



# St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School The Crusader Connection



May 23, 2017  
Volume 5 issue 37

## Principal's News

Sister Kateri Rose, O.P.  
Principal

*So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. Mark 16:19*



Dear Aquinas Parents,

This Thursday, the Church official celebrates the Ascension of the Lord (though most Dioceses postpone the celebration until Sunday). Forty days after His glorious Resurrection, the Lord Jesus ascended into Heaven before the eyes of His Apostles. We know that He has gone to prepare places for each of us and that He lives forever to intercede for us before the Father. Each day of our lives should be lived in the hope of eternal beatitude with the Lord. The choices that we make, the words we speak, the good that we do, all should give witness that we believe in a Risen Lord and that we are living for life eternal with Him.

In a special way, this weekend, we remember all of those men and women who have sacrificed their lives to protect and defend our country. It is because of them that we are able to enjoy the peace and freedom with which our country is blessed. May we live each day striving to be worthy of their sacrifices.

Two wonderful celebrations this weekend, two great reminders that we are called to greatness, to holiness. Be assured of my prayers for each one of you and for your families.

In Christ,  
Sr. Kateri Rose, O.P.

### Calendar Items

- 5/25 **\$1 Out of Uniform**  
In support of Colby's Ride
- 5/26 **Spirit wear**
- 5/29 **Memorial Day**  
**No School**
- 6/ **ALA testing 3-4 pm**
- 6/5 **Last Day for Lost and Found Items to be claimed**
- 6/12 **8th Grade Graduation @Sacred Heart**
- 6/13 **Used Uniform Sale 3-5pm**
- 6/14 **Field day**  
**Noon Dismissal**
- 6/15 **Last day of school**  
**Noon Dismissal-**  
**No afternoon**  
**Extended Day**
- 8/28 **First Day of School**  
2017-2018 school year

Aquinas Library  
[Amazon book wish list](#)

[This Week's Planner](#)



Home and School Connection  
[May Issue](#)

### Memorial Day

*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*  
John 15:13



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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](mailto:jglascock@aquinastars.org) and indicate whether your child will be picked up or is registered at extended day

# The Crusader Connection (Continued)

## Notes from Sister

ALL PARENTS--Please be advised, there is a new "game" on social media called "The Blue Whale Challenge", also referred to as "Blue Whale Game" and "F57" that is supposed to be directly linked to literally hundreds of teen suicides in just the past few months. Instagram, SnapChat, and Facebook are some of the ways in which teens are "tagged" into the "game." I would encourage you to do a little Google research on the trend and to speak with your child/children about it. Each of you has to determine how you will guide your children in making prudent use of technology, but I do hope that you regularly check your child's social media accounts and engage in mature conversation about things that are said there. God bless you as you protect and teach your children!

## School Announcements



### AUCTION BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Please join us on Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am in the school library for coffee and pastries as we brainstorm ideas for the spring 2018 PTO Silent Auction and Dinner. Bring your ideas, suggestions and help us to start planning for this fundraising event.

### REMEMBERING COLBY

On Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>, in remembrance of former STARS student, Colby Smith, who died in a motorbike accident at the age of 11 in October of 2015. We will recognize his birthday with an optional out-of-uniform day. Any student wishing to honor Colby Smith and support his family and friends may come to school on Thursday "out of uniform". Wear orange to support *Colby's Ride*. Participants are asked to donate \$1.00. All proceeds will be donated to *Colby's Ride* to provide bicycles and helmets to underprivileged children in the community. "



Several Aquinas students will be leading a birthday Rosary at 6:30 pm at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Cemetery 12975 Purcell Rd., Manassas, VA 20112. <https://www.facebook.com/events/423977281303569/>

### POWER SCHOOL OFF LINE ON MAY 27

This Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, our Power School server will be offline for maintenance. It will be back online by Sunday. Power School is taking necessary precautions against the latest species of cyber-attacks and upgrading our server security.

### HOT LUNCH

Due to Monday's unexpected school cancellation, as per policy, we are unable to refund any lunch orders. The policy states "**on day 2 of consecutive days Fairfax Food Service will credit 100% of the meals ordered.**"

Hot Lunch orders for the month of June are due by May 28<sup>th</sup>. 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.

# The Crusader Connection (Continued)

There are several events (i.e. 3rd grade Taste of America, 8th grade exams) scheduled during June. 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 the FFS office 703-550-1820 and they 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.

**The final day to purchase new snack cards and birthday club ice cream is Friday May 26th.**



## “INFANT OF PRAGUE” ESSAY WINNER

Congratulations to our 2016-2017 Infant of Prague essay scholarship winners. This scholarship was established in memory of Louise Leardi, former longtime original STARS teacher. Our first place winner is Harrison Kelly and our second place winner is Christian Johnson. Congratulations boys!



## LION KING, JR. DVD

The St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School Middle School musical DVD recording of our production, The Lion King Jr., is available for purchase for \$15 per disk. Each disk contains all three middle school performances. Fill out the attached [order form](#) and return it with payment to the school office.

## LION KING, JR. PHOTO BOOK

The school has ordered 10 additional copies of a beautiful hardcover photo book with pictures from the Lion King, Jr. production, only 6 copies remain. We will have one on display at the front desk. Each book is \$40 and will be available for purchase on a first paid – first sold basis.



## LOST AND FOUND

Lost and Found - anything left in the lost and found on June 5th will be donated to the Used Uniform sale or to charity.



## FIELD DAY

Field Day is Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 8am - 12 noon. Students will wear their P.E. uniforms. It is a fun, active day to be enjoyed by all current K-7th grade Aquinas students. Teachers and staff are unable to provide or apply sunscreen to students. If your child requires sunscreen, please apply it before school.

