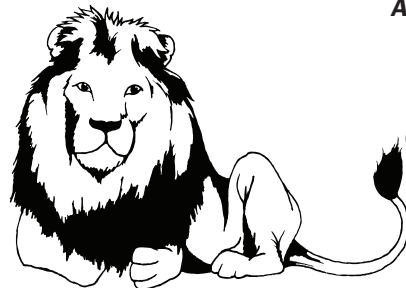


The Crown Prints

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Aquinas Catholic
3420 MN Rd
David City, NE
68632
(402) 367-3175

Monarchs work their 'magic' at state

Aquinas Catholic One Acts become back-to-back state champions



By Kolby Baer

Behold, *The Great Houdini!* Senior Travis Roh stepped into the role of Mr. Harry Houdini, the best magician of the late 1900's for Aquinas' 2019 one act season.

B. Dwayne Craft wrote "The Last Illusion." This story goes through the life and memories of Harry Houdini, a master of misdirection and magic, as his life grows into being one of the most popular magicians in the world. He showcases some of his tricks, leading up to his last and final illusion, the infamous water chamber.

Aquinas' one act cast and crew, along with director Mrs. Ann Heermann, traveled to Norfolk for the 2019 One Act state competition. The team had received first place, crowning them champions of Class C1, becoming back to back state champions. Travis Roh earned Best Male Actor for Class C1 for his portrayal of Harry Houdini, along with Morgan Littlefield and Elizabeth Aschoff receiving honorable mentions for their performances.

To advance to state, the cast and crew traveled to Centennial for the district competition of their 2019 season. Malcolm High school earned second place. "The judges said themselves that this was the hardest district in the state. Malcolm was our biggest competition, and it came down to the talented acting that allowed us to win," Roh said.

The thespians ventured to Central Com-

munity College in Columbus to compete in Centennial Conference tournament. They received first place with Roh achieving the "Best Male Actor" award for the conference.

During the regular season, the cast and crew of "The Last Illusion" performed at Midland College. Their performance received second place during the competition. The cast and crew also traveled to Norfolk at the beginning of the season and received third place in competition.

According to Heermann, a person's willingness to work, along work ethic and experience makes him a great actor. "One thing I did was that I researched [Houdini's] personal life. I watched some films and some documentaries. I tried to put myself into his life," Roh said. Roh was also named the Best Male Actor in last year's one act season production.

According to Junior Macy Moravec, the play had improved and had several changes throughout the season. "My character started off static, but it was built up into a flirty assistant," Moravec said. "We never settled on improving overall," added Roh.

Heermann says she loves directing. She has been directing the competition one act at Aquinas for about 20 years. She currently has three state championships, along with several other state appearances.

TOP: Seniors Travis Roh and Libby Aschoff argue in a scene about Houdini not eating enough. The one act competed at four other competitions before state. Roh and Aschoff received acting recognition at each of the four competitions. **MIDDLE:** Senior Wyatt Moravec and freshman Mara Yindruck argue in character about attending one of Houdini's performances. Moravec has helped and performed in the drama department for the past three years. Yindruck made her debut on the Aquinas stage as a fan of Houdini's magic. **BOTTOM:** Junior Jude Yindruck explains how Houdini's magic affected him as his brother. Yindruck played Houdini's brother Theo. Yindruck and Roh worked closely together to recreate the magical illusions of the Houdini brothers during the performances. *Photos by J. Brown.*



Seniors serve justice

Expressing virtuosity through fun

By Libby Aschoff

Imagine leaving home with nothing and starting over in a foreign country. The Senior Class has chosen to help such refugees as their social justice project for the year.

Every year the Senior Class chooses a person or group of people in need and goes out of their way to help them. According to senior religion teacher Fr. Ben Holdren, the class talked to Katie Hile, who works in the transitioning of immigrants. She informed the class about certain Ukrainian and Iraqi immigrants who are coming to Lincoln, Nebraska.

