



AQUIN BULLDOG BITES

March 2024

info@aquinschools.org



Aquin Catholic Schools
1419 S. Galena Ave Freeport



815-235-3154

Food Drive

Aquin Servant Leaders held their Let Love Lead Giving Hearts Food Drive and were able to collect over 2,500 items. Thank you to the Aquin Community and all they helped provide! Servant Leaders were able to deliver food to FACC, Salvation Army, Highland Community College, and St. John's Church - Pearl City. Mrs. Chris Koester's 4th Grade class helped pack the backpacks at St. John's with all the food they had collected!



Young Artists

Students from different grades were able to represent Aquin's Art Department (Mr. Ted Michalsen-Art Teacher) at the Freeport Art Museum's Aspiring Artist show. 4th Grader Lucy Prall was awarded first place with her watercolor painting for grades Kindergarten-5th Grade! Congratulations!



Upcoming Events

MAR 28-APR 5	EASTER & SPRING BREAK
APR 10	Senior (12th Grade) Retreat w/ Father McMorrow @ Illinois State University
APR 13	Aquin Extravaganza Grand River Hall @ 5:00 pm
APR 16	Council of Administration Meeting 6:00 pm - Aquin Cafeteria
APR 17	Aquin Music Spring Festival Kindergarten-6th Grade - 6:00 pm JH/HS Choirs - 7:00 pm

Theater

Aquin senior Grayce Busker, sophomore Grace Beggin, and 7th grader Bode Peters took to the stage with the Orangeville/Aquin production of The Nerd!



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Family Read Night

Aquin PTO hosted a family reading night to kick off Read Across America! Lots of fun and reading activities - reading in tents, story by the campfire, camping Mad Libs and bookmarks, and so much more!



Solo & Ensemble

Aquin Music Department was represented at IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest by three amazingly talented high school students, Senior Delaney Munda, Senior Grayce Busker, and Sophomore Grace Beggin! All receiving first place awards for their performances.



Senior Delaney Munda was also awarded Perfect Score and Best of the Day awards for her vocal solo!

5th & 6th Grade Science

Mrs. Amy Johnson's 5th & 6th Grade science class has been hard at work with learning about food webs! A lot of collaboration and learning!



Students of the Month

March Responsible
(Reliable, Punctual, Sensible)

High School - Hanna Broge
Junior High - Elise Beggin
Elementary - Isaac Freeman

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Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is a week of celebrating our faith-based education together as a school community (Preschool through 12th grade)! We had lots of fun with dress up days, an all-school mass, and Little Dawg/Big Dawg day, as well as kicking off of our successful food drive!



Servant Leaders

Our Aquin Servant Leaders delivered their \$1,300 check to New Horizons Counseling Services yesterday! The students shared their mental health awareness efforts with the director and he shared with them the impact their donation will make! That one check may provide up to 65 counseling sessions for those who cannot afford services when deeply in need!



Upcoming Events

MAR 1

Family Read Night hosted by Aquin PTO
6:00-7:30 pm

MAR 6

Spring Blood Drive - Aquin Gym Lobby
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

MAR 23

Breakfast with Bunny hosted by Aquin PTO
More Details to follow

MAR 26

Culver's Concrete for a Cause
Aquin Servant Leadership - Hearts and Hands for Hunger Project

MAR 28-APR 5

EASTER & SPRING BREAK

6th Grade

Mrs. Nicole Broge and her 6th Grade class worked hard on their man made sites research projects! Students chose a man made site and worked through the writing process (notecards, outline, rough draft, edit, and final draft) and then created a small replica of their project. Way to go 6th graders!



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Aquin Music

Mrs. Heidi Spotts-Manthey and the Aquin Music Department were represented at Pueri Cantores in Chicago, a Youth Choral Festival & Mass for grades 4-12 with other Illinois Catholic School choirs. It was an unforgettable experience and amazing representation of our Bulldogs!



CareerTec Mall of Life

Aquin Junior High Students attended the Mall of Life at Highland Community College hosted by CareerTec. The students were part of a simulation in which they had to pay bills, get insurance, go to the doctor, buy groceries, etc. They had to keep their checking account balanced and budget accordingly to see what they could get after necessities were taken care of. Thank you CareerTec for an amazing real life lessons and experiences!



