



AQUINAS & ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

THE TORCH

www.aquinas-catholic.com



October 2020



2020-21
Theme

Dear Friends of Aquinas & St. Mary's Catholic Schools,

As we proceed with each new day in this challenging school year, my heart is full of gratitude for the hard work and positive attitudes that our teachers, staff and students have shown so far. All of us wish that things were back to normal, but until they truly are, we have to persevere in the present moment and find God's will for us at that time. All in all, we are blessed to be teaching and learning in our school buildings, which is the best place for Catholic education and faith formation. We are also very appreciative of the support from our parents. I realize that there are some who disagree with certain aspects of the policies, but I hope that all can see we are trying our best to achieve a balance between the two extremes of no restrictions at all, and every restriction available.

As many of you already know, we have five new faculty and staff members this year. **Fr. Michael Ventre** is our Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for Aquinas-St. Mary's and is also teaching 8th grade religion. Father is the pastor of Presentation parish (Marietta) in rural Bellwood. Father has been ordained for six years, and most recently was teaching at Our Lady of Lourdes in Nebraska City. **Mr. Marc Beller** is our new 4th grade teacher at St. Mary's School. Marc lives in Columbus and taught last year at St. John's in Lincoln where he went to grade school many, many years ago. I am happy to have a former St. John's Jet with us! **Kelly Tvrdy** is our new St. Mary's 1st grade teacher. Kelly graduated from college and was married this past May. She is our Aquinas Head Volleyball coach and is also a Bishop Neumann High School alum. **Jenna Urban** is our new St. Mary's Computers teacher and Technology Liaison. She takes over for Mrs. Laura Blowers. **Amanda Helgoth** is our new Head Cook at St. Mary's. She actually began in mid-March of last year and helped organize hundreds of meals for our families during COVID when our schools were closed. Please wish them a warm welcome to our Aquinas-St. Mary's Catholic family!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Fr. Sean M. Timmerman'.

Fr. Sean M. Timmerman

Tri-Council Schedule

Thursday, October 22nd from 2:00 – 4:00 and 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Aquinas Tri-Councils will be held on Thursday, October 22nd from 2:00 – 4:00 and 4:30 – 7:00p.m. School will dismiss at 1:00 so we can start conferences at 2:00. Busses will run accordingly and school lunch will be served. We hope that offering afternoon and evening sessions will help to make conferences available to as many parents as possible. You are welcome to attend at any time during these hours as we are not assigning specific times for individual meetings.

Conferences will be held in the teacher's classrooms this fall. We feel it will be much easier to social distance in the classrooms rather than in the gymnasium. We will do our best to prevent groups from forming. If you have a teacher or teachers that you definitely need to see, we would encourage you to do so as we feel good communication between the parent and teacher is very important. If you are happy with the progress of the class and your student I would ask that you try not to add to an existing line simply to say hello.

To help you decide which teachers need to be on your must see list the report cards will be sent home with your student on Wednesday, October 21st. This will give you time to discuss the report cards as a family before you come on Thursday. We will send a reminder that report cards are coming home with students.

Please keep in mind that some teachers may have well over 100 students per day. For this reason we ask the teachers and parents to please limit their conference time if a line begins to form. If you need more time with a teacher you may make an appointment to meet with the teacher at another time. You may also e-mail our teachers at any time if you have questions or concerns. E-mail addresses can be found [here](#).

College Planning Presentation

Mr. Svec has arranged for a college planning representative to be at Aquinas during Tri-Councils on Thursday, October 22nd. Mr. Warner will offer a session covering general college and financial aid planning starting at 5:30 in the Gym. If you have other questions, he will answer them for you at that time. All are welcome but it would be especially advantageous to parents of juniors and seniors.

John Baylor Prep Update

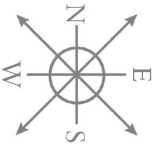
The John Baylor Program is in full swing. Seniors are taking the refresher course, juniors are taking the ACT Prep course and the sophomores will begin their program soon.

Please encourage your student to invest time and effort into this program. We are excited to bring this program into the school and encourage you to help us maximize your student's success. For more information on this program visit their website: <http://www.johnbaylorprep.com/>