Holdren first heard about this issue after speaking with Fr. Justin Fulton, head of Catholic Social Services. Holdren informed the Senior Class about this issue, and the seniors decided what they wanted to do to help.

“The whole class really liked the idea and felt called to help those people,” senior Maria Buresh said. The seniors will help the refugees by “visiting, building relationships with, and raising funds for them.” Senior Class president Nathan Junck added that he hopes to help the refugees by “giving them a safe community to live in without any worries or means of disruption with their family life.”

“With immigrants and refugees, they’ve left everything to come to a completely new world. This project has lots of life changing potential,” Holdren said. The Senior Class has made plans to visit these refugees and help pay for necessities for everyday life, as well as other items to make them feel at home in America.

The Senior Class held a bake sale in the halls of Aquinas for a week in October with all proceeds going toward helping buy items for these refugees. “The seniors are showing the refugees that there are people out there who are willing to help them,” Junck said. Buresh added, “We are also changing the lives of our classmates because we are being exposed to something more serious than we’ve ever had the opportunity to see or experience before.” The seniors also sponsored a dodgeball tourna-

ment with proceeds going to the project.

“It is the duty of every good person, especially Christians, to see Jesus in the poor and realize that how we treat them is how we treat Him,” Holdren said. Buresh agreed with this philosophy and added, “We should use our time and talents to serve those in need.”

Buresh and Junck both expect that this project will bring the Senior Class closer. “When everyone is together doing the right thing, it builds friendship,” Junck said. Buresh believes that this project will greatly impact the seniors and help them to “become more compassionate and understanding towards other people’s situations.”

Buresh enjoys helping people on a much larger scale than she is typically able to do in a small town. Junck says he looks forward to meeting the little kids of the refugee families, but also has concerns. “I don’t know how the kids will react to us right away, but hopefully, in time, we can build trust,” Junck said.



Senior Caden Kosizek and junior Rylan Chromy devise a plan, as they prepare to compete against another team. The teams competed against each other in elimination rounds for a prize. Photo by J. Roh.



BACK L to R: Nathan Albracht, Nolan Eller, Keegan Lavicky, Kyle Napier, Noah Scott, Caleb Thege. FRONT: Caitlyn Yindrick, Jady Siroky were the winning team of the first ever Aquinas Dodgeball Tournament. Each team designed creative uniforms to match the personality of the teammates. Photo by G. Wollmer



Wehrs: king of study guides

By Payton Davis

Aquinas High School science teacher Mr. John Wehrs provides useful study guides for his students. Wehrs does so to give his students an adequate review of the material before tests.

Wehrs provides the study aides for the benefit of his students. Wehrs' study guides consist of "a summary of everything that is going to be on the test" in order to refresh his students' memories.

According to junior anatomy student Benjamin Shonka, Wehrs's teaching style makes the teacher popular among his students. "[Wehrs] makes learning the material fun by adding weird analogies that I somehow remember," Shonka said.

Shonka also gives Wehrs credit for helping anatomy students in difficult areas of study. Shonka says Wehrs prepares students for these difficult areas by "making quizlets and a lot of repetition."

Sophomore biology student Ella Moravec

believes that most of her fellow students appreciate Wehrs' reviews. Moravec said, "I would say most appreciate [the reviews] because it helps them prepare for the test by providing possible answers on the test."

Wehrs also pushes his students to increase learning in different ways. "He often challenges us to refer back to our previous lessons and see how everything we learned is connected," Moravec said.

Wehrs hopes by giving his students study guides it will help prepare them for college. Wehrs said, "Hopefully through using study guides [students] will be able to make their own in college to prepare for exams."

Mr. John Wehrs show his school spirit during the recent dodgeball tournament, sponsored by the seniors of Aquinas. Wehrs is in his second year of teaching the biological sciences at Aquinas Catholic Schools. Photo by B Smith.



