Dear Aquinas Parents,

On Sunday, we concluded the glorious season of Easter with the triumphant celebration of the Solemnity of Pentecost. The coming of the Holy Spirit made fearless missionaries out of cowardly nobodies. Through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were emboldened to proclaim Christ and were enlightened in all truth. Each of the baptized has received this same Spirit in baptism, and this gift was stirred up and strengthened in us at our Confirmation. What, then, is keeping us from speaking out as boldly and fearlessly as the disciples of Pentecost? Is it an insecurity and excessive concern of being “socially acceptable”? Is it a fear of being rejected or persecuted? Is it a perceived lack of knowledge or a feeling of incompetence? As Pope Francis reminds us in the Tweet quoted above, we have been given the Holy Spirit for a purpose—“so that we may live lives of genuine faith and active charity.” We have to surrender to this truth with deep faith, a faith like the father in yesterday’s Gospel: “Lord I believe, help my unbelief!” May this prayer be yours today and every day, especially as we journey through this season of Ordinary Time.

With prayers in the Heart of Mary,
Sr. Kateri Rose, O.P.
If your student /club has an accomplishment or success you would like to have highlighted please submit your entry information to connection@aquinasstars.org (you may include pictures). Entries may be edited.

BEST OF PRINCE WILLIAM CAMPAIGN

InsideNova is promoting their best of Prince William campaign. Please vote for St Thomas Aquinas Regional School. We are listed under childcare/education > private schools. The deadline to vote is June 8th and results will be published July 15th. Please let everyone know that Aquinas is the best private school in Prince William County by voting here!

VIRTUS TRAINING AT OLA

On Saturday, May 21st at 9:30 am, at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church, there will be a diocesan sponsored Virtus training seminar for all employees and volunteers who work with children. This one time seminar is required and will be offered both in English and Spanish. All attendees must register by setting up an account at https://www.virtusonline.org.

BAND CHOIR CONCERT SNACK SALE

We will be selling snacks and water during the evening Band and Choir concert on Monday May 23rd. All items will be donated by the middle school parents. All proceeds will be used for the purchase of individual microphones for next year's musical.

Mrs. Riley is looking for volunteers who can be in charge of the concession tables before and after the concert. If you can help, please email Mrs. Riley at lriley@aquinasstars.org.

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 Wednesday, June 1, 2015, from 3:15-4:15 pm and the application is also due on that date. The study guide for the test is provided here. Please 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 jzengierski@aquinasstars.org.
SPRING EVENT PHOTOS

Do you have pictures from one of our many Aquinas events? We are looking for pictures from spring sports, PTO events, Grandparents Day, band events, etc. to include in our Aquinas community publications. If you have pictures that you would like to share, please submit them to photos@aquinastars.org.

RAIN NUMBER

Prince William Co. field conditions are updated daily at 3:00. Please check the website or call 703-792-3285 to hear all field closures. Aquinas follows Prince William Co. field decisions.

Please continue to check the athletic website for updates.

PTO Announcements

Time-sensitive PTO information is below. We post information about our programs and activities on our website page.

POTOMAC NATIONALS RESCHEDULED

St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School night at the Potomac Nationals has been rescheduled for Friday, June 10th at 7:05pm. Come watch the Aquinas Kindergarten perform the pre-game National Anthem!

If you already had ticket(s) to the previously scheduled May 6th game, please bring your ticket to the ticket office at the stadium and it will be exchanged for the June 10th game. This can be done the night of June 10th. Tickets are also being sold for the June 10th game! Please see attached flyer.

USED UNIFORM SALE

The last Used Uniform Sale for the school year is Friday, June 17th at 3PM in the school gym. Used uniform donations will be accepted anytime in the front office until the day of the sale. All items are only $5 each but anyone who donates 3 or more CLEAN pieces can make a purchase for only $3/piece. Cash or checks will be accepted. Sorry, no trades. The last sale of the school year is huge so please help us bless the Aquinas families with your generous donations. There are many uniform items located in the school’s lost and found area. All items not claimed by June 10th will be donated to the Used Uniform Sale.

Questions? Please contact Patricia Kormos mark.kormos1@verizon.net

REBATE PROGRAMS

We are in need of volunteers to help with the rebate programs preparing labels from the different programs for submission. This is a great volunteer opportunity for working parents who want to
help but are unable to during the school day. Help as little or as much as you can. You can check out all our rebate programs at http://aquinastars.org/parents/pto/#rebate
Please contact Judy Petrak at 571-330-5847 or judypetrak@yahoo.com

THE COKE REWARDS PROGRAM
We are no longer allowed to submit coke rewards as a school. Instead, you can enter them online at: https://www.mycokerewards.com/content/home.html and donate your Coke Rewards points to Aquinas.