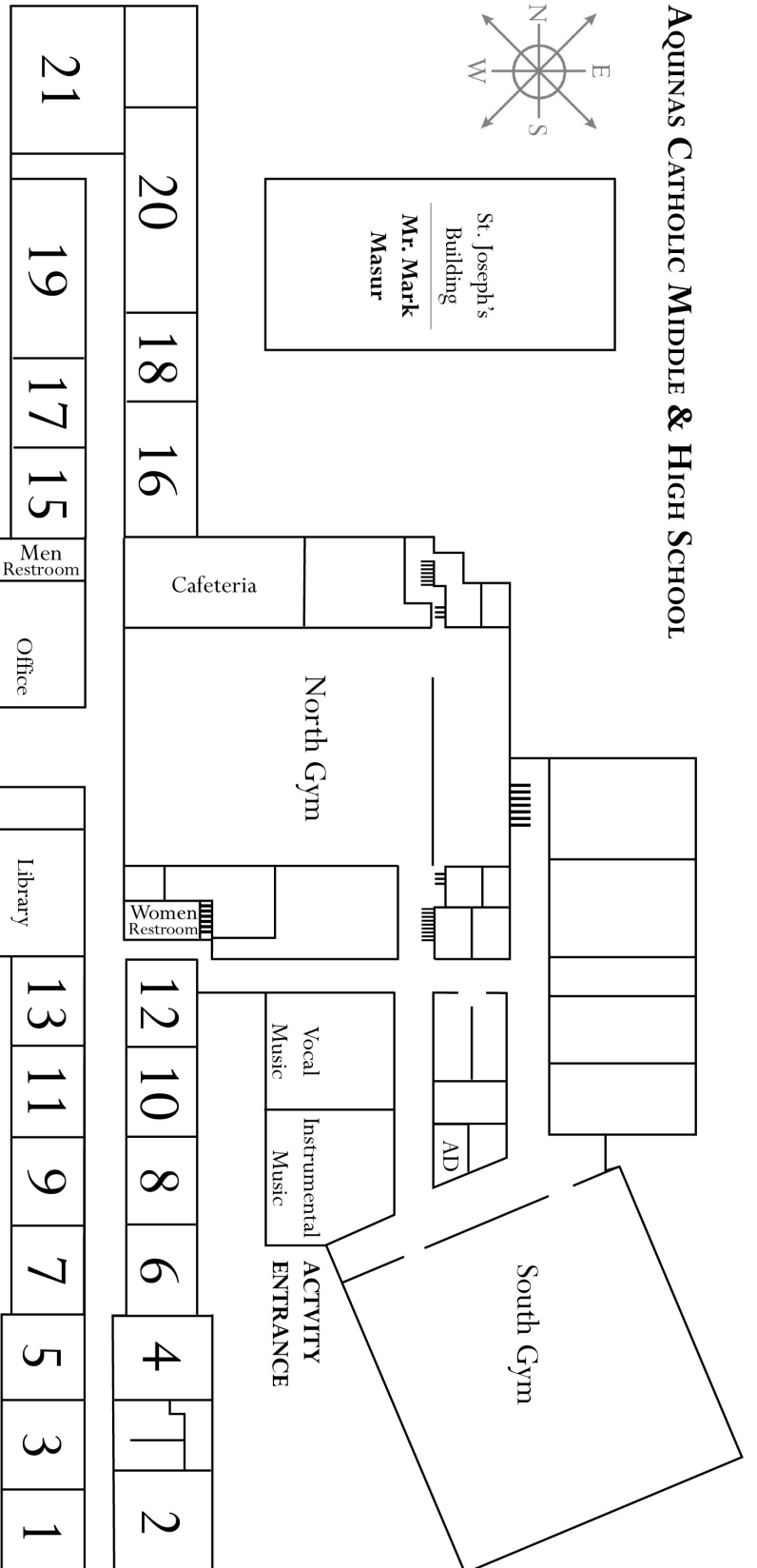
God Bless!

David G. McMahon, Principal

AQUINAS CATHOLIC MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL



St. Joseph's Building
 Mr. Mark Masur



15	Fr. Holdren
16	Ms. Jean Brown
17	Mrs. Teresa Pokorny
18	Mr. Seth Peirce
19	Mrs. Lyssa Tvrdy
20	Mr. John Wehrs
21	Mr. Roy Emory
South Gym	Mr. Dan Mettler
Vocal Music	Mr. Gabe Haberman
Inst. Music	Mrs. Helen Ostdiek
AD Office	Mr. Ron Mimick

8	Mrs. Angie McMahon	1	Fr. Stec
9	Mrs. April Sypal	2	Mrs. Shelly Mayo
10	Mr. Tony Smith	3	Mrs. Ann Heermann
11	Fr. Ventre	4	Mrs. Taylor Murren
12	Fr. Homes	5	Mrs. Jody Pelan
13	Fr. Kain	6	Mrs. Janet Timoney
Library	Fr. Phan	7	Mr. Matt Grady

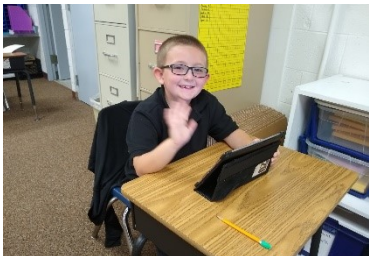
Growing and Moving Forward At St. Mary's School