'Computing' the logic of computers

By Kolby Baer

The thought of how computers operate and crunch thousands of numbers in milliseconds is an interesting concept for many. High school social sciences teacher Mr. Seth Peirce and his six computer application students jumped in to explore this concept during the 2019-2020 school year.

Peirce requested and picked up teaching a brand-new class at Aquinas in Computer Applications II. "I am teaching the basics of coding apps and how computers run," Peirce said. "I plan on teaching the kids some useful computer skills they can hopefully use later in their life."

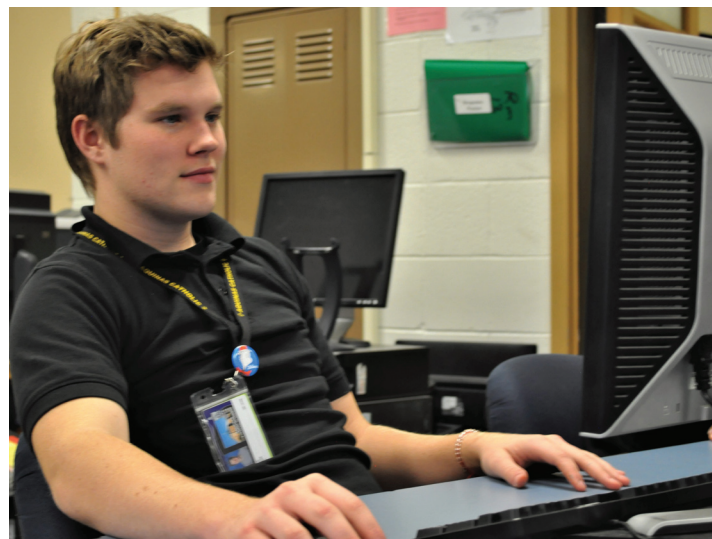
For a large part of the first quarter, Peirce had his six students create a functioning app as a project. "I'm creating a restaurant app that tells you all of their menus and where they are located in Butler County. I'm tired of eating at the same places, and I like to get variety," senior Nate Junck said. "I made a cooking app with Cameron Shrad as a group project," senior Noah Burwell added.

As a way to bring this coding knowledge to other students, the students in Computer Applications II taught the Computer

Application I students how to code. The students in Computer Apps I will also be creating a working and functioning app of their choice, as will the Computer Apps II students.

One of Peirce's goals was to teach the students a skill to be used later in life. "I'm going into the computer field for college, so this class does help me out," Burwell said.

There are some advantages and disadvantages for taking a higher level computer class. "[Computer applications] builds your knowledge with computers. A lot of the time, if you don't stay organized, you can get lost in the code," Junck said. "[Coding] is really hard to get started, but once you get going on your own, it gets really fun," Burwell added.



Junior Brett Kobza works on a project for class in one of the two computer labs rooms in the school. Currently, one of the school's improvement goals is to have the students exposed more to the technology available to them. In addition to the two computer lab rooms, the school also utilizes two "COW" (computers on wheels) labs that can be taken to any classroom. Photo by G Wollmer.



Welcoming Advent with music

By Blanca Bravo

Have yourself a merry little Christmas! Aquinas' students enrolled in music activities performed for their families at the Advent Concert this year to entertain and show new skills acquired.

The middle school band and choir, the sixth grade band and choir, and the high school band, choir and show choir recently performed at the annual concert. According to junior Julia Nemeč, who was a member of the three high school groups that performed, "It was a great experience to see everyone who came out to watch what we've worked on."

Mrs. Helen Ostdiek has been directing the school's band for the Advent Concert for around twenty-four years. "For the concert, I order the music and read through it with the students, and they pick what they like," Ostdiek said. The band has been preparing for the concert since the end of October,

when high school finished its marching band season.

This year Aquinas High School has a new choir teacher and show choir director.