MONTHLY ROSARY COMMITMENT
See the attached form for the opportunity to support Aquinas with monthly rosary.

PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE
See the attached form for the opportunity to have the statue visit your home for a week.

FAMILY CARE PROGRAM
Meal Coordinator- Cecille Combs 703-590-0707. Please see the PTO page of the school website for more information about this program.

PARENTS IN PRAYER

Let Us Pray:

For Pope Francis, that God will continue to guide him and give him strength to lead his sheep.

For the special intentions of St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School.

For Thomas Blubaugh, grandfather of Sister Kateri Rose O.P., for the grace of final perseverance.

For Patrick Blubaugh, Uncle of Sister Kateri Rose O.P., for physical and spiritual healing.

For the McGuire family, friends of the Owen family, that God will give them strength and healing.

For Raymond Bazan, father of Mrs. Emmanuel and Father Mike Bazan, that God will grant him strength and healing.

For the repose of the soul of Col. Donald Lee Chu, father of Aquinas Alumni Leilani and Katrina.

For Jonathan Brier, brother of Amanda, that God watches over him as he recovers from surgery.

For the repose of the soul of Colby Thomas Smith, former Aquinas student.
For **Hillary Towers**, mother to Aquinas students, Maria, Anna, Julia and Sarah Grace, that God will watch over her as she heals and give her strength.

For the repose of the soul of **Marty Katzenstein**, grandfather of Kayla Wilcox.

For **Shelby Mejia**, 8th grade Aquinas student, sister of Nicholas Rambo (pre-k), may the Lord be with you and hold you in the palm of His hand.

For **William Brandt**, grandfather of Tristin and father of Mrs. Youtz, that God’s grace will fortify him throughout his recovery.

For **Miguel Burset**, grandfather of Miguel and Elena, that God watches over him as he recovers from surgery.

For the continued recovery of **Sharon Crane**, grandmother of Rosie Lenz.

For **Alvaro Parada**, father of Anthony and Mariah Parada so God restore his health from cancer.

For the repose of the soul of **Marge DiLudovico**, Grandmother of Morgan and Jacob’s Wisneski.

For the repose of the soul of **Jean Demos**, great-grandmother of Nicholas and Joseph Spadafore and Lauren Haakon.

**Our Holy Father’s Prayer Intentions:**

**Universal: Respect for Women**
That in every country of the world, women may be honored and respected and that their essential contribution to society may be highly esteemed.

**Evangelization: Holy Rosary**
That families, communities, and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelization and peace.

*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 mmaylewis@gmail.com*

**Other**

**JOIN CUB SCOUTS**
All boys entering 1st through 5th grade next fall, come to a special **Join-Scouting Night**, May 25th at 6:30pm, in the Aquinas auditorium. Find out what scouting is all about. See the attached **flyer** and **pamphlet** for more information.
O'CONNELL OFFERS PRE-HSPT
Bishop O'Connell High School will offer the Practice High School Placement Test (Pre-HSPT) for 7th graders again this year. The test will be offered on May 21 at Bishop O'Connell. We are now accepting registrations on our website. Families can register for the test and find out more information here: http://www.bishopoconnell.org/page.cfm?p=1152

MARRYMOUNT KIDS SUMMER CAMPS
Marymount University announces a new summer camp for children ages 6-12 called 3E: Explore, Enrich, Enjoy. The camp is supported by Marymount education students under the guidance of Department of Education faculty and alumni. Discounts for Catholic school students! More information is in the attached flyer.

COLBY’S RIDE
Thank you to all who joined in a celebration of life to honor Colby Smith and support Colby’s Ride at Colby’s Caped Crusader’s 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run on May 14, 2016. This was a great race through Lakeridge that ended with a family fun day at Woodbridge Sr. High School. All proceeds from the race went to Colby’s Ride.

CATHOLIC CAMPS FOR THEATRE & ART
Expert Instructors in Drama, Music, Dance, and Art are providing one week camps this July for students as young as Pre-K and as old as High School. Learn from some of the area’s top Catholic teachers within the creative arts through camps like Camp Broadway, Art Explorer, Drama Bootcamp, Creative Kindergarten, and Art Fun Camp. Registration is $10 off per camp through May 31st. Plus, families registering 3 or more kids can take an additional 10% off. All of the details can be found at www.SpotlightSummerCamps.com

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY FOR FAMILIES
Bill Donaghy, Curriculum Specialist at the Theology of the Body Institute in Pennsylvania, offers "Five Ways to Live the Theology of the Body in Your Family."