It has been a busy month back to school for St. Mary's students, teachers, and staff. They are all finding great comfort in being back at school with as much normal as possible. Here are three big ideas that are guiding our improvements this fall. *Thank you to those folks who offered suggestions and support during Strategic Planning and Council Meetings which has guided these and other efforts.*

Let's help our kids have better social skills than their peers in the world today. Students practice strategies for about 10-15 minutes each week to make more loving choices toward each other. SEL stands for Social Emotional Learning and helps students to build better social skills and to consider how they react to situations and challenges that they encounter daily. The Choose Love program is built around several key virtues of Courage, Gratitude, Forgiveness, and Charity (Love). Students will focus on one virtues and 2-3 Saints each month. Students have already learned about how they can use the rational part of their brain to nudge the emotional part of their brain to make kinder choices. *(Thank you, teachers, for guiding us!)*

Music enhances memory, reading, fights depression and improves executive function. St. Mary's has purchased the Quaver music program for the next five years. It provides fun, interactive, sequential music instruction for Grades K-5. The students have enjoyed the rhythm and song practice as well as learning about composers and a variety of styles of music. This will also provide support for 5th grade Band students who may need to do more instrumental practice at home. *(Thank you, Mr. Haberman and Mrs. Ostdiek, for this great choice!)*

Let's find out how our students are doing and be able to help meet their needs. St. Mary's needed to find an easier assessment program than DIBELS this year. The prior program required a lot of staff hours and training. The new system, MAP testing, allows any teacher to administer their assessments in a shorter period of time with immediate access to results. It allows for the same progress monitoring of reading fluency as well as additional math proficiency monitoring. It was a perfect time to transition as the company was offering significant discounts following school shutdowns last year. We look forward to sharing the new results with parents at conferences in October. *(Thank you to teachers and paras for getting us rolling!)*



We are always grateful for the support of our Aquinas and St. Mary's families and hope we continue to make improvements to keep our schools OUTSTANDING!

May God richly bless your families and all those who contribute to these efforts.

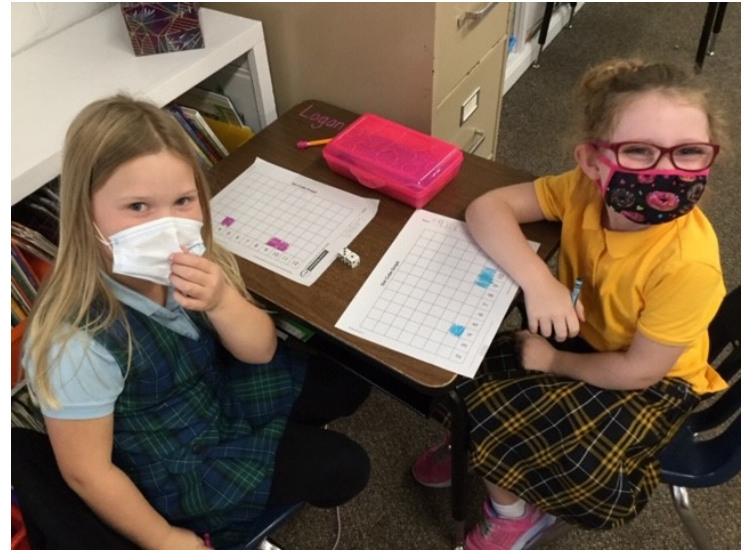
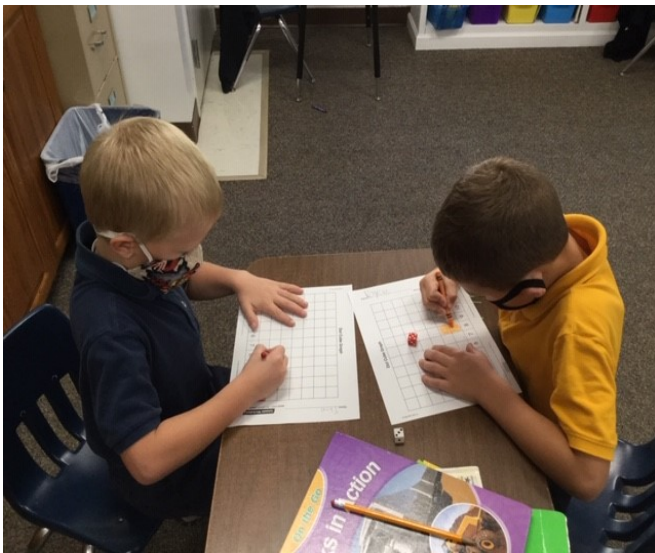
Mrs. Zook



Kindergarten News

The seniors came to visit the Kindergarteners this month. They learned all about each other, colored, and played outside at recess together! The Kindergarteners loved having the seniors visit and being able to show them around their classrooms!

