

Aquinas High School

Parent News

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PRINCIPAL POINTS

New Faces and New Places

We extend a warm welcome to Christine (Catto) McLaughlin. She once roamed the halls as a student here and is now joining the faculty as a math teacher. Christine brings several years of teaching experience to our classrooms, in addition to the energy and organization that comes from being the mother of three young children.

Several familiar faces have moved into new places at Aquinas this year. Matt LeZotte has taken over as athletic director, and Scott Harrison has picked up the duties of assistant athletic director. Students were greeted by our new media specialist, Jennifer Matthews, who will also continue as our PowerSchool administrator and webmaster. Bari House will continue to send you newsletters and emails as administrative assistant, in addition to serving as our registrar.

Math Lab

Math teachers are ready and waiting in the media center during the lunch periods to help students with their math. No appointments necessary. . .just show up with a question.

Class Fundraiser Ready to Go

Beginning September 2, students will be selling Buggy Shields to benefit their class treasuries. Buggy Shields are disposable covers that fold over a grocery cart handle to protect against germs and to provide a convenient place for your shopping list. The Buggy Shields, invented and donated by Janna Malchow, will be sold in packs of 25 for \$10. 100% of the sales will be deposited in the corresponding student class treasury to help defray the costs of class projects such as the homecoming, prom, senior breakfast, and ring ceremony. Each student will receive one pack to sell but can earn additional money for their class by selling more.

Auction Tickets on Sale

Come have fun at the Aquinas Wild Wild West auction—PTOs biggest fundraiser of the year. The Western-themed event will feature both a silent and live auction, as well as a \$1,000 drawing, great food, and great times. Make your plans now to spend Saturday, November 5 at the Aquinas Wild Wild West auction. Get your tickets today from the school office or any auction committee member. The cost of this delightful evening is just \$50 per person, if you purchase your ticket prior to October 1.

Tracking Detentions

With the newest update to PowerSchool, we have found that the application for discipline has a few glitches. The problems have been reported to the company, and they are in the process of getting them fixed. In the meantime, no discipline will be recorded in PowerSchool. You can still use PowerSchool to check attendance and grades.

Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for volunteers to assist with gathering auction donations, helping with auction set-up, and a variety of other jobs, big and small. If you are interested in volunteering, stop in at the auction meeting on September 21 from 6:00-8:00pm in the media center.

Directory Correction

If the directory information listed for you or your student is incorrect or changes during the year, please let us know by calling Karen Hayes at 706-736-5516 ext 10. There was a global error in the directory distributed at Parent Night: The Bell South email addresses were listed as @12south.net instead of @bellsouth.net.

Spiritwear Sale

The rally banners are in! Come to the Aquinas office to purchase any of our new Spiritwear items or look for us at the first home football game on September 2.

T-shirts	\$12	Rally Banners	\$ 6
Sweatshirts	\$20	Car Magnets	\$ 7
Hoodies	\$25	Stadium Chair	\$40 *

*Stadium Chairs are prepaid orders only

Website

Visit our website often to keep up on the latest news. Recent postings include the 2011 Summa Award winners and the colleges attended by the Class of 2011. Use the quick links to check up on your tuition account and follow Irish sports.

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

US History

Students in Mrs. Adams' United States History classes were treated the first week of school to a special visit from Aquinas graduate and archaeologist Catherine Tantillo '98 and her husband, archaeologist Chris Thornock. The couple shared fascinating stories about their careers and discoveries as archeologists at the Savannah River Site. They also shared locally found Native American artifacts that were thousands of years old.



Senior Religion

The year began with deductive logic problems and continues with an exploration of the Christian tradition in art and architecture. Students will study basic architectural and artistic terms while they learn about the roots of Christianity in Syria, Jerusalem and Rome. To begin their senior project and meet their first deadline of September 2, seniors reached into the 'sorting hat' and picked out a famous church that they will research during the year.

Advanced Composition

Seniors in Advanced Composition are working to improve their writing skills. They are studying vocabulary from *All Quiet on the Western Front*, which they use to create contextually and grammatically correct sentences. They are learning how to pre-write (brainstorm and organize) and post-write (edit and revise) paragraphs, and they are conducting peer reviews in an attempt to identify their own strengths and weaknesses by recognizing them in the work of their classmates. Also, they are discovering poetic language and poetic devices (theme, imagery, alliteration, apostrophe, cadence, etc.) and the impact these have on a reader. Finally, they

are working hard at becoming active readers. Be sure to ask your seniors if you can look at the notes they've written in their texts.

