

Aquinas High School

P a r e n t N e w s

1920 Highland Avenue Augusta, GA 30904

• www.aquinashigh.org

• Telephone: 706.736.5516

• October 2009

FROM THE DESK OF MR. LARCHER

Dear Parents,

November is always one of my favorite months: a rather short month with a nice Thanksgiving break at the end—and all this delightful weather.

This month is a key month for ongoing operations at the school. In a few short days many of us will gather for our grand event—Auction Aweigh—on Saturday, November 7. I extend a very warm welcome to each of you to attend this wonderful evening. In addition to enjoying the company of some 380 Aquinas supporters, you will also have a chance to bid on hundreds of items and, in effect, provide financial support for our work with your kids. The auction will net around \$70,000—a vital source of revenue for our work-study program and technology upgrades.

On Sunday, November 15 we will host our fall Open House. We know that our prime form of “advertising” is word-of-mouth. If you have young relatives, neighbors, and friends, bring them to our Open House. Let them talk to our students and our faculty and find out what opportunities are available to them.

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday of the year—peaceful days without all the commercialism that surrounds Christmas. And even though it is not a religious holiday, the tone is quite spiritual: giving thanks to Our Creator for all the good things we receive. I do hope you and your family have a wonderful celebration.

God Bless,
Robert R. Larcher

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Transcript Procedures Changing

Students have the very important job of making sure the grades and test scores appearing on their transcripts reflect their intellectual ability and work ethic. As a school, we have the very important job of making sure their transcripts are processed and sent to the various colleges in a timely and efficient manner while also controlling operational costs. In order to better meet these challenges, the procedures are changing.

Newly designed Transcript Request Forms are available in the school office and on our website. Students should complete the form and drop it off in the school office. They must indicate on the form whether the transcript is to be mailed to the college or electronically released to the college through the GAcollege411 website. Within two or three school days, we will process the request, as well as provide you with weekly updates on PowerSchool (under the School Bulletin button) so you can track where and when transcripts have been sent. We will continue to fulfill transcript requests at no cost to you. However, we will no longer send the transcripts via certified mail resulting in a savings of about \$3,000 per year. If you have any questions regarding transcripts, please contact the Aquinas college counselor, Mr. Jimmy McLeod at 706-736-5516 ext. 32 or jmcleod@aquinashigh.org.

Macbeth

“Double, double, toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble.” Don’t miss out on your chance to see Aquinas thespians in a special production of Macbeth edited by Coach Laney and Mr. Lloyd. Macbeth is a Scottish noble with an ambitious wife who encourages him to kill the king and usurp the throne. Once the deed is done, Lady Macbeth becomes consumed with guilt and Macbeth engages in a brutal campaign to eliminate all threats to his becoming king. Unfortunately, this includes his best friend, Banquo, whose ghost haunts Macbeth’s conscience.

Find out what happens next on November 20 or November 21 at Most Holy Trinity Parish Hall. Performance times are 7:30 pm. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students.

Fall Sports Banquet

The Fall Sports Banquet will be held on November 19 at 6:00 pm in the Aquinas cafeteria to recognize our football, softball, volleyball and cheerleading team members. Athletes’ meals will be provided free of charge. Guests may purchase the barbeque dinner at a cost of \$7 per person. To reserve your dinner(s), please call the Athletic Director, Mr. Kevin Trammell, by November 6 at 706-736-5516 ext. 29. The money will be collected at the door.

You’re Invited

- to show your support for the Fightin’ Irish winter sports teams who begin play in November. The basketball, swimming, and rifle schedules are included in this newsletter.
- join the principal for coffee and casual conversation on November 6 from 7:45-8:30 am.
- to join us for mass in the chapel every Wednesday morning at 7:15 am.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

Catholic Moral Theology

Catholic Moral Theology, the sophomore religion course, is designed to assist our students in making sound moral decisions using Catholic Christian moral teachings as guides. Students learned what morality is, why it is important, and how it impacts their life before moving into the three foundations of morality: free will, law, and conscience. Student discussions have also included moral acts, sin, and the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

Honors English 10

Honors sophomore students were given an assignment that required them to write 20 lines of poetry that begin with "I am" and 20 lines that begin with "My." From these 40 lines they were to compose a poem serious in tone that is reflective of their beliefs and their lives. Mr. Lloyd read each one looking for common themes then composed a single poem using excerpts from each student. Two of the most impressive aspects of this year's "I am/My" poem are the students' devotion to God and to their families. Enjoy Mr. Lloyd's compilation included in the newsletter!