--Miss Katie Healy and Mrs. Alison Fozzard



The First Graders are working together to learn some addition facts. They are using dot cubes to get two numbers to add together to find the sum. So far we know the doubles facts, +1 facts, and +0 facts. We learned the strategy of counting on from the larger number to find the sums of any facts we didn't know. They are also practicing their graphing skills during the same activity.

~Mrs. Kelly Tvrdy and Mrs. Sandy Vavrina



Usborne Books and More Book Sale

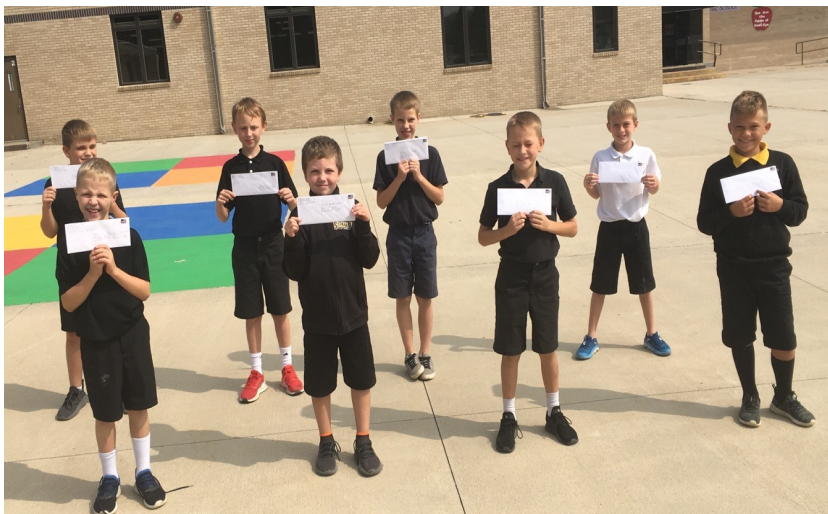
*** During St. Mary's Conferences ***

Thurs., October 22, 1:00-7:00 p.m.

**Come shop for books with your children.
Get books for holiday and birthday gifts!**



Two 3rd graders show how they can Choose Love by making a heart-shaped sign at recess. Choose Love is our new SEL program. We have learned about courage, how to use our brave breath when we are afraid and which part of our brain helps us to stay calm. We also learned about St. Bernadette who showed a lot of courage when people did not believe that she saw Our Lady.



Grade 4 News

The fourth graders wrote and mailed letters to Catholic schools in various states as a culmination of our letter writing unit.

~ Mrs. Julie Smith and Mr. Marc Beller



Monarchs in the Middle

Aquinas
Middle School

May, 2014

These Aquinas 8th graders are building DNA ladders using licorice and colored marshmallows.

All students wear masks while working in groups.



October is Rosary Month

Commit to saying the Rosary everyday in October

There's an app for that!

Visit catholicapptitude.org/ for different options

*"Love the Madonna and pray the rosary,
for her Rosary is the weapon
against the evils of the world today."*

-St. Padre Pio



From the Career Counseling Office

October, 2020

Seniors and their Parents

Watch your emails for information from the Career Counseling Office.

Important Dates and Events:

October 22: During Tri-Councils, a financial representative will be available in the gym for questions about FAFSA and the financial planning for college, 5:30-7:00 p.m. From 6:30-7:00 p.m., the representative will have a large group session in the Library.

Why We Prep OnTo College with John Baylor

Aquinas High School is in the fourth year of offering the John Baylor Prep “On to College” Program. The program features a series of videos offering review and testing strategies in areas of English, Reading, Science and Mathematics. Each video session assigns 10-20 minutes of homework to be completed before the next session. Students are attending JBP once a week during the school day and have been given a log in /password giving the 24/7 access to the material at www.johnbaylorprep.com.

Baylor explains his program as 80% content, 10% test-taking strategies and 10% motivation. Motivated students can expect to see a 2-3 point jump in test scores, motivation to prepare for their future, and an overall improvement in academic work. A reluctant student will pick up on catchy phrases used and strategies that can improve their academics.

