

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

February 11, 2010

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

Groundhog's Day, February 2nd, subtly arrived and quickly passed with what appeared to be no real weather-influencing impact at all. In the Midwest, the fuzzy critter's report was a positive one: an early spring was to gain hold. In the eastern part of the country, the report assured all that the country was destined for 6 more weeks of winter. The threat of severe weather has cancelled a number of school activities over the past few days. Maybe a new animal should be recruited to lead the country in predicting the onset of spring, one that would have difficulty finding its shadow - one very large in size or perhaps a mole, which wouldn't see its shadow at all. This would allow for more consistency at least. We can certainly find the beauty in God's wintry handiwork if we slow down life's pace briefly and yet we look forward to the arrival of new life and the wonder of His creation this spring.

Last Friday of Catholic Schools Week found the Aquin School System faculty, staff, and students sharing the day together. The morning began with Mass at St. Thomas Church concelebrated by Father Bolger and Msgr. McDonnell. Students from all grade levels served in being a part of that system-wide service. As Mass came to the end, several students from the high school were inducted into the National Honor Society. The entire first half of the day was one of experiencing the Lord's presence and celebrating His love with one another, the epitome of closure among the special events of Catholic Schools Week. In the afternoon the junior and senior high school students joined the preschool and

elementary students at the elementary campus to share time together. The older students had a chance to experience the lower and middle grades all over again! A special thank you is extended to the elementary teachers who planned and hosted the day's activities, which covered math, science, art, and PE. From the faces seen and the laughter heard, I believe it was a most unifying day where all truly felt Christ within the Aquin School community. Such bonding of faith and joy certainly strengthens the students' abilities to see the Lord in others.

I would like to ask that you help spread the word about the exceptional spiritual and academic environment that the Aquin Catholic School System offers. We would love to invite other families to consider joining and sharing with us within this special Christ-centered Catholic atmosphere in the very near future.

Do make sure to enjoy this longer four day weekend. Attend Mass as a family and then perhaps find a way to enjoy special time together—create some lovely memories with your wonderful children!

NEWS AND REMINDERS:

NO BROWN ENVELOPE NEXT WEEK: The information in today's brown envelope will cover the next two weeks. There will be no brown envelope next week due to no school on Monday.

HOT LUNCH: There is a hot lunch order form included in today's brown envelope. If you did not receive it and would like one, please contact the school office.

(PLEASE TURN OVER)

MIDTERMS: The cut-off date for midterms is Tuesday, February 16. The students in grades 4-6 will bring home their mid-term grades on Friday, February 19. So that we know you received your child's mid-term report, please sign it and return it to school the following Monday.

BURNING OF PALMS: On Tuesday, February 16, at 10:15 a.m. Msgr. McDonnell will come to the Aquin Elementary Campus to burn last year's blessed palms. The third grade students will witness and participate in this palm burning ceremony, thus learning how the palms become the ashes, which are used at the Ash Wednesday services at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish the next day. If they have them, on this Tuesday, the third grade students are invited to bring last year's blessed palms from their homes to also be burned during this special ceremony.

ASH WEDNESDAY: February 17 is Ash Wednesday and begins the holy season of Lent. On this day, the K-6 students will attend Mass, which begins at 9:15 a.m. All are invited to attend Mass and receive the blessed ashes with our students.

The **FIRST EXTRAVAGANZA EARLY BIRD DRAWING** will be held at Aquin on Thursday, February 18, at the boys' (Senior Night) basketball game vs. Dakota. Fresh/Soph begins at 6:00, with Varsity following.

The prizes are as follows:

Prize	Amount
1 st Prize	\$400
2 nd Prize	\$200
3 rd Prize	Free ticket

PRESCHOOL PAJAMA DAY: The preschool students will have a pajama day because they are learning all about the letter "P".

- 2-day class on Thursday, Feb. 18.
- 3-day & 5-day classes on Friday, Feb. 19.

MARKET DAY: Market Day orders are due on Friday, February 19 and the orders can be picked up on Tuesday, February 23.

POST PROM BOWLING: Saturday, February 20, at the 4-Seasons Lanes from 9-11:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to support a safe

and fun-filled post prom for our high school students.

REGIONAL SPELLING BEE: The regional Spelling Bee is scheduled for Monday, February 22, at Pearl City. Good luck! To our Aquin contestants: TomE Fellers (Gr. 6) and Rachel Harn (Gr. 7).

GOING FOR THE GOLD: As a reminder, the fourth grade class will participate in the YMCA program Going For The Gold on Tuesday, February 23 and the sixth grade students will participate on Thursday, February 25.

JEAN DAY: Wednesday, February 23 is a jean day.

CSW COIN COLLECTION: Bravo! The elementary and preschool students together collected approximately \$967.25 for the Pontius family.



LEPRECHAUN SALAD LUNCHEON

PUBLICITY: Enclosed in this week's brown envelope is a full-page green flyer with information on the Leprechaun Salad Luncheon. We ask you to help us with publicity. Please take this flyer to your place of business or work and if permitted, post it there. If you need more flyers, please contact the school office. Thank you in advance for helping us out with the publicity!

EXTRAVAGANZA REMINDERS:

Ladies Luncheon- Friday, March 5: Responses are due on February, 26th.

Class Baskets: The items were due today for the Elementary "Class Baskets". If you would still like to donate items or money towards your a class basket, please contact Dawn Carlson at 815-233-5775.

\$100 Extravaganza Raffle Ticket: If you would like to purchase a \$100 Extravaganza raffle ticket, please contact either school office or you can contact John Carlson at 815-233-5775.

As always, God's peace...

Mrs. Diane Potts
Principal