Mr. Gabriel Haberman took over the choir

and show choir groups this year and directed his first Advent Concert at Aquinas. "Mr. Haberman worked very hard on details for the concert," Nemeč said.



Junior Macy Moravec, senior Libby Aschoff and junior Addie Zook provide holiday cheer with their performance with the high school choir at the annual Advent concert. The three girls also performed with the 24 member show choir. Photo by K. Baer.

Disney Plus: superheroes and princesses

By Jayci Roh

Late 90's and early 2000's kids are over the moon about Disney Plus. Now families are able to watch every Disney and Marvel show/movie thanks to Disney's business upgrade.

Disney Plus is an American subscription video on-demand streaming service. Disney Plus contains the best of Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, and National Geographic. Disney Plus was activated on November 12, 2019, making this streaming service available for at home and on the go with phones, computers and tablets. Not only did Disney Plus become available for America, the service is also available internationally.

Disney Plus offers a substantial savings to subscribers at a price of \$6.99 per month. Netflix cost \$9 a month and Hulu is \$5.99-\$44.99 per month, making a change in streaming service very attractive to many.

Disney has set a new bar for each of these streaming services. Disney Plus contains some key details other streaming services do not have. Disney Plus allows their subscribers to customize their profile from their extensive library collection. Users will also be allowed to download content of-

line, unlike Hulu.

According to junior Disney Plus subscriber Natalie Eller, she "wanted to watch the old Disney shows that were on Disney channel, especially 'Good Luck Charlie.'" Eller's favorite shows are "Good Luck Charlie," "Hannah Montana" and "Hannah Montana, the Movie."

While Disney Plus holds their high standards with bringing back top movies and shows, the service also provides other conveniences. "All the Disney shows are there, and you don't have to go to other streaming services to watch them," Eller said. Although the service provides many pros, it also has some drawbacks. "There's not a continue to watch [feature], you have to go back and search for the show you want," Eller said.

Disney Plus not only provides these shows to new audiences, but the service also is a reminder of childhood memories for some.

"Every Sunday my mom

and I would sit down and watch the new episodes of 'Good Luck Charlie,' so this reminds me of it," Eller said.

Sudoku

5		1				6		4
	9		3		6		5	
				9				
4								9
			1		9			
7								6
				2				
	8		5		7		6	
1		3				7		2



Girls basketball starts season strong

By Natalie Eller

The Aquinas girl's basketball team started the season off with solid wins. The team hopes to finish the season with a winning record, and with good leadership.

The team took on Howells-Dodge on in their first home match of the season. Senior captain Isabel Coufal said the team played pretty well. "[Howells-Dodge] is a physical team, and we had to play hard and physical to beat them." Junior guard Emily Eller added the team started off slowly, but then picked up after half and finished strong. The team won that game 41-33.

The team also had an early season competition with Shelby-Rising City at Shelby. Coufal said, "the team started off slowly, but wore down the Huskies more as the game advanced." The girls won that game 47-17.

The girls team has 19 players this season: 4 seniors, 5 juniors, 3 sophomores, and 8 freshmen. Coufal said, "She and the other seniors are trying to lead by example

by going 100% during practices." Coufal has a goal is to step up for the younger girls and be a good leader. The team goal is to have a winning record.

Since there is only four seniors, the junior girls have had to step up to varsity roles. Eller said, "The juniors have a bigger role now that last year's big senior class has graduated." Eller's personal goal is to give the team her all and to be big on defense when it is needed. Eller also added, "a big team goal is to win the "big games" in sub-districts and districts."

TOP: Junior forward Madison Jelinek and senior forward Isabel Coufal jump for the rebound in their game against Howells-Dodge. Both Jelinek and Coufal have been on the basketball team for their entire high school career. Photo by J. Roh

BOTTOM: Senior Macey Thege dribbles the ball down the court in their game against Howells-Dodge. Macey Thege is one of the senior captains for the 2019-20 basketball season. Photo by J. Roh



Middle school cagers works for success

By Gracyn Wollmer

The middle school girls basketball team learned to work together while having only three eighth graders. The seventh graders stepped up and took leadership roles in hopes of a successful season.