Horticulture

The landscape at Aquinas flourished this summer after the 8.5" of rain in July and the enervating heat that wipes out people but energizes plants. Particularly beautiful this year are the plumeria, vinca, hibiscus and papyrus planted by last year's seniors. Over the summer, Aquinas grads Anthony Spencer, Marshall Snead, David Klein and Tyler Snead continued to beautify the campus. AHS also hosted Dr. James Anderson from UNC Chapel Hill and Dr. Dorset W. Trapnell from UGA who are interested in the palm collection. Dr. Trapnell took samples of several palms for DNA analysis to help her trace the origin of the native plants on the island of Bermuda.

AP Environmental Science

AP Environmental Science is a college level course that will have Aquinas seniors and juniors studying the interactions that occur within the environment and how all organisms influence the world they live in. It is a lab intensive course that will have students examining soil productivity, water quality, bioremediation, population dynamics, air quality, and much more. A field study is required and this year students will be participating in Adopt-A-Stream water quality monitoring where they will assess the health of a local stream through physical, chemical, and biological sampling. Students will participate in the biological and chemical certification classes on September 10 and September 17. They are also planning a field trip to the Savannah River Site Ecology Lab on September 23 where they will learn more about local ecosystems while performing biological sampling techniques ecologists use in the field. If you are interested in chaperoning this trip, contact Mrs. Robin Fowler at rfowler@aquinashigh.org or 706-736-5516 ext 70.

AP Statistics

Students jumped right into their studies by learning how to analyze, display, describe, and interpret data. They investigated questions such as: Do external rewards promote creativity? Do women talk more than men? Do people live longer in wealthy countries? Talk to an AP Statistics student to find out the results.

STUDENT LIFE

Muintir go deo

The 2011-12 Student Council officers met at the end of last school year to discuss what makes Aquinas different and special from other schools. Their conclusion—tradition and family. After some research they discovered, *muintir*, the Gaelic word for family, along with the common Irish saying, *muintir go deo*, which loosely translated means family forever. You will see this word on parking passes sold by Student Council and at various other events throughout the year.

Student Council painted signs to welcome students back to school, washed faculty and staff cars, wrote and performed a fashion show for freshman orientation, hosted lunchtime games and music, and organized a school-wide clap out that sent the football team to their first game. The entire student body benefited from the Activity Fair sponsored by Student Council during the lunch periods. Students were able to gather information about the many clubs and organizations at Aquinas and learned how to get involved.



Scouting Honors

Congratulations to Andrew Poirier, who earned Eagle Scout honors on May 7. Andrew refurbished a transitional home for Interfaith Hospitality Network of Augusta (INHA). His project included pressure washing, carpentry, glass replacement, some electrical replacement, painting and landscaping work. INHA helps homeless families with immediate housing at host churches followed by a program of transitional housing, child care and employment assistance. Aquinas Scouts helping with the project were Josh Cooper, Nick Burwinkel, and Juan Migone. Other AHS students who helped were Jamie O'Meara and Thomas Wiedemeir.

SAT Prep

The Princeton Review SAT Prep class includes three full-length diagnostic SATs, each with a detailed analysis pinpointing individual strengths and weaknesses. It also includes a thorough review of all math, reading and writing skills tested on the SAT and test-taking techniques. The tuition covers 18 hours of classroom instruction, three diagnostics tests, 24/7 access to online student resources and all course materials. Tuition is \$450. To reserve your spot, email Jennifer Tongel at jennifers@review.com with the student and school name. The deadline to register is September 7. Wednesday night classes meet from 5:00-8:00pm with Saturday test sessions from 9:00-1:00pm.

Upcoming Campus Ministry Events

Wednesday morning masses at 7:15 and confessions during lunch are great opportunities to receive the grace of Jesus in the Sacraments.

Every 2nd Sunday students meet at the Masters Table Soup Kitchen from 10:30-1:00 to serve meals. If you would like to join us, e-mail bwaters@knology.net. In addition, four Aquinas students will serve on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 10:30-1:00. Interested students should sign up with Mr. Lammers.