Scripture

"There are two things that are never boring: people and stories," according to author Peter Kreeft in his book *You Can Understand the Bible*. And it's a good thing, too, as God communicates Himself to us so often in those ways throughout Scripture. The challenge for us is finding ourselves in these stories. Last week the freshmen scripture classes welcomed Fr. Mark Van Alstine, whose knowledge of the book of Genesis provided helpful context and new information to add to our ongoing study of the covenants of Salvation History. We pray that we may imitate our priests, as well as our forefathers Noah and Abraham, as we seek to grow in the virtues of wisdom, faith, and obedience.

Spanish IV

Students in Spanish IV class enjoyed a field trip to Vallarta's restaurant in which they had the opportunity to use their Spanish skills in order to receive service. Towards the end of lunch Ben Mills stated "quiero pagar" (I want to pay). Immediately, Wilkes Murray corrected Ben by saying "la cuenta por favor" (check please). Spanish IV also celebrated a Spanish mass with Fr. Tim from Our Lady of Peace in the Aquinas chapel. Wilkes Murray was the altar server, while Michael Thompson and Ben Mills served as lectors. Daniel Williams, a former Spanish student, joined the class for mass and answered Fr. Tim's questions during the homily, while all students provided appropriate responses in Spanish during the mass.

Visual Arts

The Studio Art class is learning about the Dutch graphic artist M.C. Escher, who distorted space and time with intricate and mysterious designs. He used tessellations or a potentially endless repeated pattern made up of one or more shapes that fit together like puzzle pieces with no gaps or overlaps. The students started with a small practice piece and will soon be working a larger more advanced tessellation that should make a very interesting display. The Basic Drawing class is working on the human figure, while learning how to set up a figure using eight equal blocks of space.

Junior Religion

Students are beginning Episode 2 of *Grasping for the Wind*. Seeing the fragmentation of modern American society, they realize that this chaos is the result of a change in ideas about the basis of life. As our culture continued to abandon the traditional religious principles that formed the basis for Western society, people such as Charles Darwin and Karl Marx influenced them. One result is a society growing consistently more dehumanized and despairing.

Art of Communication

Jimmy V, John Wooden, and Randy Pausch. These three gentlemen were obviously successful in their respective fields of coaching, teaching, and computer science. Much of that success was due to their ability to motivate others. Students in the Art of Communication are writing their own motivational speeches. After selecting a specific audience and purpose, students brainstormed a short list of points they wanted to make and then developed each through supporting detail and example. The range of audiences and topics spanned from the U Conn football team after the tragic loss of a team member to teenage students striving to reach their full potential instead of just getting by to US troops fighting overseas to the importance of dads being present in their kids' lives.

Environmental Science

For a third year in a row, Aquinas students participated in the Rivers Alive Clean-Up sponsored by the Augusta Canal Authority and the Savannah Riverkeeper. Despite the rain and a chilly morning, students turned out early on Saturday, October 24 to volunteer. They performed an important service to their community by cleaning up litter inside the streambed and along the shore of Rae's Creek. While cleaning up, students learned first hand how litter affects our local waterways and how difficult it is to remove. Special acknowledgements go to volunteers Gabby Blanco, Megan Caswell, Danica Dennis, April Hayes, David Klein, Angeliqye Pedraza, Ineza Polen, Bria Shipman-Riley, Marshall Snead, Dodger Stuckey, Robert Thoman, Raymond Thompkins, Peyton Washington, Leslie Anne Wiedmeier, and Becky Wilde.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS (continued)

Algebra

Students are going to the board each day to review their homework problems. The board exercises provide an opportunity to review the homework, ask questions about the problems, and practice their presentation skills. Students review algebraic as well as graphical solutions using the TI-83/84 series calculator. While it is important to work through the problem to achieve the correct answer, it is equally important to present the results using the appropriate terms in explaining their work.