SOUL Club Donates to Charities

SOUL CLUB has met and already sent checks to the following nonprofits that fulfill the mission of “Serving Others Under Love”. A new charity added this year is Villa Marie Home and School in Waverly with funds toward their work with special needs children. Sister Jeanette Rerucha was SOUL Club moderator at Aquinas in 1998 is delighted that this home has been added to the list. Perhaps more could be given later in the year as is done with the following charities who also received checks last week with the cover letter signed by SOUL Club President Ella Moravec: Blue Valley Community Action, Butler County Ministerial Association, Genesis PDC, Christ’s Kitchen, St. Gianna’s Women’s Homes and Catholic Social Services. Last year’s president Julia Nemecek is senior vice-president this year, Aubrey Novacek is vice president, Ben Shonka is secretary and Matthew Vrbka is Treasurer. The Angel Tree project is a major activity to which any members of the Aquinas family is welcome to support. Thanks to all for their continued support. ~Mrs. Nolan

September 16 was the **Aquinas Freshman Encounter Retreat** held at Assumption Parish in Dwight. It was a beautiful day with talks on Encounter, Healing and Mission. The speakers were Jeff Schinstock, Fr. Ron Homes and Ryan Nemec. Faith-filled college students led small group sharing time. There was Eucharistic adoration and Confession time, followed by a Mass with Fr. Phan.

What would a freshman retreat be without donuts and dodgeball? The students definitely enjoyed those times as well. I learned that students did take away some very special things that will hopefully stay with them. Thanks be to Jesus for the awesome day for the freshman!



Due to COVID-19 Restrictions, Diocesan events such as TEC Retreats, March for Life Pilgrimage and other events TBA.

Aquinas FIRE Night

The next Fire Night will be Sunday , October 25! All high school students are welcome! There will be pumpkin carving, prayer and lots of fun! More details: TBA



Last year....Maggie Svec and her pumpkin!



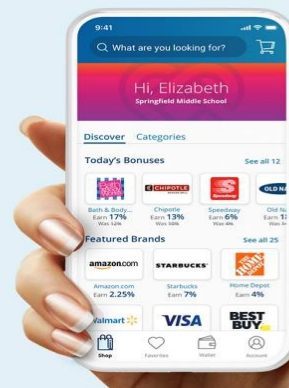
NOW AVAILABLE

Introducing our new mobile app



RaiseRight™

by ShopWithScip



Using SCRIP and raising funds for our schools is now right in your hand!

Enrollment Code: F2D1327E43322

Ways to Purchase SCRIP

- App (RaiseRight)
- SCIP (gift cards) are sold from the Aquinas Office
- SCIP physical gift cards or e-cards are sold at www.shopwithscip.com

If you have further questions, please contact Nancy at 402-367-8835



get your
sweet treats
AND
get sweet rewards



2020 Booster Club Membership Drive

In the coming months you have a chance to become members of the Aquinas Booster club by using this sign up sheet that you can send back to Aquinas, or you can contact your parish representatives.

Individual Membership

Basic membership and pocket schedules.

Price- \$20.00

Business Membership

Schedule poster, booster sign. Members printed on back of basketball programs.

Price- \$30.00

Monarch Membership

Immediate family members get into all **Aquinas** events for the year.

Price- \$160.00

GREAT Deal, admission prices are \$6.00 & \$4.00

Individual Monarch Card

Gets one adult person into all **Aquinas** events for the year.

Price- \$80

Gold Card

Any **Aquinas Patron** over 65 can get one.

Price- Donation

Send in name and address.

Detach along the dotted line and send to Ron Mimick, Aquinas High, PO Box 149, David City, NE 68632

Name(s) _____

Basic Membership _____

Price \$20.00

Gold Card _____

Price Free (donations accepted)

Business Membership _____

Price \$30.00

Monarch Membership _____

Price \$160.00 or \$80.00 for an individual.

Family members names needed for individual cards (these will be sent)

Mailing Address _____

Detach along the dotted line, include check or money & send to:

Ron Mimick, Aquinas, PO Box 149
David City, NE 68632

May 2020

Dear 2021 Seniors and Parents of 2021 Seniors,

Next year your son/daughter will be a senior. One of the most lasting and treasured reminders of this year will be the senior pictures which will be taken over the summer or the first part of the school year. You will be responsible for getting the following senior pictures to Mrs. Pokorny by **November 1, 2020**:

You need to have your photographer email your colored formal pose picture in a vertical billfold sized JPEG file at 250 dpi to me for the yearbook, composite, alumni board, press releases, and class video. This picture should be the colored formal indoor pose with a plain background. (This should be a head shot with no hands visible please.) You are responsible for making sure the school has this by November 1st. They may email this to Mrs. Pokorny at teresa-pokorny@cdolinc.net

If we do not have your prints by November 1st, you may miss out on being in the composite, yearbook, etc. or have to pay for the late fee to be included. Be sure to schedule for your pictures to be taken by September 1st.

As we at Aquinas should always strive to live up to Christ's example of modesty and Christian decency, we ask that no inappropriate pictures be submitted for publication.

