exciting camp this July dedicated to teaching excellence in the arts. Instructors are top notch in their field in topics such as visual art, dance, singing, acting, improvisation, crafts, and more. Opportunities from K through High School make Spotlight on the Arts Summer Camps perfect for the whole family. For over 10 years, Rob Tessier has offered these camps within the Arlington Diocese... and this month registration is offered at a discounted rate. Go to <http://www.spotlightsummercamps.com> to learn more!