The girls basketball team recently competed against Seward. Both the "A" and "B" teams lost. Coach Dawn Bohuslavsky said, "Both teams hung pretty well, but we got worn out, and the 'B' team lost by 9." The "A" team lost 14-33 and the "B" team lost 10-19.

Against Utica Centennial, the "A" team won, but the "B" team lost. "We started slow, and the 'A' team was down 6-10 in the third quarter, but we came back and won 17-10. We were all missing shots, but we finally started to make them, and Centennial slowed down," Coach Bohuslavsky said. The "B" team lost to Utica Centennial 14-20.

Against the Madison Dragons, both teams won. The "A" team won 47-8 and the

"B" team won 17-8. Eighth grader Jordyn Bohuslavsky said, "We played pretty good. We got good practice playing against Madison."

The middle school girls basketball team also recently, competed against Scotus. The "A" team, as well as the "B" team, won. The "A" team won 27-15, and the "B" team won 13-11. Seventh grader Lizzie Roh said, "For [Scotus] being one of our first games, we fought and played tough."

Both of the middle school girls teams won against Schuyler in their season opener. "We played really well against Schuyler. Our shots were falling," Roh said. The "A" team won 39-2, and the "B" team won 21-6.

Only three eighth grade girls went out for basketball this season. Consequently, some seventh graders have had to play against eighth graders. "It is tough having only three eighth grade players because the seventh graders are usually smaller than their

opponents, but the [seventh graders] have been holding their own," Coach Bohuslavsky said.



Eighth grader Bianca Romshek fights for the ball in their game against Scotus. Romshek is one of the three eighth grade girls on the basketball team. Photo by S.Junck



Seniors lead the varisty boys basketball team

By Natalie Eller

The Aquinas boys basketball team started the season off with challenging teams. The team hopes to win their district by leading from experience seniors.

The team took on Howells-Dodge in their first home match of the season. Senior guard Caden Kozisek said the team played well on defense, but could not get a bucket. The team fell to Howells-Dodge with a score of 34-40.

The team also took on Shelby-Rising city in early season play. Junior forward Rylan Chromy said the team played really well after the first quarter and defense did not allow a point in the second quarter. Kozisek added the team played well on the defensive end and shot well and ended with a win with a final score of 52-30.

Two lone seniors lead the boys team: Braden Smith and Caden Kozisek. Kozisek said he and Smith lead by pushing everybody in practice. In games they give the

younger players advice from their previous varsity experience.

Kozisek hopes to win their district this season. Kozisek's personal goal for the season is to become a better teammate and help everybody on the team to make them better players.

Eight juniors play varisty this year. Many of those have seen little to no time on varsity before this year. Chromy feels said the juniors are going to have to adjust to the speed of varsity action. Chromy he has a goal of beating Neumann and Scotus during the season. Chromy also hopes to make it through sub-districts.

Junior center Rylan Chromy lines up for a free throw attemp during the recent match-up with rival Bishop Neumann. The final score for the match-up was 37-58. The Monarch will play in the annual David City Invitational tournament at David City Public High School during the holiday break on Dec. 27 and 28. Photo by B. Bravo.



Middle school wrestling conclude their season



LEFT: Eighth grader Josiah Brezina wins a wrestling match at the recent Lakeview meet. The team placed second at the Lakeview meet. Brezina has wrestled for two years and attended five of the six meets this season. **ABOVE:** Eighth grader Tmothy Duke works his opponent into a favorable position. Duke has wrestled for two years and attended three of the six meets. Middle school boys have the opportunity to both wrestle and to play basketball during the winter season. The coach for the middle school wrestlers is Mr. Roy Emory. Photo by J. Timoney.