Economics

Economics class has just finished a rigorous study of supply and demand. Students performed an in-class simulation of the wheat market and got a taste of what it's like to be a buyer and seller on the stock market trading floor. Coincidentally, the class is currently in the 5th week of the stock market game simulation. Each team got \$100,000 of simulation money to invest over a ten-week period. The team of Patrick Gamble, Gabriela Blanco, and Sarah Ingram is currently in first place in the region and has made \$19,000 over a five-week period. Their return on investment is 17% better than the S&P 500 index! The team is currently ranked 14th among all teams in the state. For those looking for investment advice in this rough economy, the team is offering their services . . .for a small fee.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week, a National Drug Awareness week sponsored by Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), was held at Aquinas during the week of October 19. Students and faculty commemorated the week by wearing red ribbons assembled by Sequoya Shedrick and Nick Lee. Walter Hutto, Gabby Blanco, Christin Hayes, Cameron Goodwin, Kellie Pitts, Hannah Nieman, Allie McInerney, Coeli Janiak, and Thomas Landrum attached bible verses to candy, which was distributed during lunch periods on October 20. One of the bible verses used was "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit," (Ephesians 5:17-19). Sarah Ellison designed the Red Ribbon Week Banner with the slogan "Above the Influence" to remind students to make the commitment to avoid letting negative peer pressure influence their decisions to participate in harmful activities.

SADD, who also hosted the fall blood drive held at the school in October, is led by officers: President, Sarah Ellison; Vice President, Garrett Pippin; Treasurer, Palmer Douglas; and Events Coordinator, Mary Prestifilippo.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

French high school students from St Denis, our Catholic sister-school in France, will arrive on January 28 and leave on February 23, 2010. This is our 16th year of participation in this exchange, and we are looking for host families. Here is how it works: The French students arrive in the Aquinas parking lot on the evening of January 28, where they are greeted by their host family. Our French guests attend Aquinas for the month and follow their own schedule of classes. Host families are asked to treat the students as you would a cousin or one of your children's friends that have come to stay with your family for a month. If possible, plan a few day trips to places of interest like Savannah, Atlanta, or Charleston.

If you are interested in being a host family, please email Mrs. Meredith at tmeredith@aquinashigh.org. She will then send you a short questionnaire to help match the student's age and interests with your child and family.

COMPETITION CHEERLEADING

The cheerleaders competed at the Jones County Greyhound Cheer Invitational on October 3, where they were the only 1A school to compete against four 2A schools. Aquinas tied with Pike County for 1st place and brought home the coveted Sportsmanship Award for the event. On October 10, the squad took 2nd place at the Chief Cheer Classic and earned 4th place honors at the War Eagle Spirit Spectacular on October 24. The point difference from 1st place to 4th place was only 4 points. Congratulations, cheerleaders!

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Students must have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale throughout all four years of high school.
2. All attempts at Math, Science, English, Social Sciences, and Foreign Language credits are calculated into the HOPE GPA. All other courses are excluded.
3. Students must be a GA resident.
4. Students must be in compliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990. A student is ineligible if he or she has been convicted of a felony offense involving marijuana or controlled substances.

Applying for HOPE:

1. Students must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) at www.fasfa.org.
2. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors may check their HOPE status by logging into their GA College 411 accounts at www.gacollege411.org.

HOPE Grade Scale

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	GPA
A	90-100	4.0
B	80-89	3.0
C	73-79	2.0
D	70-72	1.0
F	0-69	0.0

For students taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes the following applies to their GPA:

Georgia Student Finance Commission will add .5 quality point weight to a TRUE 4.0 scale for AP courses completed June 15, 2006 or later, up to a maximum grade value of 4.0 (A's are not weighted).

If you would like to compare, our grading scale is located on page 4 of the student handbook. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Jenkins (jjenkins@aquinashigh.org) or Jimmy McLeod (jmcleod@aquinashigh.org).

AQUINAS AUCTION AWEIGH

Don't miss your chance to support Aquinas High School!

Saturday, November 7, 2009

6:00pm Grand Dining Hall

Catering by Tastefully Yours

Tickets still available \$70

For tickets, call Estelle Duncan, 706-736-5337

Silent Auction, Heavy Hors 'd Oeuvres and Open Bar.

FIRST QUARTER HONOR ROLL

FIRST HONORS

To achieve First Honors students must score 90 or above in each subject.