100th Day of School

We celebrated our 100th Day of School and had lots of fun dressing the part of a 100 year old person and learning so much about the number 100!



Students of the Month

**February
Faithful**

**(Christ-centered, lives by morals,
forgiving)**

High School - Addison Angelilli
Junior High - Matthew Lester
Elementary - Soren Musser

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January 2024

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Goodwill Drive

The Aquin Student Board held their Goodwill Collection Drive this month. They collected clothing and household items for our local Goodwill. The collection was a great success!



Chess Club

Father McMorrow and Mrs. Uli Dornhagen have ignited the spark in our junior high and high school students by starting Chess Club twice a week!



Upcoming Events

JAN 28-FEB 3	Catholic Schools Week
FEB 13	Council of Administration Meeting 6:00 pm
FEB 15	Family Bingo Night - More Details to follow Preschool-6th Grade
FEB 19	No School - President's Day
MAR 6	Spring Blood Drive - Aquin Gym Lobby 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Girls Basketball

Come out and see our Lady Bulldogs on the court in their last few weeks of regular season!



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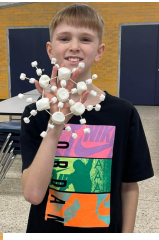


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Family STEM Night



Our family STEM (science, technology, energy, mathematics) night was full of fun, problem-solving, and community! Students were able to participate in different STEM projects from fizzing snowballs to catapults to snowflakes!



Aquin Preschool

Mrs. Claudia Wenzel and her preschoolers are having lots of fun this month! Science light table with ice cubes, polar bear dots, and snowflake cookie cutter painting. Even Ms. Ainsley (High School Intro to Education student) had some fun too!



PTO Family Bowling

So much fun at the Family Bowling Night hosted by our Aquin PTO! Lots of strikes, laughs, and community all in one night!



Students of the Month

January

Honest

(Integrity, Confidentiality, Truthful)

High School - Jasmyn London

Junior High - Kinleigh Jones

Elementary - Kelly Stauffer



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December 2023

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Aquin Music Christmas Programs

The Aquin Music Department, directed by Mrs. Heidi Spotts-Manthey, performed beautifully this Christmas Season! Kindergarten through 6th grade with a few high school performers told the story of Jesus' birth through the view of the stars with their Christmas program, Star of Wonder. The following evening, the Aquin Junior and Senior High School Choirs shared their talents at their wonderful Christmas concert!



Virtual Giving Trees

Aquin Servant Leaders ran their third annual virtual giving tree and thanks to an amazingly supportive community were able to wrap and deliver all of the gifts on eight local children's Christmas wish lists and items for six children from the St. Thomas Aquinas Church giving tree! Thank you to all those who supported and made us able to spread Christmas blessings!



Upcoming Events

DEC 21-JAN 2	Winter Break
JAN 13	Aquin PTO Family Bowling Night 6:00-8:00 pm
JAN 15	No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
JAN 16	Council of Administration Meeting 6:00 pm
JAN 25	Family Fun Night - Details to follow Preschool-3rd Grade

Rotary Exchange

Aquin Senior, Regan Curry, presented her student exchange trip to the members of the Freeport Noon Rotary. Through this program Regan and her family hosted a student from France this summer for a month and then travelled with that student back to France to live with her family for a month.

Through the Rotary Exchange Program, Regan was able to learn and experience so much and will be returning to visit her French family over Christmas Break!



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Williams Tree Farm Field Trip

Aquin Preschool through 3rd grade headed to the Williams Tree Farm this month! Students were able to learn about cutting down a Christmas tree, how the tree farm began, how to make wreaths with evergreens, take a wagon ride through the trees, and see new puppies, reindeer, and other animals. It was a great day!



Boys Basketball



Aquin boys basketball began their co-op with Orangeville this season and have had a lot of success on the court! Several of our Aquin Bulldogs are on the floor with the Orangeville Varsity and JV teams! Check out their schedule and come see them play!