In order to be a success, we will need many, many volunteers from indoor and outdoor game helpers to face painters and more! Please click on the following link to help <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094ea4aa2aa31-field1>.

# The Crusader Connection (Continued)

## ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS PROGRAM

Students who excel in language arts and are interested in pursuing a more rigorous course of studies are invited to apply to the Advanced Language Arts (ALA) Program. The program is available for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who are academically motivated and desire a curriculum that keeps them constantly challenged and interested. The demanding program of study requires a high level of academic performance, discipline, and appropriate maturity for each student participating. Consistent parental support is also required for the student's success. The testing date for the program is Thursday, June 1, 2017, from 3:00- 4:00 pm and the application is also due on that date. Click here for [the application](#) and [the study guide](#) for the test. Keep in mind that there is a recommendation form required from the current language arts teacher in the application packet, so please allow enough time for the teacher to complete the recommendation. Please direct any questions to Miss Zengierski, the program coordinator, by email at [izengierski@aquinastars.org](mailto:izengierski@aquinastars.org).



## 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. The last meeting is June 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Sports

### GIRLS SOCCER

Good Luck to our Girls Soccer team on May 30<sup>th</sup> when they compete in the VCAC soccer tournament.



### TRACK

Congratulations to our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade track team. They took First Place in the small school track competition.

Track athletes should turn in their clean track uniform as soon as possible.

### RUNFIT KIDZ

This past Saturday was the end of season 5K. Aquinas Runners did an amazing job. Eric Benner finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall out of over 600 runners! Jacob Garrison was the second Aquinas runner to finish and Nabayit Daniel followed close behind. Way to go Runfit Kidz!

## Nurse's Corner

### PARENTS OF 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

During these early teenage years, children are frequently assessed by their physicians for any sign and symptoms of scoliosis. If your child has not had a physical that included this assessment or you have a concern about scoliosis and your child, the attached reference is very useful in determining if your child is showing any possible signs or symptoms of scoliosis. The school nurses advise you to carefully read the information

# The Crusader Connection (Continued)

provided. If you have any concerns, you may want to schedule an appointment with your child's doctor and, as always, please feel free to contact the school nurses at 703-491-4447 ext. 278 or visit <http://www.iscoliosis.com/symptoms.html>

## PTO Announcements

### USED UNIFORM SALE

The spring PTO Used Uniform sale will be Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 pm in the school gym/multi purpose room. Please donate your gently used uniform pieces including PE uniform items.

*"Grandfathered items"*- Items sold at the Used Uniform sale will be in compliance with the grandfathered items policy (for the 2017-2018 school year only). You will need to make sure that they are appropriate for your student's new grade in 2017-18. Please refer to the [2016-17 Parent-Student handbook](#) for the current uniform policy (that will be grandfathered). The new uniform policy is available at <https://aquinastars.org/school-life/uniforms/>

### MONTHLY ROSARY AND PILGRIM VIRGIN

See the [attached form](#) for the opportunity to support Aquinas with a monthly rosary and the [attached form](#) for the opportunity to have the statue visit your home.

### MISSING STATUE

One of our pilgrim statues has gone missing. If anyone still has Our Lady visiting your home, could you please return her to the school office. As always please pray for the intentions of our schools families & faculty.

## 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 comfort for all those who suffer from injustice and the victims of terrorism.

For our leadership in Prince William County as they consider upcoming legislation.

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

For the repose of the soul of **Philip Them**, Mrs. Planchak's father.

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

# The Crusader Connection (Continued)

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

For **Alvaro Parada**, father of Anthony and Mariah Parada, that God will restore his health and watch over him during his upcoming surgery.

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](mailto:mdsa72@gmail.com)*

## Other

### ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT EVENTS

Please join John Paul the Great Catholic High School!

**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/> or call 703.445.0300.

## Summer Camps

### SUMMER CAMPS AT JP THE GREAT

JP will offer a handful of sports and enrichment camps this summer for middle schools students, featuring our talented coaches and teachers:

*Boys Basketball June 19 - June 23*

*Football June 26 - June 30*

*Creative Writing June 26 - June 30*

*Environmental Science June 26 - June 30*

*Knitting July 10 - July 14*

*Girls Basketball July 24 - July 28*

Camp descriptions and registration info coming soon!

# The Crusader Connection (Continued)

## LAUDATE! CHOIR CAMP

Foster your child's love of music this summer with an exciting, intense, and rewarding choir camp, held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, July 31 - August 4. Open to rising 2nd-12th grade children, with activities tailored to all skill levels. For more information, please go to [laudatechoircamp.com](http://laudatechoircamp.com).

## BISHOP O'CONNELL

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.](#)

## 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](http://Mathtree.com) website.

## THEATRE & ART DAY CAMPS

Broadway Training & Art Exploring in local Catholic Parish Summer Day Camps... This July, Nativity Parish and All Saints Parish are hosting day camps in Art & Drama for ages as young as Kindergarten and as old as High School. All instructors have professional backgrounds that include Ringling Brothers, Arena Stage, The Corcoran Gallery, Lincoln Center, and Wolf Trap. Additionally, most instructors are teachers at Arlington Diocesan Schools. A variety of different camps are offered Monday through Friday for a one week period. Visit [www.SpotlightSummerCamps.com](http://www.SpotlightSummerCamps.com) to take advantage of \$10 off in May.

## HOLY FAMILY SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Holy Family Catholic Church in Dale City VA is offering Summer youth activities for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. There are separate sessions for middle school and high school students. [Click here](#) for more information.