'Hudl' up everybody

By Braden Smith

The company Hudl has taken the sports world by storm since its startup in 2006. The Aquinas athletic departments feel they have greatly benefited from the Lincoln based company's work.

Aquinas has close ties with the company, as 2014 alumnus Matt Jakub works for the company as their "Inside Sales Specialist for all Armature Athletic Union (AAU) Basketball and Youth Football". "Hudl is a sports video software company that gives youth programs, club teams, high schools, colleges and professional sports teams solutions in video workflow and statistical breakdown," Jakub said. Hudl is extremely popular, being used in 98% of schools across the United States.

Part of Jakub's roll with Hudl, includes traveling. "My territory includes Califor-

nia, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Idaho. I travel to meet with program directors, coaches, and parents to pitch them the value Hudl is bringing to programs like theirs and how it can be a solution for them," Jakub said.

The company has made its way into Aquinas' athletics, providing its software to the football, basketball, volleyball and track teams. Football, basketball, and track coach, Mr. Tony Smith, says that Hudl has changed the way coaches scout. "I think it's a great tool. [Hudl] has made scouting so much easier. It is a huge time saver. We don't have to physically go out and trade film. It's immediate and family friendly. Coaches get to spend more time with their families," Smith said.

Hudl not only helps coaches, but also benefits athletes. Three sport athlete junior Kyle Napier loves the app. "I think it's good for all the kids to critique themselves on what they do," Napier said. Athletes also can have some fun with the app by making highlight reels of themselves. Napier said, "You just select your best plays, put them all together and add music to it."

Hudl is a great company for all high schools across the United States. Jakub references many reasons why high schools use the company's services. "The main reason [schools use Hudl] is that we have proven the value of visual learning and have given coaches an efficient tool to bring that has value to its athletes, coaches, parents and athletic departments," Jakub said. This is Aquinas' tenth season using the program Hudl.

Wrestling team shows early success

By Gracyn Wollmer

1. 2. 3. *Pin!* The wrestling team has earned hardware in the early season with hopes of another successful overall season.

Most recently, the Aquinas wrestling team competed at the North Bend Invite and at the Wood River Invite. The team finished first overall at the North Bend Invite, having 4 champions and 9 medalists. The champions were in 152 lb. Nolan Eller, in 138 lb. Christopher Nickolite, in 120 lb. Hunter Vandenberg, and in 126 lb. Zach Zitek.

At the Wood River Invite, the team came home with the championship trophy. The team had 5 champions and had medalists in 12 of the 14 classes. The 5 champions were Eller, in 145 lb. Cameron Schrad, in 220 lb. Nolan Schultz, Nickolite, and Vandenberg.

"On Saturday [at North Bend] we stuttered as a team but had an excellent finals round which sealed the team championship for us. This weekend, overall as a team, we did great," Nickolite said. Nickolite went 7-0 over the two tournament weekend, winning both.

The team competed at their first meet for this season at Bennington. The team got third overall. "The team did good, we

didn't have a full lineup, so we could have competed better," Nickolite said. Three wrestlers took home the gold: in 170 lb. Ben Kment, Schrad, and Vandenberg.



Sophomore Marcus Eickmeier prepares to shoot on his opponent. Eickmeier is wrestling at 160 lbs. this season. Photo by S. Junck

The Aquinas wrestlers started their season by hosting a duel against Boone Central. Aquinas won the duel with 58 points while Boone Central had 18 points. Coach

Mr. Roy Emory said, "For the first dual, the team did pretty well. We need to work on some timing, but the effort was good."

For a wrestler, there is a lot of preparation and training that goes into being ready for wrestling season. Nickolite said, "[I prepare by] eating healthy, working out, and putting hard work in during practices." To be successful, wrestlers must focus on their goals and continuously work until they reach them.

For any team to be successful, they need a leader. Senior Nolan Schultz plans to show good leadership to his teammates this season by being a good example inside and out of the wrestling room, as well as helping any of his teammates that may need help. Emory said, "As a team, we believe we can compete with anyone. Confidence is the key to winning big matches."