This would include:

Females-no off-the-shoulder dresses or blouses

Females-no tops with an immodest/low cut (cut of the top must be 1 inch above the line of cleavage); no spaghetti or thin straps on shoulders for dresses or blouses

Males-wear a collared shirt and tie. (A jacket is preferred but optional.)

**Nothing that goes against the current dress code, for example-tattoo/
body piercing, hair length, facial hair, etc.**

***Remember that by a colored formal pose, we are asking for a head shot with no hands visible in the picture. The background should be plain/one color and NO outdoor shots.**

Again, remember to have your photographer email your colored formal vertical pose picture in a billfold sized JPEG file at 250 dpi to Mrs. Pokorny by November 1st.

The administration reserves the right to refuse any portrait deemed unacceptable or immodest. Please read and follow the instructions we have provided and there should be no problems.

If you don't plan to have senior pictures taken, Ms. Brown will take a formal head shot picture, but this must be arranged with her before November.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Pokorny at 367-3175. Best wishes and have an enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

Teresa Pokorny
Senior Class Moderator
Aquinas High School



St. Mary's Grade School
October 2020
USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Milk & water offered Daily Fruit/Veggie/ Salad Bar Offered Daily	Menu is Subject to Change and will be posted for students knowledge		1 Chicken Nuggets Curly Fries Peaches Oreo Fluff Bread & Butter	2 Tuna & Noodle Casserole Peas Dinner Roll Apple Salad
5 Hamburger on Bun Cheese Slice Tater Tots Dill Pickle Slices Mandarin	6 Breaded Chicken Patty on Bun Cole Slaw Applesauce Slush	7 9:00 Start Tater Tot Casserole Green Beans Garlic Toast Fruit	8 Chicken Noodle Soup Ham Salad Sandwich Baby Carrots Pears	9 French Toast Sticks Egg Patty Hash brown Patty Yogurt
12 No School	13 Taco Salad Nacho Cheese Chips Tomatoes Black Olives Churro	14 Hamburger Noodle Soup Potato Wedges Grapes Grapes	15 Pigs -IN-A-Blanket Baked Beans Fruited Jell-O	16 Cheesy Scrambled Eggs Hash brown Celery Sticks w/ Peanut Butter Donut Holes
19 No School	20 Orange Chicken Rice Roasted Broccoli Pineapple	21 Ham Slice Scalloped Potatoes Peas Dinner Roll Applesauce	22 Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Pan Gravy Green Beans Dinner Roll Emerald Pears	23 No School
26 Sloppy Joe on Bun Tater Tots Rosy Pears	27 Roasted Pork Loin Mashed Potatoes Peas Dinner Roll	28 Beef Goulash Corn Garlic Toast Mandarin Oranges	29 Chicken Alfredo Green Beans Garlic Breadstick Apple Salad	30 Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Sandwich Corn Peaches Orange Sherbet



October 2020

Aquinas Catholic Schools

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Veg/fruit bar & milk offered every day.				1 Pizza Side Salad Tri Tator Fruit Rice Krispie Treat	2 Shrimp Poppers Mac & Cheese Peas Fruit	3
4	5 Meatball Subs Sun Chips Green Beans Fruit	6 Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Garlic Bread Sticks Fruit	7 9:00 Start Ham & Cheese Sandwich French Fries Peas Fruit	8 Popcorn Chicken Bowl Corn Bread Fruit	9 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Relishes Fruit	10
11	12 No School Teachers Conference	13 Breaded Chicken Patty on Bun Tater Tots Broccoli Fruit	14 Tacos Garnishes Corn Cookie Fruit	15 Chicken Fried Steak Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Fruit Bread	16 Tuna & Noodles Peas Fruit Tea Roll	17
18	19 No School	20 Chicken Strips Baked Potato Green Beans Fruit Cake with Strawberries	21 Chili Relishes Cinnamon Rolls Fruit	22 1:00 Dismissal Deli Sandwich Nachos Broccoli Fruit	23 No School	24
25	26 Crispitos Spanish Rice Refried Beans Fruit	27 Ham Patty on Bun Potato JoJos Green Beans Fruit	28 Chicken & Rice Broccoli Jello Fruit Tea Roll	29 Biscuits & Gravy Egg Patty Fruit Yogurt	30 Cheese Pizza Tri-Tators Side Salad Fruit Brownies	31 Halloween

