



Principal's Corner

The month of February starts off with the special celebration of Catholic Schools Week. The theme for this year is "*Catholic Schools-Dividends for Life.*" This theme reminds parents that the dividends of a Catholic school education—students prepared in faith, knowledge, morals and discipline—last a lifetime. There is no better way to invest in a child's future—or the future of our world. We have many special activities planned for the week so check the February calendar! Please be sure to join us at our Open House on Sunday, January 31st following the 8:00 and 10:00 mass and bring your family for a special parent-night appreciation supper on Tuesday, February 2 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Aquin gym. If you haven't responded for this event, please do so by Monday morning (2/1/10). We are so proud of our school and I would like to take the time to thank all of you for your generosity, kindness and support!

Protection of Children

Attached to this newsletter is the fifth of a five-part series of parent information publications from the Office for the Protection of Children from the Archdiocese of Dubuque. The purpose of these publications is to help all of us be more informed of the issues and topics related to the abuse of children. It is our sincere hope that by partnering together we can continually provide the safest possible environment for all our young people to grow into healthy,

Christ-filled adults. Additional resources can be found at the Virtus website at www.virtus.org.

The Office for the Protection of Children

Grant

The Board of Education and Formation of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Cluster received word that it is the recipient of a grant for almost \$9,800 from the Educational Development Fund of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. The Board received funds for the purpose of providing tuition assistance to students to attend the Aquin School System. The Educational Development Fund was developed for the purpose of supporting the educational programs of the Archdiocese. For additional information or to make a donation toward Catholic Education, please contact the Office of Educational Development at 563-556-2580.

Student Tuition Organization

Due to the generosity of many donors, we are proud to announce that \$38,650 dollars have been restricted to Aquin Elementary students for the purpose of tuition assistance for the 2010-11 school year through the STO program. Throughout the entire Archdiocese the goal of raising \$3.792 million for the STO program was met! This success will mean great things for families who choose Catholic education. Thank you to all who generously donated to this fund.

Tuition

Tuition for the 2010-2011 school year will be as follows:

- \$1275 First Child
- \$1275 Second Child
- \$1075 Third Child
- \$965 Fourth Child

STO Applications

STO applications are being sent home to all families as part of

your registration packet for the 2010-2011 school year. It is very important that all families take advantage of this scholarship opportunity and apply for the STO because much effort was put into raising money for Aquin families. If you need help filling out the application, please contact the school office. The STO application deadline is March 15, 2010.

Tax Credit

Please remember to take advantage of the Iowa Tuition Tax Credit when filing your 2009 Iowa tax returns. This tax credit is equal to 25 percent of the first \$1000 of tuition charged at the school for each dependent claimed on the return. This has not changed from 2008. Also, attached to this newsletter is an Earned Income Tax flier that explains how you may be eligible for additional tax credits. Please contact Catholic Charities at 800-772-2758 for more information.

Registration Packets

Registration packets are being sent home on Friday, Jan. 29. This packet includes the covenant for next year and the STO letter. Please read over the information carefully, noting the deadlines.

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras will be celebrated on Monday, Feb. 15. No breakfast or lunch will be served that day. This is an out of uniform day for all. Students do NOT need to bring money to go out of uniform. Mardi Gras tickets will be for sale the week before Mardi Gras for \$1 each. Please send treats if you signed up to do so, or work at the shift you indicated.

Washington D.C. Trip

On January 19th, twenty eighth grade Aquin students, two staff members and multiple parents

made the trek to Washington D.C. to stand up for the rights of unborn children. A huge thank you goes out to all who generously donated time, talents and treasures in making this trip. A special word of gratitude goes to Mrs. Katie McGuire and Mrs. Mary Kluesner for all their hard work in preparing the students for this trip through academics. Aquin is in total support of this cause and the community of Cascade was represented very well. Grades K-7 students attended a prayer service at St. Matthias on Friday, Jan. 22 on the anniversary of the court decision of Roe vs. Wade.

Schwans Truckload Sale

Our Lenten Schwan's Truckload Sale will kick off on Wednesday, Feb. 10. Your children will be bringing their order forms and catalog home that day. Please be sure and contact your friends and neighbors! This is a great opportunity to purchase your Lenten seafood! Pick up day is Friday, Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the former Cascade Foods parking lot. Drop in orders are welcome at McDermott Oil.

Out of Uniform Day

Our Out of Uniform Day money for February will go to the American Heart Association. Please make sure your child brings 50¢ if they go out of uniform.

Penny War for Haiti

The response to our recent Penny War was simply amazing. The generosity shown by the students and their families was very heart-warming and uplifting. The students raised \$3498.73. Congratulations to the Kindergarten class for winning first place and will receive a free recess. We would like to thank Mrs. Hill for all her hard work in organizing this fundraiser for the needy in Haiti. Money raised will go to three organizations: Kids Against Hunger, the St. Francis Xavier Haiti trip, and the Archdiocesan Haiti Relief Fun.

Library News

Did you know that Ground Hog Day is half way through winter? Wow, spring can't come soon enough! We are looking forward to warmer weather and our spring Scholastic Book Fair. It will be held once again during spring conferences, March 24 – March 31, 2010. So mark your calendars and come shop for Easter, First Communion, and birthdays. More details later!

Donations to the *Joyce Curoe Library* this month include: Danielle Lensen; Mark & Karen Weber Family (In honor of the Martin Hoeger Family); Robert & Linda Stoll (In memory of Kathleen Hosch and in memory of Rob Loes); and Jarrett Knepper (In memory of Herb Green). Thank you for your continued support and generosity to our school library.

Box Tops

It just goes to show that clipping Box Tops for Education truly pays off! We received a check for \$870.00 last month from the box tops turned in from August-October. Please continue to check products for the label.

Reading Newsletter to Children

We are asking parents to please read the monthly newsletter to your children or have your older children read it themselves. It contains valuable information each month.

Beckman Dance Showcase

Beckman will host their Dance Showcase on Feb. 7 in the Beckman Gym beginning at 1:00. Admission will be charged.

Aquin System Benefit Raffle

Congratulations to the winners on the Jan. 15 drawing: \$500-Phil & Sheila Otting; \$100-Shane Manternach, Russel Streeper, Doug Green, Sandy Howard, and Steve & Mary Jean Knepper; \$50-Jeff & Lnda Otting, Don Manternach, Mike & Donna Callahan, Loras Staner, Kathy Weber, Linda Reiter, Ron & Donna

Miller, Jackie Trumm, Mike & Julie Kuhn and Carl Kelchen.

St. Thomas Aquinas Feast Day

We celebrated the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas on Thursday, Jan. 28 with a prayer service for all staff and students. We are very proud of St. Thomas Aquinas!

Thank You

A special thank you goes out to John McGuire, Linda Reiter, and the parents who helped make the Aquin basketball tournaments a success for the 2009-10 school year! Your hard work is definitely appreciated.

Popcorn Machine

After numerous sporting events, our school popcorn machine has seen its last days! We will need to purchase a new machine in the near future. If anyone would like to make a donation towards a new machine, please send it to the office marked "popcorn machine." Thank you!

Artist in Residence

Doktor Kaboom! will be coming to Aquin on Thursday, February 25th as a guest Artist in Residence. Doktor Kaboom! strives to remind audiences of all ages that the foundations of scientific discovery can be joyful tools for a lifetime. He encourages students to express their awe in scientific demonstrations, to creatively explore the world around them, and to realize that science and mathematics are meant to be fun.

Aquin Dads Breakfast

Please join us at the annual Aquin Dads Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 14 from 8-noon. This would make a great Valentine's Day present for your sweetheart!