Maureen Kennedy	Caroline Bisbee
Kateri Sheppard	Kathryn Craw
Daniel Williams	Caroline Merz
Mary Ellen Fain	Jessica Munie
Teri Scott	Jonathan Mysona
Jerome Amurao	Emily Smith

COMMENDED HONORS

To achieve Commended Honors students must score 80 or above in each subject.

Stephen Barry	Denton Boone
Clintonia Crocker	Elizabeth Brady
Paul Crocker	Chris Bugg
Chris Edry	Brianna Cook
Daniel Eicher	Alysse Edwards
Christie Freeman	Lauren Gubosh
Maggie Grady	Amelia Hagler
Jack Hudson	Luke Joseph
Sarah Ingram	Will Kittle
Connor Lacey	Chris Leonard
Ethan LaPan	Allison McInerney
Matthew Leonard	Matt Moses
Kayla Parel	Shelby Mueller
Morgan Rhodes	Hanah Nieman
Ian Tierney	Brennan O'Shea
Anne Carroll	Sadler Quarles
Andrea Castresana	Matt Ross
Patrick Conner	Jennifer Salizzoni
Palmer Douglas	Izzy Serji
Sarah Ellison	Emily Skidmore
Molly Garren	Ettele Toole
Kayla Guilfoyle	Austin Worden
Katie Kessinger	Nick Burwinkel
Aidan Klebba	William Doss
Chris Krug	Luke Elliott
Thomas Landrum	Olegs Garner
Mac McManus	Alexis Kenny
Ben Mills	Grey Klosinski
Rebecca O'Shea	Elizabeth Lovas
Alex Rogier	Kelly Marshall
Brad Thomas	Devin McDermott
Garrison Wilcox	Katelyn Montolin
Nick Zabala	Nicholas Novajosky
Mary Rose Ziemba	Megan Visotski
Ben Agee	John Christian Whyte
Jack Bernard	Ivey Wright

SECOND HONORS

To achieve Second Honors students must score 85 or above in each subject.

Matt Lint	Stephen Lint
Sarah Peeler	Lauren McKinney
Zach Ross	Taylor Schneider
Carrie Stewart	James Williams
Michael Thompson	Ashlee Carr
Holley Avrett	Jack Tyler Carroll
Stacia Fritz	Evan Cook
Taylor Honore	Pawel Kraj
Coeli Janiak	Rhett Mills
Elizabeth McIntyre	Richard Murray
Wilson Gambill	Teresa Ziemba
Catherine Grady	

**Don't forget to sell your
Jeep Raffle Tickets!**

All money and tickets due on Tuesday,
November 3 during homeroom.

I Am-My Poem

I am a student
I am a thinker
I am a daydreamer
I am the beating hearts of the world
I am the calm, the peace
I am God's creation

I am never perfect, but always trying
I am only human
My spirit delights at an opportunity
for revival

I am a good book
I am an artist
I love to create
My thoughts take shape and form
My life is like a kaleidoscope with
unusual patterns and colors weaving
different experiences every day

I am music that wants to be heard
My soul moves my body through
the music
My body flows with the music, as the
current flows with the ocean
I am a dancer
My feet are calloused
My knees are sore
My dance allows me to escape
I am alive through dance

I am a believer
My power is God
My God is my rock
My faith is the rock
which upholds all else
My church is the sacred family we join
to give thanks in praise
My church is the strong, unbreakable
family
My comfort is in my God

I am a believer
I am among the inheritors of heaven
My family means everything to me
My mother is my guiding light
My father is my rock
My mom is protective
My dad is a soldier

My parents are the moon and the sun,
guiding me
My family is the center of my universe
My home is my sanctuary, my
stronghold
My love for my family gives me
strength
My family is my counsel
My sisters are my closest confidants
My brother is my best friend

My favorite place brings back
loving memories of my grandfather
My favorite childhood memory is
sitting with my grandfather listening
to stories of his life
My grandmother made the best pies
I am the beauty of my grandmother
I am the tears from her funeral, and
the laughter of good memories

I am the love and happiness of all
who are close to me

I am a son
I am a brother
I am the love of a sister
I am the role model for my baby cousin

I am proud to be part of my family
I am the two most illustrious empires
in history
I am the creak of the gate on those
Saturday mornings
I am a Sunday afternoon with my
family