Aquinas students have the opportunity to go on a Mountain Retreat in Helen, Georgia, September 3-5 to praise God, have fun in nature, and build friendships in Jesus. Spots are limited. See Mr. Lammers if interested.

September 23-25 there will be a YOUTH 2000 retreat at Alleluia School. YOUTH 2000, an international spiritual initiative, will be led by Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, which organizes and directs Eucharistic-centered retreats for young people. Begun in 1990, YOUTH 2000 is a response to the challenge of Pope John Paul II to "become shining heralds of the reevangelization and generous architects of the civilization of love." Interested students should sign-up with Mr. Lammers.

Georgia Boys' State

The American Legion Post 205 nominated and sponsored Matt Ross to attend Boys' State at Georgia Southern University. Matt enjoyed the camaraderie and especially liked the guest speakers. His favorite was the Navy seal who did not define a warrior by physical strength or speed but by mental strength, character, and how much they care for others.

Georgia Girls' State

Taylor Schneider was nominated and sponsored by the American Legion Post 205 to attend Girls' State at Georgia Southern University. She enjoyed meeting other girls from around Georgia and enjoyed experiencing how different outlooks on similar topics created interesting conversations but usually resulted in some sort of agreement. Her favorite activities were the mock senate and house sessions.

French Club

The Aquinas cafeteria was filled with an enticing aroma on the afternoon of August 25. The French Club met in the kitchen to make French crêpes with Tanguy, a French high school senior spending the month at Aquinas. French Club members supplied fillings for the crêpes, and Tanguy provided the batter and pan. Crêpes were flipped into the air and most landed back in the pan. From newbies Talyor Leibach, Laura Dresser and Jade Akinwuntan to seasoned Frenchies Jed Amurao and Pawel Kraj, a delicious treat was enjoyed by all.

To complete this cultural exchange, Jaime O'Meara '11 will spend three months in France attending Tanguy's high school. The best way to learn a second language is to participate in an exchange. This summer, Madame Meredith will be accompanying a group of Aquinas students on a 3-week exchange in Loches, France. For information, contact her at tmeredith@aquinashigh.org. Vive les échanges!



HOBY Leadership Seminar

This summer Millie Smith, along with 200 other sophomores in Georgia, attended the HOBY Leadership Seminar at Southwestern State University. Millie spoke highly of the program and really enjoyed the activities, which emphasized how to work with people that have diverse personalities and make decisions for the common good. She was reminded that true leaders should take part in charity and doing well to others. Millie learned about Rachel's Challenge, a program that promotes creating a positive, professional and safe environment at school, and she made blankets for Project Linus, a charity that distributes blankets to local hospitals, shelters and social service organizations.

Congratulations to Hunter Rafoth, last year's Aquinas HOBY ambassador, on being selected to return to the South Carolina HOBY Seminar at Erskine College in 2012. He was one of four chosen to return and is looking forward to the experience, as well as the opportunity to reconnect with the friends he made.

Mission Trip

This summer Matt Ross traveled to Chacacayo, Peru, and Cochabamba, Bolivia, with Tony Bellizzi, who regularly facilitates Aquinas retreats. While in Peru, Matt worked at an orphanage for children with physical disabilities. The people there are very superstitious and view disabilities as a curse so disabled children are often left at the orphanage. In Bolivia Matt worked at the Performing Life Program, which locates runaways and gets them off the streets. The program provides education, rehabilitation, and teaches different trades so they can make a living. Many learn circus arts.

"The last full day I spent in Bolivia," said Matt, "I stayed at a family's house that benefited from the Performing Life Program. I spent the majority of the afternoon on their roof surrounded by gorgeous majestic mountains, simply thinking. As a materialistic culture it is so easy to pity these people because they have very little or no material means. However, in some regard they should pity us. They have life figured out. They truly know what it means to pursue happiness, to be a family, and to love." Matt hopes to one day teach as a missionary, but he is not sure where God will lead him.

Leadership Training

This summer 27 students participated in Youth Leadership Training at Aquinas with retreat master Tony Bellizzi. There was great fruit that came from the two-day, one night retreat. These developing leaders will lead this year's freshman retreat to help ninth graders connect spiritually and build relationships with the upperclassmen.