

**From the Superintendent's Office...**  
***January, 2010***

January 18, 2010

Dear Parents,

We have just concluded our participation in the recent U.S. Cellular "Calling All Communities" contest - whew! Competing in the contest, which involved trying to achieve the greatest number of votes possible in order to be one of the top ten schools in the United States, was a huge challenge but one that was met with skill, determination, great teamwork, and, of course, a bit of fun!

The results of the contest will not be announced until some time in February or March. However, the effects of our goal to become a winning school became apparent even before the contest ended and, hopefully, will continue in the future. People worked together in a spirit of unity, cooperation, and dedication to a common purpose. I am proud and humbled at the effort that was made by our students, parents, alumni, and the Freeport area community. In addition, after we learned we were in 39<sup>th</sup> place (out of 6,000 schools), we sent participation information to all the schools in the Rockford Diocese and to our nation-wide mailing list of 3,000 people (alumni, donors, and supporters).

Thank you, especially, to those who led the effort, traveled many, many miles, and put in a countless number of hours to ensure that, as a coach would say, "We left it on the floor!" The facts that most parents and students participated in the competition and worked together in harmony illustrated the power of a group united in a common cause. Regardless of the outcome of the contest, this example was a valuable learning lesson for our children and will continue to be a source of pride for all of us.

Our school system will continue to face challenges, especially, economic ones. It is reassuring to know that the spirit is alive at Aquin, and that any challenge will be met with determination, creativity, and perseverance. It is a legacy we have received from previous Aquin generations. Our U.S. Cellular endeavor demonstrates that the commitment to provide an education for our children in a safe, Christian, and academically successful atmosphere is alive and well!

Most sincerely,

Kathleen Runte  
Superintendent