In order to achieve success, goals must be set and worked towards. The Aquinas wrestling team made a goal this season to bring a trophy home from every meet. Outside of the team, the wrestlers made individual goals for themselves. Schultz said, "I want to medal at state and bring a medal home from every meet this season."



Home Ec: education for all?

By Morgan Littlefield

Many kids today lack necessary life skills, and most parents do not have the time to teach their children those basic skills. Should schools reinstate mandatory home economics classes?

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) describes the class as “an area of study that brings together many different ways to ‘read’ the world through food, health, financial, consumer and environmental literacies.” Classes may include sewing, cooking and budgeting, but may also focus on how students’ food, clothing and shelter decisions affect the environment.

The article “Who Killed Home Ec? Here’s the Real Story Behind its Demise” by Brie Dyas states there is “the critique that teaching high schoolers cooking, budgeting and basic household skills is like saying they should walk around in poodle skirts—it is a ‘regressive’ idea that does not have a modern place in curriculum.”

With an emphasis on test scores and academics, many have believed home economics is not worth the time. Megan J. Elias, historian and author of *Stir It Up: Home Economics in American Culture*, said the class is “associated with dead-end high school classes for girls.” These views and others led to a quick decline in the course.

During the Cold War, universities began to defund home economic programs in fa-

vor of increasing budgets for their science departments. With the rise of convenience foods, made from scratch cooking became irrelevant. With the lack of interest and funding, few universities in western countries produce home economic teachers or professionals.

“Why Home Economics Classes Still Matter” author Kerry Renwick said, “Knowing how to make a particular dish and garment requires knowing how a food or fabric is produced and the associated supply chain needed to get the items to where we shop.” Renwick noted that the understanding of the use of chemicals taught during the classes has a substantial impact on our health, workers’ health and the natural environment.

NASA Instructor and Flight Controller Robert Frost weighed in on the benefits of home economics. Frost commented on the importance of the usual curriculum—math, English, sciences—outside of school and how much use it is in the real world. Frost said, “Children can learn an appreciation for clarity in writing when they work from a poorly written recipe. They can apply math when upscaling or downscaling a recipe. They can appreciate chemistry and physics when learning the effects of certain ingredients.”

Frost noted how home economics also teaches students how to be savvy consum-

ers, how to read labels and see through empty marketing. These lessons allow a child or teenager that is “confident in the kitchen and has expanded their food palate” is less likely to become addicted to junk food. Frost said, “[Home economics] teaches safety, situation awareness, patience, teamwork and appreciation for other cultures.”

In the past, lack of interest and funding brought the downfall of home economics, but today schools should reintroduce home economic programs into their curriculum. The programs build off the classes students are required to take, such as English, arithmetic and sciences courses.

The home economics courses would introduce kids to new cultures while teaching them safety and preparation in the kitchen and other areas of the home. Students today lack many of the skills required for adulthood, and home economics courses would provide them with those skills.

CrownPrints

The *Crown Prints* is published six times a year to inform, educate, and entertain the Aquinas community. We urge letters to the editor. Letters should be given to Ms. Jean A. Brown in Room 16. Letters must be signed; however, anonymity, if requested, will be granted if deemed necessary.

Issue Editor: Braden Smith & Keegan Lavicky

Staff: Morgan Littlefield, Jayci Roh, Braden Smith, Keegan Lavicky, Elizabeth Aschoff, Payton Davis, Shae Junck, Natalie Eller, Gracy Wollmer, Kolby Baer, Blanca Bravo

Advisor: Ms. Jean A. Brown

Principal: Mr. David McMahan

Chief Administrative Officer: Fr. Sean Timmerman

The *Crown Prints* is a monthly publication produced by the journalism department at Aquinas High School, David City, Nebraska 68632.