Gingerbread Family Fun Night

Aquin Elementary teachers hosted a family fun night for the entire community with kids preschool through 3rd grade. Many kids and families shared in making gingerbread houses, gingerbread crafts, and so much more! Another family fun night in January is already in the works and we can't wait to share with everyone! Bring your family and friends for an evening of fun and activities!



Students of the Month

December Scholarly

(Critical Thinker, Motivated, Focused, Proactive)

High School - Zavion McClain
Junior High - Andrew Holder
Elementary - Caleb Siedschlag



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Mental Health Week

Aquin Servant Leadership wanted to raise awareness for mental health and planned many things for the entire school to get involved! Glow in the Darkness Walk with 115+ walkers, Therapy Day with the therapy dogs at school, Comfort Day with stuffed animals and pajamas, Affirmation Day with nametags specifically selected for every student and staff member, and Stressed Day with desserts! Did you know Stressed spelled backwards is Desserts?! Along with Servant Leaders discussing feelings and emotions throughout the week with our elementary students through activities and stories!



Father McMorrow

All of our students (preschool-12th grade) love their weekly interactions with Father McMorrow in their classrooms! Father visits every classroom once per week and shares about faith and answers questions of the students along with saying our two weekly masses. His presence is a blessing! Thank you Father!



Upcoming Events

NOV 29-30	Wednesday - Kindergarten through 6th Grade Christmas Program Thursday - Junior & Senior High Choir Concert
DEC 12	Council of Administration Meeting 6:00 pm
DEC 18-20	Junior High & High School Final Exams
DEC 21-JAN 2	Winter Break
JAN 13	Aquin PTO Family Bowling Night 6:00-8:00 pm

Colby Smith Memorial

The Colby Smith Memorial 4-Mile Classic committee presented a \$15,000 check to superintendent Elizabeth Heitkamp. The donation included proceeds from the four-mile race and scholarship drive and will be added to the Colby Smith Scholarship Fund. Next year's run will be held on Saturday, August 24, 2024 and will continue to support scholarships for Aquin students.



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Pumpkin Science

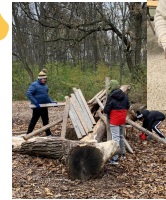
Mrs. Claudia Wenzel's Preschool class was working hard investigating the different textures of pumpkins and measuring them with math cubes

and measuring tapes with their Intro to Education helper, Ainsley Stovall.



6th Grade

Mrs. Nicole Broge's 6th Grade class has been staying busy! This month they completed their research projects on South or Central American countries and they were fantastic and their hard work showed! They also took to nature on their field trip to Severson Dells. They learned a lot despite the snow!



Veteran's Day

To celebrate Veteran's Day, we welcomed Blake Musser (father of Aquin students, Hazel and Soren) from the United States Marine Corps. Blake visited all students (preschool through 12th grade) and shared about his military journey, service, honors, and so much more!

Thank you Blake for your service and thank you to all the service men and women for all you have done! Our Bulldogs will always be praying for you!



Students of the Month

November
Service-Oriented
(Attentive, Voluntary, Serves
Community, Caring)

High School - Sierra Rogers
Junior High - Jillian Carlisle
Elementary - Lucy Prall

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Voices of Stephenson County

Servant Leaders and Student Board decided to collect for VOICES of Stephenson County at our two back to school night and through Homecoming week. We delivered over 18 tubs of items to the shelter from household cleaning supplies to diapers to paper products to laundry and dish soap to hygiene products!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month! We are blessed to be able to bless others through the generosity of our Aquin community!



Aquin Volleyball

Aquin Lady Bulldogs are looking forward to post-season being hosted here at Aquin! They have had a great season so far so let's hope we #keepdancing!

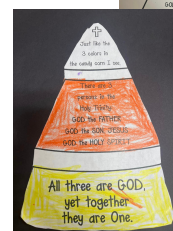


Upcoming Events

NOV 4	Glow in the Darkness Walk Mental Health Awareness - Aquin Servant Leadership 6:30-7:30 Highland Community College Parking Lot A
NOV 7	Fall Blood Drive - Aquin Servant Leadership 8:00-2:00 - Aquin Gym Lobby
NOV 9-10	Parent Teacher Conferences Early Dismissal - Thurs No School - Fri
NOV 22-24	Thanksgiving Break
NOV 29-30	Weds - Kindergarten-6th Grade Christmas Program @ 6:00 pm Thurs - Aquin Choir concert @ 6:00 pm

Religion

Learning about the Holy Trinity with candy corn!
Always fun ways to talk about religion when Halloween is around the corner!



