



Principal's Corner

Lent offers us a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life. In our busy world, Lent provides us time to reflect upon our patterns and pray more deeply, attend daily Mass as much as possible, abstain from eating meat on Fridays and give to the poor. To draw nearer to God, we are also encouraged to give something up as a reminder of the sacrifices Jesus made while he was fasting in the desert.

Our theme for Lent this year will focus on the rainbow. We will use a stripe of color each week to represent a theme to go with each week of Lent. Themes will be: We Pause, We Sacrifice, We Pray, We Grow, We Forgive, and We Serve. Students will be preparing for Easter by attending two prayer services, grades 2-8 will go to Reconciliation, and all students will walk through the Stations of the Cross. All are welcome to join us at our weekly liturgies on Tuesday mornings and at our prayer service on March 11th at 8:30 in the school gym.

Parent Lunches

We will have three Parent Lunches in March: Monday, March 8; Monday, March 15; and Thursday, March 25. You

are asked to call the office at least a day ahead to make reservations. The lunches are for parents only, please.

Out of Uniform Fridays

Each Friday in March will be an Out of Uniform Day. This is the students' reward for selling over \$10,000 worth of Fall Raffle chances.

Yearbook Deadline

The deadline for ordering this year's yearbook is March 10. Please have your child stop in the office if they need a form.

Power School

Parents of junior high students are encouraged to visit Power School to keep updated on your child's progress in school. If you need assistance, have questions, or need log-in information, please contact Mrs. Arnold at Aquino or email her at karnold@aquino.org

Monthly Thank You

We wish to thank all the wonderful dads for making the Dads' Breakfast a great event for all. Special thanks to Mark Weber, Ted Recker, Joe Wessels, and Brad Conlin for chairing the breakfast. We also want to thank those who made donations for food items or raffle prizes. Next we extend our gratitude to the parents who helped at our Mardi Gras celebration. We especially want to thank Molly Morreim, Stephanie Ries, Debbie Wessels and Kris Rausch, chairpersons this year. Thank you to the following who helped at the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon held during Catholic Schools Week: Jenny Recker, Rhonda Gibbs, Linda Recker, Kris Pfab, Sue Knepper, Linda Reiter, and Shellie Schlemme plus Lois Merkes and the fabulous kitchen

crew. The teachers, staff and several guests were treated to a delicious meal.

Scrip News

Club 528 has joined our Scrip program. Scrip cards are available in \$25 denominations and are available at both banks in Cascade and the Aquino office. The Telegraph Herald has dropped from the Scrip program. **SCRIP PROCEDURES (AT AQUINO ONLY) WILL CHANGE BEGINNING MARCH 1.** Scrip orders brought to the Aquino office will be filled each day at approximately 1:00 by a volunteer. These orders will be sent home as usual. Any orders received after 1:00 will be filled the following day. **Drop-in orders will not be filled at the Aquino office; you will need to stop at one of the banks if you need your scrip right away.**

We visited Brother's Market in mid-January and they agreed to be on our scrip program. We are still waiting for their computer person to set up the program for them. Thanks for your patience.

Please continue to use scrip for all your shopping needs. The Visa cards can be used anywhere Visa is accepted!!

A total of \$2900 was paid out for tuition credit from July-December! Congratulations to our two winners of the Christmas Scrip Give-away. Larry & Kathy Knipper and Mark & Linda Fransen were the recipients of a \$25 Scrip of Choice certificate.

Scrip forms are available to download on the Aquino website or contact the office for a form to be sent home.

Items Needed

If you happen to have extra ice cream buckets, please send them to school or drop them off at the office. We are also looking for a small-medium sized fireproof box that locks. Please let us know if you have one you would care to donate.

STO

This is a reminder that STO applications need to be mailed by **March 15**. I encourage all families to apply. I cannot stress enough how important it is that Aquin families take advantage of this tuition assistance. The large amount of restricted donations for Aquin students will go to families in other schools if we do not demonstrate the need equal to our funds. If you have any questions or need help filling out the application, please contact the office.

PST Conferences

Parent-Student-Teacher conferences will be held Monday, March 29 and Tuesday, March 30 from 4-8 p.m. Sign up forms will be sent home next week. Please return all forms by Wednesday, March 10.

Gold Star

Does your child have a teacher that has really helped them shine this year? If so, please take the time to nominate that teacher for a Gold Star Teaching Award. The Gold Star Teacher nomination forms need to be postmarked by Monday, March 1.

No School

We will not have school on Wednesday, March 3 due to a professional day for teachers.

Spring Pictures

Spring pictures will be taken on Friday, March 5. Your child will be bringing the form home on Friday, Feb. 26. You do not need to send money at this

time. Please read the brochure carefully.

Basketball Season

The second half of the Aquin basketball season comes to a close this weekend. We want to thank our coaches, John McGuire, Katie Stoll and Brad Belding for giving their time and talent this year to our teams.

March Out of Uniform Day

Our March Out of Uniform Day money will go to the Loras College Dance Marathon. The Dance Marathon is a year-long student run program that provides support to children and their families from the surrounding area that have been treated at the U of I Children's Hospital in Iowa City. Last year they raised \$53,000 and hope to surpass that number this year. The money raised goes to support pediatric research as well as provide toys, games and activities to brighten the lives of hospitalized children.

Speech Contest

Congratulations to 24 of our junior high students who participated in the Dubuque Area Speech Contest on Friday, Feb. 26 at Beckman High School. Thank you to Mrs. McGuire and Mrs. Kluesner for chaperoning the event and for preparing the students for the contest.

March Library News

The Joyce Curoe Library is "cooking up excitement" for our spring **Scholastic Book Fair!** Our theme, "Book Fair Diner" will showcase an "all you can read buffet" of books. The book fair will be open **March 25 & 26 from 8AM - 4PM and March 29 & 30 from 8AM - 8PM**. All parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to browse and shop the "smorgasbord" of books that will be on display. (Shop early for those Easter and First Communion gifts! Scholastic has several seasonal and religious

books for children which can make "egg-cellent" gifts!) All proceeds are used to purchase books for our library and classrooms. See you at the Book Fair!

Many thanks to our friends who have made donations to the **Aquin Commemorative Book Program** this past month: Charlie & Jeanne Sadler (in memory of Mary Jo McElmeel); Mr. Gary Brown and Steve & Nancy Strang (in honor of Ralph & Rita Manternach). Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Grant Opportunity

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

If you grow more than 250 acres of corn or soybeans and would like to help Aquin become eligible for a \$2,500 Monsanto grant, please go to www.growcommunities.com and apply. The deadline is Sunday, February 28 and the questionnaire will only take you a couple of minutes. Thank you for your time.