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

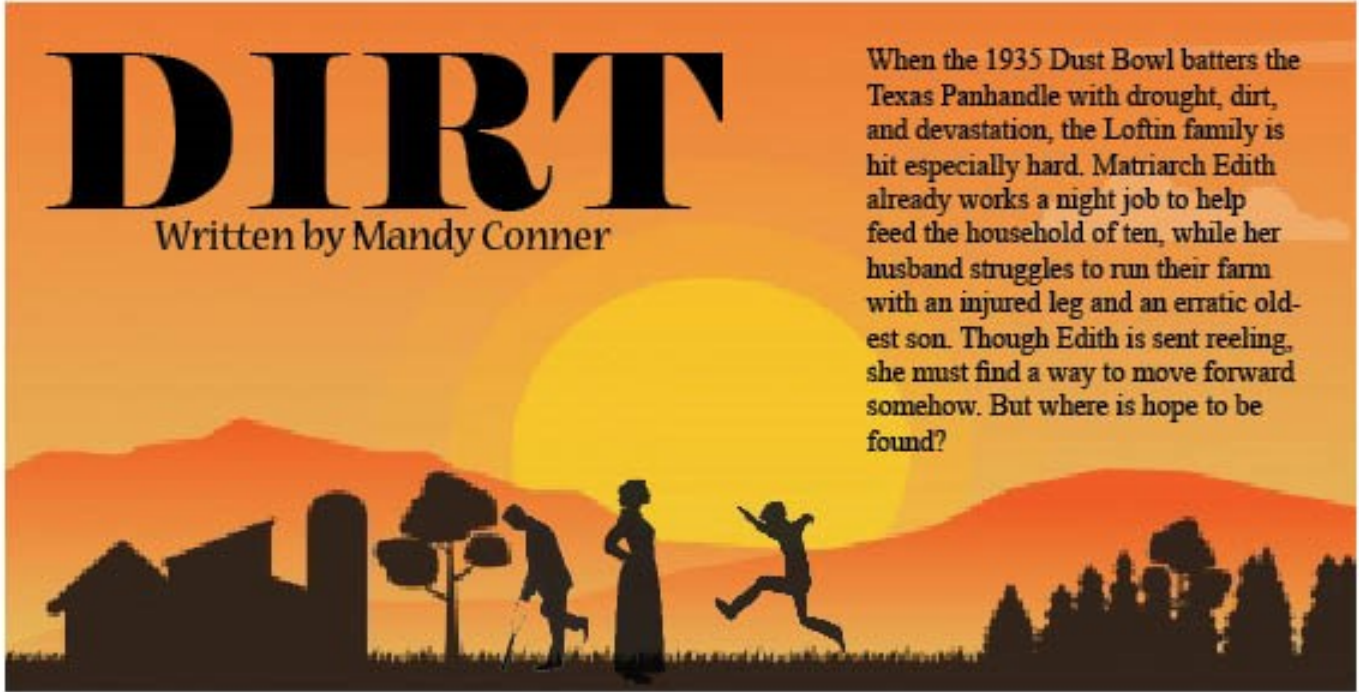
Aquinas Drama Department Presents:

Saturday, October 24, 7pm - Sunday, October 25, 2pm

DIRT

Written by Mandy Conner

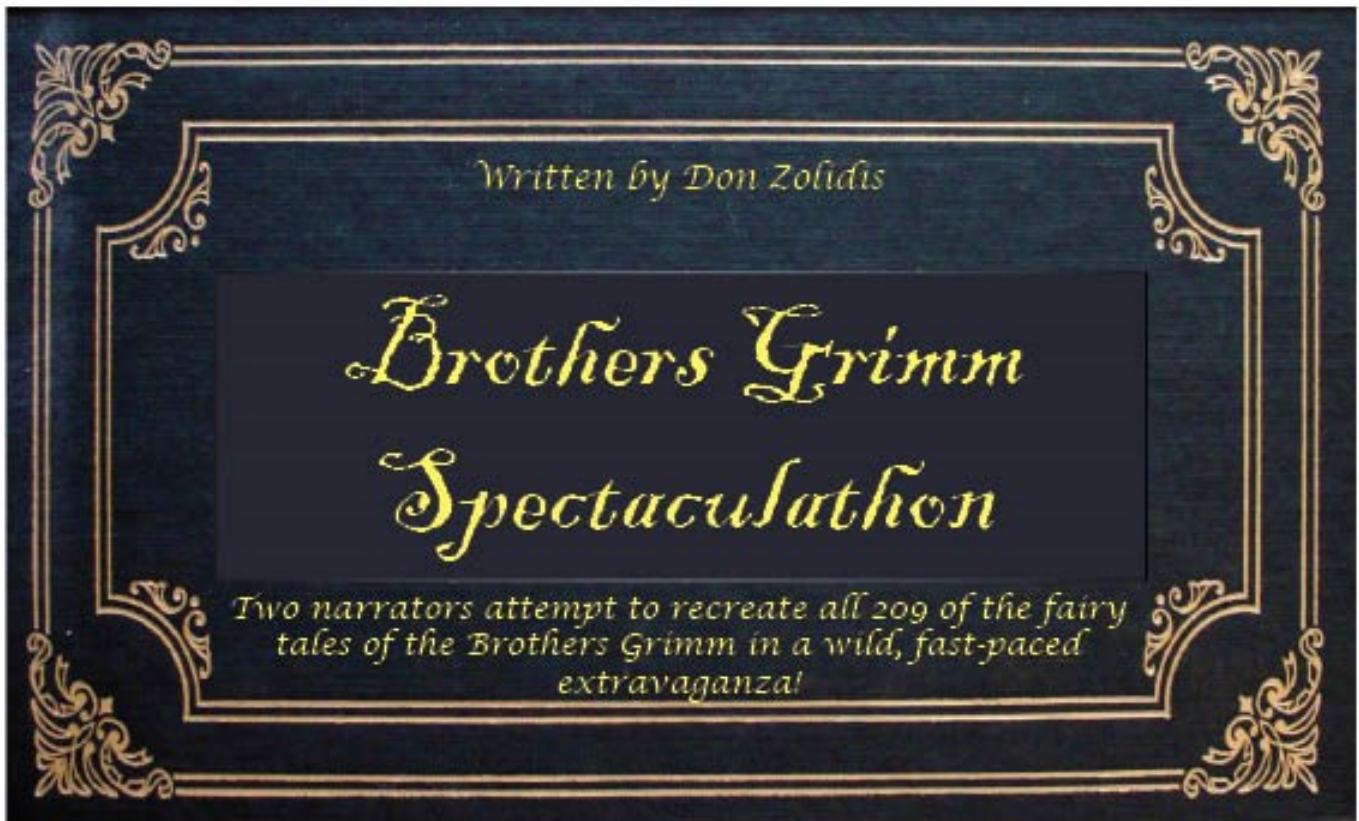
When the 1935 Dust Bowl batters the Texas Panhandle with drought, dirt, and devastation, the Loftin family is hit especially hard. Matriarch Edith already works a night job to help feed the household of ten, while her husband struggles to run their farm with an injured leg and an erratic oldest son. Though Edith is sent reeling, she must find a way to move forward somehow. But where is hope to be found?

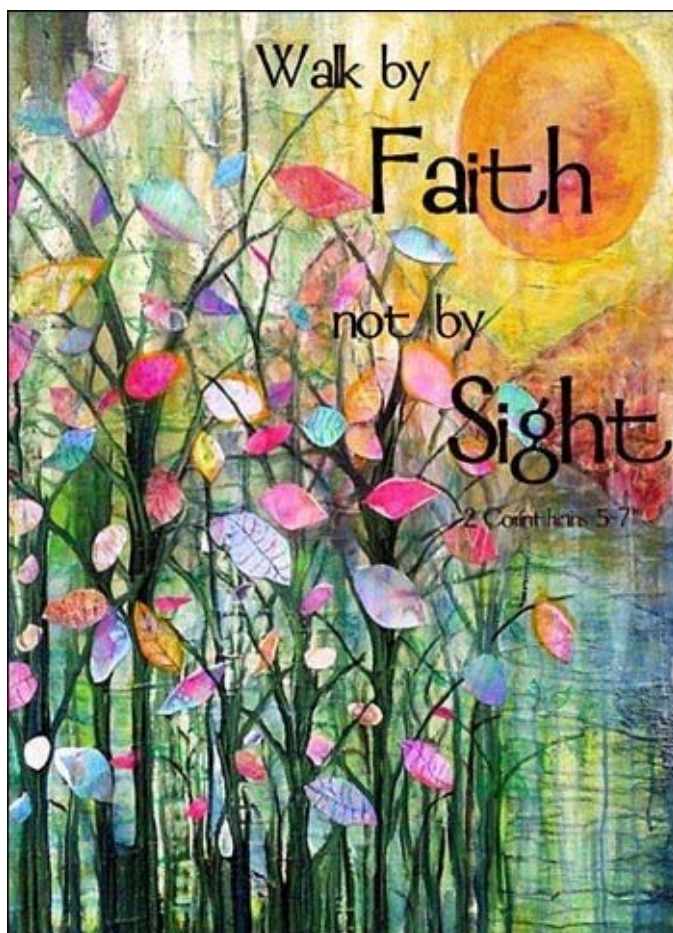


Written by Don Zolidis

Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon

Two narrators attempt to recreate all 209 of the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm in a wild, fast-paced extravaganza!





ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY

1026 5TH ST

DAVID CITY, NE 68632

402-367-3669

AQUINAS CATHOLIC

3420 MN RD. PO BOX 149

DAVID CITY, NE 68632

402-367-3175

www.aquinas-catholic.com

HOLY FAMILY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

622 J STREET

DAVID CITY, NE 68632

402-367-3062