My home is my sanctuary, my
stronghold

I am industrious, hardworking,
conscientious, and energetic
I am not afraid to get my hands dirty
I am strong
I am the strength of a hurricane
My strength is my perseverance

I am powerful
I am dedicated
I am courage
I am knowledge

I am that January afternoon
I am the rain on the window
I am the rain during a storm
I am the wind of a storm
I am a summer thunderstorm
I am thunder and lightning

My chant is the pounding of
the Earth beneath my feet
Like a rolling thunder in the
distance

My chant is the sun
The heart in the ancient body of
the universe
I am a leaf on the tree
I am the leafless trees of the winter
The seeds of spring
The flowers of summer
The pumpkins of fall

I am the rush of water
My laugh is a rippling river
bubbling over the rocks along
the bottom
My mind is the ocean's waves,
crashing gentle yet forceful
I am the power of the ocean
My quest is never-ending
My life has a meaning I have yet
to discover
My dreams are still only imaginable
I am fifteen years old,
and I am growing up and still have
much to learn

I am in my youth and my future
looks bright
God has given us only one life to
live, and has given a purpose: to
love and to give.
I must find in
myself the strength and the will to



WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

GIRLS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
11/14	@ Evans	TBA
11/21	@ Lakeview	4:00pm
11/24	@ Madison	TBA
12/11	@ Portal	6:00pm
12/18	vs. Madison	6:00pm
12/21	vs. Wilkinson	6:00pm
12/28-30	@ Evans Tour	TBA
1/2	vs. Lakeview	4:00pm
1/8	vs. Lincoln	6:00pm
1/9	@ Athens Acdy	4:00pm
1/12	@ Wash/Wilkes	6:00pm
1/15	@ Warren	6:00pm
1/19	vs. Taliaferro	6:00pm
1/26	@ Lincoln	6:00pm
1/29	vs. Wash/Wilkes	6:00pm
1/30	@ Glascock	6:00pm
2/2	vs. Warren	6:00pm
2/5	@ Taliaferro	6:00pm
2/6	@ Wilkinson	7:00pm
2/16,19-20	Region	TBA
2/26-27	State 1st Round	TBA

BOYS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
11/14	@ Evans	TBA
11/21	@ Lakeview	5:30pm
11/24	@ Madison	TBA
11/27-28	@ Augusta Tour	TBA
12/11	@ Portal	7:30pm
12/18	vs. Madison	7:30pm
12/21	vs. Wilkinson	7:30pm
12/28-30	@ Keenan Tour	TBA
1/2	vs. Lakeview	4:00pm
1/8	vs. Lincoln	7:30pm
1/9	@ Athens Acdmy	4:00pm
1/12	@ Wash/Wilkes	7:30pm
1/15	@ Warren	7:30pm
1/19	vs. Taliaferro	7:30pm
1/26	@ Lincoln	7:30pm
1/29	vs. Wash/Wilke	7:30pm
1/30	@ Glascock	7:30pm
2/2	vs. Warren	7:30pm
2/5	@ Taliaferro	7:30pm
2/6	@ Wilkinson	8:30pm
2/16, 19-20	Region TBA	
2/26-27	State 1st Round	TBA

SWIM TEAM

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
11/12	Greenbrier/Evans	5:30pm
11/14	1st off the Block	12:00pm
12/3	Davdsn/CC/Grvtm	5:30pm
1/7	ARC/CC/Grvtwn	5:30pm
1/9	Panther Pack	12:00pm
1/21	Richmond Champ	5:30pm
1/26	CSRA Champshp	5:30pm
2/4	Non-State Qualfy	12:00pm
2/12-13	State Meet	TBA

RIFLE TEAM

WEEK OF	OPPONENT	TIME
01/12	@ Westside	TBA
01/19	vs. Laney	TBA
01/26	@ Lakeside	TBA
02/02	vs. Hephzibah	TBA
02/09	vs. Evans	TBA
02/16	vs. Elbert	TBA
02/23	@ Butler	TBA
03/02	Area 4 shoot-off	TBA
03/15	State Sectionals	TBA
03/20	State Semifinals	TBA

Winter Sports Pictures: Nov. 12, 3:00pm
Athletic Director: Kevin Trammell
706-736-5516 X 29