

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

March 4, 2010

Dear Aquin Preschool and Elementary parents, grandparents, and guardians:

Our Aquin students continue to shine within the Freeport community. On February 9th, the kindergarteners shared a Valentine's Day program that they had prepared with some of the seniors at Provena St. Joseph's Center. The time spent was not only entertaining for all but was so well-received that Mrs. Feiner and her little troupe were invited to return for an encore Easter visit. On behalf of the Aquin community, I want to acknowledge and commend the entire class's efforts in reaching out to those who are lonely. It is certainly important for our little ones to learn to put Christ's message of love into action in such a very positive way. Likewise, I would also like to congratulate the 6th graders upon their outstanding performance at the YMCA as they participated in the "Going for the Gold" program on February 25th. I received a telephone call from YMCA personnel addressing the incredible behavior and manners shown throughout the morning by our Aquin 6th grade class. What an outstanding compliment and I sincerely find this to be rooted in the messages and modeling that they youngsters are receiving in the combined efforts of home and school. Thank you for allowing us to work with your wonderful children; such reports do reinforce the value of learning in a faith-based Catholic family environment.

Last evening, a Parent Meeting was held in order to introduce the Diocese of Rockford's *Formation in Christian Chastity (for Grades 1-8) and Safe Environment Program (For Grades 1, 3, 5 and 8)*. The program(s) lessons are in-

cluded in booklet-form in today's family brown envelope. Please know that your child(ren)'s teacher will provide you with the timing of the lessons, but it is important for you to review and go over the home lessons with your children prior to the school lessons, which are then geared at reinforcing the material that you go over together as a family. The numbered, yellow-covered packet that you are receiving today includes both the materials for home and the school (grade level) lessons plans. These are for your use throughout the instructional time. **Upon completion of the mini-course, please be sure to return the booklet to the teacher through your student.** We plan to re-use these from year-to-year as appropriate. Please understand that the main premise of these lessons is centered around the idea that parents are the primary educators of their children in addition to the need for us to keep all children safe. (Please refer to Bishop Doran's letter at the front of the booklet.) Additional information and the curriculum are available through the Rockford Diocesan website at www.ceorockford.org: access 'Child Safety' on the toolbar.

The Lenten Season reminds us to reflect upon Christ's sufferings as we walk with Jesus on His road to Calvary. Our small sacrifices centering around prayer, fasting, and almsgiving do help us to stay focused upon God's incredible love for us all. Acting in Christ's image, as Christ reached out to the less fortunate, may we act on His behalf in helping those in need and hearing the cry of the poor.

Please turn over —>

NEWS AND REMINDERS:

DISCOVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Discovery Room is in need of volunteers to help out on Wednesday, March 17th, for the "St. Patrick's Day Festival". We are looking for parents/ grandparents that could help out on this day with the scheduled activities (reminder all volunteers must have the appropriate Diocesan required forms on file), please contact the school office at 815-232-6416 if you are able to help. Thank you!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: On Friday, March 5th, Mrs. Yeoman's fourth grade class will lead the K-6 students in praying the Stations of the Cross. All are invited to come to St. Joseph Church at 2:30 p.m. for this Lenten devotion.

LENTEN MISSION UPDATE: As of Wednesday, March 3, the 2-day through sixth grade students have donated \$307.47 toward our Lenten cause "Help Feed the Poor". Our goal is to raise \$1000 and fill the bulletin boards with cut outs of many needed items. (Each cut out represents \$25 in donations)



NO BUSING HOME: FSD#145 has a 3 hour day on Friday, March 12, 2010; therefore, busing is only available TO school in the morning and there will be **NO BUSING HOME** from school on this day.

PROTECTING GODS' CHILDREN SESSION:

There is a Protecting Gods' Children Session scheduled for Monday, March 15th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church in Lena. The facilitator for this Session will be Louise Kloepping. Please call 815-369-2810 to register. *Just a Reminder: in order to volunteer it is required by the Rockford Diocese that you attend a PGC Session and you must have the proper volunteer paperwork on file.*

SCRIP FORMS NEEDED: Thank you to those families that turned their extra blank scrip order forms. As a reminder, please continue to return any blank forms that you are not using.

EXTENDED CARE: The February Extended Care statements will be sent out at the beginning of next week.

HOT LUNCH: There is a hot lunch form in today's brown envelope for the following dates March 15th-26th. If you did not receive one please contact the office at 815-232-6416.

AQUIN PLAY TICKETS:

Tickets for Aquin's production of "Grease" are on sale now. Performances will be held in the Aquin Auditorium on the following dates:



- Friday, March 19 - 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 20 - 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 21 - 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are 'reserved seating' so buy your tickets early to get the best available seats. Ticket prices are: •\$7 adults •\$5 seniors •\$5 Students •Free (children 3 and under)

Tickets may be purchased in the Aquin Junior-Senior High Student Office at 1419 South Galena Avenue. Office hours are Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tickets will also be sold at the door, if available. Any questions, please contact Barb Hemesath at 815-235-3154, ext. 221.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Wednesday, March 17th -Leprechaun Salad Luncheon at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, serving is from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the O'Neill Center.
- Wednesday, March 17th -Discovery Room "St. Patrick's Day Festival" and Jeans/Green Top Day.
- Thursday, March 18th -Research Fair at the Elementary Campus, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

As always, God's peace...

Mrs. Diane Potts
Principal