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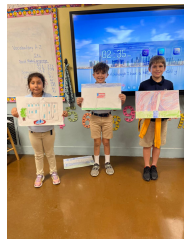
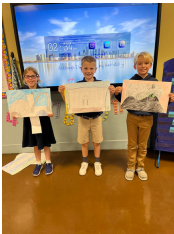
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4th Grade Research Projects

Mrs. Chris Koester's fourth grade class researched and presented their projects about different symbols of the United States. They did an excellent job researching, writing, drawing, and presenting!



Field Trip

Mrs. Katie Morhardt's Third Grade class headed to Oakdale Nature Preserve for a great educational field trip called "Keepers of the Land".

The students learned all about trees, water, animals, and so much more!



Courage for Cade

We wore orange to collect money for Cade Rudy of Forrester! The Aquin community wanted to show their support while he battles Leukemia! We are praying for you, Cade! You are not fighting alone!



Students of the Month

**October
Inspirational**
(Role-Model, Genuine, Welcoming,
Kind)

High School - Delaney Munda
Junior High - Kortlyn Koch
Elementary - Skylar Reeves

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Servant Leadership

The Aquin community came together to help Servant Leaders raise funds to help Aquin alum and former football coach, Dan Blackburn and his family after their home suffered major damage from Hurricane Idalia. They were able to raise and give The Blackburn Family \$2,000 in monetary gifts and gift cards.



Field Trip

Preschool through 3rd grade took a field trip to Dittmar Farms to check out the apple orchard and enjoy some apple cider donuts and apple cider! Fun was had by all, including the teachers, parents, and Intro to Education students!



Upcoming Events

SEPT 26	Keeper's of the Land Field Trip - 3rd Grade - Oakdale Park
SEPT 27	Golf Regionals - Wolf Hollow (Lena)
OCT 9-10	No School - Columbus Day and Institute Day
OCT 11	6:00 pm - PTO Meeting - Aquin Library
OCT 28	5:00-7:00 - Trunk or Treat - Aquin PTO Contact tia.heimerdinger@aquinschools.org if you would like to have a trunk!

Aquin Golf

The tiny but mighty Aquin Golf team has had a great year! Wish them luck as they head into post-season!

Brant Carlson
Colton Veruchi
Anthony Garcia
Coach Pospischil



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Homecoming 2023



Homecoming 2023

Coronation (King Neo Anotaisinthawee & Queen Delaney Munda)

All School Mass with Father McMorro

High School Community Service Projects (YMCA Childcare Center, 500 sandwiches made and delivered to Miss Carly's, and made cards for those in need)

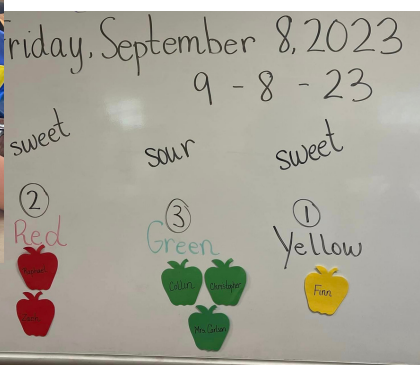
Homecoming Volleyball Game and Pep Rally

Homecoming Dance in the courtyard

50th Year Combined Class Reunion

Dress Up Days (Pajama Day, Barbie vs Ken Day, Decade Day, Class Color Day, and Movie Character Day)

Apple Science



Mrs. Dawn Carlson and her first grade class working with apples. They taste tested the different colored apples, did an experiment to see which apples would float (big or small, different colors, etc.), and made apple volcanoes!

Students of the Month

**September
Positive**

(Willing, Enthusiastic, Optimistic)

High School - Paityn London

Junior High - Norah Rowan

Elementary - Christopher Alvarez Viveros